

(1) Activity Report

■ Activities Utilizing Orion International House

★ Lecture by Company recruitment staff New Working Person and Career Counseling, and International Student Job Matching Seminar & Job-Hunting Exchange Meeting



On November 9 (Saturday) and December 7 (Saturday), a “Lecture by a Company recruitment staff and New Working Person, and Career Counseling” and “International Student Job Matching Seminar & Job-Hunting

Exchange Meeting” were held respectively. At the lecture, Shinko Machine Tool Co., Ltd. President, Mr. Takashi Takumi talked about “The Image of International Students that Companies Demand” and Chen Jinxin (employed at Matsuo Sangyo Co.), a

former student, talked about “Experiencing Job Hunting”. 9 international students participated in the lecture, while 11 participated in the career counseling.



At the Job Matching Seminar & Job-Hunting Exchange Meeting, after learning about how to make a job-hunting schedule and how to respond effectively in an interview, the participants, 10 international students, had an exchange with 4 companies. The international students were able to have a direct exchange with the recruiting staff of companies at the lecture and job-hunting exchange, making it a meaningful event for them.

★ Orion International House Community Exchange Party

On December 21 (Saturday), the Community exchange party was held. This exchange party is aimed at deepening the exchange between the dorm residents and the nearby community residents and held in spring and winter every year. It is one of the events the dorm residents look forward to. In this year’s party, there were about 60 participants. Aside from



the Christmas Reindeer and Santa-costume song performance of the graduates of Osaka Prefecture University, the Senior Society of the Higashi Ueno Shiba Municipality sang children’s songs and taught calligraphy. It was a fun time for everyone. Furthermore, the North Sakai Police Department taught the students about crime prevention and how to live safely in Japan

■ 3rd Opinion Exchange with Consulates General in Kansai

On February 12, 2014 (Wednesday) an Opinion Exchange with Consulates General in Kansai was held at the Osaka International House Foundation sponsored by Dai-Yu-Kyo Foundation of International Exchange Assistance and Research and co-sponsored by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

Participants included Dai-Yu-Kyo Foundation of International Exchange scholars and staff from the Consulates General of the scholars’ countries, Dai-Yu-Kyo Foundation of International Exchange Executives, OFIX Executives. As a guest, Mr. Masayuki Kusumoto, Senior Executive Director-International Relations of Osaka Prefecture was invited. Among the Consulates General, the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Kobe-Osaka Philippine Consulate General, Consulate General of Italy, and Consulate General of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam attended.



Representing the scholars, Le Ngoc Chanh Tin from Vietnam and Sim Suyong from Korea, who are also participating in the OFIX International Understanding Education Program as Supporters, each made a report of their activities.

So many positive and eager questions from each Consul General were asked that almost all of the time was used up.

After that, there was a reception where you could see everyone in a friendly mood and Consuls encouraging scholars from their own country. The reception closed with the scholars and everyone else satisfied.

■ International Association Network Osaka Study Series-Considering Foreigner Support During a Disaster-

The “International Exchange Association Network Osaka” is a network to support foreign residents in Osaka through information exchange between international exchange associations within Osaka Prefecture. Tondabayashi City, Suita City and Minoh City are taking the lead, and Osaka International House Foundation and OFIX are also participating in the activities.

Specifically, activities, such as both engaging in Chinese Language translation during the Great East Japan Earthquake, are being developed.

Since a single international exchange association cannot respond fully when a great Nankai Trough earthquake strikes Osaka, it is necessary for international exchange associations to collaborate and work together. To achieve that, a model project for the wide-area collaboration of international exchange associations in Osaka Prefecture for the support of foreigners during a disaster entitled, “International Association Network Osaka Study Series-Considering Foreigner Support During a Disaster-”, was conducted.

3 preliminary trainings were also conducted to prepare for the exercises. Pioneer of “Simple Japanese” Prof. Kazuyuki Sato of Hirosaki University, Allied Neighborhood Association Chairman Mr. Hitoshi Imano, who was involved in managing an evacuation center in Sendai City, and Sendai International Relations Association Chairman Ms. Nobuko Sudo, who was involved in the support of foreigners at the Multilingual Center, were invited as speakers on August 23, 30 and September 20 respectively to talk about their actual experiences. Afterwards, a workshop on translating disaster information from difficult Japanese to simple Japanese, examined the needs in accordance with the attributes of 3 foreign families that have evacuated to the evacuation center, and choosing from a voluminous amount of information that which would be immediately needed by the foreigner was conducted. There were about 40 participants in each session.

Through these preliminary trainings, the Minoh Association for Global Awareness in Northern Osaka and the Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center in Southern Osaka conducted their self-made exercises that featured both “Experiencing an Evacuation Center for Foreigners” and “Multilingual Support Center Installation Training”. Minoh Association for Global Awareness conducted their exercises on November 1, while

Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center conducted theirs on November 23. About 80 people participated in both the Northern and Southern exercises.

The “Experiencing an Evacuation Center for Foreigners” training was implemented with the full cooperation of the Risk Management Department, the fire station, etc. of the local municipality. Foreigners who participated commented: “I now know what to do when there is a disaster” and “I could understand by seeing and doing it myself”.

