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## (1) Notices

### ■ One World Festival

The One World Festival will be held from the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December at the International House, Osaka. This festival is an opportunity to learn about international cooperation activities run by NGOs in and around the Kansai area. It was started in 1993, and involves NGO's, international and government organisations, businesses and so on introducing their activities via booths, symposiums, panel discussions and so on. This year will see the holding of a special symposium at which Konishiki, a former Sumo wrestler will be guest speaker.

OFIX will also have a booth at the event, and will be running a programme entitled "World Walker", at which foreign students will talk about their home countries.

Please come along!

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 21<sup>st</sup> December (Sat-Sun)

10:00 ~ 17:00 (Sat)

10:00 ~ 16:00 (Sun)

**Place:** International House, Osaka

(8-2-6 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka-shi)

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** One World Festival Committee

Tel: 06-4395-1124

Further Details

<http://www.interpeople.or.jp/owf/index.php>

### OFIX Programme 'World Walker'

**Time:** 20<sup>th</sup> Dec (Sat), 15:00 ~ 17:00

**Place:** Meeting Room 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, International House, Osaka

### ■ Osaka Foreign Students Music Festival

The Osaka Foreign Students Music Festival is an event held every year in which foreign students based in Osaka perform traditional music or dance live on stage to promote international exchange with the people of Osaka. If you are interested in attending please contact the Min-On Concert Association (details below)

**Date:** 14th December (Sun) 2008 Starts 3:30pm

**Place:** International House, Osaka (Main Hall)

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** in-On Concert Association Tel: 06-6761-0289

Further Details (Japanese only)

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/music\\_festa2008.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/music_festa2008.pdf)

## (2) Osaka International Club (Interview)

### ■ Saurabh Shrestha (Nepal)

Participant on the 2008 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

Saurabh spoke to OFIX about his time on the Ando Program (7<sup>th</sup> October~5<sup>th</sup> November 2008).

What got you interested in architecture?

I loved art since I was a kid, and when I was in high school I got interested in science as well. Architecture was the combination of both.

Is this your first time in Osaka? What do you make of the city?  
Yes, this is my first time in Osaka. The people here are really friendly. But I often get lost in the subways and the streets of Osaka.

How is Osaka different from your hometown in Nepal?  
The only thing similar between Osaka and Kathmandu is the weather. Everything else is completely different. We don't have these tall buildings or subways. We have lots of traffic jams and lots of dust too.

What have you gained from taking part in this programme?  
I got to know about the Japanese culture and architecture. But most importantly I got the visit buildings designed by Mr. Ando which will surely help me, as a student, to become a better architect.

What are your impressions of Tadao Ando's work?  
Tadao Ando has always been an icon to me, since the time I knew that he existed. And to actually visit his buildings, which I thought would never happen, is like a dream come true.

Tell us a bit about the training you have been taking part in at Zenitaka.  
At Zenitaka, it is roaming rather than training. They took us to so many different places in and around Osaka to see the architecture. And the people at Zenitaka are like friends. So

Zenitaka is the coolest.

How have you been spending your free time in Osaka?  
What sights/food have you enjoyed?

Since I get to roam so much with Zenitaka, in my free time, I can go shopping to buy some gifts to take back home. In Osaka I enjoyed the contemporary architecture, the sea, and the rollercoaster ride at Universal Studios Japan.

Tell us about your future plans on returning to Nepal  
After I return, the first thing I will be doing is sharing my experience with my friends. I also hope that I can make use of a few things that I learned here in Osaka when I reach home.



**Saurabh Shrestha (Right)**

### **(3) OFIX Network (Introduction to International Exchange/ Cooperation Related Organisation)**

#### **■ Kansai NPO Alliance**

The Kansai NPO Alliance was created in 1984 to provide a network for international exchange and cooperation organisation to better promote their activities in fields such as peace, human rights, poverty and the environment.

At the present time there are 170 members including NGO's, domestic and international governmental organisations, international exchange foundations, unions, and business related organisations, all involved in various activities such as the peace work, human rights, the eradication of poverty, and the protection of the environment.

The Kansai NPO Alliance has worked hard over years to forge relationships with citizen groups, government and international organisations, business and economic bodies, and educational institutions in order to better promote citizen awareness of the above issues, the strengthening of individual organisations, and society as a whole through locally led activities.

The Alliance organizes the annual One World Festival, the largest international cooperation event in western Japan, edits and produces the NPO Journal, and runs various facilities such as meeting rooms and an information centre at pia NPO (Osaka Harbour area). Seminars and lectures are also held for NPO's, and consulting services are also offered. The Kansai NPO Alliance is approved by the Foreign Ministry of Japan as an NGO consultation organisation, and offers information relating to international exchange and cooperation via its website, alongside the many pamphlets available to view at the information centre. We look forward to seeing you at our offices or the forthcoming One World Festival, and hope that you will also have a read of the NPO Journal.

Further Details:

<http://www.interpeople.or.jp/english/english.html>

One World Festival details:

<http://www.interpeople.or.jp/owf/index.php>

## (4) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ Shinsekai: The Real Osaka!

I have been in Osaka now for just over one year, but rather embarrassingly until recently I had never been to “Shinsekai”, an area in south Osaka famed for its Tsutenkaku Tower (literally meaning “Tower Reaching Heaven”), bawdy atmosphere, and plethora of kushikatsu (various meats and vegetables deep-fried on small sticks) restaurants. The Shinsekai area is located a short walk from either Shinimamiya or Doubutsuenmae Stations, not far from the Namba area of Osaka.

