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[01] Administrative Director Inauguration Address

OFIX Administrative Director Masane Odaka

I, Masane Odaka, was appointed as the new Administrative Director of OFIX by the executive board on April 1st. It is my sincere desire to fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities, and I will do my utmost to contribute to the smooth and effective operations of this Foundation.

Now, for Osaka to continue to succeed as one of the world's leading cities, it must further expand its capabilities as a major point of exchange for not only Asia, but the world. For that reason, OFIX has continued to make contributions in various areas including the development of global human resources and the promotion of admission and preparation of environment for foreigners. We must continue to promote the steady progress of these areas. While the situation in and around Osaka is changing significantly, we will make every effort to promote program development and organization innovation that responds flexibly to such demands. Once again I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation.

[02] Activity Report

《OFIX Programs for the 2016 Fiscal Year》

In cooperation with the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Action Program, we are continuing our efforts in promoting the development of global human resources, the admission and preparation of environment for foreigners and the distribution of information about international exchange.

We will utilize our knowhow and network resources while also providing assistance to municipalities and paying close attention to the broader expansion of these local areas. In addition, we intend to strengthen relations with Osaka Prefectural Government, municipalities and international exchange organizations from other prefectures in order to strengthen our disaster response capabilities.

Moreover, Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee (OISEC) has programs including Osaka Global School.

For more information, please visit the OFIX and OISEC websites:
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/jigyuu.html>
<http://osakaglobal.jp/en/outline/index.shtml>

■ Emergency Drill for Operating the Osaka Multilingual Support Center in Times of Disasters

Date and Time: Tuesday January 19th 10:00am-4:30pm
 Participants: 40

OFIX held an emergency drill for the Osaka Multilingual Support Center in Times of Disasters with Osaka Prefectural Government's International Affairs Division. The operation of the center, which was co-established with Osaka Prefectural Government, will begin in the event of a large-scale disaster. Under the guidance of Ms. Toki, the executive director of NPO National Managerial Council for Multicultural Information & Assistance, participants were divided

into “information” and “multilingual support” groups. Then OFIX staff, participants from the Kinki Block*, and disaster emergency volunteers divided up tasks and experienced the steps involved in providing disaster-related information to foreign residents – from it’s collection, selection, translation to finally it’s distribution.

Although the drill didn’t go as well as expected, participants discovered how the center must proceed forward in the future.

*Kinki Area Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Assembly (organization made up of eight International associations in Kinki area)

■ 2015 Fiscal Year Review Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday January 27th 2:00pm-4:00pm
Participants: 17

OFIX conducted a meeting with organizations who held one-day consultations for foreign residents as well as certified legal and tax specialists and volunteers who supported the program throughout FY 2015. As more organizations consider holding consultations, participants discussed how to make consultation sessions more accessible for foreign residents.

After that, we invited guests from the management division of FM COCOCO radio station to talk about utilizing radio as an effective way to distribute information to foreign residents. Lastly, in the workshop titled “Consultation Planning”, groups presented unique and creative proposals, which served as great motivation for the new working year.

■ The 23rd One World Festival

Date and Time: Saturday February 6th and Sunday February 7th
Place: Kansai Television Ogimachi Square, Kita-ku-min
Center and Ogimachi Park

The One World Festival is the largest festival in Western Japan for international cooperation and exchange, with a total of 169 participating organizations including NGOs and NPOs, international organizations, government and educational bodies as well as businesses. There were also 63 programs including activity introductions, ethnic food sampling, talk sessions, dances, and movie showings. As a member of the festival’s executive committee, OFIX was involved in the planning of the event.

Visitor numbers reached 24,000 and 299 volunteers participated.

■ Ikeda Multicultural Center (IMC) Volunteer Training Workshop

Date and Time: Thursday March 24th 1:00pm-4:15pm
Participants: 12 (Ikeda City registered volunteer interpreters)

The aim of this training was for staff to learn about the current situation facing foreign residents of Ikeda city, the types of programs currently available in nearby international exchange organizations, and the type of response required when dealing with foreigners requiring assistance. OFIX consulting staff led the training and workshop, with one beginner volunteer interpreter commenting, “I was able to grasp what to look out for when assisting foreigners”.

