



◆Qualifications

- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV),  
Nikkei Youth Volunteer  
Japanese Citizens who are from 20-39 years old
- Senior Overseas Volunteer, Nikkei Senior Volunteer  
Japanese Citizens who are from 40-69 years old

◆Application Period

October 1 (Monday)–November 5 (Monday)

◆Inquiries:

JICA Kansai Volunteer Section TEL 078-261-0352  
JICA International Cooperation Promotions Personnel  
(within OFIX) TEL 06-6966-2400  
JICA HP: <http://www.jica.go.jp>

■JICA Global Education Contest 2012 Call for Entries

Please send us your pictures, movies and international cooperation reports!

Won't you submit an entry that can be used in "Global Education" classes implemented by educational institutions or organizations? Please also include a message with your entry.

◆Application Deadline: October 22, 2012 (Monday)

※If sending by post, entries post-marked on this day are valid.

◆Categories: "Photographs and Movies" and "International Cooperation Report"

◆Prize: Individual Award and Organization Encouragement Award

※JICA Chairman Award About 1 week Overseas Training

◆For applications and inquiries:

"Global Education Contest 2012"  
Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Association  
5th Floor Nippon Seimei Ichiban Machi Bldg  
23-3 Ichiban Machi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0082  
Tel.: 03-3556-5926 (Direct Line)

※Accepting applications from Monday–Friday (9:30~17:30)

E-mail: [global-oubo@jica.or.jp](mailto:global-oubo@jica.or.jp)

HP: [http://www.jica.go.jp/hiroba/menu/global\\_edu/index.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/hiroba/menu/global_edu/index.html)

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**[02] Special Report on Disaster Prevention**

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■Support for Residents during a Disaster

NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager  
Director Hikaru Toki

◆The Need to Support Foreign Residents during a Disaster

The NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager (hereinafter, Tabumane) established The Multilingual Support Center for the Tohoku Earthquake out at Pacific ocean at Otsu City in Shiga Prefecture right after the Great East Japan Earthquake, to be able to provide information to foreign residents who cannot understand Japanese by providing multilingual information and telephone consultation and dispatching personnel to the afflicted areas. This is the second time where the NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager (recognized by Council of Local Authorities for International Relations) played a central role in wide-area collaboration activities such as this was the second time. The first time was when the Niigata earthquake hit in 2007.

This kind of support is necessary because even foreign residents who have lived in Japan using Japanese cannot fully understand the words "after shock" and "evacuation center" in Japanese. Furthermore, because of residential status problems and not being educated in disaster prevention, so it is easy for foreign residents living in the area to feel isolated and may fall into panic when they cannot get hold of information.

On the day after the Great East Japan Earthquake, I went to the disaster-stricken Sendai together with my NPO Tabumane colleague and at the Sendai City Multilingual Support Center in times of Disaster, we engaged in activities providing foreign residents with information mainly from the Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters in various languages. A year and a half has passed after that I

still ask myself if what I did was enough. I would like to give my views on the difficulties of foreign resident support as one of the people involved in activities in a disaster-stricken area.

◆A Big Conflict in Providing Information to Foreign Residents

Right after the earthquake, have you seen any foreign media? The foreign media had a different perception from Japanese government regarding the disaster situation, especially regarding the nuclear power plant. In most foreign news, there had been reports that almost half of Japan was polluted with radiation.

I still remember that one Chinese that I met at the evacuation center told me, "I had a call from my family overseas and they are saying something different from what the Japanese government is saying. Who should I believe?"

I also felt lost because it is not just the foreign residents at the evacuation center, but also the Multilingual Support Center Staff who are confused. As countries overseas have a different perception of the disaster situation, as information providers (through translation), there was a big conflict in the hearts of everyone on which information to provide the foreign residents. As a result of discussing the matter within the Multilingual Support Center in times of Disaster we decided to faithfully translate the information put out by the Japanese government. However, I somehow felt that even if we provided information from the Japanese government in different languages, the foreign residents would probably not feel at ease.

During a disaster, securing sources of information and the accuracy of information is a big problem. And this made me feel how much more difficult it is to provide information to foreign residents.

◆Foreign residents of the Community can help in Disaster Prevention

You usually hear "foreign residents support in times of disaster". It is just what it means: it is support for the social minority, the foreign residents, of a community. I feel that this activity is surely advancing. We have the foreign residents to thank greatly for this advancement. On the other hand, many people in-charge, related personnel, city resident volunteers think that foreign residents=people who need support during a disaster. It is true that when it comes to disaster prevention knowledge and Japanese proficiency, many foreign residents are disadvantaged. However, many of the foreign residents who live in the community have lived in Japan for a long time and have some Japanese proficiency. Many of these foreign residents are from the younger generation and if we can train them in disaster prevention then during a disaster, it will be these people who can help the Japanese residents around them.

