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(1) Activity Report

■ Community Interpreter Volunteers Training

We have held the Community Interpreter Volunteers Training, in continuation to the training we held last year, with the goal of training community interpreters who act as bridges for foreigners living in Japan who need to communicate with people from city hall and other places. This year, we had two schedules. The first was in the late afternoons of May 22 (Tuesday), 26 (Saturday), and June 2 (Saturday) and the second was during the days of May 24 (Thursday), 30 (Wednesday) and June 6 (Wednesday). A total of 60 interpreters of English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese participated in the training.

Aside from learning the manner and attitude of a community interpreter, participants joined lectures by professionals in different fields to gain more knowledge about residential status, systems and programs for DV victims, mother and child health, and education, which they will need

when they interpret. They also attended lectures by professional interpreters who talked about ways on training to become a professional interpreter.

After the training, there were those who wrote, "The training was very substantial with the lectures given by those in the field", "It was a good opportunity as we could think



about how to go about interpreting while talking with many people", making the training a very meaningful training. We hope that we will be able to impart knowledge and skill to many and have them be active in their respective fields.

■ Outsourcing of the Interpreter Volunteer Training and Activity Promotion Project

As a result of the evaluation by the Outsourcing Selection Committee, the proposals from the following 2 associations for the Interpreter Volunteer Training and Activity Promotion Project were selected.

- Neyagawa City International Exchange and Friendship Association

- Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center

The call for proposals is now closed, but OFIX will continue to collaborate with the local associations to train interpreter volunteers to build an environment for the acceptance of foreigners. So for associations who have plans to train volunteers, please contact OFIX.

■ Results of the Call for Application for the 2012 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

The Selection Committee for the 2012 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts was held on June 13 (Wednesday) and the following trainees were selected.

Country	Field	Specialization
Philippines	Interior Design	
Thailand	Architecture	Design
Sri Lanka	Design	Architecture Design
Nepal	Architecture	City Design
India	Architecture	Architecture Preservation
Vietnam	CityDesign	City Design
China	Architecture	Architecture
Indonesia	City Design	City Design

■ Kansai International Volunteer Network (KIV-NET) General Assembly

The Kansai International Volunteer Network (KIV-NET) held its 17th General Assembly on May 31 at the Circle Room of the Wakayama International Exchange Association.

After the report of the activities for 2012, there was an activity report by the Hannan City

International Exchange Circle and the Wakayama International Exchange Association. After that, there was a discussion on how to make use of the mailing list to share information and make the activities of KIV-NET more active.

KIV-NET was formed in March 1996 as a result

of the 1995 APEC Osaka Conference. It is the aim of KIV-NET to provide a venue for international associations in the Kansai region to exchange opinions and information, and contribute to the development and promotion of international exchange volunteer activities. KIV-NET has made use of that network and has given language volunteer support for large-scale international events.

At present, there are 75 organizations

registered as members.

This year, OFIX will serve as the Secretariat. Organizations that want to become a member must contact OFIX.

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange Planning and Promotion Group
Telephone: 06-6966-2400

(2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Revision of the Immigration Law and Residential Basic Book Act

It will soon be July 9 and the Immigration law and Residential Basic Book Act will be revised. With this amendment, government offices, local government and international associations will be giving out pamphlets, putting up a web site and open a multilingual consultation desk. Please refer to the information on the right.

Also, the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents will also stand by to answer everyone's questions, so please feel free to contact us.

©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

Immigration Bureau of Japan Homepage:
http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/index.htm
1 (26 languages including Japanese)

For information contact: 0570-013904 /
03-5796-7112 (Weekdays 8:30-17:15)

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Handout
http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu.html (6 languages including Japanese)

For information contact:
0570-066-630/03-6301-1337 (8:30-17:30)

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)
Multilingual Information pamphlet
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/> (13 languages including Japanese)

(3) Foreigner Support Springing from the Local Community

■ International Exchange Association Network from Osaka Connecting NGOs and Administration Suita Interpeople Friendship Association Executive Director Shuichi Tazawa

The "International Exchange Association Network from Osaka Joining NGOs and Administration" began in 2002, with the goal of putting into practice "The second-half action plan of Osaka for the UN's ten-year human rights education." After receiving a subsidy from the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations' (CLAIRE) "2002 Local Internationalization Associations Leading Policy Support Project", 6 international associations set up an "International Exchange Association Network from Osaka Connecting NGOs and Administration Executive Committee" in 2004. After that, they continuously held trainings and study groups and is still being held today. At the most, we have had 9 associations participate, but presently, the Executive Committee consists of 4 organizations, and together with 2 Observer Organizations and 1 institution, manages the network.

In the beginning, the Project Keyword was multicultural society, education and human rights. In the late 1980's, the role of the "International Associations" set up for the internationalization projects of the local authorities had shifted from international exchange and cooperation to "Promotion of creating a foreigner-friendly town" (The 1989 index on the fundamental principles for local international exchange promotion).