***** <OFIX Disaster-Prevention Programs Co-hosted with
International Exchange Organizations> *****

At OFIX, we are involved in disaster-prevention programs in conjunction with municipalities and local international exchange organizations so that foreign residents can protect themselves and receive vital information in a disaster emergency. Our aim is also to further promote avenues for assisting foreign residents in regional areas, to make Osaka regionally stronger and more disaster resistant.

In this issue, we have introduced our three co-established disaster-prevention programs and the efforts undertaken for each of them, as shown below.

For more information regarding these programs, please visit our OFIX Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/osakafoundation>

- 「Disaster-Prevention Bus Tour for Foreigners」
Izumiotu International Exchange Organization, Izumiotu City

Date and Time: Sunday January 31st 1:00pm-5:00pm
Place: Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center

Upon visiting the Center, participants took part in activities such as experiencing a virtual earthquake, fire prevention, evacuation amidst smoke, extinguishing an initial fire and reporting an emergency to the 119 hotline. On the way to the center, participants were instructed on crime-prevention based on the "Crime-Prevention Booklet for Foreign Residents" made by Izumiotu City which was given to them.

- 「Assisting Foreigners in a Large-scale Disaster - Seminar」
Toyonaka City, Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis(ATOMS)

Date and Time: Friday March 11th 2:00pm-4:00pm
Place: Toyonaka International Center

During the seminar, we discussed the ways in which the community, local organizations, the government and other related bodies can cooperate with each other in assisting foreign residents in the event of a large-scale disaster. These discussions will continue to take place among Toyonaka City, ATOMS and other relevant institutions.

- 「Emergency Drill for Foreign and Local Community Residents」
International Friendship Association of Kishiwada

Date and Time: Sunday March 27th 10:00am-12:15pm
Place: Chuo-kouen-higashi (Central Park East) and General
Gymnasium, Kishiwada City

Participants experienced how to extinguish an initial fire, enjoyed a water bucket relay, learned about emergency activities and how to make a call to emergency services (119). With the mayor of Kishiwada attending and TV Kishiwada and Radio Kishiwada reporting on the event, the lively atmosphere helped further raise the interest of the local community.

- ★ Paid Internships Presentation by International Students

Date and Time: Saturday February 27th 1:30pm-4:00pm
Participants: 15

As part of their International Student Assistance Program, The Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee provides international students with paid company internships at companies. Having finished this year's program, a presentation was held where students discussed their training. Students were impressed by how passionate employees were, commenting that "not only must you do your job, but there is a real sense of responsibility in doing it, which is different from part-time work, I now understand more about the work culture of Japanese companies". We hope that each student use this invaluable opportunity as a stepping stone to working at a Japanese company in the future.

- ★ JICA Volunteers' Courtesy Call to Osaka Prefectural Government

JICA International Cooperation Promotion Officer Sayaka Ishida

Date: Friday March 18th

Before their departure, three Japan overseas cooperation volunteers from the fourth dispatch of FY2015 and three senior overseas volunteers made a courtesy call to Osaka Prefectural Government. Volunteers received words of encouragement from Mr. Nakai, the Osaka Prefectural Government's Senior Executive Director-International Relations, and Mr. Dohmoto, the Administrative Director of OFIX, and then spoke of their enthusiasm about the next two years. Volunteers are headed to these countries to do the following work. We expect great things from all of you!

【Japan overseas cooperation volunteers】
Philippines (Community Development), Thailand (Computer Technology),
Solomon Islands (Construction)

【Senior overseas volunteers】

[03] The Current State of Multilingual Assistance Programs
in Times of Disasters

■ Municipal Government Multilingual Assistance Programs

NPO National Managerial Council for Multicultural Information
& Assistance
Executive Director Hikaru Toki

Our council cooperates with consulting organizations around Japan on how to operate multilingual support programs in times of disasters, and also conducts trainings where participants simulate a multilingual support center. From those experiences, I'd like to highlight the multilingual support programs that left an impression on me in FY 2015.