At the Multilingual Support Center Installation Training, the participants made use of the skills acquired from the preliminary trainings, they visited the evacuation centers, posted disaster prevention information, requested the Sendai International Relations Association and Shimane International Center for translations, and putting up disaster prevention information on the homepage, etc. It was a training where the participants of the preliminary trainings thought and acted for themselves. Though there were times they were not sure of what to do, they tackled the work energetically.

At the exercise report and review on January 24, we heard comments like, “it was good to have the participation of a wide range of institutions and organizations, from the municipality, social welfare council, Web broadcasting, administration, international exchange associations to the Fire Department, Police Department” and “I realized the need to continuously implement this”. Mr. Toki, Coordinator and the Director of the NPO National Council for Multicultural Corporate Manager, also mentioned “the evacuation center training was easy to understand since it was an interactive training and it was good that the training was jointly implemented by people from a wide variety of fields,” and with regards to the Support Center Installation Training he gave the following advice: “there was some confusion due to lack of communication, but continuation of the program and not perfection is required.”

The Network is still writing the report. We will be printing out the materials, so please utilize it when you implement disaster prevention trainings in the future.



■ Overseas Study Forum

To increase the motivation and consciousness of youth who tend to be afraid of going outside Japan, the “Overseas Study Forum: What We Gain from Overseas Study” was held on February 11 at My Dome Osaka. We invited graduates of the Osaka Global School, which is being conducted by the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee, Japanese youth with experience studying overseas, and international students studying in Osaka, who gave a presentation about their experiences overseas. Afterwards, there was a discussion about what could be gained by studying overseas.

There were about 50 people, youths and parents, who attended and were very much absorbed listening to the

presentations of the guests. They also aggressively asked questions after the presentation. After the presentation, the participants answered a questionnaire and gave comments such as, “It was good that I could listen to the experiences of someone who actually studied overseas. I was able to learn about the good points of studying overseas”; “It was good that I could listen to not just the experiences of not just one, but many people. After hearing one presenter that both her parents were born and raised in Japan, I lost my doubts on whether I could study overseas or not”; “I, myself, don’t have much knowledge about studying overseas. I now feel at ease after participating in this Forum and listening to the different presentations.” It was a Forum that helped increase the interest of the participants in overseas study.



■Overseas Study Forum

On December 9 (Monday) last year, the Overseas Emigrants Family Association Kinki Block Meeting was held at My Dome Osaka.

The Kinki Block Meeting is held once a year and presently Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture and Osaka Prefecture take turns in hosting it. The meeting is a venue for exchange for Overseas Emigrants Family Associations from the Kinki area, giving reports of their activities and exchanging ideas. Recently, because of decreasing members of the Overseas Emigrants Family Association due to aging, the scale of its activities is getting smaller. Out of all the regional blocks that have existed nationwide, only 2 blocks, the Kanto-Koshin Etsu-Shizuoka block and the Kinki block are the only ones holding block meetings.

Hence, in addition to the guests from the Association of



Nikkei & Japanese Abroad and JICA Kansai, members of the Overseas Emigrants Family Associations from Western Japan, Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture and Shimane Prefecture, also attended as observers. It was the first time for the Kinki Block Meeting to have such observers and a total of 30 people attended the meeting. Activity reports and an exchange of opinion were held. It was a valuable meeting as it provided a venue to discuss the future of the Overseas Emigrants Family Association and its activity policies.

■One World Festival

On February 2 (Saturday) and 2 (Sunday), the 21st One World Festival was held at the Osaka International House



Foundation on the theme of "Feel, Touch, Help...An International Exchange Festival Bridging the World". In the 2 days of the Festival there was a

total of 17,500 visitors, 199 volunteers, 141 organizations consisting of 115 NPO/NGOs, 8 educational institutions, 3 international associations, 5 government organizations, 1

consulate and 9 companies, that opened booths introducing their activities. There were 41 organizations that only conducted programs and these included 10 organizations that had seminars and workshops in the meeting rooms, 14 organizations that performed ethnic dances and 17 organizations that conducted other experience programs.

OFIX also participated from the planning stage as a member of the Executive Committee and put out notices with ethnic media. FM COCOLO also cooperated by publicizing the Festival for free.



(2) Introduction of New Staff

■Hello!

Hello. My name is Ikuko Takabatake and I'm the new Counselor for the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents. Before entering OFIX, I had been involved as an English Community Interpreter for the activities of OFIX and other organizations. Before that, I had been living in the Eastern part of the US for 13 years because of family work.

I had many problems with living overseas, especially with raising children, education, and medical related problems. The internet was not yet that popular at that time and gathering information was very difficult. There were times that because of so many differences, from



language to culture, I didn't know where to begin and I just gave up. I had also experienced being treated harshly because we couldn't understand each other well enough in English. However, I realized that I would not be able to get any information if I were passive. I had to aggressively take action and express what I want. Having that experience, I would like to be of some help to the foreigners who are living in Japan. Making use of what I've learned as an interpreter volunteer, I would like to do my best in providing proper information as a counselor. The content of consultations that we get cover many areas and there are still many things that I have to learn, so please bear with me.

