

PM Translation of disaster information and visiting evacuation centers.
(Target and Capacity) 20 Disaster volunteers, language volunteers, international students, etc.

【Deadline for Application】 June 19, 2013 (Wed.)
Application will end when capacity is reached.
You can download the flyer and application form from the OFIX Homepage.
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20130517>

■ Joint Projects with Municipalities and Associations

As we have introduced in last month's issue, OFIX will continue to work together with local municipalities and international associations to provide administrative information and enhance consultation services at local municipalities, train and promote activities of interpretation volunteers who can take part in activities in the local municipality, and support foreign residents during a disaster. And to further promote the creation of an environment for admitting foreigners, the following activities will be held:

- Special Consultation Meeting (Consultation meeting on a specific field)
- Dispatch Consultation Meeting (Consultation Meeting held at the municipality)
- Community interpretation and translation volunteer training
- Disaster and Emergency Drill for foreign residents and interpretation and translation volunteers in times of disaster and emergency

(For details, please check the latest information on <http://www.ofix.or.jp/index.html>)

With regards to the content, as much as possible, we would like to reflect the needs of the community, so that will be decided after a joint discussion. Organizations interested in holding a joint project are requested to contact OFIX (Ms. Yoshikawa, Mr. Yoneda, Ms. Kitada)

[02] Activity Report

■ Orion Local Community Exchange and Welcome Party

On May 12 (Saturday), the "Local Community Exchange and Welcome Party" was held at the Orion International Hall. Orion residents, people from the local community, and members of the Osaka Prefecture University International Exchange Circle Orion, a total of about 80 people, participated in the event. Furthermore, Shinko Machinery Co. Ltd. President, Mr. Takumi and some employees also participated. Shinko Machinery Co. Ltd. is a company supporter of the "Orion International Hall Exchange Promotion Project", which was established this year. President Takumi talked about his passion for the globalization of the company and encouraged the international students studying in Japan.

After singing Japanese songs led by the Senior Club, the Aikido Club of the Osaka Prefectural University and AMO+YUI gave an exhibition. Also, Devi Kusulini, the Orion International House tutor, was proclaimed and awarded as the winner of the "Orion Kitchen Cleaning Contest", which was suggested by Daiki Ishihara. Manager Mr. Nakamura, the contest judge, presented the 5th floor residents with cleaning goods and a party set. Assistant police inspector Kubo from the Kita Sakai Police taught the students how to protect oneself from snatchers and what to do when involved in an accident. It wasn't only fun, but it was also informative as students could learn how to safely live in Japan. It was truly a very meaningful time.

■ Medical Interpretation Volunteer Training

On March 22 (Friday), together with the Osaka Prefectural Hospital Organization, we held the Medical Interpretation Volunteer Training at the Osaka General Medical Center. There were 30 participants, mainly volunteers registered with the Medical Center and OFIX language volunteers of 7 languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, French, and Italian.

At the training, aside from the lectures on "Equipment actually used in the hospital" and "Overseas Medical System", a medical interpreter volunteer was also invited to talk about the mental attitude of a medical interpreter. After that, is a role play and case study led by a medical interpreter coordinator.

Responses in the questionnaire given that day included "the content was very rich and useful. It was very good", and "I want to be helpful to society and do what I can do".

OFIX will be providing various opportunities to help expand the activities of the volunteers and help make a safe and comfortable environment for foreigners to live in.

[03] Information from JICA Desk

Hello everyone! My name is Erika Mizohata, the new JICA Kansai International Relations Promotion Staff. JICA has a desk within OFIX and it serves as the "Local Community Desk" of JICA, which conducts reports and training for JICA's projects. For 2 years from June 2008, I had participated in JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer as a social worker in the Philippines. I will be doing my best to discover people in Osaka who can play a role in the international cooperation field and report our activities to everyone. Also, if you have any questions about international cooperation, please feel free to contact me.

[04] Volunteer Report

■FY 2012 Volunteer Dispatch Report

OFIX is operating the "OFIX Volunteer Registration System", the aim of which is to promote international understanding and local support for foreign residents through the participation of residents in Osaka in volunteer activities. In 2011, the total number of registered volunteers reached 761. And for 2012, 236 language volunteers, 4 cultural volunteers were dispatched and 43 home stay/home visit families were introduced.

Continuing the trend from 2012, because of the growing interpretation/translation needs for foreign residents, the demand for language volunteers to act as community interpreters/translators accounted for 86% of the total activities of language volunteers.

