

Now, on its 20th Batch, the Osaka Prefecture Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts has concluded with the safe return of the trainees to their home countries on October 16.

This Training Program is being run by OFIX every year using the donation of world-renowned architect Tadao Ando and support funds from companies that consent to the aims of the program. This year, 8 young people from 8 Asian countries, who specialize in Architecture and the Arts, were invited to Osaka to take part in a 1 month training from September 19. The aim of the program is to provide an opportunity to the trainees to learn about Japanese architecture and art, deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and have them contribute to the development of architecture and art in their own countries.

In the 10 day training at the companies, the trainees were impressed with the industrious workplace environment, introduction of the latest technology, and building-site inspection. The trainees were also able to have a lifetime memory with the visit to the Osaka Prefectural Office and Tadao Ando's Architectural Research Institute.

Furthermore, aside from the company training, they also had a presentation about "Reconstruction and preservation of construction in a sustainable global environment" and "Reproduction and disaster prevention", exchange with Japanese University students and host families, a trip to Kyoto and visiting Ando's masterpieces. Not even a day was wasted. Thank you very much for your cooperation. We will write about the training in more detail in the next issue.

■ Disaster Prevention Bus Tour (Joint Project with OFIX)
Kawachi Nagano International Friendship Association
Director Kanako Bando

The Kawachinagano International Friendship Association has begun the disaster prevention training for foreigners from 2011, also with the aim of building a community with the residents of the area. This time, it has conducted a Disaster Prevention Bus Tour at Abeno Life Center on October 7 and co-sponsored by OFIX, with the aim of having foreigners who have never experienced an earthquake get a feel of what it is like when an earthquake happens. There were 18 people from 7 countries and 11 Japanese who participated. When they experienced a Level 7 earthquake, which is expected to hit the Nankai region within the next 30 years, some were fearfully holding on to the bars. Some were having fun as if they were on an amusement ride, but when they considered what they would actually do in the event it happens, their faces became serious. At lunch time, they ate only a rice ball, bread and bottled drinks, to simulate a meal at an evacuation center. A sense of solidarity was born when they shared the food and they became closer with each other. They all went to Osaka historical museum afterwards.

[02] Special Report on Global Human Resources Development

■ Developing Global Human Resources
Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Executive Committee
Director Kazuya Shimura

Osaka Prefecture designed the "Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy" in March last year to strengthen the competitiveness of Osaka. Based on this strategy, Osaka Prefecture and Osaka Foundation of International Exchange jointly formulated the "Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program and set up the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Executive Committee to implement it. It is currently conducting activities to develop "Global Human Resources" that would play a role on the international stage.

But what is a "Global Human Resource" ? There is no one definition, but in this global age, when economy, society and culture are connected, it is a person who is expected to demonstrate strong leadership, possess not only a high language proficiency, but also a rich education and wide view and be able to create friendships with people all over the world to gain the respect of all people and enjoy continuous abundance. And for Japan's future development, it is necessary for these global human resources to be active in the global scene and pull Japan. Under the Action Program, we are focusing on the importance of the "development of global human resources" and aiming to train such global human resources from Osaka who will be active

in the global stage to boost the vitality of Osaka and in doing so also boost the vitality of Japan. This year, we have opened two programs, the "Osaka Global School" and "Global Training Program".

The aim of the "Osaka Global School" is to support the overseas study of young students in Osaka. From April to December, we are implementing 2 courses, the US and UK courses, offering classes for the preparation of overseas study and a short term overseas trip. We have chosen 100 high school students who want to study and work overseas in the future and have them learn various things that they would need to study overseas. Especially the two-week overseas trip where students experienced actual life overseas, visited universities and companies, and had many exchanges with the local residents, gave a hint to many of the students who were trying to decide their future.

(For details, please refer to the "Global Letter" issued together with Issue # 50 of OFIX News.)
Furthermore, the "Global Training Program" offers a menu where students can experience overseas communication using English even though they are in Japan. It is being used in high school classes as an opportunity for students to get interested to go overseas. At present, there are over 2,000 students who have applied for participation.

In addition to these projects, the Executive Committee has also begun an "Osaka Global Scholarship" and "Subsidy for School Staff Accompanying Students" on an overseas training.

