



OFIX News (Vol.88) October 15, 2018
Osaka Foundation of International Exchange E-Newsletter



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【01】 Activity Reports

Fiscal year 2018 marks the first year of our new Mid-term Management Plan (FY 2018 - 2022). Under the leadership of our new Chairman Mr. Yoshikawa, we are working proactively to achieve the goals of our programs by utilizing available expertise, networks and other resources. In this volume, we will report on OFIX events that occurred between April and June this year.

At OFIX, we have been prioritizing our multiculturalism support services (e.g. improving the availability of multilingual information throughout regions in the prefecture), and in this volume we will introduce the current state of multicultural education in the prefecture, beginning with OFIX' s Cross-cultural Awareness Education Program.

★ Disaster Support for Foreign Residents ★

■ FY 2018 2nd Osaka Prefectural Foreign Resident Disaster Support Network Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 23

Participants: 22

These meetings provide local governments and international exchange organizations with the opportunity to think about different ways to provide multilingual disaster support to foreign residents.

For this year' s second meeting, we invited Mayumi Aida from Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization (SIA), to lead an interactive workshop titled:

“What just happened? I don' t understand Japanese (Earthquake Edition)” .

Audiovisual materials* utilized in the workshop are used by Shiga Prefecture as part of their cross-cultural awareness education program.

During this interactive simulation, the character of the story experiences an earthquake soon after arriving in Japan, making him feel uneasy as he cannot understand the announcements or signs in Japanese that explain the current situation and actions required.

Thanks to the meeting, participants were able to reexamine ongoing initiatives for foreign residents regarding how information is sent out in a disaster.

* Developed by SIA in collaboration with the International Education Research Committee “Glocal net Shiga” and local foreign residents.

★ FY 2018 Simple Japanese Training ★

Date: Thursday, September 6 and Friday, September 14
Participants: 72 over two sessions

From this fiscal year, OFIX is working to promote “Simple Japanese” as an effective tool in providing information to foreign residents.

For the first session, we invited Prof. Yoshimichi Mizuno from the Kyoto Institute of Technology to lead a lecture on Category 1 Simple Japanese, which concerns information required for the first 72 hours following a disaster.

For the second session, Prof. Kazuyuki Sato from Hirosaki University taught participants about Category 2, which extends to information including essential everyday life Japanese.

Under their instruction, both days provided participants with the fundamentals and rules required for creating Simple Japanese.

While keeping in mind to tools and media through which information is transmitted, participants discovered how to selectively choose the most essential part of content and how to rewrite in the simplest way possible.

★ Ando Program ★

■ Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

For this year's program, we have eight trainees from seven different countries in Asia specializing in architecture-related fields undergoing training in Osaka Prefecture. The day after their arrival, the trainees paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Governor of Osaka, Mr. Takeuchi, and visited Tadao Ando-designed buildings in the prefecture, Awaji Island and Naoshima.

Upon visiting an Ando-designed private home in Nipponbashi, Osaka City, the trainees were transfixed on how the structure effectively combined the best aspects of his artistry while utilizing the limited space available.

The trainees have also gained a deeper understanding of Japanese architecture, art and culture through their Kyoto study tour, architecture workshop at Kindai University, and by staying at the homes of OFIX host families. After paying a courtesy visit to Mr. Ando and completing the most vital aspect of their training - their practical training at one of Obayashi Corporation, the Zenitaka Corporation, Akenaka Corporation and Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. - trainees will return to their home countries on October 25.

《 Social Media Study Session 》

Date: Friday, August 24 and Friday, September 7

Participants: 18

For this OFIX staff study session, we invited Mr. Masui from Takara Belmont Corp.'s Public Relations Department as lecturer.

After introducing the typical characteristics (pros and cons) of social media, Mr. Masui focused his talk on how OFIX utilizes its Facebook page and the way to measure its effectiveness in terms of the number of people the information reaches and the number of shared articles. Additionally, OFIX staff were told about what to look out for regarding social media and introduced to Takara Belmont Corp.'s own social media strategy

and the precautions taken.

Through these study sessions that help improve OFIX staff's understanding of social media, we are working hard to enhance our Facebook page along the OFIX website in order to strengthen presence in the public sphere.

