

expand its target from high school to elementary and junior high schools. Moreover, a training course for the foreign supporters will be held in June.

Starting this year, we will also be asking students to fill out a simple questionnaire so that their satisfaction towards the program can be determined. We would like to ask the schools for their cooperation for this.

(2) The creation of consultation desks at each municipality
OFIX will be providing information and consultations in 8 languages for foreigners living in Osaka and for municipalities, which are in close contact with foreigners. At the same time, OFIX will be holding a 1-day Consultation at Sakai City, Shijonawate City, and Izumi City, as model cases for local consultation programs for foreigners.

(3) The expansion of disaster volunteers
To strengthen the support for foreigners during a disaster, the existence of interpreters and translator volunteers during disasters is indispensable. That is why OFIX is undertaking the training of such volunteers. We will hold a training program for interpreters and translator volunteers at the Abeno Life Center on June 19. Furthermore, we would also be holding disaster prevention training for foreigners together with international organizations from the municipalities. We intend to strengthen our support system for foreigners, as well as enhance the OFIX volunteer system. This year, we will strive to expand the disaster volunteers and we request everyone to register as a volunteer.

As for the Osaka Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee Projects, in addition to the US and UK Study Courses, this year, a new Australia Course targetting first year high school students will be implemented under the "Osaka Global School" Program. Moreover, a practical English learning program utilizing mock facilities, such as airport counters, etc., will be conducted under the "Global Experience Program". Aside from these, we would be participating at the "International Education Exhibit", which is scheduled to be held in December at Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), to disseminate information on studying in Osaka and, in collaboration with universities and vocational schools in Osaka, conduct seminars and exchanges for Malaysia's educational institutions to attract superior international students to Osaka.

For details, please visit the Osaka Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee website.

(<http://osakaglobal.jp/outline/index.shtml>)

※In the digital version, the underlined texts are linked.

【02】 Progress of Main Projects

■ Basic Study on Volunteer Policies

On March 13, 2015, OFIX and Osaka Prefecture concluded the "Agreement regarding the installation and operation of a Multilingual Support Center of Osaka during a Disaster" with the

purpose of smoothly providing support for foreigners during a disaster. A "Naruhodo Guide for Interpreter and Translator Volunteers during Disasters" was created based on this and it would be used as a textbook in future disaster volunteer trainings that will be conducted.

Furthermore, it is the goal of OFIX in its Mid-term Operations Plan to increase Interpreter and Translator Volunteers during Disasters by 20 every year. It is therefore necessary to form a volunteer system that would allow securing and utilizing disaster volunteers. To do that, we visited advanced municipalities and international associations nationwide and conducted a literature review to study advanced cases and consider an effective future policy.

The report for this basic study can be found on the OFIX homepage.

(<http://www.ofix.or.jp/accept/volunteer/pdf/volunteer.pdf>)

Registration and Management of Volunteers

Some associations have formed an information search system to enable a unified management of volunteers. Volunteers who wish to join activities can register through the association's homepage and other organizations can request and search for volunteers online.

There are also associations that motivate volunteers by giving IDs and blousons.

Volunteer Training

Each municipality and association put emphasis on training. For example, trainings simulating translation activities during an actual disaster and a mock drill of setting up a multilingual support center during a disaster.

Setting up of a Multilingual Support Center during a Disaster

There are many municipalities and associations that form an agreement beforehand, which would be the basis for forming a center when a disaster occurs.

Among the Prefectures and associations that have experienced a disaster, there were cases of smooth operation even without prior agreement. They were able to delegate roles to the prefecture, the association and to multicultural symbiosis managers because they had already been contemplating an agreement.

Based on the results of this study, OFIX will reconstruct its volunteer system and establish a disaster volunteer system that would effectively function during a disaster.

At the same time, the International Affairs Division and Crisis Management Office of Osaka Prefecture will work together to create an operations system for disaster volunteers within the Osaka Prefecture Multilingual Support Center during Disasters.

【03】 Activity Report

- Towards Internationalization within the Prefecture
—Interview with a Practitioner: Ikeda City

We now bring you an interview with a person in charge of Multicultural Symbiosis and Foreigner Support after a collaboration project with OFIX.

We interviewed Fimi Kim, from the Ikeda City Tourism Division, which co-sponsored a Community Interpreter and Translator Training in March.

Mr. Kim has been promoting a system for supporting residents of Ikeda City and has been involved with various undertakings, such as the multilingualization and simplification of Japanese of the "Ikeda Life Information", and also with the implementation of 1-day Consultation.

<Ikeda City Interpreter and Translator Volunteer Training>

Date: March 16, 2015 (Mon.)

