

[02] Activity Report 2

■ One World Festival and Asian International Students Forum

The One World Festival was held at the Osaka I-House from the 4th-5th February. This was the 19th time it has been held. The aim of the festival is to promote international exchange and cooperation work to citizens of Osaka Prefecture. Over 100 groups ranging from NGOs and NPOs to international organizations and businesses took part and introduced their activities through booths, symposiums, and workshops with the theme of "What each one can do in making a world where we can live together". Participants were able to get a taste for issues relating to international cooperation through the many booths, ethnic music and dance shows, film showings, and programs. The ethnic food stalls where visitors could try lots of tasty dishes such as Mexican Tacos, Turkish kebabs, and Philippine "pancit". OFIX had a booth at the Festival where we promoted our activities, and were able to chat to people of all ages, from kids to adults.

On the 4th February, together with I-house and the cooperation of Dai-Yu-Kyo Foundation, we held an Overseas Studies Forum where Ms. Yoshiko Kato and Kan Seito from China, talked about their experiences studying overseas and the importance of going abroad to study. There were over 21 participants and everyone listened eagerly to Ms. Kato's and Kan's talk.

After their presentation, OFIX's Ms. Misa Someya instructed the participants to form 3 groups where they would discuss about "Studying Overseas and My Future". Each participant was asked to write their ideas on a piece of paper and post it on a large parchment. During the discussion, Mr. Seiichi Shoji of YMCA and Ms. Michiko of the Institute of Labor gave advice as they went around from table to table. Many ideas came up and each group was having fun in the discussion. In the end, a representative from each group gave a summary of what had been discussed in their group.

A total of 17,000 people visited the One World Festival over its two days. The good weather, an increase in participating organizations and events in the large and small halls by famous personalities could have contributed to this. It was a great opportunity to exchange information, learn about the activities of different groups, and networks.

[03] Activity Report 3

■ Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association A Training Program entitled "Overseas Emigrants Family Association Lecture-Truth of the 35-year-emigration to Brazil"

On January 24th, The Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association (Secretariat: OFIX) held a Lecture for its 2011 Training entitled "Overseas Emigrants Family Association Lecture-Truth of the 35-year-emigration to Brazil". Mr. Tadashi Yurizawa, President of Shimane Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association was invited as a lecturer.

Members, friends of a member, OFIX volunteers and distinguished guests from JICA Osaka and Osaka Prefectural Government Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs Osaka Promotion Bureau International Relations and Tourism Division attended the lecture. In addition to that, the lecturer from last year, Ms. Emi Emilia Tamada of Nara International Foundation -Commemorating the Silk Road Exposition- also attended.

Mr. Yurizawa gave us a significant lecture through his own stories of the sequence of emigration to Brazil, the difficulty of life, success in the pepper business, and progress after returning to Japan. It made even informed members aware of the severe situation of Japanese emigrants and public the security level of Brazil again.

Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association will continue activities to support and to promote understanding for Japanese emigrants and their families.

*The Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association is currently looking for new members to help support overseas emigrants of Japanese descent and their families. For details, please contact the Secretariat.

[04] Activity Report 4

■ Orientation on the New Immigration Law

An orientation on the new Immigration Law was held on January 21 at the Orion International House. The orientation was from 9:15 and there were about 20 participants consisting of people who live in the Sakai city area and the international house residents. After a 30 minute explanation from a public notary, there was an active discussion during the Q&A portion on the new law. After the orientation, there were some participants who asked the public notary their individual questions regarding residential status.

[05] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ The New Immigration Law

From July 9 of this year, a new resident management system will be implemented. The main amendment is the issuance of a "Residence Card". This card will completely replace the Alien Registration Card by July 8, 2015. This card will be issued to foreigners who have a residential status of more than 3 months, excluding permanent residents. A big difference with the Alien Registration Card is (1) every time there is a change in residential status or when a renewal is applied for, a new card will be issued, (2) when changing address, it will now be necessary to make a "Notification of Moving Out", (3) "Work Limitations" will be noted on the card. After the implementation of the new law, if you want to be issued the new Residential Card, you can submit a "Residential Card Application" to the local Immigration Office until July 8.

However, it is not necessary to switch to the new card immediately after the new law is implemented, not unless you have a special reason for switching immediately.

©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] Local Human Resources Training Report

■ Thank You OFIX !- Machi Ishida

We, the Local Human Resources Trainees, would like to say a few words, as we are leaving OFIX at the end of February because our contract is expiring.

My name is Machi Ishida and I was employed by OFIX in June last year. I have experienced living in two countries when I was young and experienced working in Canada. By experiencing cultural exchanges with many people from different nationalities, I hope to be someone who can be helpful to foreigners.

Together with my two co-trainees, I would like to look back at our work experience in OFIX. How was work at OFIX?

Ishida: I really appreciate OFIX for giving me a chance to be involved in various international exchange events and give me an opportunity to use English through work.

Ito: I did not have a lot work using Spanish as I had hoped, but I had a few opportunities to translate into Spanish which was a great experience for me.

Shiota: Mainly, I was in charge of planning and promoting the training of OFIX volunteers. It was my first time to be involved in many events, but it was a great experience for me and I was able to learn and acquire a lot.

What work in OFIX left the biggest impression on you?

Ishida: The work in OFIX that left the biggest impression on me was working as an assistant of "Ando Program / Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts". Having international exchanges with Asian students made me realize the common things we have as Asians. Also, I was impressed with each student's zealous feeling toward this program and Japan through the personal interview.