In response to this, for 2013 OFIX aims to promote international understanding and local support for foreign residents by continuing training programs, such as the community interpreter volunteers and promotion of training and use of interpreters and translators such as Level Check of interpreter and translator volunteers

【Detail of Activities and Clients】

Language Volunteer

- "1-day Information Service for Foreigners"
(Osaka International House & OFIX)
English/Chinese/Korean/Spanish/Filipino/Portuguese/
Vietnamese/Thai Interpretation
- Parent -Teacher Meeting, Chinese Interpretation (Ikuno School for deaf children)
Portuguese Interpretation (Neyagawa municipal Sakura Nursery)
- Health Examinations for 18 month-old infants Filipino Interpretation(Public Health and Welfare Center)
- High School entrance examination Nepali Interpretation (Osaka prefectural Border of Education)

- “Takatsuki provisional resident record” (Takatsuki City office, Section for Citizen)
English/Chinese (simplified/unsimplified characters)/
Korean/Spanish /Portuguese Translation

“Essentials for living in Osaka” (Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residence) English/Chinese/Korean/
Spanish/Filipino/Portuguese/Vietnamese/Thai/Indonesian
Translation etc

Cultural Volunteer

- Experiencing Japanese Culture, Experiencing wearing the Kimono
(The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research)

Nationalities of those accommodated by host families
Singaporean, Vietnamese, Indian, Australian, Filipino, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, Thai, Nepalese, Chinese, Korean, Uzbeku, Georgians, Papuan, Senegalese, Kazakh, Iranian, Egyptian, Lao, Russian, Czech, Danish, Rumania, English, Arabian etc.

★Thank you everyone for your cooperation. ★

■Joining OFIX Volunteer activities

OFIX is seeking volunteers who will promote international understanding and local support for foreign residents. There are three types of volunteer activities:

I) Language Volunteer:

Main activity: Interpretation/Translation utilizing one's foreign language ability

II) Cultural Volunteer

Main activity: Introduction of Japanese Culture (tea ceremony, wearing kimono, Calligraphy etc)

III) Host family

Main activity: Home stay/Home visit

For further information, please visit
http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index3_2.html

■Requesting for OFIX Volunteers

OFIX arranges proper volunteers based on the request from municipalities, international exchange associations and non-profitable organizations in the occasion of events and support activities for foreign residents or students from abroad.

For further information, please visit
http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index3_3.html

If you have any question, please feel free to ask us!
(We may not dispatch volunteers in some cases)

[05] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■Foreigners Starting a Business (1)

We get consultations from foreigners who wish to make use of their language and cultural background and start a business in Japan. There are cases when you have to change your residential status to “Investor/Business Manager”. In the case of those with “Permanent Resident” or “Long Term Resident” status, which has no activity restrictions, there is no special restriction to start a business. In either case, what you have to consider are the corporate structure, business activities, and the necessity of permits and licenses. The corporate structure is mainly divided into two: “Personal Business” and “Corporation”. In order to be legally recognized as a company, it is necessary to register its establishment. Business activities mean the main activities

that will be conducted in the business office, such as import of miscellaneous goods from the country of ○○, Restaurant that serves △△ (country) food, etc. Permits and licenses refer to the application of "Permits", "Approval", "Licenses", "Notices" etc. at the government and municipal offices for businesses that include manufacturing and selling of food, operation of a restaurant, importation of cosmetics, etc. Only after clearing all these things can you start a new business. Next month, I will talk about the residential status side.

©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

■ Language Acquisition: Learning from a Baby

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin. How did you enjoy your Golden Week? Were there people who went to the Philippines? This month's topic will be something related to language.

It has been said that Japanese are poor at learning foreign languages because they cannot speak English even after years of studying it. But I don't agree. Anyone has the ability to acquire a language. So what is wrong, then? Have you ever thought of how you were able to acquire the language that you are using now? For many, probably you don't even think about it. Well, I would like to talk about how a baby learns a language.

A new-born baby cannot speak immediately, but at first, it listens to the surrounding sounds. When the baby is capable of producing the sounds of language, it experiments producing various sound combinations. The baby then learns that a certain sound has meaning starts remembering words. The baby's word stock increases and the baby now tries combining the words it has learned, developing from short phrases to longer phrases and before you know it, the baby is already making grammatically correct sentences.

Humans have the ability to remember language. But why is it that people find it difficult when they try to learn another language? Let's look again at the way the baby learns language. First, the baby starts with sounds, listening to it then mimicking it. There is no reading here. Reading and writing come much later. Another important point to remember is that the baby remembers the things nearby, analyzing the sounds that it hears and trying to speak as much as it can for daily "communication". When one becomes an adult, many people study language by reading a book and remembering vocabulary and grammar. But there is a limitation to our memory. Furthermore, knowledge doesn't assure you speaking ability. So how should we study so we can learn English? First, listen and speak. Don't just listen to a conversation and repeat it, but have an image of the scenario in your head as you repeat it. You should also listen to conversation that you can use every day so that you can immediately practice what you have learned. The key word phrase here is "something you can use daily". The words that you remember should also start with words that you can use daily then add some difficult words later on.

Why not become a baby again when learning language?

