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(1) Notice from OFIX

■ Call for Participants for a Lecture Meeting and Career Counseling

Lectures and Career Counseling will be given by company recruitment staff and newly recruited people for international students in Osaka Prefecture who wish to work in Japan and are currently job hunting. What kind of international students are companies hiring? You can listen to what the company recruitment staff and your seniors have to say.

To participate, please apply at the school where

you are enrolled.

Date: October 26 (Saturday) 10:00-17:00

Lectures: From 10:00 Career Counseling: From 12:00

Venue: Sakai International Hall (Orion International House) Meeting Room

Nearest station: JR Hanwa Line Ueno Shiba Station

※For details, please refer to the OFIX homepage.

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20130920>

■ Call for Participants for Tondabayashi's Community Interpreter Volunteer Training (co-sponsored by OFIX)

At OFIX, we train community interpreter volunteers who become bridges of communication for foreign residents at city halls, schools, etc.. In October and November, Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center will hold the following training, which will be co-sponsored by OFIX.

【Date】 October 12 (Saturday) and November 9 (Saturday)

13:00-16:30

【Venue】 Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center

【Outline】Lecture: "Mental Attitude of a Community Interpreter Volunteer"

"From the Consultation Desk"

(※Possibility of changes)

Workshop: Interpretation training, Role playing, etc.

【Application】 Please send your applications to Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center by E-mail, Fax, or post by October 4 (Friday). (15 slots, applications must arrive by October 4 (Friday) (※ Number of participants: 15, first-come-first-served basis)

Details: <http://www4.kcn.ne.jp/~ticc/index.html>

(2) Activity Report

■ Opinion Exchange between Staff in charge of International Students

On August 28 (Wednesday), an Opinion Exchange between staff in charge of international students from universities and higher educational institutions within Osaka Prefecture was held at Sakai International Hall (Orion International House). Aside from 14 universities and technical colleges, staff from student dormitories also attended, bringing the attendance to 22 people. Makoto Sakimura, a Director of Ehle Institute gave a lecture on "The Importance of Sharing Information between Staff in Charge of International Students". Afterwards, an exchange of opinion was held on the topics of paying National Pension and Health Insurance, and housing problems that international students would definitely need to face. It seems that a majority of schools have no problem instructing international students about paying National Pension and Health Insurance,

but there were some cases international students faced problems when they got sick or got into an



accident because they were not able to pay the National Health Insurance. There was also an exchange and sharing of student dormitory information, measures and problems regarding housing, such as having the rooms restored to its original condition before the departure of the students. The participants also discussed about exchanges between

the students and the local community and disaster management measures of each school, such as emergency drills and the distribution of hazard maps. Mr. Ryuichi Tsugawa of Ueda College of Fashion commented that the explanation about the National Pension and Health Insurance systems, as well as the explanation about the guidelines for having the rooms

restored to their original condition was very helpful to those who have participated. We have also received comments that another event like this be held as sharing and exchange of information between schools is important. OFIX will continue to hold activities promoting exchange and network creation between schools in the future.

(3) Feature on Disaster Prevention

■ Latest Movement in the Support for Foreigners in Times of Disaster

NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager Director Hikaru Toki

◆ Latest activities of NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager

After the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, municipalities and international associations' interest in disaster prevention has increased even more. As of September 2013, we have received over 20 requests to send lecturers and consultations on holding trainings regarding the support of foreign residents in the event of a disaster. Our office has provided various training programs to answer the problems of each municipality. For example, "An agreement for support during disasters was forged between international associations, but we don't know what concrete actions should be done?" "We want to collaborate with related institutions and we want an opportunity to do that." Also, I and some Multicultural Corporate Managers have been giving a lecture at a Prefecture sponsored workshops targeting municipalities and related organizations, tackling the creation of a system in preparation for a disaster and role distribution, and together with about 300 Multicultural Corporate Managers, we are working to train people who will be prepared to set up a Multilingual Support Center in each community all over Japan in the event of a disaster, and to reflect the outcome of these in the disaster prevention plan of the community.



Listening to an emergency announcement in a foreign language.

The basis for this is the "2012 Guide to Multilingual Support during a Disaster", which we were commissioned by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) to make.

◆ Latest Version of the Manual for Multilingual Support During a Disaster

Last fiscal year, the NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager was commissioned by CLAIR to make the "2012 Guide to Multilingual Support during a Disaster". (For details, please refer to the PDF version on the CLAIR homepage) This Guide is the revised version of the "Disaster Multilingual Support Center Set-up and Operation Manual", based on the activities of the Multilingual

Support Center set up after the Kashiwazaki disaster at the time of the Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Earthquake in July 2007. Making use of the opinion of the users of the 2009 edition, we have made it more practical, and devised it so that it could serve as a reference for international associations and staff of other municipalities, who are not familiar with the international field. Furthermore, the support activities during the Great East Japan Earthquake, the wide span collaboration activities of CLAIR, and examples of agreements between local governments and international exchange associations were also added to the contents, based on the changing situation of foreign residents. This Guide can also be used as a training textbook for human resources training on the theme of disaster prevention measures, etc. aside from Emergency drills and Multilingual Support Center Operation Training and, of course, in simulating the responses to a disaster. Please utilize it.