After that, in 2006, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications asked the local authorities a "Regional Multicultural Community Promotion Program" plan, but we were confident that our network project Executive Committee had already begun going in this direction.

To concretize the project keyword, the projects

were promoted under the following principles: (1) reexamination of the volunteer system which is the basis of citizen participation to ensure active involvement of the citizens and not merely participation; (2) establishment of collaborative relationships with not only the local educational institutions (universities, vocational schools, high schools, etc.) and NPOs, but also with organizations that share a territorial bond, who will become the key persons in local activities; (3) make the foreigner a "supporter" and not just the "supported". With these, we were able to come up with a definite outcome.

In the future, it will be necessary to motivate the younger generation to go overseas and educate and support them not only in improving their language ability, but also their ability to share the traditions, culture and arts of Japan with pride in other cultures.

In around 2006, nationally speaking, there were also International Exchange Association that either disbanded because they have decided that they have fulfilled their role, or have unified over a wide area. Our network, however, by continuously conducting collaborative activities, has been steadily realized the network's aim upon its establishment.

However, in each of the organizations in our network, the ideology and the rightness of the direction of a project that has been tackled are in another dimension. Because of structural and fiscal reform due to the nationwide collapse of the 'bubble' economy, organizations were affected. Reexamination of the management itself was called for. Associations with exclusive facilities were affected by the introduction of the designated

management system because of the revision of the Local Government Code in 2003. Associations also had to respond to the 3 additional laws in the Charitable Corporation System enacted in 2006. The mission of International Associations needs to be looked again inevitably.

I think that we have entered an age where a resolute attitude toward the shift from a simple image to a uniform reexamination of auxiliary organizations opinion. In the future, it will be expected that both the administration and international associations will accept their roles, based on the Internationalization policy ideals. The Administration is expected to respect the independence of the international associations, and at the same time, the international associations to be ready to be independent and have a maintainable reform in management through the

■ Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center and NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager

**Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center Director
National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager National Council Director Nisao Maekawa**

<Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center>
Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center is a small association established with the aim of "Pursuing an intercultural community". The aim of the association is, "to deepen mutual understanding with foreigners living in the area (including those with Japanese nationality) and people of the world, promoting international exchange activities based on the respect of human rights while creating a local community that strives for a multicultural, peaceful and equal world through the active participation of the residents and collaboration with Tondabayashi City." Not seeing foreigners just for their nationality; understanding the constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, etc., and consider them as the rules of making a multicultural society; and the thinking of a multicultural symbiosis are the indispensable pillars for making a town.

It is important to experience other cultures and have an interest in them, to support people who are in need, but together with that, it is also important to make an environment and relationships where we can realize each other's rights as men. It is that kind of multicultural society where not only foreigners, but Japanese, too, can live easily and a rich local society can be realized.

<"Tomba Wind" Specific Activities>

Activities we are involved in are "Interpretation・Translation support Project" "Japanese Reading and Writing Class", "Language Classes" and "Consultation and Support", "Support to Children". Projects that support those activities are the "Creation of a Multicultural Society", "Establishment of a Multicultural Society Promotion System in the Area", and "International Exchange and Cooperation" Projects.

Contributing to the community where you live, to do this I believe it is important to listen to the needs of the residents, including the many foreign residents, and answer those needs. If we look only from where we are, there are many things we don't know. It is important to be involved in various activities and learn much and that is why we have joined the "International Exchange Association

selection and concentration in existing projects.

In 2011, Osaka had decided upon the "Internationalization Strategy Action Program" which showed a clear numerical target and term.

Our network, in order to realize the ideology of the project we have been searching for, will actively take on Osaka Prefecture's Action Program. We should realize that it is the time to solidly show the true meaning of cooperation with the Administration.

The target is the internationalization policy of Japan seen ten-years later. Therefore, people, knowledge and wisdom and not the organization, should be protected. The means to achieve this goal is a global strategy and we are confident that the network and know-how we have cultivated can smoothly advance this.

Network from Osaka Connecting NGOs and Administration" (hereinafter, Network) and "NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager" (hereinafter, NPO Tabumane).

<NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager>

Mr. Tazawa of the Suita Interpeople Friendship Association has written about the Network, so I will just introduce Tabumane. Tabumane was established by interested trainees who finished the "National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager Training Course" of the "Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM)" in Shiga Prefecture. We conduct multilingual support center installation training and multilingual information dissemination training at the time of a disasters, and dispatch of lecturers for multicultural society trainings.

