

「OFIX News」 Issue 4 (Nov 2008)
~ E-Newsletter distributed by the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange ~

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【01】 Notices

One World Festival

The One World Festival will be held from the 20th-21st 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 NGOs, 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: 20th~21st 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>

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: Min-On Concert Association Tel: 06-6761-0289
Further Details (Japanese only)
http://www.ofix.or.jp/music_festa2008.pdf

【02】 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 program
(7th October-5th November 2008).

Article and photo
http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/club/saurabh_en.pdf

**【03】 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 NGOs, domestic and international governmental organisations, international exchange foundations, unions, and business related organisations, all involved in various activities such as peace work, human rights, the eradication of poverty, and the protection of the environment.

The Kansai NPO Alliance has worked hard over the 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 NGOs, 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>

【04】 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 5th 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!

Click here for photos

http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no4.pdf

【05】 OFIX Programme/Event Reports

2008 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. For details and photos of this year's program please click on the following link:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no4.pdf

International Understanding Education: Distance Learning Lesson

On the 23rd October, OFIX connected to Mikanodai Elementary School in Kawachinagano City (Osaka), and the Narashinodaidaini Elementary School (Funabashi City) and took part in an international understanding education distance learning lesson.

OFIX is keen to make further use of this system in the future, and is looking into ways to develop such programs.

For further details please click on the following link:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no4.pdf

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 15th 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 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.

For further details please click on the following link:
http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no4.pdf

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Event Calendar (Japanese only)
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/calender.cgi>
Event Calendar form (Japanese only)
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/event.cgi>
Seeking residents for the Orion International Hall
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jiqyou/index4.html>
OFIX Volunteer Information (Japanese only)
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index2.html>
Seeking New OFIX Supporting Members (Japanese only)
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/sanjyo/index.html>
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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/mail/index.html#english>
Print-out version (PDF) of OFIX News with photos
http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no4.pdf
Back Numbers
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber.html#english>

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