



■ Employment of International Students and the Present  
Situation: Future Expectations  
Osaka United Association of Technical Vocational Colleges  
International Student Division Member  
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It has been 5 years since the Japanese government announced the "300,000 International Student Plan" in 2008. It was a plan to increase the 180,000 international students to 300,000 by the year 2020, with the aim of having them acquire superior University education, advanced skills and specialized knowledge in today's global age. Even now, various projects are continually being undertaken. Training international students in higher educational institutions, such as universities and vocational schools, to become high level human resources will lead to the strengthening of talented-people from an international viewpoint of Japan, with the aim of creating a human network in each country and deepen mutual understanding and friendship.

The introduction of subsidies and scholarships by the Japanese government, the implementation of educational seminars and training for personnel in charge of international students at universities, and furthermore, the passing of the new immigration law (hereinafter, immigration law), all led to the growth in the number of international students. However, if you would look at the total number of foreigners who work in Japan, we can see that it is not in proportion with the total number of international students.

Until about 10 years ago, the biggest objective of international students for coming to Japan to study was mainly for academic background. However, in recent years, in foreign countries, especially countries like China and South Korea under the world economic depression resulting from the Lehman Brothers shock, in order to employ more excellent students, companies emphasizing academic background are increasing and for international students, a stable job in their own country is not assured even if they say they have studied in abroad. For this reason, there is an increasing number of international students who look for a job in Japan right after acquiring technical knowledge and skills from their life at the university or vocational school where they can make use of the native language and Japanese. Furthermore, under the immigration law, in order to get a working visa, the applicant must have at least 10 years of working experience in his own country., but international students who graduate from a university or vocational school in Japan are exempted from the 10 year experience rule. This could be said to promote international students to look for jobs in Japan.

However, these days are hard times for job hunting even for Japanese students who graduate from a higher educational institution, whether it is a university or a vocational school. This makes it even more difficult for international students to look for a job. In the case of many companies, there are no special slots given for the employment of international students and they have to look for a job together with the Japanese students. They have to pass the company exam that Japanese applicants take. Also, in other countries, job hunting is done after graduation, unlike Japan which starts job hunting before graduating. It seems that there are many international students who are not aware of this system. There are also many international students who are puzzled at the system of job hunting in Japan, the dress code, interview manners, how to write a CV, the concept of hiring new graduates, etc.

On the other hand, if you would look at the industrial world in Japan, globalization is accelerating with the medium and small scale companies taking the lead, and with the strong yen, manufacturing route expansion focusing on Asian-nations and companies which establish a sales network expansion strategy are increasing in number. The activeness of the industrial world can be felt with the many companies that can be seen to want an internationalization strategy expansion by newly hiring international students who are well versed in many languages and have acquired knowledge and technology of a special field of study. However, recruitment staff would say that although they are considering hiring international students, they don't know where to find them.

As stated above, international students who wish employment in Japan are increasing, and looking from the viewpoint of internationalization strategy, the industrial world, mainly small and medium-sized enterprises, also wish to hire international students. However, I feel that activities that bridge the two are not enough, leading to the failure in the increase of workers. Seeing that there must be a bridge

between the business sector and the education sector, the Ministry of Education implemented the International Student Comprehensive Support Project from 2009. From 2011, the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program was also implemented. Under these projects, school and company matching, and residential status consultation support via internet are being conducted. In the future, a better environment will be created for both the international student and the companies we are expecting that the case in Osaka will serve as a model that will be developed in the whole country towards increasing the number of international students through industry-academe collaborative activities considering employment in Japan.

※Source of Statistical Table: Japan Immigration Association  
“2012 Foreigners in Japan

For details, please refer to the Table of Registered Aliens of the Ministry of Justice.

<http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/List.do?lid=000001089591>

## ■ International Students Job Matching

On December 1, an “International Student Job Matching Exchange Meeting” was held at Orion International House. About 40 international students from Graduate schools, universities and vocational schools in Osaka who wish to work in a Japanese company and 4 Japanese companies participated in the event.

In the morning a lecturer was invited to give a seminar where students learned about what they need to know when looking for a job in Japan, such as making a job hunting schedule, how to write a self analysis in an entry sheet, what the mental attitude should be in an interview, the proper appearance, how to smile to give a good impression to an interviewer, how to bow, etc. In the afternoon was an exchange meeting with companies.

In the afternoon exchange, after the enthusiastic presentation of the companies, each international student was given 30 seconds to introduce and promote himself. After the discussion between the international students and companies, which was done in groups, the students visited the booths of companies that they were interested in and asked about the company in more detail. You can see the desire of the students to be employed as they aggressively asked the company representative questions, such as “what kind of human resources are you looking for?” “How many international students do you intend to employ?” etc. After the exchange meeting, the companies also invited the students to visit their offices, showing the aggressiveness and enthusiasm of the companies to employ international students. In the questionnaire filled out after the event, some students commented, “I thought that small and medium-sized enterprises have a lot of appeal.” “I changed my views about small and medium-sized enterprises” “I understood what job hunting really is all about.” Comments from the companies include, “we were satisfied because everyone was so energetic and aggressive” and “We would like you to hold activities like this again.”