My first stop of the day was Tennoji Zoo. I often change trains at Doubutsuenmae Station, but rather stupidly it never crossed my mind that there was actually a zoo in the vicinity! For those unaware, *dobutsuen* is the Japanese word for zoo! Anyway, for the small price of 500 Yen I decided to have a look around. The zoo opened in 1915 and is made up of various different zones such as African Savannah and Reptile House. It was interesting seeing common farm animals in the UK such as sheep and goats, the like of which would probably not make it into zoos back home, with their own enclosures!

Next I walked a few minutes down the main shopping street towards the iconic Tsutenkaku Tower. I had often seen it from the train window when heading into town, but this was my first time actually seeing it up close! The original tower was built in 1912, and was connected via

cable car to an adjacent amusement park. It was dismantled in 1943 by the local government following a fire at ground level, but after citizens lobbied for its return it was rebuilt in 1956.

The total height of the tower is 103m, with the observation deck situated on the 5<sup>th</sup> level at a height of 93m. I made my way up to the observation deck and was rewarded with a fantastic panoramic view of the city. I was there just as it was starting to get dark and it was fantastic watching all the lights go on in town.

My final stop of the day was at one of the many kushikatsu restaurants which line the shopping streets around the tower. It was difficult to decide which one to head to, so did what all good tourists do.....follow the crowds! I spent the evening enjoying the simple pleasures that can be had eating deep fried veg on sticks, and drinking ice cold beer. Oh, one word of warning, be sure not to double dip your kushikatsu in the sauce or you'll incur the wrath of the surprisingly observant staff!



## (5) OFIX Programme/Event Reports

### ■ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

Every year, with the support of Tadao Ando (the world renowned architect from Osaka), alongside that of a number of architectural firms in Osaka, OFIX welcomes a group of architectural trainees from various Asian countries. Whilst in Osaka the trainees take part in training at host companies, and learn about Japanese culture.

The program started in 1993 since which time OFIX has welcome a total of 149 trainees from 19 different countries and regions. This years program took place from the 7<sup>th</sup> October to the 5<sup>th</sup> November, and we welcomed 10 trainees from 9 countries and regions. They took part in

training at the following architectural firms: Takenaka Corporation, Obayashi Corporation, Zenitaka Corporation, and Daiwa House Industries. They also visited sites of architectural interest in Osaka, received a lecture from Professor Gunter Nitschke, and took part in a symposium with fellow graduate students in Japan. On 16<sup>th</sup> October, the group also paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Osaka, Toru Hashimoto.



Trainees meet with Tadao Ando at his office

## ■ International Understanding Education: Distance Learning Lesson



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, OFIX connected to Mikanodai Elementary School in Kawachinagano City (Osaka), and the Narashinodaidaini Elementary School (Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture) and took part in an international understanding education distance learning lesson. The speaker was Richard, CIR at OFIX. He introduced the flags, culture, sports etc of the UK using many fun photos and the kids had fun answering his on the spot questions. The children also practiced English pronunciation repeating

basic phrases after Richard. During the question session which followed Richard was asked such things as “do children learn foreign languages at elementary schools in the UK”. The children learnt a great deal about the UK and enjoyed the lesson very much.

Using this system children can connect to teachers in and outside of Japan, and learn about other countries and cultures in real time. Another benefit is that the teacher can also connect to many schools at the same time. OFIX is keen to make further use of this system in the future, and is looking into ways to develop programs.

For more photos see school websites:

<http://www.mockle.net/Mikanodai-new/>  
<http://www.narani-e.funabashi.ed.jp/>

## ■ International Students Forum from Major Cities in Asia

The International Students Forum from Major Cities in Asia was held at the Momoyama Gakuin University on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> November. The keynote speaker at the event was Mr. Ryuzo Yamamoto, Director of the Careers Support Centre at Poole Gakuin University. His talk was entitled “Global Warming and Developing Economies” Following on from this 12 foreign students from a total of 7 countries spoke in turn on the topic of “Proposals for disaster prevention and protection of the environment in our towns of water and light. The students spoke

about environmental issues facing their respective home towns, and how solutions are being found. They also spoke of their experiences of living in Japan, and set forth their proposals for disaster prevention and environmental awareness in Asia. With the assistance of Professor Imaki of Momoyama Gakuin University, the students put together their overall proposals, which were then presented at the Water and Light Cities Forum (24th Nov) and the Major Cities in Asia Network Best Practice

Meeting (25th Nov) by a representative of the group.

Event Calendar (Japanese only) <http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/calender.cgi>

Seeking residents for the Orion International Hall <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyoyou/index4.html>

OFIX Volunteer Information (Japanese only) <http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index2.html>

Seeking New OFIX Supporting Members <http://www.ofix.or.jp/sanjyo/index.html> (Japanese only)

Comments/Suggestions: [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

Osaka International Club reports: [clubnews@ofix.or.jp](mailto:clubnews@ofix.or.jp)

To cancel your registration or change your registered email address: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/>

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