Venue: Ikeda City Hall

Program :

Lecture "Foreign Residents and Multicultural Symbiosis

Policies in Ikeda City"

"Admission of Foreign Residents to Japanese Society

Now and the Future"

Role play (Education, Mother/Child Health, Administration Services and Residential Status)

Participants: 4 languages 22 people (Role play was done in 3 languages)

Interview:

First, please tell us how you co-sponsored a Community Interpreter and Translator Volunteer Training with OFIX.

One reason was that even though I was in charge of volunteers, I never really had the chance to meet with the volunteer themselves. I wanted to make a venue where we could meet them. Next, we wanted the volunteers to know exactly what happens in the field and to improve their skills through role play. However, the only international organization that fully understood the problems of the city and select a lecturer knowing what we want for the training was OFIX, so we applied to co-sponsor the training.

Was there anything that you paid attention to or planned for in particular when you conducted the training?

We planned the program with the hope that the growing foreign residents would think of themselves as co-habitants, a part of the city and not just volunteers. I want the participants to be conscious about the background and policies of a growing foreign population and their role as a part of the local society.

Being an implementer of the training, were there any changes that happened?

During the role play, the administrative staff took the role of the help desk. It gave us an opportunity to think how we wanted the interpretation to be conducted from the viewpoint

of a staff, and how to give an explanation that it is easy to interpret making it easier to relay to the foreign residents.

Please tell us about your future plans.

I feel that wide area collaboration is necessary for multilingual support, especially for rare languages. For example, it would be meaningful if there were a network between municipalities where collaboration is possible when there are no volunteers registered for a certain language.

Also, support for foreigners during a disaster is still not enough, so we would like to ask the cooperation of OFIX in this regard.

■ OFIX Joint Projects

◎Sakai City 1-Day Consultation for Foreigners

Date: April 15, 2015 (Wed.)

Venue: Sakai City International Plaza

OFIX is co-sponsoring 1-day Consultations with municipalities to provide foreigners would a venue to consultations at a place they are most familiar with. The first for this year was the collaboration with Sakai City.

On the day of the consultation, there were 12 consultations including 2 consultations from overseas via skype. There were complicated topics, such as procedures for a foreign national overseas who would be inheriting a house in Japan and problems related to divorce with a husband who is living separately.

A lawyer and 2 notary publics responded to the consultations as legal and residential status experts. Those consulting who cannot speak Japanese were supported by language volunteers registered with OFIX and Sakai City.

◎“Let us Experience Earthquake and Disaster Prevention”

Jointly sponsored by Izumi City

Date: March 1, 2015 (Sun.)

Venue: Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center

There were 11 participants, including 7 foreign residents and everyone was able to gain various experiences at the Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center. At the initial fire extinguishing training using a water fire extinguisher, participants were enthusiastic, asking questions like “do you need a fire extinguisher at home”.

There are many dangers after an earthquake and the participants were able to learn many things that they should be wary about. Lastly, at the earthquake simulator, participants were able to experience an intensity 7 earthquake, giving them an idea of the Kobe earthquake in 1995 and the highly possible Nankai trough quake. Participants exchanged views afterwards and it gave them an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of daily preparedness.

■ Introduction of the Solomon Islands Stella Bokelema
(International Understanding Education Supporter)

Hello everybody. My name is Stella Bokelema. Warmest of greetings from the Solomon Islands. I am a postgraduate student majoring in International Public Policy at a university in Osaka. After coming to Japan in 200, I have grown to love Japan, its culture and people that I am proud to call it my home away from home.

I have been involved in international exchange activities for over 8 years. In 2014, I became an OFIX international understanding supporter and I visit elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools to present about my country and culture. As the Solomon Islands is relatively unknown to the majority of Japanese, it is always fun to share with students about a place or culture they are unfamiliar with. It is a wonderful experience and I intend to continue participating.

Solomon Islands is located in the Oceania Region, north east of Australia. It comprises of about 900 Island. One third of the 900 islands is inhabited. There are around 80-120 Languages but the most widely spoken language is Pidgin, which is an English based Creole language. Although the Official Language is English, only 2 percent of the population speaks it.

The staple diet consists of seafood and root crops such as sweet potato, cassava, taro, and banana, usually cooked in coconut milk. However in the Provincial townships and the capital, the most common diet is Rice and "Taiyo" (canned Tuna) mixed with vegetables. This is because it is affordable and easy to prepare. Tropical fruits such as Mango, Pineapple, Pawpaw and coconuts are also very popular.

As an OFIX Supporter, I share fun and interesting facts about my country as well as problems and issues that we face. I would recommend to anyone who is thinking of joining OFIX as a supporter to join. It is a memorable and valuable experience that can contribute to your personal growth.

