
Contents

【01】 OFIX Programs and Efforts in Fiscal Year 2017

【02】 Activity Report

- Osaka Multilanguage Support Center in Times of Disasters Operations Training Drill

★ Assistance for Foreigners in Times of Disasters (Disaster-Prevention and Related Training) ★

- International Friendship Association of Ibaraki and OFIX Co-hosted Event: Citizens and Foreign Residents Community Gathering

- Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis and OFIX Co-hosted Event: The 2017 Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis Forum

Supporting Foreigners in a Large-scale Disaster : What direction should we strive towards?

- Suita International Friendship Association (SIFA) and OFIX Co-hosted Event: Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center Study Tour : From Classroom to Hands-on Learning!

★ Consultation Service for Foreign Residents ★

- The 2nd FY 2016 Osaka Prefectural Network Meeting for Counselors at Help Desks Providing Administrative Information to Foreigners

- Kadoma City' s One-Day Free Consultation Service for Foreign Residents

【Network Osaka】

- FY 2016 International Association Network Osaka Free Consultation Service for Foreign Residents

★ Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee

- Osaka Global School Australia Study Course 2nd graduating class

★ One World Festival★

- The 24th One World Festival

★JICA Osaka Desk★

【03】 Local Government Efforts at Providing Hands-on Foreign Language Activities

– Developing the Foundation for Globally-Minded People –

- Toyonaka City and the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis' Efforts to Improve Hands-on Foreign Language Activities Secretary-General of the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis Takashi Yamanoue

- Tadaoka Town' s English Activity Program to Help Develop Global Human Resources Director-General of Tadaoka Town Board of Education Masayuki Doi

【04】 Column Article 《My National Pride》

OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Jesse de Carteret

【05】 Notice

- "Omotenashi Station "Now Open!
- OFIX Website Guide for Daily Living for Foreign Residents of Osaka

[06] Participants wanted

- Seeking Trainees for the 2017 Ando Program!
- Looking for Supporters for the 2017 OFIX International Understanding Education Program!
- JICA Volunteers Wanted for Spring 2017

- ◇ Bora-chan's Corner
- ◇ Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents
- ◇ Looking for Banner Ads for OFIX Website!
- ◇ Looking for supporting members

[01] OFIX Programs and Efforts in Fiscal Year 2017

OFIX is proactively working at promoting its programs by utilizing resources such as our available expertise and network, while also taking into consideration our support for local municipal governments and other wider-reaching methods that promote development.

This 2017 fiscal year marks the final year of the OFIX Mid-term Management Plan (FY 2015–FY 2017), as we strive to achieve the outlined goals with support of related organizations including Osaka Prefectural Government.

Having seen the alarmingly frequent occurrence of natural disasters in recent years, a major challenge for OFIX is to further develop and prepare the various support systems necessary for foreigners in the event of a disaster.

For these reasons, one of our main projects is “Enhancing the Foreigner Support System in Times of Disaster” and working towards improving our multilingual support system to ensure the wellbeing of foreign residents.

OFIX Mid-term Management Plan
http://www.ofix.or.jp/ofix/pdf/c_plan24.pdf (Japanese only)

[02] Activity Report

■ Osaka Multilanguage Support Center in Times of Disasters Operations Training Drill

Date: Tuesday January 17th Participants: 50

In collaboration with Osaka Prefectural Government, OFIX held an operations training drill for the Osaka Multilanguage Support Center in Times of Disasters, which will be established by these two bodies in the event of a large-scale disaster. The goal of the training was to ensure that the center can operate smoothly when opened. A telephone counselling exercise was included this time.

Firstly, participants learned about the structure and role of the center, and then read through the operations manual to confirm their individual roles and drill procedures.

In the second part, Mr. Kazuhiko Takagi, Vice President of NPO National Managerial Council for Multicultural Information & Assistance, led participants in the drill. One could hear the back and forth of questions

and information throughout the room, with telephone counselling staff nervously yet attentively responding to phone calls from volunteers who were prepped beforehand to simulate disaster-related enquiries. The drill also had an air of excitement as the media covered the event, making it feel as if the center had been in operation.

In the review session, participants shared aspects that went well, areas for improvement and new challenges to tackle next time.

