

exchange information with each organization. Each participant was able to gain something and there were many positive comments such as, "The world felt closer", "I was able to meet people of different occupation and age, and was able to know various viewpoints and opinions."

Next year, this seminar will be held again at around the same time to provide a venue to learn about International Education through workshops and actual cases by participatory learning.

【02】 Activity Report 2

■ 2011 Matching Support for International Students Project: Company Interviews

With the goal of improving the rate of international students employment in Osaka, aside from the 2 job fairs planned for 2011, interviews with individual companies are being planned and the first company interview has just been held.

Date and Time: August 2, 2011 15:00-17:00

Venue: L-Osaka Main Building 6th Floor Meeting Room

Target: International Students (Graduating on or have graduated by March 2012)

Participating Companies: MARUKA MACHINERY Co., Ltd., Tsurumi Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Chuo Electric Works Ltd., Toyo Tire and Rubber Co. Ltd., Japan Cash Machine Co. Ltd.

There were 55 international students who participated. Their countries of origin are as follows:
China=33, Thailand=7, Korea=6, Taiwan=2, Indonesia=2, Vietnam=1, Sri Lanka=1, Laos=1, United States of America=1, Unknown=1
Total of 55 international students

A questionnaire was given and to the question of why they want to work in Japan, as much as 35 students responded that they wanted to make use of their language abilities of Japanese and their native language.

Companies' top responses to the question "What are your points of interest in hiring international students?" were:

1. To get superior people regardless of nationality
2. To conduct business with partner companies overseas
3. To start a new venture overseas
4. It is necessary to have someone as a bridge between Japan and other countries

Both international students and companies were very satisfied with the event and the majority thought that it was useful for job hunting. OFIX intends to continue organizing this event in the future with the cooperation of universities within Osaka Prefecture.

【03】 Introduction of OFIX Activities

■ Global Human Resources Training Program --Kana Ito

My name is Kana Ito. I have been employed by OFIX from April, just when I was thinking of looking for a international job in Osaka where I could use my Spanish. I worked for 2 years in Honduras before and though my ability is limited, I will do my best for the promotion of internationalization in Osaka. I am currently undergoing training at Ehle Gakuen, learning a wide variety of skills from how to pass the interpreter guide exam to business plan development. There are 9 people taking the program, but the whole team acts like members of one company, each one having a certain role. As a product of the training, each one

is in charge of 1 project. The participants are of different nationalities and come from different backgrounds. Through this program, everyone is trying to take a step forward in being active globally.

At OFIX, I am in-charge of the "Global Human Resources Program", which is based mainly on Osaka Prefecture's Internationalization Strategy. Under this project, a program is being developed for youth not interested in leaving Japan to have more interest in and gain more understanding about the world and in effect be able to learn and plan a career with a global perspective. I am currently designing an English learning program to be used with the "Tsukaeru Eigo" Project (Living English Skills Acquisition and Development Project) to be implemented by the Board of Education. However, before acquiring practical English, it is important to improve the basic learning ability of each student. In a company, it is simply not just a high English level, but qualities of a global person, a wide level of education and high level of communication ability is required. Especially with the present educational system, there is little opportunity for output, so we are trying to increase the opportunities for active exchange of ideas and international exchange to change the way of thinking of students. Moreover, to survive in this age, language ability plus alpha is necessary. It is indispensable to have an expertise that can make use of your strong points to its fullest capacity. I would like to provide a program that will allow students to think of how they can make use of their field to contribute to the international society and give them the chance to act by exposing them to a number of career samples or lectures from people who are active globally. With a global perspective, I will do my best to promote the Internationalization of Osaka.

[04] Networks

■ International Exchange Associations Network in Osaka Prefecture

There are 29 international associations within Osaka Prefecture whose aims are Multi-cultural symbiosis and sister-city exchange.

These associations are involved as a network with Osaka Prefecture Network Council of Local Authorities for the Promotion of International Relations (composed of Osaka Prefecture, Municipalities, Regional International Relations Associations) and Kansai International Exchange Volunteer Network Council (composed of organizations that have International Exchange Volunteers), with Osaka Foundation for International Exchange and Osaka International House Foundation acting as Secretariats, and are always conducting information exchange and collaboration with each other.

The only network that the International Associations in Osaka ever formed was the "International Exchange Network joining Osaka-based NGO and Administrative Offices", with Minoh Association For Global Awareness, Suita Inter-people Friendship Association, Settsu Association for International Exchange, Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center as constituent members, and Osaka Foundation for International Exchange and Osaka International House Foundation as observers.

This network was established in 2002 as the actual implementation of the "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education Second Half Action Plan of Osaka". Up till now, we have implemented training programs and making a collection of hints for consultations for the promotion of multi-cultural symbiosis in regions. It will be 10 years after its inauguration and the associations have undertaken many activities.