To be able to attract as much foreigners to Osaka, the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee has been undertaking the development of an environment for the admission of foreigners since 2012. The Study in Osaka Promotion Project introduced in the 2nd Volume of Osaka Global Letter is one of such activities. In this volume, we will introduce other similar activities.

○Transmission and Promotion of Osaka Information and Attractions

The internet is the information source most utilized by people overseas to know more about Osaka. For this reason, the Executive Committee opened the "Osaka Global Website" at the end of June and is currently operating it to serve as a portal site for information about Osaka, so that correct and relevant information related to Osaka could be easily accessed from the abundant information available. Information in the site are divided into categories of "Osaka Overview", "Osaka's Appeal", "Tourism", "Business", "Education", "Living Information", "Emergencies" and offered in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. It is our aim not only to share Osaka's attractions, but also to provide useful information for foreigners living in Osaka.

Furthermore, we also upload news on the activities that the Executive Committee is undertaking and other related news.

○Development of a System for the Utilization of Foreign Human Resources

①Promotion of Admission at Educational Institutions

On September 13, 2012, the "Training for School Administrators in charge of International Student Admission" was held at My Dome Osaka to help improve international student support and the smooth processing of admission for international students at the educational institutions. 73 staff from universities and vocational schools in Osaka participated. A staff from the immigration office and staff from a school that has been admitting international students gave a lecture on what the role of a staff is in admitting international students and what they should be careful about, what to be noted when international students apply for a working visa, and cases of job hunting supervision. The lectures were based on actual experiences and cases and were easy to understand.

Aside from this training, the "Training for School Administrators in charge of International Student Admission" was held on February 1, 8, and 15, 2013, a total of 3 times. The counselor with abundant experience with international students responded to the individual questions and consultations from those who deal with international students.

②Implementation of an Education System for International Students

It is expected of educational institutions to train international students, bring out the ability of each student so as they can work and play a role in companies in Japan (Osaka) and be able to adapt well within the companies. However, measures to improve the career of international students have not yet widely permeated educational institutions within Osaka Prefecture as the construction of know-how is required. It is for this reason that a Career Program for international students based on the needs of companies was implemented at 4 schools (Osaka International University, Hannan University, Syusei Technical College, Travel Journal Education Foundation) in Osaka Prefecture and a foreign school (Dong Du Japanese Language School in Vietnam) that has a record of sending students to Japan as a model. The curriculum was prepared in accordance with each school. 90 students participated in the classes on the theme of how to have the high motivation to job-hunting activities, understanding business common sense in Japan, Japanese language and culture, and student concern about the lifestyle in Japan. Through special courses for international students, the participants were able to learn things they could not learn in their regular classes and I believe that their interest and understanding of Japan could have further strengthened.

③Promotion of the International Students'

Understanding of Japan and life support maintenance

We have conducted 2 series of a Volunteer Leader Program for international students in Osaka. The aim of this program is to have students know how fun it is living in Osaka and feel its appeal by interacting with the people of the community through volunteer activities, and not just spend their overseas life just studying and doing part time jobs. Through these volunteer activities, they will grow to love Osaka more resulting in spreading the good qualities of Osaka widely across the world. Through the volunteer leader training, a total of 23 foreign students participated in the program where they could experience various activities practice as volunteers and leaders. There were comments from the participants that they were happy to participate in the volunteer event as they were able to experience the "Passion of Osaka".

④Job-hunting Support and Creation of an Employment Support System for Foreigners

To utilize the international students who study at Osaka after they graduate, it is important to offer a structure which will firmly link the student to a company. So, the Executive Committee conducted the Global Internship and Job Fair as an activity to bridge the international students and the companies.

First, the Global Internship was held a total of 3 times, in June, July and November. 139 international students participated. Before conducting the company interview meeting and internship proper, time for prior training was secured for learning about the fundamental manners and communication skills as a working person, business manners and Japanese company specific culture.

Students who participated listened to the lecture intently even as the lecturers strictly instructed them. Furthermore, at the consultation meeting, participants went around the booths of the companies they were interested in and asked questions and tried to appeal to the company representatives. They were able to put to use what they have learned in the training. At the consultation meeting, 79 students were matched to companies. Through the internship and training, I think we were able to provide the international students an opportunity to hone their skills in job hunting.

Aside from this, we were able to gather a total of 221 international students and 20 company participants at the job fair held at the Osaka Industry Creation Hall on March 1, 2013.

Since it was the first time to conduct all the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee projects from the fiscal year 2012, we have advanced along, repeating trial and error, but we were able to accomplish all the menus currently planned with no problems. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the various institutions and organizations that supported and cooperated with us. By conducting these projects for the first time, we were able to see future tasks and we would like to conduct the projects in 2013 to solve the problems and enhance the project more. We plan to inform you about our advancements, so please watch out for future Global Letter issues.

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