◆ What is expected from local communities in the future

Looking at the training meetings and drills for setting up a multilingual support center, I feel that there are still many people who think that "foreign residents=people needing support" and "Japanese society must support foreign residents". I doubt if foreign residents really are people to be supported.

Surely, from the viewpoint that foreign residents lack information, they may be included in the group that requires support. However, they are significantly different from other people needing support from the viewpoint that recently, foreign residents are acquiring necessary knowledge on disaster prevention, and furthermore, they could be supporters if they could only get the right information at the time of the disaster. Although there are some foreign residents who need consideration, but it is also a fact that there are many foreign residents who have lived in Japan for a long time, such as permanent residents, and are familiar with life in Japan and maintain communications with the local community. Among them are foreign residents all over Japan who wish to help their countrymen and wish to make a contribution to Japanese society. I think it is necessary to re-think foreigner support and rather think about how to utilize young and energetic foreigners, though they may not speak Japanese, and reliable foreign residents who have blended into Japanese society. I believe that future disaster prevention activities would be improved from this viewpoint, making plans on how to harness the energy of foreign residents and undertaking disaster prevention activities with foreign residents as partners and not targets for support. The NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager will continue to work for the creation of a Multicultural Symbiotic Society, as we learn together with the people of the community.

■Activities of OFIX for the Support of Foreigners at the Event of a Disaster

Japan, unfortunately, is a country where earthquake often occurs.

Those of us who were born and grew up in Japan have more or less experienced an earthquake, have participated in drills and have some knowledge of disaster prevention. However, there are many countries and regions in the world without earthquakes. For people from these countries who come to Japan and live here, they would be inexperienced in encountering earthquakes.

Foreigners who do not have any experience with earthquakes or who do not have any preliminary knowledge on disaster prevention would not know what to do when a large earthquake strikes. Moreover, they would further suffer damages and would not be able to get the necessary support they need because they would not be able to understand the difficult disaster prevention terms in Japanese and would not be able to obtain necessary information.

At Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX), we are striving to cultivate the awareness of foreigners on disaster prevention, and improving the skills of multilingual support staff and support volunteers, while cooperating with institutions concerned with everyday life, so as to smoothly provide support to foreigners in the event a disaster happens.

《Wide Area Collaboration》

- The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (Kinki Block), consisting of 5 Prefectures and 3 designated cities, creates collaborative relationships among its members by concluding an agreement for a Foreigner Support Network in times of Disaster, which ensures the availability of staff, dispatch of interpretation and translation support during a disaster, as well as conducting necessary trainings and drills for the immediate response to disaster in the event it happens.

In 2013, there are 5 Kinki sponsored and jointly sponsored trainings being planned. OFIX is also co-sponsoring and planning to participate in some of the trainings.

- Following the accomplishment of the Kinki Block, we are working for the establishment of a Collaboration agreement between 6 blocks nationwide for Support in times of Disaster.

《Collaboration with Local Communities》

- We, together with municipalities and International Exchange Associations of the municipalities, will implement emergency drills for foreign residents and support training for language volunteers to promote activities towards the formation of a support system for foreigners in each community at the event of a disaster

In 2012, we have conducted activities together with 3 International Exchange Associations and 1 city. We are looking for organizations who will co-sponsor activities this year, too.

- With International Associations from 3 cities within Osaka Prefecture taking the lead, we will conduct, as a wide area collaboration model project, continuous meetings sponsored by “International Exchange Association Osaka”, of which Osaka International

House Foundation and OFIX are also members, and will be targeting staff of International Associations. We will also conduct evacuation center simulation and Multilingual Support Center Set-up Training for foreign residents and support volunteer in the northern and southern areas of Osaka Prefecture.



Based on these activities, we are promoting a system for international associations of Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and municipalities in Osaka to support foreign residents when a large earthquake hits Osaka Prefecture.

《Collaboration with Administrative Institutions》

- We are conducting regular exchange meetings on opinions regarding disasters. On November 19 (Tue.), we will be holding a “Disaster Prevention Workshop” at MyDome Osaka in collaboration with the Consulate Generals in Kansai and, of course, Osaka Prefecture.