★ Assistance for Foreigners in Times of Disasters (Disaster-Prevention and Related Training) ★

■ International Friendship Association of Ibaraki and OFIX
Co-hosted Event: Citizens and Foreign Residents Community Gathering
Friday February 24th Participants: 25

Aiming to improve Japanese and foreign residents' understanding of

disasters and how to protect oneself during and after they occur, participants took part in a simulated disaster experience tour at the Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center. The tour included the simulated experience of an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7. Participants, some who had never experienced an earthquake, were able to learn a great deal about disaster prevention.

- Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis and OFIX
Co-hosted Event: The 2017 Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis Forum – Supporting Foreigners in a Large-scale Disaster: What direction should we strive towards?
Saturday March 11th Participants: 82

The forum opened with a lecture by Amelia Sasaki who was severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. After that, local citizen groups reported on their activity efforts in assisting disaster-affected foreigners, finally ending with a panel discussion headed by relevant organizations. The forum presented an opportunity for organizations at government, civic and local levels to come together and discuss the current state of assistance.

- Suita International Friendship Association (SIFA) and OFIX
Co-hosted Event: Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center Study Tour - From Classroom to Hands-on Learning!
Saturday March 18th Participants: 38

While participants had moments of frustration, like being difficult to understand when simulating a 119 emergency call to report in Japanese, everyone was able to complete the program with the additional help of volunteer interpreters. Participants were able to further deepen their understanding about fire and disaster prevention, as well as taking part in an earthquake simulation.

★ Consultation Service for Foreign Residents ★

- The 2nd FY 2016 Osaka Prefectural Network Meeting for Counselors at Help Desks Providing Administrative Information to Foreigners
Monday January 23rd Participants: 22

For the first half, we invited the Ehle Institute's President, Keiichi Hasegawa and Career Support Manager, Koji Nishimura to speak about the present situation for international students in Osaka and the kind of challenges they face.

For the latter half, a group discussion was held where participants presented their own case studies and openly discussed ongoing activities.

- Kadoma City's One-Day Free Consultation Service for Foreign Residents
Friday February 10th No. of Consultations: 7

At the first consultation service co-hosted by Kadoma City and OFIX, specialists including an administrative scrivener and social security consultant responded to enquiries from foreign residents, with OFIX providing language support in English, Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese.

【Network Osaka】

- FY 2016 International Association Network Osaka Free Consultation Service for Foreign Residents
(1) Saturday February 25th (2) Sunday February 26th
(1) Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center
(2) Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis
No. of Consultations: 10 (over two days)

Comprising of OFIX and five municipal international exchange organizations within Osaka Prefecture, the International Association Network Osaka held two free consultation services for foreign residents in collaboration with the Osaka Bar Association.

Both consultation services presented a rare opportunity for participants to seek advice about issues such as debt restructuring, with interpreting also provided as needed.

★ Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee ★

■ Osaka Global School Australia Study Course 2nd graduating class

Students of the 2nd graduating class took part in a two-week short-term study abroad program to Queensland, Australia from March 12th to March 24th.

While participating in a study program at Kedron State High School, students also challenged themselves to take part in lectures at prominent state and national universities.

Additionally, students were able to deepen their understanding of Australia's diversity by experiencing daily life in the country and taking part in homestays with local families in the area.

Thanks to the extensive support provided by local staff, students were active in their studies and even discovered aspects of their own potential that they never knew existed.

Back in Japan, students will now put their efforts in the remaining long-term study abroad preparatory course from April until July.

★ One World Festival★

■ The 24th One World Festival

Saturday February 4th to Sunday February 5th

Venue: Kansai Television Ogimachi Square, Kita-ku Civic Center and Ogimachi Park

One World Festival, the largest festival in Western Japan for international cooperation and exchange, was held for the 24th time.

As an executive committee member, JICA Kansai was involved in the event's planning and preparation, and also ran their own booth.

Over the two days the number of visitors reached 25,000 and 189 volunteers participated.

Having set up our own booth in Kita-ku Civic Center, OFIX staff distributed OFIX pamphlets and flyers and introduced ongoing programs to passersby, making it an excellent PR opportunity and a great chance to listen to the ideas and questions of everyone.

Thank you to all the visitors!

