

「OFIX News」 Issue 42 (January 2012)  
E-Newsletter distributed by the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

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【01】 Activity Report 1

JOB FAIR for International Students

On January 14 (Saturday) from 10:00-19:00, the largest Job Fair for international students was held at the third floor of My Dome Osaka where 102 companies participated.

Many international students came that day, a total of 1,153 students, including the 91 interns.

Not only students from universities in Osaka, but also universities and vocational schools from all over Japan came and listened intently to the company orientations given at each booth. At the GLOBAL Rookies Cafe, consultations on residential status and procedures for starting a job were offered and a career-counseling (Japanese, Chinese, English) booth was also set up. There were some serious-faced students who came for advice.

The event ended with the attendance of many students. Once again, the staff saw just how important this event was. At the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee, this Job Fair holds an important position in its Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program Project "Foreign Human Resources Employment System Creation" and so it will continue to hold this event in the future.

【02】 Activity Report 2

Medical Interpreter Volunteer Training

On December 14 (Wednesday) and 17 (Saturday), a Medical Interpreter Volunteer Training was held at the large hall on the 3rd floor of the Osaka General Hospital in Osaka City, Sumiyoshi-ku. 28 people, volunteers registered at the hospital and OFIX language

volunteers, attended the training, which tackled 6 languages: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and Korean. On the 1st day of the training, there were lectures on the present condition and the trend of dispatching medical interpreters and medical systems. A medical interpreter was also invited to give a lecture on medical culture and the language barrier. Case studies were tackled and role-playing was also done. Most of the participants gave an overall assessment of "good" on the questionnaire given on that day and there were some comments such as, "I was able to understand the mental attitude of medical interpretation and roughly about general things", "The contents were also extremely substantial and very good", "I will do what I can do and hope that I will be useful to society" and "I would like to lighten the burden of foreigners in Japan". To be able to expand the range of activities of volunteers like these, we would like to provide them with various opportunities for interpretation and realize an environment where foreigners can have a medical treatment at ease.

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】 Networks

#### Child-Rearing Allowance

Starting April of last year, Child-rearing allowance has started to be provided and from October last year, the target for the provision has changed. Until October, the allowance was given even to children who are overseas, just as long as they meet the necessary conditions. Now, as a rule, allowance will not be provided anymore. However, allowance can be provided for a child who is living overseas for studies, if the child has lived in Japan for 3 consecutive years before going overseas for educational purposes, the parents are not living with the child overseas, and three years have not passed since the child has stopped using the Japanese address.

Furthermore, if the parents are living apart because they are deliberating a divorce, allowance will be given to the parent the child is living with. If the child is staying at a children's home, in the case that the child is charged to a foster parent, the children's home's founder and foster parent will be given the allowance. If the child will be at the children's home for only 2 months or less, the parents will continue to receive the allowance. The amount of the allowance has also changed. Before, it was 13,000 yen per child, now the amount will depend on the age and number of children in the family.

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](mailto:jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp)  
Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish,  
Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

### 【04】 JICA Office Desk

Hello everyone. My name is Takako Ueno. I am the new JICA Coordinator for International Cooperation for the JICA OFIX Desk.

I was a participant of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer and went to Malawi, Africa, in December 2003, where I stayed for 2 years as a Village Development Expansion Staff. In villages where agriculture was being promoted, I was engaged in activities that supported the improvement of daily life, such as teaching women's groups about food processing and improving it.

I am from Osaka, but this is my first experience to work in Osaka and I am happy to be working at OFIX, which can be found at the center of Osaka.

I would like to cultivate and share the various interesting places of Osaka. To those who are interested in international cooperation and the activities of JICA, do send me your questions and inquiries. I will be waiting for them!

## 【05】Local Human Resources Training Report

### Encounter and Memories with OFIX-Peng Qionglin

Hello everyone! My name is Peng Qionglin and I was hired by OFIX in March last year under the Urgent Job Creation Foundation Project (Local Personnel Training Project) "Personnel training for Employment in Popular Industries Project (compounded type staff training course)".

My 11-month contract ended at the end of January and as a way of saying good-bye, I would like to write about the encounter and memories I had with OFIX.

My encounter with OFIX was in the summer of 2005 when I was a 4th year university student. I saw a poster on the bill board of our campus. It was the "Osaka Prefecture 1,000 Foreign Supporter Training Project". I have been interested in international exchange ever since I came to Japan, so I applied and participated in the training as the first batch of trainees. After the training, I registered as a volunteer of OFIX and engaged in support activities for Chinese students who will enroll in Prefectural high schools. After that, I taught Chinese at a high school while serving as a volunteer interpreter for Education Advancement Guidance for the Board of Education from time to time. Time flies and in February 2011, I received the irregular OFIX volunteer mail where I found out about the position I had. As I did a few years ago, I immediately applied and I was accepted. Strange things happen in the world. One of the people in charge of the training (Prefectural staff) 7 years ago was my boss.

11 months after employment, I am thankful for the many things I have learned. Before entering OFIX, I have never done any Planning work before. With the help and instruction of my superiors, I tried my hand at making a project plan and implemented it. I was able to taste the feeling of satisfaction after completing it. Through my work, my computer skills and interpreting skills improved, but I still have a long way to go.

From June to August I joined an OFF-JT together with my fellow trainees. A memorable activity was creating a simple tourist map "A Little Multi-lingual Map" (<http://www.cocoroom.org/images/map.pdf>) for the "Airin District" of Osaka City Seijo-ku to attract more people. We walked around the Airin district, interviewed people at an NPO, "Cocoroom", talked with day workers, listened to a lecture at "Kamagasaki University" and experienced the diversity of Japanese society.

