

「OFIX News」 Issue 6 (Jan 2009)  
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### 【01】 OFIX Programme/Event Reports

#### One World Festival

The One World Festival was held at the Osaka I-House on the 20th-21st December. The aim of the festival is to promote international exchange and cooperation work to citizens of Osaka Prefecture. Over 100 groups ranging from NGOs and NPOs to international organisations and businesses took part and introduced their activities through booths, symposiums, and workshops. There were also dance shows, food stalls, and an environmental play corner.

For further details and photos click here  
[http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no6](http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no6)

### 【02】 Osaka International Club

Heyun Shen (China), OFIX Scholarship Student

Heyun wrote to us recently about New Year celebrations in China

Article and photo  
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/club/shin.pdf>

### 【03】 OFIX Network

Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society

The Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) is an NGO established in 1979 with the aim of constructing wells in areas of Asia short of water. The slogan of the organisation is "Water to the World and Asia". This October sees the organisation celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Over 1.8 billion people across the world do not have access to fresh drinking water. With the worlds population at 6.75 billion this means that 1 in 4 people are without fresh water. The Japan Asian Association works together with its network of 46 related organisations in 18 countries to best fulfil the needs of each respective area. At the

present time the aim is to foster understanding and cooperation between the peoples of Asia, and support water provision, educational and environmental projects alongside assisting in the development of volunteer organisations across the region.

In Japan the main focus is on promoting the activities which take place abroad. Increasing understanding of the work done by NGOs, alongside participation by volunteers in international understanding education, environment protection work. There are many opportunities to assist in such things as support for foreign projects, participation in work camps and study tours, Asian cooking lessons, volunteer translators, office assistance etc, so please get in touch for further information.

Homepage [http://www.jafs.or.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.jafs.or.jp/index_e.html)

Email : [asia@jafs.or.jp](mailto:asia@jafs.or.jp)

Tel : 06-6444-0587 FAX:06-6444-0581

#### 【04】 OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

##### Christmas and New Year in the UK

Hi Everyone,

Richard here, Coordinator for International Relations at OFIX.

Last month I headed back to London for the first time in a year to spend the holiday season with my family. It was wonderful to be back spending time with friends and family, although I have to say I had forgotten how cold London can get in December! Having said that, it didn't rain once in 10 days! All in all it was a wonderful break, and good to see London again in all its winter glory. Going skating in Hyde Park was a highlight, albeit a rather scary one! I had also forgotten exactly how cosmopolitan London is. Walking around town the number of different languages I heard people speaking was amazing, and very different to Japan.

Christmas Eve (24th) is a normal working day, but many people spend the day buying last minute Christmas presents to pop under the Christmas tree. Families wake up early on the 25th to open their presents, and prepare for Christmas lunch. In the UK this normally consists of roast turkey with stuffing, alongside roast potatoes and vegetables. It really is a feast! If that weren't enough all of that is usually followed by Christmas Pudding, which is a rich and tasty fruit cake. For an added bit of fun brandy is poured over it and the whole pudding is set alight! It was a bit tricky to take a photo but I did my best! My family is not Christian, so we don't go in for present giving on Christmas Day, however, not needing an excuse to eat lots of nice food we always make a point of having a nice big turkey for lunch!

After eating all of that it becomes very difficult to move, which is a good thing because from 3pm Queen Elizabeth gives her annual Christmas speech on TV. She takes a moment to sum up the previous year and offer her best wishes to all of us for the forthcoming one. To be honest it isn't too interesting, but I suppose it is a nice bit of tradition which is no bad thing!

The period between Christmas and New Year is made up of normal working days, but many people take time off work to enjoy the festive season. New Years Eve in the UK is a time for partying, with people heading into town with friends and family for drinks, and all singing Auld Lang Syne as the clock strikes midnight. Actually this year I had a fairly quiet one visiting a friend's house for a sushi party! I suppose I was missing Japan! The 1st of January is usually spent with people nursing hangovers, and on the 2nd January most people are back at work! I much prefer the nice long New Year holiday in Japan!

Click here for photos

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no6.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no6.pdf)

## 【05】 Osaka News

Osaka PR at the Shanghai World Expo!

Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City will put together a booth at the 2010 World Expo to be held in Shanghai, in order to further relations with Shanghai and China, and promote all that Osaka has to offer.

Many cities from around the world will promote themselves at the "Best City" display area. Last December OFIX took part in the committee meetings at which it was decided that Osaka would put together a display under the theme of "Osaka: Environmentally Advanced River City". Osaka has a rich history of trade and development along its canals going back 1400 years. Furthermore, with positive results seen in efforts to alleviate flood damage and air pollution over the years, Osaka is water city proud of its environmental advances.

At the Expo pavilion the appeal of Osaka, its people, places, and industries will be promoted not only to the people of Shanghai and China, but to the people of the world as well. It will be an opportunity to experience some of what Osaka has to offer as a river city, bringing to mind visions of the age old river city portraits famous in China.

The Shanghai World Expo will be held from the 1st May~31st October 2010, with the theme 「Better City, Better Life」. Over 200 countries and international organisations will take part, and it is expected that over 70 million people will visit. Earlier this year saw the official signing of the participation contract in Shanghai, and preparation work for the display is going smoothly.

Official Expo Homepage: <http://en.expo2010china.com/>

For photos click here

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no6.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no6.pdf)

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Information for foreign residents in Osaka
http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/plaza/index3.html
Event Calendar (Japanese only)
http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/calender.cgi
Event Calendar form (Japanese only)
http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/event.cgi
Seeking residents for the Orion International Hall
http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyuu/index4.html
OFIX Volunteer Information (Japanese only)
http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index2.html
Seeking New OFIX Supporting Members (Japanese only)
http://www.ofix.or.jp/sanjyo/index.html
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Comments/Suggestions: [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

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[clubnews@ofix.or.jp](mailto:clubnews@ofix.or.jp)

To cancel your registration or change your registered email address

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/mail/index.html#english>

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