★ JICA Osaka Desk ★

I'm Noriko Ietani, the new JICA Coordinator for International Cooperation

for Osaka since February 2017.

JICA Kansai holds seminars every year to help support local projects encouraging

international cooperation. During the last fiscal year, we collaborated with OFIX on all four Development and International Education Seminars, and additionally held training sessions to give international cooperation organizations

throughout Osaka Prefecture the opportunity to learn more about our project planning and methods.

JICA also sets up booths at various community events (for example, our African Culture Experience Booth at last year's Habikino Festival) so that people from different communities can intimately experience what JICA and developing countries have to offer.

We will definitely be out in force this year too!

[03] Local Government Efforts at Providing Hands-on Foreign Language Activities

- Developing the Foundation for Globally-Minded People -

Given the progression of our global society, OFIX has been making efforts

to develop global human resources through such programs as our International Understanding Education Program.

This February, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology released a new curriculum that forms the basic standards for coursework in elementary and junior high schools.

Based on these new guidelines, "Foreign Language Activities" involving English learning starting grade 5 elementary school will now start

from grade 3, while English will become a standard subject for 5th and 6th graders.

For this issue of OFIX News, we have sought the opinions of those heavily involved in foreign language activities at a municipal level. Such activities are sure to act as catalysts for the future development of global human resources.

- Toyonaka City and the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis' Efforts to Improve Hands-on Foreign Language Activities
Secretary-General of the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis Takashi Yamanoue

Since FY 2006, Toyonaka City has entrusted the implementation of its Elementary School Foreign Language Activity Program (hereby called "Activity Program") to the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis.

Now 10 years old, the Activity Program allows third to sixth grade students of all Toyonaka-municipal elementary schools to familiarize themselves with foreign languages.

We mainly dispatch foreign residents who live in the community in order to provide students with the chance to learn more about people with diverse backgrounds and sense of values.

As the children and foreign residents live in the same community, this has created a positive attitude with both parties wanting to know more

and to tell each other about themselves, while also strengthening each other's understanding of diversity.

Having foreign teachers with similar backgrounds come to their classes has had a positive effect on children with ties to foreign countries.

For foreign teachers, being granted the opportunity to talk about their own language and culture at schools has also been an empowering

tool.

We are continuing to work hard at developing activities

that emphasize the importance of interacting with people of diverse backgrounds.

- Tadaoka Town's English Activity Program to Help Develop Global Human Resources

Director-General of Tadaoka Town Board of Education Masayuki Doi

Through English language, Tadaoka Town is providing various opportunities for children to improve their communication skills.

Native English teachers are sent to Tadaoka-municipal kindergartens and nursery schools to interact with five year old children through English activities six times a year, while English lessons are provided to interested first to fourth grade elementary schoolchildren within the town. These lessons are run by bilingual and native English teachers

on Saturdays during the December to March period. In addition, students in town-run elementary and junior high schools are encouraged to become involved in English-learning activities and programs during the long vacation period.

Last fiscal year, children created and transmitted via YouTube the PR video,

"Tadaoka to the World", to help highlight the best of Tadaoka to the rest of the world in English. Moreover, students at town-run junior high schools, and also students living in town attending other junior high schools, high schools, vocational schools and universities are offered examination fee subsidies once a year for English proficiency tests.

In these ways, we are working hard to produce globally-minded individuals by improving policies that allow residents to come into closer contact with English.

[04] Column Article 《My National Pride》

- ◆ Australia's "Easter"
OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Jesse de Carteret

As the heat of the summer passes by and we enter a more conformable season,

Australians are met with the fun national holiday, "Easter". Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, Easter is a national holiday during which Christians attend church, and other people use the long weekend to go on family vacations.

But when I was young, Easter meant Chocolate! Specifically, chocolate in the shape of rabbits called "Easter bunnies"

and eggs known as "Easter eggs". As an animal with a high fertility rate, rabbits became a symbol for life and in turn associated with Jesus Christ being given "life" again through his resurrection. Every year, my family would enjoy a traditional game called the "Easter Egg Hunt", where we would look for egg-shaped chocolate

s.

My brother and I, who believed in the existence of the "Easter Bunny" in the same way as we did Santa Claus, would leave carrots and lettuce out in the backyard the previous evening.