First is Nagano Prefecture. In March 2014, Nagano developed the "Guidelines for the Maintenance of Living Environment at Emergency Shelters for Foreign Residents and Tourists", and is working hard to provide foreign residents with assistance and a safe living environment in the case of a disaster. In order to develop human resources within the community including foreign resident leaders, who are capable of providing assistance in a disaster, training included the simulation of the operations of multilingual assistance centers in the cities of Chino, Chikuma and Nagano. Participants were able to think and act for themselves, while understanding the type of information that must be collected and distributed, and the needs of possible disaster victims of foreign nationalities. By conducting rare hands-on training, local communities were able to understand the importance of providing multilingual assistance and the challenges involved. It also provided a step forward in the development of these support systems.

Sakai City's program also left an impression on me. Their multilingual support disaster training, placed importance on staff development. Training was held on a Sunday to make participation easier for city residents, with 20 staff members from Sakai's international department and 11 residents including foreign nationals, joining alongside volunteer interpreters. Participants were able to reaffirm the importance of multilingual support and the knowhow required to act accordingly in a disaster situation.

■ Efforts Towards Intercity Cooperation of Multilingual Assistance Programs in Times of Disaster

Suita International Friendship Association (SIFA)

In a joint-initiative with the international associations of Nishinomiya, Jojo and Suita cities, the "Disaster-Prevention Community Training to Minimize those Vulnerable in a Disaster" was held to gather supporters who can assist foreign residents in a disaster. This training aims to allow local residents to learn about assisting foreigners in a disaster and their role and required mindset as volunteers, so that communities can group together and strengthen their collective resolve in the case of a large-scale emergency. During the training, participants learned about how to establish a center if an earthquake occurs in Nishinomiya, and also visited emergency shelters. In order to prevent foreign residents from isolating themselves due to language barriers and differences in culture and customs and to minimize the number of victims in a disaster, volunteers shared their thoughts on how to improve their knowledge and awareness of disaster-prevention.

It is crucial to take prompt action in utilizing our wide network of organizations and increasing the number of supporters in order to provide a safe environment for foreign residents in a disaster. SIFA is involved in activities such as creating a disaster-prevention guidebook for foreigners (in cooperation with the two organizations above), conducting lectures on multicultural society (co-hosted by Nishinomiya City International Association), allowing people to experience life in an emergency shelter, and holding workshops on establishing multilingual support centers (co-hosted with Osaka Prefectural Government as well as the international exchange organizations of Osaka, Tondabayashi and Minoh city).

It has already been five years since the Tohoku earthquake. At the time I was an OFIX Chinese disaster volunteer translator at the multilingual support center for the Tohoku Earthquake out at Pacific Ocean, established by the NPO National Managerial Council for Multicultural Information & Assistance. The original Japanese documents I translated were often filled with words I hadn't heard before, with many technical phrases related to the nuclear accident. I also struggled with loanwords written in katakana. Even more challenging were the technical words that had no direct Chinese translation, so I had to translate first from Japanese to English, and then from English to Chinese. Several Chinese translators and I gathered at OFIX's office to debate about which expressions were the easiest to understand. Despite being hard work, it was so meaningful for me to be able to assist foreigners to feel relieved from the stress and uncertainty brought on by the disaster. I hope that no future disasters happen, but if the Multilingual Support Center in Times of Disasters is required, I hope to help as much as possible.



[04] Notice

- ◎ Please use our For Foreigners Emergency Guide (Earthquake)

Osaka Prefectural Government's International Affairs Division has made a "For Foreigners Emergency Guide" (Earthquake) with English, Chinese and Korean versions available. While this booklet is for foreign residents, it can also act a model for local governments to make their own guides. You can download it from the URL below:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/accept/earthquake.html>

- ◎ A guidebook for local governments to establish their own consultation service, titled "Consultation Services for Foreign Residents" is now available

Osaka Prefectural Government and OFIX have developed a booklet titled "Consultation Services for Foreign Residents" which can be used as a guide for municipalities looking to establish their own consultation service. The steps involved in establishing the service, support from OFIX, and a list of current information services within Osaka Prefecture can be found here :

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/life/madoguchi.html>

[05] Participants Wanted

- ◆ Language Volunteer Training

From this year we are holding a new beginner training for those who are interested in becoming language volunteers.