There are many of such Job Fairs and Job Hunting Seminars being held. OFIX holds these kinds of activities where international students and companies can actually come and talk together and would like to provide job hunting support to the international students.

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## 【04】 Sakai International Hall Resident' s Corner

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■ Participating in Osaka Prefecture' s New Public Support Project  
“Osaka Biz Café” J Company Visit  
Zhang Chan Zhi (China, Haboromo University of International Studies College of Industrial Sociology 3rd Year)

Hello. I am Zhang Chan Zhi. I moved in to Orion Dormitory in April 2012. I learned about Orion Dormitory from my friends. They would say, “It' s a good dormitory. You would be able to interact with international students from different countries, learn about many things, and be able to eat food from various countries in the kitchen. It' s great!” It is exactly what my friend said. It really is a wonderful dormitory. I used to live

in an apartment before, but even after 2 years, I still don't know the face of my neighbor. I feel a little lonely coming home after school. Now, because of life in the dormitory, I began to spend time with many friends. I have the chance to know about the way of thinking and views of each international student. It truly is an international dormitory. Also, there are a lot of facilities in the dormitory. For example, the OA room, the Meeting Room, a piano, a ping pong table, a hula hoop, a bulletin board, and a lounge where there are different kinds of books. Anyone can use them. For me, the most important thing is the bulletin board. It's the bulletin board that you immediately see when you enter the dormitory. You will find different kinds of information posted. For example, information on job hunting, local community information, international exchange information, and many other information that any international student would want to know. If there is any information for you, just ask the dorm manager and he will explain it to you.

My major is Broadcasting Media so the dorm manager gave me information that gave me a chance to be part of an FM program in October, "Osaka Biz Cafe- Talk Time between a Company and International Students".

In that program, there is a discussion between a president of a manufacturing company and international students. First of all, there is the company tour, an explanation of a manufacturing company's operation status and usage of facilities and equipment. I learned many things from that.

Next was the recording session where there were 5 participants: I and other international students from other schools. The students came from Thailand, Nepal and Taiwan.

President Yuriko Ikeda asked us questions about studying abroad, which we answered. While talking with the kind president and the funny DJ, the recording seemed to end so quickly. Time flies when you're having fun.

It will almost be 1 year since I have moved in to Orion dormitory. Every day is fun studying and having fun together with my dorm friends. I would like continue to do my best.

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

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### **■Procedures when Changing Jobs**

There are many reasons why international residents change jobs. In that case, there are a few things one has to be careful of.

International residents with a working visa, except for "Artist", "Religious Activities", "Journalist", and will be changing jobs, it is necessary to inform the Immigration Office. Before the change in the immigration law last year, you had to do this when you renew your visa, but with the new law, if there are any changes, you have to report it within 14 days, so please be careful.

With regards to your employer, you need to report to the Immigration Office in the following cases.

- (1) Change in the name of employer.
- (2) Change in the address of employer (company).
- (3) Employing company dissolves.
- (4) Completion of contract with employer.
- (5) New employer. (Change in job)

You can submit the report by going to the Immigration Office directly or mail it to the Tokyo Immigration Office.

You will need to show your Resident Card when you make the submission.

■ Studying Overseas

Hello, everyone! This is Alvin, your International Relations Coordinator. Finally, I'm cured of my cold, but it's still cold in Japan. I hear that the flu is still around, so please take care of your health. This month's theme is also leaning towards the serious topics side. It's about overseas study.

Recently, it is said that Japanese do not want to go overseas, especially the youth, who are more inward-looking rather than outward-looking. I am currently a member of the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Executive Committee and helping out with its projects. I am particularly involved with the "Osaka Global School" Project, which aims to train the future global human resources of Osaka by giving high school students in Osaka the chance to experience going overseas. I am always around young people and get rejuvenated from their energy (no, I'm not trying to look young).

Anyway, there are probably some people who do not want to go thinking even if they think that going overseas is important because they believe that if they do go, it will take more time for them to graduate and they would not be able to go job hunting on time. However, I can declare as a former international student that overseas study is very important. Through overseas study, you can widen your perspective. Many of the youth of Japan today probably think that the situation in other countries is the same in Japan. For example, in Japan, most people could easily have food, so many must think that it must be the same overseas. Even if they are taught about the world in school, they would not be able to actually understand what they are being taught. Some may say that "Japanese go abroad to travel". Overseas travel and study are two different things. If you travel, you only go to tourist spots, but cannot actually see the "real" country. And even if they realize a difference between countries overseas and Japan, they are looking at it only as observers. It is only an "good experience" for them. So what about overseas studies? First, you can learn the local language. If you are going to study in a foreign country, you would need to study the local language. And while studying, not only can you learn about the society as a member of that society, but you can also communicate with the local people and understand that society even more. Then your way of thinking, your perception widens. That is more valuable than graduating on time in Japan. Some people may think if it would be useful. It is. Society today is now a global one and in any field, many foreigners are involved and it is not just the Japanese, so you also have to think about them. However, if you only know about Japan, how can you think about the people of other countries?

The globalization of society cannot be avoided. Osaka is trying to train global human resources who can respond to the needs of a global society. Let us have the youth, the future of Japan, to experience the world more closely and move towards a new Japan, a global Japan.

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>>> Comments/Suggestions: info@ofix.or.jp
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