《Collaboration with Educational Institutions》

- On June 29, we held the “Integrated Disaster Prevention Training for International Students” at Sakai International Hall (Orion International House), which includes experiencing being in an evacuation center to improve the ability of international students to respond to a disaster, and training to set up a Multilingual Support Center to improve their skills as supporters.
- This year again on November 27 (Wed.), we will be inviting a lecturer who had been involved in supporting international students during the Great East Japan Earthquake and hold a “Workshop for Staff in Charge of International Students” at MyDome Osaka.

We are also promoting collaboration with higher educational institutions, such as holding disaster prevention drills together with universities.

《Others》

- We have made an “Emergency Guide for Foreigners—Preparing for Earthquakes” in 9 languages, including Japanese, to make known the proper way to protect oneself and how to evacuate. We are using this to educate foreigners on disaster prevention. Please refer to the following link for the guide: http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20130219_3

(4) Notice from JICA

■Call for JICA Volunteers

The JICA Volunteer is a program implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) where you use your skills and experience, living

together with people in developing countries and undertake cooperative activities that will improve their efforts in self reliance while making an attempt

for mutual understanding. Won't you use your skills and experience?

- ◆ Application Qualifications
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (Japanese nationality 20-39 years old)
Senior Overseas Volunteer (Japanese nationality 40-69 years old)
- ◆ Application Period: October 1, 2013 (Tuesday)-November 5, 2013 (Tuesday)
- ◆ Inquiries:

Person in charge of JICA Kansai Volunteer
TEL078-261-0341 (Trunk Line)
JICA International Cooperation Promotion Staff
(within OFIX) TEL06-6966-2400



(5) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Trend of Consultations in Chinese

A change in lifestyles and the purpose for coming to Japan has a great influence in the change of problems Chinese living in Japan are facing.

In the 90's, with the rapid increase of privately funded international students, we have received consultations related to entering schools. However, at the onset of 2000's, there had been an increase of permanent residents with the graduating international students getting jobs and an increase of return of Japanese war-displaced orphans left in China and their families that there was an increase in the number of consultations on problems related to living, such as marriage procedures, application procedures for entrance to a nursery school, and procedures to be done when changing jobs.

Presently, because settlement in Japan has progressed further and there is an increase of people who settle in Japan as Japanese dependents, consultations on problems similar to those that Japanese face, such as divorce, child education and

inheritance, are increasing. Different from the Japanese, when solving their problems, foreigners have to think about their residential status. Furthermore, several problems are complicatedly intertwined with each other resulting in a decline of cases that are solved in one session. In cases when legal knowledge is necessary, we refer the person asking help to a legal consultation desk.



©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

(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Cheerful and Energetic Filipinos

Hello everyone! This is your International Relations Coordinator, Alvin.

Everyone, are you tired after having too much fun during summer? I went to the UK for 2 weeks for work, came back to Japan and returned to the Philippines for 1 week. It was a very hectic schedule, but it was very fulfilling. Despite the hard schedule, I haven't gotten sick and am very energetic. Speaking of energetic, this month's theme is about the energetic Filipinos.

When I first came to study in Japan, I was living in a dormitory in a residential area. At that time, I thought the area was too quiet. I couldn't see anyone talking, whether it was in the morning when I go to school or when I return home. It is very different in the Philippines. As early as from 5:30 in the morning, you would hear people laughing and happily talking outside. If a Japanese were there, he would probably say, "they really have too much energy". That's true! Filipinos are a very cheerful and energetic people. They can't sit still and be quiet. If they have a party, there is always music and they dance until morning. Even sales people in the mall sing and dance to the pipe in music while they wait for customers. That is very unthinkable in Japan.

Some people may think if Filipinos even worry at all. Actually, there is not a day that passes by that they don't have worries. For

example, they worry about "what will I eat tomorrow" or "how will I pay the tuition of my children" or "I have to find work" or even get irritated by the politicians stealing the people's money. So, how could they be so energetic and cheerful even if they have all these worries? It is because they have all these worries that they are cheerful and energetic. However, even if you want to be cheerful, you can't do it alone. In the Philippines, we not only try to be cheerful and energetic, but we also try to make the people around us cheerful and energetic. That is why they can be cheerful and energetic.

There are many foreigners who have fallen in love with this warmth and optimistic thinking. There are even some among my Japanese friends who have many worries in Japan and have fallen into a depression. They go to the Philippines and they become cheerful and energetic again. They say that life is not easy in the Philippines, but they really get a lot of energy and cheer. I also have some friends who have lived in the Philippines for a very long time.

Those of you who are worried about something, why not go to the Philippines, sing and dance together with the Filipinos and get some energy and cheer yourself? You may not want to return to Japan.

- ◎ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Osaka International Club Reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Register to OFIX News: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>
- ◎ OFIX News Back Numbers:
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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