Also, through the training and my work, I was able to meet a lot of people. I was impressed by my co-workers who always looked after me, the zeal of volunteers, and eagerness of people who busily work for the internationalization of Osaka. This made me think about what I can do for Japanese society and how I should live.

My days at OFIX will definitely be irreplaceable precious nourishment for my future. I will treasure the memories in my heart. I am about to embark on a trip. I believe that I will meet everyone again someday.

## 【06】Notices

One World Festival!

The One World Festival will be held at the Osaka International House on the 6th and 7th February. Organizations engaged in international cooperation mainly in the Kansai region, such as NGO/NPOs, international organizations, government organizations and companies, gather together to promote better understanding among citizens of Osaka of the importance of international cooperation through introduction of their activities, exhibitions, symposiums and panel discussions. OFIX will run a booth, as well as an Asian International Students Forum. Please come along!

Date/Time Saturday 4th February 2012 10:00-17:00

Sunday 5th February 2012 10:00-17:00

Place: Osaka International House

Entrance Fee: Free

Inquiries: One World Festival Secretariat

For further details see the following website:

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

Asian International Students Forum

Date/Time: Sat 4th February 12:30-14:30

Place: Osaka International House 3rd Floor, Meeting Room 5

Contents: We will be holding an "Overseas Study Forum" on the theme of "Overseas Study and My Future". Through a discussion with Japanese who have studied overseas and international students in Japan, let us think about the importance of overseas study and how we can make use of such experience for our future.

-We look forward to seeing you there!-

Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program  
Project Bidding Selection

Osaka Prefecture created the "Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program" to strengthen the international competitiveness of Osaka. To implement this program, OFIX and Osaka Prefecture established the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee.

There are a total of 7 projects, 4 projects in the area of training global human resources and 3 projects in the area of establishing an environment to accept foreigners, which were open for bidding. Several companies submitted their proposals, which were evaluated at the Selection Committee held on January 16 (Monday).

Project list

- (Project 1) Osaka Global School (America)
- (Project 2) Osaka Global School (England)
- (Project 3) Global Training Program
- (Project 4) English Camp
- (Project 5) Osaka Information and Appeal Transmission
- (Project 6) Study at Osaka Promotion
- (Project 7) Foreign Human Resources Employment System Creation

Each of the proposing companies gave a presentation and answered questions. After careful examination of the proposals, companies that will take charge of the projects were selected. For details on the selection, please see the following link.

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/ap\\_koubo.html](http://www.ofix.or.jp/ap_koubo.html)

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 April 2012.

Currently, the rooms available are about 8 rooms for male residents and 17 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, desk, bed, internet connection (Fiber Optic), etc.

Monthly Rent: 26,000 Yen (includes communal fees, no deposit required)  
Electric and water bills are paid separately.

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)

International exchange and other fun events are also held in the dorm.

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>

## 【07】OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### Philippine Valentine's Day

Hello everyone! Happy New Year!!!...though about 1 month has already passed. How was the beginning of everyone's year? I started the year with a laugh and I hope that this year would be a year full of laughter.

Well, time flies and it will soon be Valentine's Day.

Ladies, have you already decided on who you want to give chocolates to? In Japan, on Valentine's Day, you give chocolates, right? Furthermore, it's the women who give chocolates to the men. There are times that you have to give to someone even if you don't want to give, right? Some people would probably want to respond, "Right! That's true!" Well, if you do give, you'll get something back after one month. But it seems like you're being forced to give to each other. "It's a conspiracy of the sweets manufacturers! Why chocolates in the first place?" Those are also have my doubts.

The last time, I talked about how women are more advantageous in the Philippines. It is common that men go after the women.

And naturally, on Valentine's Day, it is the men who give to the women. There are those who give chocolates. There is no obligation to give to anyone. However, men give not only to their girlfriends. There are men and women who also give to their friends and families. Long ago, I gave a card and flowers to my best friends (they were a couple). A common thing to give in the Philippines is a card, but people give other things, too. So if you go to a department store, it is red everywhere, not just in the chocolate corner. Talking about red, it's not only the decorations that are red. There are also many people who are wearing red shirts on this day.

Lovers, of course, go to watch movies or go to the park for a

date. So, wherever you go, you will find couples everywhere. At night, couples go out for dinner. (Of course, the men pay for the dinner. In the Philippines, men pay for the date.) Normally, when you eat out, you don't need to make any reservations. However, it is only on Valentine's Day that you need to make one. And if you forgot to buy flowers for your date, there is always someone selling roses outside the restaurant. Let me tell you about the price. Normally, three roses, at the marketplace, would cost about 100 yen. On Valentine's Day, they cost twice more. If you buy them at a flower shop, they will definitely be more expensive.

There is no white day in the Philippines. There is no rule that require women give a gift in return for what they received. In the Philippines, it is also not a rule that only men have to give. If women want to give something, they can do so. However, they only give to their boyfriends, family or best friends (even if they are also women).

This year's Valentine's Day, I will be returning to Japan from the Philippines, so I won't be giving to anyone. I also won't be in Japan, so I probably won't be getting anything. Though, wouldn't it be nice to get chocolates from a girl who likes you. ( ^^ ) You would be happy to get some chocolates, right...Japanese guys? But be sure to give back on March 14, okay?

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

Please send Osaka International Club reports to the following address:

[clubnews@ofix.or.jp](mailto:clubnews@ofix.or.jp)

To cancel your registration or change your registered email address

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

Print-out version (PDF) of OFIX News with photos

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