【02】 The Current State of Disaster Support for Foreign Residents

Our support efforts in response to the June 2018 Earthquake in Northern Osaka Prefecture and the July 2018 Japan Floods
Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

In FY 2015, Osaka Prefecture and OFIX concluded the “Agreement for the Establishment and Operations of Osaka Multilingual Disaster Information Center” to provide efficient multilingual support in a large-scale disaster.

As specified in the agreement, following the earthquake that hit northern Osaka on June 18, the Center was established at 9:50 a.m. on the same day and the duties below were carried out. Similarly, the Center was set up in response to the July 2018 Japan Floods, closing on July 9.

The following is a summary of our Center's main duties.

【Northern Osaka Earthquake】

〈Multilingual Hotline〉

Responded to disaster-related enquiries via a dedicated mobile phone, in addition to our regular hotline for foreign residents.

- Regular hotline (9 languages * 1) : 9:00am - 5:30pm
- Dedicated mobile phone (English & Japanese): 24 hours

12 consultations(7 by phone, 5 by email)

〈Multilingual Disaster Information on OFIX Facebook *2〉

25 posts (13 different articles)

〈Multilingual Support for Related Organizations〉

Surveyed the multilingual support needs of Osaka Pref. municipalities and northern Osaka international exchange organizations.

- Provided translations of disaster information (Portuguese and Vietnamese) for the Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis.
- Dispatched OFIX staff to Ibaraki City Hall to conduct Japanese to English interpreting/translating.

【July 2018 Japan Floods】

〈Multilingual Hotline〉

Responded to disaster-related enquiries via a dedicated mobile phone, in addition to our regular hotline for foreign residents.

- Regular hotline (9 languages * 1) : 9:00am - 5:30pm
- Dedicated mobile phone (English & Japanese): 24 hours

2 consultations (by phone)

〈Multilingual Disaster Information on OFIX Facebook *2〉

8 posts (2 different articles)

〈Multilingual Support for Related Organizations〉

Surveyed the multilingual support needs of Osaka Pref. municipalities and northern Osaka international exchange organizations.

No requests received.

*1 Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino and Thai.

*2 Languages chosen for translation differed depending on content.

Two Cases Highlighting the Current State of Disaster Support for Foreign Residents throughout Osaka Prefecture

- ◆ Responding to the Needs of International Students Following the Northern Osaka Prefecture Earthquake

Located in Ibaraki near the epicenter of the earthquake that hit northern Osaka at 7.58am on June 18, our school experienced a tremor of lower-6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale. In response, our President and university staff established the Disaster Response Headquarters and took to confirming the safety of fellow students and staff, as well as inspecting the safety of buildings and surrounding areas of the university. Giving top priority to ensuring safety and undertaking recovery efforts, the university decided to cancel classes for one week and keep students updated by providing information online.

On the day of the earthquake, we began confirming the safety of all of our 7056 students including 152 international students through our university portal website, and staff contacted by phone those who did not initially respond.

For international students in particular, we were also able to confirm their safety through social media.

We were able to reach almost 90% of international students on the day of the earthquake and eventually all within three days, before recommencing classes on July 25.

Additionally, we were scheduled to welcome 33 short-term exchange students at our Ai Campus, but were forced to rearrange the program to take place at our associated Otemon Gakuin Otemae Junior High School /Senior High School in Osaka City.

We believe our university was successful in promptly and effectively responding to this disaster by coming together as one whole institution. As the Nankai Earthquake is likely to occur within the next few decades and for the sake of disaster preparedness in general, we are currently working on developing an emergency response manual for international students, as well as establishing secure and effective safety confirmation methods and providing opportunities for staff and students to study about appropriate disaster responses.

- ◆ Things We Discover in Times of Disasters:
Valuing the Perspectives of Foreign Residents

The effects of the Northern Osaka Earthquake were also felt in Minoh City, with the tremor registering an intensity of lower-6 in the city' s east.

In response, our organization divided into three teams to undertake the following tasks:

- (1) distribution of multilingual information,
- (2) on-site evacuation shelter support
- and (3) the restoration of our office.