At this year's Great East Japan Earthquake, it has provided

the “The Multilingual support center for the Tohoku Earthquake out at Pacific ocean (NPO National Conference of Multicultural Managers) ” as its disaster information support, where the same network has conducted Chinese translations of disaster information, as well as implement continuous trainings on what the mission of International Associations should be amidst the changing situation of foreigners in the municipalities and changing internationalization strategy.

【05】 Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ What can be seen from Statistics

The Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents provides information for foreigners not only in English and Japanese, but also in Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Filipino, and Vietnamese. For the fiscal year 2010, there were a total of 1,214 consultations, consisting of Japanese (332), next is Chinese (217) and then people from English speaking countries (138). Consultations in foreign languages numbered 637 cases. There were also 243 foreigners, or 20% of the cases, who consulted in Japanese. Even though these foreigners could consult over the phone in Japanese, they still had problems in getting information and find living in Japan difficult. Looking at the subject of consultation, most cases (325) were closely related to “daily life”; Next in line were consultations regarding “residential status” (293), and next were consultations from foreigners with illnesses and those who had trouble in daily living consulting about “medical and social welfare” (195). The employment condition is still unstable and the subject of consultations of foreigners affected by these changes is society reflect the present social conditions.

◎Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents
(Mon-Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)
(Hours 9:00-17:30)
Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297
E-mail: jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp
Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish,
Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

【06】 Notices

■ Seeking Residents at the Sakai International Hall!!

OFIX is managing the Sakai International Hall (Orion International House), a residence for international students. We are currently seeking new residents to move in from October 2011. Currently, the rooms available are about 5 rooms for male residents and 10 rooms for female residents.

Orion International House: about 400m Northeast from JR Ueno Shiba Station

Each room is for single occupancy. Each room is fitted with bath, toilet, air-conditioner, fridge, desk, bed, internet connection (Fiber Optic), etc.

Monthly Rent: : 26,000 Yen (includes communal fees, no deposit required)

There is a kitchen on each floor and you can cook and do your laundry.

There is a friendly caretaker, and support officer on site. (1 male and 1 female)

※You may visit and have a look at the rooms anytime.

※You can only move in from April 1 because of cleaning schedule.

Applications should be made through the relevant international offices at the applicants' university.

※Sakai International Hall Homepage

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index.html>

■Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Call for JICA Volunteer

The JICA Volunteer is a program implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It is a 1 to 2-year volunteer program where you use your skills and experience, live together with people in developing countries and undertake cooperative activities that will improve their efforts in self reliance while making an attempt for mutual understanding.

Application Eligibility

- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Youth Volunteers for Nikkei Communities: People from ages 20-39 and of Japanese Nationality
- Senior Overseas Volunteer, Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities: People from ages 40-69 and of Japanese Nationality

Application Period

October 1, 2011 (Saturday) - November 7, 2011 (Monday) (Tentative)

For inquiries: JICA Osaka Person-in-charge

TEL 072-641-6904

Coordinator for International Cooperation JICA

(within OFIX) TEL 06-6966-2400

JICA HP: <http://www.jica.go.jp/>

[07] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■About Yokai (Monstrous Beings)

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX Coordinator for International Relations, Alvin. This year is a very strange summer. There are days that were very hot and days that were cool. I would just open my window and the glass door of my veranda and I don't need to use the electric fan anymore. Or am I the only one who thinks it's cool at night? Talking about cooling off, there's one thing that Japanese do in summer to keep cool and that is to tell scary stories of ghosts, monsters and Yokais (monstrous beings). And so I'll be talking about these Yokais.

It seems that Japanese are fond of Yokai. I did some research on literature that mentions these creatures and I found that a lot of literature exists from long ago. According to the International Research Center for Japanese Studies Database, Folktale Data of Strange Phenomena and Yokai (Monstrous Beings), there are 35,701 items recorded. In present day literature, the comic work of Shigeru Mizuki, "Ge-ge-ge no Kitaro", is one of the most well known works that talk about Yokais. "Ge-ge-ge no Kitaro" is popular not only in the world of comics, but also the world of animation. Other well known animations are "Obake no Q-Taro", "Yokai ningen Bemu", "Inuyasha" and many more. What surprised me was the number of Yokais Japan has. I was curious as to how many Yokais Japan has so I did some research again and found out from a list that there are over 1,000 Yokai known. (This is for the entire Japan.) Compared to that, the Philippines only has 36. Probably the Yokais in the Philippines migrated to Japan...not likely! Japan has recorded its history using writing and that is why it was able to record its culture. On the other hand, most of the culture of the Philippines was not written down, but handed down by mouth and. For this reason, most likely, much of the culture has been forgotten.

Japan's Yokai

Now, I would like to introduce some well known Japanese Yokai.
1)Kappa: The Kappa lives in the river and also called Water god. It's the most well known Yokai. It's said to drown children swimming in the river. It has a turtle-like shell on its back