One more thing I would like you to see is the change of thinking of some of the foreign residents at the last disaster. Foreign residents who would like to make use of their language ability and experience to help their countrymen and contribute to Japanese society are increasing. Actually, through the telephone hotline of the "Tohoku Pacific Earthquake Multilingual Support Center" that was set up and managed by our organization, we received many calls from foreign residents who wanted to do volunteer activities. It was a delightful event where we could realize the change in consciousness of foreign residents. This change in the consciousness of foreign residents is also the same at the Multilingual Support Center in times of Disaster of Sendai City. International students of the local community participated in volunteer activities on their own and were an important part of the activities.

We at NPO Tabumane and the multicultural corporate managers are involving the foreign residents in disaster prevention, having them not only participate in disaster training sponsored by the city, but also have them participate as a Multilingual Support Center Volunteer and expanding training in the local community for foreign residents to train them to become managers of evacuation centers. We would be very grateful if everyone would develop the project where foreign residents are not people to be supported, but have a new way of thinking and regard them as people who become helpers in disaster prevention. NPO Tabumane will continue to develop our activities in preparation for disasters.

■Support Activities of OFIX for Foreigners in Times of a Disaster

It has been a year and a half since the Great East Japan Earthquake. I would like to offer my sympathies to those affected and I pray for a quick and peaceful recovery.

Even in Osaka, 8,800,000 people participated in an earthquake

drill on September 5 where it was supposed that a massive earthquake occurred at the Nankai Trough. OFIX also conducted measures in the event of an earthquake, hiding under tables after receiving the information about the earthquake, called the dormitory it is managing in Sakai, the Orion International House, and confirmed the situation there.

In the event of an actual disaster, we are required to support the foreign residents in our area, but if the damage within the prefecture is great, it is inevitable to also request support from other areas. For this reason, this year, aside from measures for the local community and foreigners, we are also advancing measures that will include other related institutions and a system for a wide collaboration with other areas.

#### <Wide Area Collaboration >

- An MOA has been made with the local international organizations in the Kinki area for the dispatch of staff, interpreters and translators in the event of a disaster and a relationship of cooperation has been established to secure the necessary human resources when creating a Multilingual Support Center. Furthermore, in preparation for a wide area disaster cooperation with a liaison council of local international organizations from each block nationwide aside from the Kinki area is being advanced.

#### <Collaboration with the Local Community>

- The local administration, together with the local international organizations are conducting disaster prevention training for foreign residents and interpreter volunteers as well as measures to ensure a smooth confirmation of safety and management of an Evacuation center in case a disaster occurs.

#### <Collaboration with Administrative Institutions>

- We are conducting regular exchanges with related institutions for an exchange of ideas on disaster prevention, disaster prevention workshops with the Consulate-Generals in Kansai and, of course, collaboration with Osaka Prefecture.

#### <Collaboration with Education Institutions>

- We are also collaborating with higher education institutions that have international students by conducting a disaster prevention drill together with universities, and holding workshops (refer to article below) where personnel from universities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, who are in charge of international students, are invited to give a lecture.

※On the morning of October 27 (Saturday) a joint emergency drill between the Osaka Prefecture Sakai City Orion International Hall and the Osaka City University International Student Residence, sponsored by OFIX and Osaka City University. The training that will be held at Orion International Hall is open for observation to personnel of universities in Osaka. Interested parties are advised to contact OFIX.

### ■ Disaster Workshop for Higher Education Staff in charge of International Students

On September 14, to think about the support for international students during a disaster, a workshop was held at Orion International Dormitory where staff of higher educational institutions in Osaka Prefecture in charge of international students came together and William McMichael, Assistant Director of the Student Services Department at Fukushima University was invited as a lecturer to talk about his experiences during the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster. Afterwards, a discussion on the current status of international student support in Osaka Prefecture was conducted. Participants from a wide field, such as staff from universities and technical schools, international education related institutions, administration and international organizations, gathered together for the event.

The lecturer talked about his experience at that time, using images to give a clear picture of what happened.

