

Ms. Namiko Iida, who also came during the training, went one step further and talked about the role of the community interpreter. Experience of those active in the field were shared and all the participants discussed about the role of a community interpreter.

On the other hand, the goal of the December Study Group was to gain deeper specialized knowledge and learn to be able to become a more effective bridge. Mr. Tetsu Yamakami from the Osaka Prefecture Central Children and Family Center and Ms. Fumie Hirokawa from Osaka Bengoshi Kai explained about what is expected of an interpreter from the point of view of the person requesting the interpreter. Language training was conducted with Japanese, the basic language of interpretation, as the base.

We are looking forward to the future activities of everyone.

■ Overseas Emigrants Family Association Kinki Block Meeting

On December 10, 2012 (Mon.), the Overseas Emigrants Family Association Kinki Block Meeting was held this year at the Kyoto International Center and sponsored by the Kyoto Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association.

Director Okano of The Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad and Chief Okumura of JICA Kansai came as guests. Participants included Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association, Hyogo Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association, Kyoto Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association and with Toyama Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association as an observer. The Associations lively discussed with each other their present condition.

■ 15th International Exchange Festival

The Kansai International Center Training Participants Support Council (composed of 10 international exchange organizations in Kishiwada and Southern Osaka, and Osaka Foundation of International Exchange), with the cooperation of the Japan Foundation Kansai International Center held the International Exchange Festival on November 23 (Friday).

There were various events of each international exchange organization, country booths of the foreign trainees learning Japanese Language at the Kansai International Center, and the Traditional Wear Fashion Show had everyone excited. There were about 650 people who attended. The 15th International Exchange Festival closed with everyone dancing the Bon Odori.

【02】 School Enrollment of Foreign Children and Students

■ Consideration for Young Students who Need Japanese Language Instruction

Osaka Prefecture Board of Education Secretariat Municipal Education Office Elementary, Junior High School Department Supervisor Makoto Iwasaki

1 Introduction

In recent years, the number of returnees and foreign children is increasing due to the development of internationalization and social globalization. The number of students in Osaka Prefecture Elementary and Junior High School needing Japanese language instruction is 2,455 as of May 1, 2012. There are 34 languages that need support and moreover, Elementary and Junior High Schools that have never admitted any transferees, and cases where students directly enter high school without going to a Japanese Junior High School are increasing yearly.

2 Support to Elementary and Junior High Schools and Teachers

○ Welcome to OSAKA “Admission Manual” and “Japanese Language Support Idea Collection”

The Osaka Prefecture Board of Education wishes to enhance the support given to returnee and foreign students coming to Japan, as well as try to educate the other students so they may take the admission of these new students as an opportunity to understand other cultures, see difference as wealth, learn to accept each other and live together. In Mar. 2010, the “Welcome to OSAKA—Returnee and Foreign Student Admission Manual”, and in Mar. 2011, the “Welcome to OSAKA Part II— Japanese Language

Support Idea Collection” were created for and distributed to Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools in Osaka Prefecture and are currently being used. You may also view these pamphlets on the Prefectural Web Page.

3 Support to Elementary and Junior High School Students and Parents within the Prefecture

○ Multilingual Course Guidance

From October to December a Multilingual Course Guidance was held in 7 districts within Osaka Prefecture. Here, returnees from China and foreign children, and parents who are not Japanese natives, come and individually consult and get information through an interpreter about the admission system and life in high schools. Some participants commented, “It was very meaningful, being able to listen in detail about school life from my senior and the teachers.”

Also, the “Towards Course Selection” is now in 10 languages for elementary and junior high school students who wish to move on to higher education. Last fiscal year, there were 674 participants, including the student, parents and interpreter, for all the 7 districts within the Prefecture. (as of the end of November)

4 Support to Public High School Students and Parents within the Prefecture

○ Dispatch of education supporter through the Japanese Language education school support Project

So students who need Japanese language instruction may be able to lead a worry-free and meaningful school life, and be able to reach their goals, needed interpreters are being dispatched to classes and meetings, with the aim of giving comprehensive school life support focusing on Japanese-language-education support or study support. Furthermore, aside from improving the capacity of “Education Supporters”, who can give appropriate advice with regards to problems arising from difference in culture, training sessions to develop newly registered Supporters are also being conducted. This year, 41 people participated and 40 new education supporters were registered.

5 Conclusion

While planning the enhancement of support to the school life of returnee and foreign students, we will continue to educate the other students so they may take the admission of these new students as an opportunity to understand other cultures, see difference as wealth, learn to accept each other and live together.

(Osaka Board of Education Web Site)

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/jidoseitoshien/toniti/index.html>

■Osaka Prefecture Public High School Student Admission Selection Osaka Prefecture Board of Education Secretariat Education Promotions Office Higher Education Department Supervisor Yuichi Utsumi

◎ Examination for Qualification

“Graduates (including candidates for graduation. Same as below.) from a school overseas equivalent to a junior high school, and together with their parents, are sure to have their address in Osaka Prefecture by the time of admission” must undergo an Examination for Qualification before applying.