Our main activities are measures at the time of a disaster", which are based on experiences in the Kobe earthquake, the Niigata Chuetsu earthquake, etc. Right after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, Tabumane, with the cooperation of JIAM, set up the "Multilingual Support Center for the Tohoku Earthquake out at Pacific Ocean". And by April 30, we were able to provide 137 memos and accept consultations in 11 languages. The Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center accepted the role as Chinese language translators coordinator, and with the cooperation of the Network and 20 translator volunteers, we were able to do our job. We were able to accomplish it thanks to the activities of the network of International Associations of Osaka over ten years and the translator volunteers from each association.

<Take root and spread the network ! >

Each of us had to face the Great East Japan Earthquake in different ways, but it is with the cooperation of the Network and Tabumane that people in a small association like us were able to take part in the support activities. While giving importance to the needs of the community, we would like to value the relationships with various people and organizations. We can realize this within a network and that I think that network is Tabumane.

(4) Information from JICA

■ The 2012 International Education Seminar—Let's feel and tell about the world in the classroom!!

A 2-Day even where you can learn about International Understanding Education・Development Education through

workshops, case studies and participatory type learning. Please use it also as a venue to exchange information with NGO/NPOs and fellow teachers!

Date: 1st Session :July 27 (Friday) 13:00-17:00

2nd Session August 9 (Thursday) 10:00-16:30

Venue: 1st Session :JICA Kansai

<http://www.jica.go.jp/kansai/office/access.html>

2nd Session :Osaka International Center

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/access/>

Sponsor: JICA Kansai, Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

Program:

1st Session 【July 27】 13:00-17:00

○ Workshop: “The Connecting Problem of the World—What we can do--”

Lecturer: Fair Trade Sama-sama Director Takashi Kobuki

2nd Session 【August 9】 10:00-16:30

○ General Session: 10:00-10:45 “International Education”

○ Morning Program 11:00-13:00

1. “Discovering Africa! The First Step”

2. “Food Mileage Shopping Game and Environmental Problems of China

3. “I would like to know more of the world!”

4. “Kids Can! Let’s start International Cooperation”

○ Afternoon Program 13:00-16:30

1. “The Life of a Cellular Phone”

2. “Workshop about Peace and Starvation”

3. “Let’s Try It! International Understanding Education in

Junior High School Students’ English Classes”

4. ”High School Students Connected with the World”

○ Materials • Consultation Corner: 16:30-17:00

Participation Fee: Free ※Pre-registration necessary

Target Participants:

Students, faculty members and school employees interested in International Understanding Education • Development Education

Maximum Participants

1st Session 50 people /2nd Session 120 people (first-come first-served)

Deadline:

1st Session July 20 (Mon.) 2nd Session July 31 (Tue.)

Registration Method:

Download the Registration Form from the JICA Kansai HP. Fill out the necessary information and send it by fax or e-mail. If sending by e-mail, please put “Participation in the International Education Seminar” as your Subject.

For Inquiries:

JICA Kansai Citizen Participation Cooperation Division International Education Seminar Head

TEL. (078) 261-0384 FAX. (078) 261- 0357

E-mail: jicaksic-kaihatsu@jica.go.jp

※Inquiries will be accepted from 10:00 am to 12:00 am and from 13:30 pm to 17:00 pm every day except Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

(5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Why English?

Hello everyone!! Your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin, is back. How have you all been? Recently, I have been involved with the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program’s “Osaka Global School” and I give English language support to the high school students studying in the school. Nowadays, you will hear people say, “You have to speak in English” or “The global language is English”. Probably, there are some of you who have doubts and think “Why English? Why not Chinese or Korean?” So this time, we will have a serious subject and I will write about “Why English?”

Actually, this topic is not something recent, but has been a hot topic even 25 years ago. I was an English language student and we talked about the topic in class. At that time, English was already being studied in schools as a 2nd language in the Philippines. Even so, there were still many who questioned “Why should we study English?”

One reason being given on why it is necessary to study English is because “English is an international language/It is the global language.” How did English become such a language? Who decided that? There are many people who think that Chinese should be the international language because it has the most number of speakers. It is true that Chinese is has the most number of speakers. There are about 1,025,000,000 people who speak Chinese. Next to Chinese is Spanish, which has 390,000,000 speakers.

English comes in third with only about 328,000,000 speakers. It is true that there are more Chinese speakers than English speakers. However, English is being used in various countries. There are 42 countries that use English as their main language and about 36 countries that use English as their official language. So if you can speak English, almost wherever you go in the world, you would be able to find someone who can speak English. Furthermore, in the business world English is the most used language. Even in international meetings, English is used as one of the official languages.



Comparing to 25 years ago, there has been a great increase in the number of English speakers. Most likely, 20 to 30 years from now, there will be more English speakers. There will come a time that to speak in English would be something natural. That is why we should study English...so that we will not be left by the world. However, we should not just study it, but we must make it our own.

◎ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp

◎ Osaka International Club Reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp

◎ Register to OFIX News: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>

◎ OFIX News Back Numbers:

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

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Distributed by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

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