■ Upon Completing the Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts Shyanaka Dananjaya (Sri Lanka, 2012 Trainee)

I was a Masters student at the University of Peradeniya majoring in Sustainable Built Environment when I joined the 2012 Ando Program. It was the first time for me to go to Japan.

When I first came to Japan, I was amazed with the cleanliness of the country. It was the beginning of a whole new experience for me. I learned about applications of fair-face concrete, modern technologies, and Japanese landscaping and architecture. A very special memory was the time I met Mr. Ando. I was impressed with his passion and vision and how a few pencil lines can become a masterpiece. He has made me think about the designer's freedom of dreaming and how we can make them into a reality.

I returned to Sri Lanka and am now writing a thesis on "The Effect of Sustainable Materials and Architectural Efficiency".

After finishing my masters, I hope to apply the lessons I have learned from the training and become a designer of architecture that is environmentally friendly and energy saving.

The people I met during the Program are my treasure. The trainee from Philippines visited me at my wedding day and the trainee from Thailand made my honeymoon very special. I am thankful to the Ando Program not just for the new knowledge and broad perspectives it has given me, but also for talented comrades who share the same goals and have become like family to me.

◆ Calling Applicants for the Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts!!

The Carlsberg Architectural Prize Money donated by Architect Tadao Ando and donations from interested people is used by OFIX to invite young professionals from various Asian countries who specialize in architecture and arts to take part in a 1-month training. This year is the 23rd year and we are now calling for applicants. For details, please view the homepage.

(<http://www.ofix.or.jp/training/aprogram/overview.html>)

【05】 JICA Osaka Desk

■ Hello

Hello, everyone! My name is Sayaka Ishida, the new international cooperation promotion officer starting April 2015.

I work at the JICA Osaka Prefecture Desk located in OFIX.

I had been a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer to Bangladesh for 2 years from January 2013. In Bangladesh, I worked at the Waste Disposal and Management Division in Dakha City Hall and was involved in activities educating the residents.

In Bangladesh, throwing trash around is common and you can find trash all over the town. To improve the situation, I went around schools in an area I was assigned to together with city officials and conducted classes on environment education, using illustrations to show the effects of throwing garbage around and garbage classification games. Moreover, while conducting meetings with resident organizations regarding waste, I put forward a waste management program residents could participate in and conducted promotional activities in various areas. Through the 2 years of activities collaborating with administrative institutions and municipalities, I was able to learn the importance of human relationships.

Working at the JICA Osaka Prefecture Desk, I will be helping out and giving advice to those who are interested in JICA's projects and those interested in becoming volunteers. If anyone is interested, please drop me a line.

【06】 Notice

■ Completion of the “Naruhodo Guide for Interpreter and Translator Volunteers during Disasters” !

OFIX is striving for the expansion of the system and training of interpreter and translator volunteers during a disaster. We have recently completed the “Naruhodo Guide for Interpreter and Translator Volunteers during Disasters”, which will be used for training volunteers. Of course, it is a guide volunteers, municipal administrative offices and foreigners can also refer to. Please download it and utilize it.

(http://www.ofix.or.jp/pdf/news20150317_1.pdf)

■ 1-Day Consultation for Foreigners (with Interpretation)

<Evening Consultation for Foreigners>

June 5 (Fri.) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Shijonawate-shi Shimin Sougou Center

Topics: Residential Status (Visa), Life in general

<Consultation for Foreigners>

June 7 (Sun.) 11:30 am-3:00 pm

Izumi City Hall

Topics: Law, Residential Status (Visa), Life in general, etc.

<1-Day Information Service for Foreigners>

June 28 (Sun.) 11:00 am-5:00 pm

Osaka International Center

Topics: Law, Immigration · Residential Status (Visa), Labor, Insurance and Pension, Medical treatment

■ Call for Participants

◎ Call for Participants for the Community Interpreter Volunteer Training

This fiscal year, as scheduled below, we will again hold a Training for Community Interpreter Volunteers who will shoulder the multilingual support in Osaka.

We encourage those who want to be involved and those already involved, but want to learn about new systems to participate.

Date: May 29, 2015 (Fri.) and June 3, 2015 (Wed.)

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Venue: 8F My Dome Osaka

Content: Lecture (Mindset of a volunteer, Residential status, Education, etc.) Role play, etc.

URL: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20150424>

◎ Call for Applicants for the Interpreter and Translator Volunteer during a Disaster

During a disaster, there is a great need for multilingual support for foreigners, who are poor at getting information. At the same time, the importance of interpreter and translator volunteers during a disaster is also growing.

Through the training, won't you think of what you can do as a disaster volunteer?

Date: June 19, 2015 (Fri.) 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Venue: Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center

Content: lecture (Disaster Volunteer System, Natural Disasters of Osaka Prefecture), Experiencing Translation during a Disaster