Date and Time: Monday May 30th 2:00pm-4:30pm

Training Content: Introduction to the OFIX volunteer system, workshop and more

- ◆ Community Interpreter Training

This year OFIX will again hold training for community volunteer interpreters who wish to provide language support throughout Osaka Prefecture. If you are thinking "I would love to help!" or "I'm already helping but would like to know more about the new systems in place", be sure to participate. Training schedule is as follows:

Date and Time: Tuesday June 7th and Monday June 13th 10:00-4:05pm

Place: 8th Floor, MyDome Osaka

Training Content: Seminar (skills and attitude of a volunteer, education etc.), roleplaying and more.

- ◆ Volunteer Interpreter Training in Case of a Disaster

Since there is a growing need to provide multilingual assistance for foreigners who may be at a disadvantage in a disaster due to a

lack of accessible information, OFIX needs more assistance from volunteer translators and interpreters. Why don't you join our training and think about what you can do as a disaster volunteer?

Date and Time: Saturday June 18th 10:00am-4:00pm

Place: 8th Floor, MyDome Osaka

Training Content: Lecture (disaster volunteer system, available activities etc.), interpreting simulation in a disaster etc.

※Further details will be posted in OFIX website's "What's New" section.

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

- Application Guidelines for the 2016 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (Ando Program)

We're accepting applications from students and professionals 35 years old or younger in the fields of architecture or arts from countries and regions in Asia, to undertake a one-month long training as part of the Ando Program. (Application deadline is May 16th)

For more information, please visit the OFIX homepage.

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/training/aprogram/application.html>

- Looking for JICA Volunteers

◇ Eligible Applicants

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer:

Must be a Japanese national between 20 and 39 years of age.

Senior Volunteer Program:

Must be a Japanese national between 40 and 69 years of age.

◇ Application Period

Friday April 1st-Monday May 9th (postmarked by May 9th deadline)

We hold information sessions all over Kansai.

Enquiries: JICA Kansai International Center 078-261-0352

【Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents】 (within OFIX)

Free Consultation Desk for Foreigners

(Consultations about residential status, labor, medical treatment, social welfare, daily living etc.)

Day and Time: 9:00am-5:30pm (Monday to Friday)

Break (12:15pm-1:00pm)

Telephone: 06-6941-2297

Languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Filipino and Vietnamese.

E-mail jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp

Editor's Note

Upon welcoming the 2016 fiscal year, OFIX News has been revamped. Focusing on OFIX's programs, OFIX News will continue to provide information related to international exchange and feature articles regarding timely events. In addition to content, OFIX News has undergone a visual transformation by adopting a design reflecting the current age of globalization. The latest information is available on our OFIX Facebook page, so be sure to check it out too!

<https://www.facebook.com/osakafoundation>

- The next edition (79th edition) will be available in July.

★Osaka Prefecture E-Magazine Information★ "GEO (Global E-net Osaka)"

Introducing Osaka's best spots events and other important facts!

⇒ <http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kokusai/geo/index.html>

★Other announcements★

※International Understanding Education Program dispatching foreign volunteers to Elementary, Junior High and High schools.

⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/training/education/dispatch.html>

※Introducing OFIX's volunteer system

⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/accept/volunteer/system.html>

※OFIX supporting members and donations wanted

⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/support/index.html>

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

≫≫ Print-out version (PDF) of OFIX News with photos
⇒ http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/info/mail/backnumber/pdf/mail_english_no78.pdf

≫≫ Back Numbers
⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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Distributed by: Osaka Foundation of International Exchange
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