It was a very meaningful talk for the participants as they were able to listen to a detailed description of what happened, such as, "There were 178 international students at Fukushima University and about 50 international students at the International house, but international students who were renting their own apartment also came to the international house to get information and everyone slept together." "After that, as everyone evacuated for fear of radiation, safety confirmation was done in waves and it took 2 weeks to confirm all 178 students." "At that time, collaboration with the University cooperative, which acts as the middle person for students and private housing, was very effective." "Over 70% of the international students left Japan as

instructed by their home countries and we were able to confirm this in the end through the departure information from the Immigration Office.” Some subjects were also raised based on experience, such as, “There is a need to register all the pc mail addresses of the international students” and “The use of facebook and twitter is very effective for information transmission.”

In the second half of the event, the participants were divided into 3 groups and asked each group to think about the first 4 things that should be dealt with within 1 week after the earthquake, write it down, discuss about it and give some advice.

As the participants were from different fields, opinion exchange from a wide viewpoint was possible, making the event well received.

At OFIX, we would like to continue with such activities and would like to collaborate with related institutions to create a system for admitting foreigners, including international students, so we ask for your support and cooperation.

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### **[03] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents**

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#### **■ Change to the Residence Card**

In our last issue of OFIX News, we have explained about the period for the validity of the Alien Registration Card. In this issue, we will discuss about the things to take note of for mid to long term stay foreigners when they apply for a renewal or change in status for the first time after July 9, 2012. If you will apply for a renewal of your status or if you newly changing to a mid to long term stay and receive that status will get a “Residence Card” in exchange for the Alien Registration Card. In that case, it will be necessary to bring an ID picture (4x3cm) to be submitted to the Immigration Office. However, children below 16 years old do not need an ID picture. After receiving the Residence Card, the Alien Registration Card has to be returned to the Ministry of Justice. If you wish, you may get your Alien Registration Card back after a hole has been punched in it.

©Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents  
(Mon-Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)  
(Hours 9:00-17:30)  
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E-mail: [jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp](mailto:jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp)  
Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish,  
Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

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### **[04] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report**

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#### **■ My First Time in America**

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator Alvin. Did you enjoy your summer vacation? This summer, well, it wasn't for fun, but I went to the US on a business trip. This time, I would like to talk about my trip to America.

Until last month, I have never been to America. If I say this to an American, he or she would probably be surprised. That's because I could talk about American culture like any other American. Ever since I was young, to say that I had been immersed in American culture is not an exaggeration. Many of the TV shows were American TV shows. My favorites were Sesame Street, Electric Company, Bionic Man, etc. There were also many American movies and I watched more American movies than Filipino movies. At that time, many Filipinos looked up to the US and many people immigrated there. Many of my relatives also immigrated to the US. However, until I went on my business trip, I never thought of going to the US.

So, how was it when I actually went to the US? I wasn't surprised much. I've been to different countries, but in the case of the US, I didn't feel that I was in a foreign land. The many Filipinos there could be a reason for that. Not just Filipinos. There were also many Chinese, Latin Americans/Hispanics and people from different ethnicities. There were also many Japanese.

Another reason why I was not surprised could be that the American culture I had gained ever since I was young was still there. The way the houses were built, the way people communicated, everything was familiar to me. For example, in the US, you can casually talk to anyone. I had 2 experiences of that. First, I was on a train, talking about Japan with an American high school student. Then a lady in front of us suddenly joins in the conversation and

says, "I like Japan, too!" Another time was when I was waiting for the others in front of a store. Some people (high school students) nearby suddenly greets me "Hi, Alvin!!" (I was wearing a name card so they knew my name.) It seems that they liked my five-finger shoes so they started a conversation. In this way, it is not strange to start a conversation with a complete stranger. I also started conversation in a train once with a person who had brought his dog.

One thing I was looking forward to was the food. I was especially looking forward to hamburgers, hotdogs, pizzas etc. because in America, everything was supposed to be LARGE. It was true! Everything was LARGE! The pizza was 1.5 time larger than the Japanese pizza. French fries were twice more. One time, I ordered a burrito, which cost about 500 yen, and it was so big that I couldn't finish it all. Thanks to American food, I gained 3 kilos.

My first time in the US was, in a way, interesting not because I was surprised by the culture, but because I found out that the culture that I've known for more than 40 years still remains. Culture is interesting. Whenever you go to another country, please have a close look at the culture (not just the food culture).

★ Osaka Global Letter Vol. 1

■ Osaka Global School Short-Term Overseas Study

This year, the newly founded Osaka Global School conducted a short-term overseas study with the USA Course going to San Francisco from July 22 until August 4 and the British Course going to London and other English cities starting from August 19 until August 31. This short-term overseas study was designed to experience study overseas, based on what they was learned in the Overseas Study Preparation Course, which started from April. A characteristic program was prepared for each course that students looked forward to the most. The two-week stay overseas of the 2 courses was both very stimulating for the students. They returned home having a clearer idea on what they have to do to achieve their dream of being able to play a role in the global field in the future. Here, we will give a simple introduction of what the situation was during the short-term training.