■OFIX International Understanding Education Supporter Dispatch

Because of globalization, more and more foreigners are living in Japan. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Justice, there are over 2 million registered foreigners in Japan, of which there are over 200,000 living in Osaka. And with the implementation of Osaka Prefecture's Internationalization Strategy, the number of foreigners in Osaka will surely increase. Then, we will be exposed to cultures of different countries. Not only should the foreigners try to understand Japanese culture, but it is necessary for Japanese, as well, to understand foreign culture to realize a multicultural society. At OFIX, to help promote international understanding, we are conducting the International Understanding Education Supporter Dispatch, with the cooperation of The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research.

The International Understanding Education Supporter Dispatch is a system where we send foreign supporters who are registered with OFIX to elementary, junior high and senior high schools, etc. once we get a request from them. These supporters make a presentation about their countries to the students of schools that request them. The supporters are made up of international students who are scholars of The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research and foreigners residing in Osaka Prefecture. Currently, there are over 40 supporters from 20 countries who are registered.

The following is the statistics of dispatch done from April 2012 up to the present.

Organization · Institution	Requests	# of Supporters	# of audience
Elementary School	8	20	748
Junior High school	1	4	120
Senior High school	9	9	782
Others	3	4	90
Total	21	37	1740

We are looking for foreigners in Osaka to register as supporters. Anyone interested should contact OFIX.

OFIX International Understanding Education Supporter Dispatch
E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

Cooperation “Spun” in India~

This year is the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. To commemorate that, the International Cooperation Plaza has made “hot” India, which is capturing the spotlight for the first time because of its remarkable economic development, the theme this time. Such India is also a production power of cotton, and the spinning wheel for spinning cotton into thread also became a symbol of the independence movement. We bring to you the form of the International Cooperation “spun” in India, in comparison to the spinning wheel. Won't you come and experience the “spun” connection between you and developing countries through the movie・Fair Trade Fashion Show?

Date and Time: November 3 (Saturday) and 11 (Sunday) 13:30-16:30

Venue: Osaka International House Foundation (i-house)

Sponsor: JICA Kansai・Osaka International House Foundation

Fee: Free ※Registration required

Inquiries:

Osaka International House Foundation Information Planning Division

TEL. (06)6773-8182

FAX. (06)6773-8421

【November 3】

- ・Movie Showing “Slumdog Millionaire”
- ・Lecture “India as seen from ‘Slumdog Millionaire’
Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe
Consul General Mr. Vikas Swarup

【November 11】

- ・Lecture: “Future Friendly Shopping that will Join Everyone”
~PEACEBYPEACE Cotton Project Spun in India~FELISSIMO PEACEBYPEACE
Cotton Project Tatsuya Kasai
- ・Fair Trade Fashion show by a Kansai student organization

【04】Orion International Hall Resident Contribution Corner

■Orion International Hall Resident Changvisommid Pakham from Laos, as a representative of her school Trajal Hospitality and Tourism College, went to Oita Prefecture on June 2 to participate in the “Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners”. She gave a speech entitled, “The Use of ‘Yabai’ by Japanese Youth” and won the Education Minister’s Prize. Here is the inside story about that.

“The Language Use of Young Japanese” The Inside Story
Changvisommid Pakham

To become good at a certain language, I think the most important thing is to love that language. That’s because if you love something, even if it is difficult, you can naturally continue to learn it. I was interested in Japan’s Aikido and Karate and in the year 2010, I came to Japan and studied Hotel Management at my current College after learning Japanese for 1 year. When I entered this college, it was the first time for me to take a class together with young Japanese. At first, I was nervous. I could not understand much of what everyone was talking about, so instead of a “speaker”, I became a “listener”. What specifically interested me was everyone’s use of the word “Yabai”. It seems that you can use this word any time, but what does this word actually mean? I learned with my interaction with adults that “Yabai” has two meanings, and used in both good and bad situations. It was by chance that at that time I participated in the Japanese Speech Contest in my school’s Japanese class and the speech “The Use of “Yabai” by Young Japanese” was born. Through this speech, I not only understood how interesting Japanese is, I also understood how interesting it is to study a foreign language, how to respect it, as well as protecting the beauty of my Japanese. Furthermore, I was very happy to be able to deliver this speech to many people at the 53rd Japanese Speech Contest.