The details on the Examination for Qualification can be found on the Osaka Prefecture Board of Education Web Page (URL Below).

http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h25_ouboshikaku.html

◎ Admission Application Form

The forms are in the “Osaka Prefecture Public High School Student Admission Guidelines” (hereinafter, “Guidelines”).

★The Guidelines can be found on the Osaka Prefecture Board of Education Web Page (URL Below).

http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h25_yoko.html

★The Guidelines will be given upon Examination for Qualification.

Main Framework of the 2013 Osaka Prefecture Public School Student Admission Selection

○First Term Student Admission Selection (The Achievement Test will be in 3 subjects: Japanese, Math, English)

Courses, etc.	Evaluation Aside from Achievement Tests	School District	Schedule
General Course (Full time - General Course Independent School)	Short Essay	Each School District within the 1st District -4th District	Application Period Feb. 13 (Wed.) 14 (Thurs.) (Music is on January 31 (Thurs.)), Feb. 1 (Fri.))
General Comprehensive Elective System (Full time - Prefectural High School)			Achievement Test※ Feb. 20 (Wed.)
General Comprehensive Elective System (Full time - Higashi Osaka City Nisshin High School)	Interview		Announcement of Successful Applicants Feb. 26 (Tue.) ※Practical examinations of some courses will be done on other days.
General Course Credit System (Full time)	Short Essay		
Osaka Prefectural Education Center High School	Information Use Ability Check		
Vocational Subjects (Full time)	Short Essay or Practical Examination		
Comprehensive Courses (Full time - including Dual Comprehensive Courses, excluding Creative School)	Short Essay	All areas in Osaka Prefecture	
Comprehensive Courses (Full time - Creative School) Multi-course Credit System I - II (Creative School)	Interview		

- Selection for Admission of students who have returned from overseas
(To be implemented at the same schedule of the First Term Student Admission Selection)
- ◆ To be implemented in the subjects of English, International Culture, Global Studies, and Comprehensive Science
 - ◆ As a rule, the applicant must have lived more than 2 years overseas and must have been in Japan 2 years or less after returning
 - ◆ Achievement Test (Math and English) and essay (English may be used for Global studies, and other foreign languages may be used for other subjects)
- Selection for Admission of Returnee Students from China and Foreign Students
(To be implemented at the same schedule of the First Term Student Admission Selection)
- ◆ Implementing School, Course and School District
Kadoma Namihaya High School (General Comprehensive Elective System - 2nd District), Fuse Kita High School (General Course - 3rd District and Dual and Comprehensive Courses - All areas in Osaka Prefecture), Narumi High School (General Comprehensive Elective System - 4th District), Nagayoshi High School (General Course Credit System High School - All areas in Osaka Prefecture), Yao Kita High School (Comprehensive Courses - All areas in Osaka Prefecture)
 - ◆ As a rule, applicants must be returnees from China or those of foreign nationality who will be transferring to Grade 4 or above
 - ◆ Achievement Test (Math and English) and Essay (also possible in foreign language)

○Second Term Student Admission Selection

Courses, etc.	Evaluation Aside from Achievement Tests	School District	Schedule
General Course (Full time)	5 Subjects: Japanese, Social Studies, Math, Science	Each School District within the 1st District-4th District	Application Period Mar. 4 (Mon.), 5 (Tue.)
General Comprehensive Elective System (Full time)			Achievement Test Mar. 11 (Mon.)
Comprehensive Courses (Full time - Creative School) Multi-Course Credit System I・II (Creative School)	3 Subjects: Japanese, Math, English	All areas in Osaka Prefecture	Announcement of Successful Applicants Mar. 18 (Mon.)
Part-time Courses (incl. Creative School) Multi-Course Credit System III (Creative School)			
Distance Education	Interview		Application Period Mar. 3 (Sun.) - 5 (Tue.) Interview Any day of Mar. 7 (Thurs.), 8 (Fri.), or 10 (Sun.) Announcement of Successful Applicants

※Inquiries Osaka Prefecture Board of Education Secretariat Municipal Education Office Education Promotion Section Secondary Education Group
Tel. 06-6944-6887 (Direct Line)

[03] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■Schooling Support System

There is a system that provides necessary support to parents who are found to have difficulties in sending their children to school because of their financial capacity. Foreigners who meet the conditions can avail of this system. The conditions are that you have to be a registered resident and receiving Living Support or the total income of the entire family is below the standard. The expenses covered by the support differ according to the area, but they are usually expenses for school supplies and necessary items for schooling, expenses for school supplies of new students, outside school activities, field trips, medical fees, school lunch, etc. Furthermore, those receiving the support are exempt from paying the premium of mutual aid of the Japan Sport Council. For details, please contact the school of your child or the Board of Education of your area.

©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

[04] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■The Real Christmas