#### **[USA Course]**

The USA Course had San Francisco State University as its base and stayed at a student dormitory on campus. SFU boasts of being in the top 5 most beautiful universities and there, the Osaka Global School students enjoyed campus life, taking a campus tour and interviewing people while taking the English classes and specialized courses prepared for them.

Making use of the geographic characteristic of the US West Coast, a substantial program to visit sophisticated companies of Silicon Valley is another large feature of the US Course. They visited Yahoo and Twitter, which everyone these days know, took a tour of Plug and play, the incubation institution that also gave birth to Google, where they learned about how an internet business is born. Here, a lecture by Allen Miner, the CEO of Sunbridge Japan and former President of Oracle had also been prepared. Mr. Miner gave advice for the young people who will bear the next generation on how to achieve their dreams, to which the students were deeply moved.

San Francisco, which has had Nikkei Society since long ago, historically has strong ties with Japan and even now is host to many Japanese. Among the embassies in the US with the longest history is the Consulate General in San Francisco. This year, the Global School was also able to go there for a visit. The students were able to learn directly from the diplomats at the Consulate about the present condition of the politics in the Consulate's jurisdiction and the local administration, the history and future of Silicon Valley, the history of the formation of the Nikkeijin society, etc. The students were filled with respect at the image of the diplomat who works for the protection of national interest and promotion of international exchange.

In the US, the students actively participated in volunteer activities where they could somehow contribute to the society. This year, a 2-day volunteer program was prepared with volunteer work which they could actually experience if they go overseas to study. The students were divided into small groups and participated in the

volunteer work.

Activities included singing songs and fitting yukatas at a Senior home, teaching children at a Nursery school origami, making sandwiches at a rehabilitation facility, beautification of a national park, etc. The local people around were very happy and appreciated the contribution of the students.

The summer of San Francisco is cool, very much different from Japan, but good weather continued, which allowed us to complete the program without anyone getting sick. On the last day, the students visited Stanford University, which is also called the brains of Silicon Valley, before they said good bye to San Francisco.

#### **[British Course]**

At the English Course, students could experience a colorful university stay, visiting 7 universities and staying in 4 of them. English universities are divided into two types. There is the city-type, which has the college buildings and dormitories in the city, and the Campus-type, which has its colleges and dormitories within a campus. During the short-term training in England, the students were able to visit both types of universities. The OGS students who participated, aggressively took part in the exchange activities with the local students and university staff. Aside from the campus tours, they were able to deepen their understanding on how to study overseas after hearing about how to go study in the UK.

The first place they visited was the Canterbury Christ Church University. Canterbury Christ Church University is a typical city type university with its buildings, dormitories and library in the city, and it is known for the Canterbury Cathedral of the Church of England. As part of the program, the students also attended the Cathedral's Evensong. It had a very solemn atmosphere that after the ceremony, everyone had a more serious countenance.

After that, the students went to Kent University and University for the Creative Arts, which are both in Kent. Kent University is a campus-type international university having international students from over 125 countries. Everyone was impressed with the university, being built on a slightly elevated hill overlooking the town, and also possessing substantial facilities with its library and sports facilities. Furthermore, you can study animation, architecture, fashion, cinematography and various arts at UCA, which is a traditional school with a history of over 150 years. The students were also able to view and touch the works of the local students.

The next place they visited was Leeds University in Leeds, a town that developed basically in the woolen textile industry in the 19th century. It is a university that is very international. There was a lecture about the history and lifestyle, in addition to a tour of the traditional Harewood House of England. Moreover, the students were impressed with the beautiful English garden and the decorations and paintings in the rooms. There was also a lecture about 19th Century author Charlotte Brontë and her book "Jane Eyre". The students were able to deepen their understanding of the English society and life in the 19th century by visiting the town of Howards, where the Brontë sisters actually lived, and the museum.

Furthermore, after visiting Cambridge University, famous as a university town, the students visited the University of East Anglia, a campus type University in northwestern England. There, students could choose from a variety of academic lessons a class they want to take, such as psychology, law, graphics, programming, and cellular study, depending on their interests.

Their last place of stay was Regent College in London. Here, Mami McGuinness, a journalist in England, and Ichiya Yamazaki, an architect, gave a talk to the students about how they came to the UK and about their current work. They also encouraged and gave advice to the students with regards to studying overseas, giving many of the OGS students a clearer picture of how they will study overseas. On the last