I really owe it to my teachers for being able to participate in this honorable Speech Contest and win the Education Minister’s Prize. I am really grateful to the teacher who took my video for the contest application, to the teacher who listened to me practice my speech, to my dorm manager, to my head teacher and Japanese adults I have met, and to my young cute friends who use “Yabai”. I am deeply grateful especially to the teacher in charge of us, international students. The reason why I was not as nervous as I was supposed to be was because my teacher was more nervous than I was. Through the contest, I could learn something from the speech of my other foreign friends and from

the warm welcome and charm of Beppu, the contest venue, I came to love Japan more. The longer you stay in Japan the more you cannot help but fall in love with it. From now on, I would continue to face various challenges as I try to make my dream of studying at a university and getting a black belt in Aikido. Japan, let's do our best together!

[05] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■Points-based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals

There are calls to recognize the importance of accepting highly superior human resources from overseas, together with the utilization of human resource within Japan to improve the economic growth and international competitiveness of Japan. From May 7, 2012, the Points-based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals was introduced. This system was introduced in order to promote the acceptance of highly skilled foreign nationals in Japan. In this system, a point system, consisting of items like "educational attainment", "period of professional experience", "promised annual salary", etc. was established. Those who obtain a certain score would be able to avail of preferential treatment. This person will then get permission for multiple purposes of activities during his/her stay in Japan. Furthermore, the period of stay will be "5 years" and under certain conditions, permission to bring parents and domestic servants are also granted. When using this system, you can change your status to "Highly Skilled Professional" and you can enter the country as a "Highly Skilled Professional".

©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] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■Beyond Culture and Nationality

Hello everyone! This is your International Relations Coordinator, Alvin. It has finally become cooler. Is everyone alright? Please take care not to catch a cold.

At OFIX, I am in charge of the International Understanding Education Supporter Dispatch and because of that, I could meet many foreigners. Unlike now, when I was little, I did not have much opportunity to meet foreigners. It was only after I started learning Japanese language that I had more opportunities meeting foreigners, namely Japanese nationals. Moreover, learning Japanese also gave me an opportunity to meet with many other foreigners. It was when I participated in the training of the Japan Foundation. People studying Japanese from all over the world came together and we lived together for 9 months. I noticed at that time that the trainees were always in groups, the Asians grouped together with other Asians, while the Westerners grouped together with other Westerners. It is not that Asians and Westerners did not get along well. Probably it was just much easier to get along with people of similar culture.

As I have mentioned in the article on the International Understanding Education Supporter article, there are many foreigners living in Osaka and the number would most likely increase. Therefore, it is necessary to understand each other to be able to live together. However, it is not easy to understand each other. Long ago, when I told a Japanese that I was studying Japanese language so I can understand the Japanese, he answered, "You will not be able to fully understand the Japanese". At that time, I was mortified, but later on, I somehow understood what he wanted to say. There were many things that I could not understand. If I ask why, the answer is always "It's a Japanese thing". So, was I left with the fact that I will never understand Japanese completely? I do not think so. I think "understanding" is not just "understanding using your head". I think "understanding" is also "accepting something you don't understand".

I was told before that I would not be able to stay long in Japan because it does not fit my character. However, now I am mistaken for a Japanese national. Now, people say "you are more Japanese than the Japanese". What has happened these long years that made me change? I just accepted everything about the Japanese

and that is how I got to understand them. Even so, if people ask me to explain, I would not be able to and would just say, "it's a Japanese thing".

To be able to truly understand, it is important to think of the other person and accept that person as he or she is. Moreover, if we will just recognize that we are the same people that become happy, sad, and get hurt, then we would be able to go beyond the wall of culture and nationality, which will lead to an ideal multicultural society.

★Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Bringing Vitality back to Japan~Those Who Revitalize the World, Can Revitalize Japan! ~
JICA Kansai Coordinator for International Cooperation
Takako Ueno

Today, overseas volunteer programs are expected to provide young business people with opportunities to cultivate crucial business skills, such as broad horizons, high-level communication skills, and adaptability to other cultures, so that their experiences in developing nations benefit their corporations. Securing talent with cosmopolitan perspectives and sensibilities is a major challenge facing corporations that are growing ever more global in scope.

The people who participated in the JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer program hoping to "bring vitality to developing countries" are now back in Kansai, contributing their talents to "bring vitality to regional Japan." For this issue, we asked them about the growing need for global talent.

【Mr. Kenichi Takabayashi, Business Marketing Department, West Japan Telephone and Telegraph Co., Osaka Branch】
(Sent to : Sri Lanka Position : Computer Technology)

Mr. Takabayashi taught IT courses at a technical college in Sri Lanka as part of the Employed Professionals Program.

After returning to Japan, he utilized his volunteer experience by working on prefectural urban development planning.