Ito: The work in OFIX that left the biggest impression on me was the "International Understanding Education School Visit Program", taking nine foreign supporters to a Prefectural High-school. There were some troubles but I able to avoid the problems according to the circumstances and able to fulfill my task safely.

Shiota: I have special feeling toward the Medical Interpreter Volunteer Training that was held last December. I was in-charge of the entire training, starting from planning to promotion. It was greatly pleased when I was able to accomplish it.

How do you want to make use of the experience that you have gained in OFIX?

Ishida: I would like to become a bridge between Japan and overseas and contribute to global society by using English.

Ito: I would like to devote my daily life to become a globally active person using foreign language.

Shiota: Working towards the goal of providing training, I was able to learn the importance of carefully and accurately doing my job. I would like to continue working carefully toward every work.

We will embark on a trip and bringing with us our treasured experience at OFIX. Thank You!

[07] Notices

■ Call for "Osaka Global School" Students

Aim to study overseas! The "Osaka Global School", which aims to support the overseas studies of high school students, will open in April and is now looking for students!

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/hodo/index.php?site=fumin&pageId=9467>

Classes in English in preparation for studying overseas will be held in two courses, "UK Study Course" and "USA Study Course", and in the summer, a short exposure trip to the UK and USA will also be conducted. For details, please refer to the following:

USA Study Course : <http://hello.ecc.ac.jp/global/>

UK Study Course : <http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp/osakaglobal>

1 Application Method

(1) Applicants for the USA Study Course

Application Period: February 21 (Tuesday)-March 16 (Friday)

Application Method: Please fill out the necessary information on

the "Application" page of the web site below.

HP: <http://hello.ecc.ac.jp/global/>

Necessary documents, such as the application form, recommendation letter from the principal, a copy of your English proficiency certificate/score, etc. must be brought on March 25 (Sunday) when attending the 1st Screening Test.

(2) Applicants for the UK Study Course
Application Period: : March 1 (Thursday)–March 19 (Monday)
(must arrive by this day)

Application Method: Download the application materials from the web site below and send it by post together with the recommendation letter from your principal and a copy of your English proficiency certificate/score.

HP: <http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp/osakaglobal>

2 English Qualification Test (TOEFL Junior) Schedule
Applicants who have not taken any of the recognized proficiency exams (TOEFL IBT 45, TOEFL PBT (ITP) 450, TOEFL Junior Test 750, TOEIC 520, IELTS 4.0, Eiken Test Level 2, United Nations Association's Test of English Level B) are advised to take the TOEFL Junior Test (Free).

Test Date and Time: March 11 (Sunday) 13:30–16:00
(Registration starts at 13:00)

Venue: Kumon Education Center 5–6–6 Nishi Nakajima Yodogawa-ku
Osaka City (Kumon Headquarters Building 5F)

Application Deadline: March 7 (Wednesday) whole day
(Please note that applications cannot be made after March 7)

Passing Score 750 and above

For details, please refer to the following:

<http://www.toefljunior.jp/>

3 For Inquiries
- USA Study Course
Yamaguchi Gakuen ECC Kokusai College of Foreign Languages
Telephone : 0120-144-968 (Free call)
<Phone hours> Weekdays excluding holidays 10:00–18:00
FAX : 06-6311-1440
E-mail : global@ecc.ac.jp
HP: <http://hello.ecc.ac.jp/global/>

- UK Study Course
British Council
※Inquiries by telephone cannot be made.
Mail address: osakaglobal@britishcouncil.or.jp
HP: <http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp/osakaglobal>

[08] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ "What is your name?"

Hello! This is your International Exchange Coordinator, Alvin! How was everyone's Valentine's day? Was it all red or is the only thing red are the figures on your on your budget sheet? This time, I'm going to talk about something serious.

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you read the title? Last year when I went to a high school for international understanding education work, I had the chance to have an exchange in English with high school students. During the self-introduction, they asked my name in English, reading the question from a piece of paper. "Howatto izu yu-a ne-mu?" There was an American ALT in that school who spoke only English to the students, so I wondered

why their pronunciation did not improve. I could think of a few reasons.

First, most likely when studying English, the students start with "letters". Of course, students wouldn't know how to read them so furigana is used. And most probably the pronunciation of each word is emphasized and not the pronunciation of the words when combined in a sentence. Starting with letters and furigana prevents the expansion of the limited pronunciation of the students, as well as make it difficult for the students to read the word if the furigana is taken away. Emphasizing on the pronunciation of words as a unit prevents the acquisition of natural pronunciation and when the students hear normal conversation, they won't be able to understand it immediately. For example, if we let a student read "I ate an egg.", it would probably be read "Ai eitto an eggu". However, in actual speech, this would be heard as (if written in kana) "Ai eita neggu". Students who remember it as "Ai eitto an eggu" will not understand the sentence immediately if they hear it as "Ai eita neggu". So what should be done?

If you were to teach English, first, don't show the letter and don't start with the word, but let them listen to the sentence. (It is important that you don't let them think in Katakana. Make them mimic the sounds that they hear. You can say the meaning of the sentence beforehand.) Let them remember by making them say the sentence. When they have remembered the sentence in some degree, show them the words and make them say it again. Lastly, practice the pronunciation of each word. Do not use Katakana. You may think this is difficult, but this is actually easier for the students. Why? In this way, they can concentrate on only one thing. First, they concentrate on listening. Then they can concentrate on reading. If you let them listen and read at the same time they will be doing two things: listening and reading.

Language is originally "conversation". So if you want to learn a language, start with the "sound" and "speaking".

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>>> Comments/Suggestions: info@ofix.or.jp
>>> Please send Osaka International Club reports to the following address:
=> 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
=> http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no43.pdf
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