The next morning, the Easter Bunny would leave chocolate eggs all around the backyard to thank us for the food.

My brother and I would then merrily search for the chocolate eggs, making this such a fond memory for us.

[05] Notice

- "Omotenashi Station "Now Open!"

On Friday March 24th, Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau, and West Japan Railway Company opened "Travel Service Center OSAKA - Omotenashi Station" in front of Osaka JR Station's Central Exit. This is part of Osaka's goal to create a more accepting environment for an increasing number of visitors and to meet their various needs. The service offers assistance including tourist information and comprehensive consultations regarding issues arising from travel, as well as transportation help (in English, Chinese and Korean), ticket sales, foreign currency exchange and baggage-related services.

- OFIX Website Guide for Daily Living for Foreign Residents of Osaka "Essentials for Living in Osaka" has been renewed!

On the OFIX webpage you can find the "Essentials for Living in Osaka", which includes vital information in 10 languages on daily living for foreign residents in Osaka. This new information update is thanks mainly to OFIX language volunteers, so make sure you check it out

⇒http://www.ofix.or.jp/life/guide_e.html

[06] Participants wanted

- Seeking Trainees for the 2017 Ando Program!

We are now looking for applicants for the Ando Program, which invites young professionals 35 years old or younger from Asian countries and regions who specialize in architecture and the arts to take part in a one-month training program in Osaka. (Application Deadline is Monday May 15th)

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

- Looking for Supporters for the 2017 OFIX International Understanding Education Program!

At OFIX, international students and foreign residents are registered as foreign supporters and are sent to elementary, junior high and high schools within Osaka Prefecture to take part in international understanding education classes.

We are currently looking for people interested in interacting with students in Osaka by introducing their country's culture, history and traditional games and activities in Japanese.

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

- ◆ JICA Volunteers Wanted for Spring 2017

- ◇Application Requirements

- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers / Youth Volunteers for Nikkei Communities

- A Japanese national between 20 and 39 years of age.
- Senior Volunteers / Senior Volunteers for Nikkei Communities
- A Japanese national between 40 and 69 years of age.

◇Application Period

Friday March 31st to Wednesday May 10th

Information sessions to be held in various regions around Kansai.

⇒<https://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/index.html> (Japanese only)

【Bora-chan' s Corner】

Hi everyone. I' m OFIX' s mascot, Bora-chan.

Spring is finally here! The cherry blossoms are starting to fall near our OFIX office, but you might be able to find some that are still blooming!?

Other than cherry blossoms, Japanese spring is also symbolized by dango as well as sakuramochi, yomogimochi, takenoko, sansai and hatsugatsuo.

While it' s a wee bit late for Easter, how about you celebrate the return of spring with some seasonal dango?

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

Free Consultation Service for Foreigners

(Consultations about Status of Residence, Employment and Labor, Medical and Welfare and Living)

Consultation Hours 9:00am - 5:30pm (Monday to Friday)

※except for national holidays

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

Designated Line 06-6941-2297

Available Languages English, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish

Thai, Filipino and Vietnamese

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

≫≫ Looking for Banner Ads for OFIX' s Website!

10,000 yen per frame per month

⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/banner.html> (Japanese Only)

≫≫ Want to become a supporting member of OFIX?

Corporate Member: Annual fee of 100,000 yen

Individual Member: Annual fee of 3,000 yen

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

- The next edition (83th edition) will be available on July 15th (scheduled)

★Osaka Prefectural Government E-Newsletter Information

★『GEO(Global E-net Osaka)』

This e-newsletter provides information on upcoming events, famous places and other important trivia regarding Osaka!

⇒ <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>

※Request for Donations

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

≫≫ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News

⇒ E-mail info@ofix.or.jp

≫≫ To cancel your registration or change your registered email address

⇒ http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/info/mail/register_j.html

≫≫ Print-out version (PDF) of OFIX News with photos

⇒ http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/info/mail/backnumber/pdf/mail_english_no82.pdf

≫≫ Back Numbers

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

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Distributed by: Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

5th Floor, My Dome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka

540-0029 Japan

Tel: 0081-6-6966-2400

Fax: 0081-6-6966-2401

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