① How I Came to Participate

As a student backpacking through the developing world, seeing the poor infrastructure in many countries made me posit making a difference as one of my career goals. After entering NTT West Japan, a world-class infrastructure firm, I was inspired to join by the vitality of one of my new colleagues, who was full of stories about the countries and activities he had experienced as a Cooperation Volunteer. There was a call for infrastructure professionals in Sri Lanka, so I went to teach the IT course at the Junior College of Technology Galle, a vocational school. I held telecommunications technology courses for students and technical seminars for my colleagues there.

② Differences between Japan and Sri Lanka

Although life in Japan is more systematized, people in both countries value inter-personal relationships. There are striking differences in religious attitudes, however. I was very surprised to see students greet monks by pressing their foreheads to the monks' feet.

③ Challenges

I felt acutely the gap between expectations and the reality on the ground. I struggled at first with the national language, Sinhalese, but as I made friends I stopped having communication problems. I also gained the courage to admit when I don't understand something (lol).

④ How Are Your Experiences Reflected in your work?

On the ground, I was largely dependent on the locals, rather than being in charge. I learned in Sri Lanka that involving the local people was an effective way to get results, a lesson I still use on the job.

⑤ What Is Global Talent?

I think people who are understanding and considerate toward others and are recognized as members of the global community are global talent. It is important to have an individual identity, but also to be able to find effective ways to communicate with other people.

⑥ Message to Those Considering Working Abroad or Becoming an Overseas Volunteer

Many societies are much more competitive than Japanese society, so it is necessary to speak up, be assertive, and be able to grow under pressure.

【Mr. Kaoru Kitada, Business Marketing Department, West Japan Telephone and Telegraph Co., Osaka Branch】
(Sent to : Cambodia Position : System Engineer)

This is the colleague who inspired Mr. Takabayashi to become a volunteer!

Using the Employed Professionals Program, Mr. Kitada volunteered in Cambodia as a supervisor for the Ministry of Planning's project to post statistical data online, and conducted distance learning classes through IP video conferencing between Cambodia and Japan. After returning to Japan, he has been serving as an Educational Information Communication Technology (ICT) coordinator, building academic system networks .

① How I Came to Participate

Even before I became a volunteer, I was in charge of Educational ICT inside the company, and was interested in using the internet to connect schools in Japan and abroad for joint classes, which was then impossible. In particular, it was hard to work with schools in developing countries lacking infrastructure. Instead of unilaterally making donations to developing countries, I think uniting students in Japanese and foreign schools through the Internet allows for real-time communication, a sense of the conditions in the other country, and true interaction that leads to mutual support. I realized that I should live in a developing country myself to bring this about, and that JICA shared my vision.

② Differences between Japan and Cambodia

I think Cambodians form stronger interpersonal bonds, and they deeply respect authority figures, such as teachers.

③ Challenges

My counterparts at the Ministry of Planning were part-time workers without benefits, and seldom came to work. After a period of trial and error, I began teaching Web design classes for the employees. For my other tasks, establishing infrastructure for live internet classes, surveying Cambodian schools, and laying the groundwork for building websites to recruit Japanese schools for the project, I even worked on the weekends. With the help of my fellow volunteers, we enabled over 1000 children to experience live Internet classes over a two-year period.

④ How Are Your Experiences Reflected in Your Work?

Even after I returned to work in Japan, I was dispatched to Cambodia, where I am involved in international cooperation ventures in addition to my work, such as overseeing the transfer of ICT for bilateral exchange at the Japan Center in Cambodia, and, as a JICA Training Seminar Course Leader, planning and teaching "Training ICT Coordinators to Eradicate the Digital Divide."

⑤ What Is Global Talent?

People who have their own ideas and a can-do spirit qualify. I sense a major shift in Japanese society these past six or seven years. I realize the lackluster economy and other factors are involved, but I think the children of the post-war baby-boom generation seem complacent, because they grew up with too many material goods.

⑥ Message to Those Considering Working Abroad or Becoming an Overseas Volunteer

It is important to know about the people and society of the country. Then, find a need that you can fulfill. Immersion in a multicultural, problem-solving work and life environment every day in a foreign culture helps develop global talent.

【Reflections on the Interviews】

"The word 'foreigner' is only a term for comparing Japan to other countries. It's not a big deal to me anymore!" Mr. Takabayashi has a truly global, borderless attitude. "It's important to create an environment where students can imagine what they want to be, and motivate them to lower the