For our multilingual support response, staff able to speak foreign languages (9 languages among 12 members) worked to find out the needs of foreign residents at evacuation sites and in the wider community so that we could distribute the disaster information required on our multilingual Facebook page “Minoh Multilingual” and website.

The evacuation site nearest to our organization was inundated with over 100 international students and researchers as well as their fellow families. While many international students were able to speak Japanese and even receive information in their native languages, in the case of being instructed to “please stay safe” , many were unsure as to what actions they were supposed to take, leading them to make their way to evacuation shelters.

As offering multilingual information can only go so far, it is important for foreign residents and those knowledgeable about earthquakes and the inner workings of local communities to join hands in providing support.

It is in difficult times like this that we need to value the perspectives of our foreign residents without falling into the unconscious trap of only helping citizens of the majority.

It is imperative that we make every effort to continue to build relationships with key members of our foreign resident communities and work together to find the best methods of support.

Date: Saturday, July 14

Participants: 29

This drill has been held every year since FY 2012 for international students to learn about what to do following an earthquake.

At Orion International House, participants were shown the video “Prepare for and know what to do when a disaster hits” and were given a corresponding lecture and workshop.

Later on at the Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Center, students experienced a simulated seismic intensity 7 earthquake and learned how to put out a fire with a fire extinguisher.

Since the drill took place immediately after the earthquake that hit northern Osaka in June, participants were particularly keen to learn as much as possible, becoming more aware of the response required to properly deal with a disaster.

★ International Student Support ★

■ Orion International House Student Gathering

Date: Saturday, September 29

Participants: 26

Orion tutors planned and held a takoyaki and nagashi-somen (white noodles that are passed through a bamboo pipe) party for dormitory students with the aim to help them develop bonds with each other.

Despite the bad weather forcing the nagashi-somen event indoors, it was a great success with many of the students trying it for the first time.

Students were also seen happily enjoying the takoyaki that they made, despite clearly underestimating the heat of the food.

While students who had recently moved in were nervous to begin with, by the end of the event those nerves had dissipated and they had a wonderful time.

★ Disaster Preparation Workshop

for International Student Coordinators * ★

Date: Friday, October 5

Participants: 20

This year's lecture on "the operations of international student evacuation shelters during the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes" was conducted by Hari Prasad Devkota, Assistant Professor with Kumamoto University's Priority Organization for Innovation and Excellence HIGO Program.

Here, Dr. Devkota drew from his own experiences during the Kumamoto earthquakes to talk about the use of Simple Japanese at evacuation shelters with foreign residents, as well as the need to help international students improve their understanding and awareness of disaster preparedness.

After the lecture, participants discussed current efforts and challenges regarding the support of international students during a disaster.

In a lively discussion about current issues faced, many participants described how they use social media platforms such as LINE and We Chat to confirm the safety of students during a disaster, and also that some are considering putting in place a new safety confirmation system.

This training provided coordinators with ideas to improve their own international student support initiatives.

*Co-sponsored by Osaka Pref. Govt., Otemon Gakuin University and Daiyukyo Foundation of Int. Exchange. Assistance & Research

《 "Metcha LOVE OSAKA Project" 》

Talk Session to Open 3D Trick Art Display

Date: Sunday, August 26

Place: Second Floor, Terminal 1, Kansai International Airport (KIX)

The Kinki District Osaka Block Council of the Junior Chamber International Japan (JCI) established a 3D Trick Art Display* at KIX for foreign residents and visitors.

To celebrate the opening of the display,
OFIX's Coordinator for International Relations

took part in the talk session to discuss the attraction and future challenges that face Osaka.

In tackling this topic, he talked about similarities between Osaka and his home city of Melbourne, Australia and with other panel members discussed the best of Osaka, resulting in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

*JCI set up the display as part of their “Metcha LOVE OSAKA Project” , which aims to have visitors become fans of Osaka.

【04】 Notice & Participants Wanted

Notice

One-Day Consultation Services for Foreign Residents

《Co-hosted by OFIX》 ※ Free and confidential

- ◆ Consultation for Foreign Residents - Jointly hosted by Ikeda City, Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis, Minoh Association For Global Awareness, (NPO) Kita-Osaka Diversity and OFIX

Date: Tuesday, November 13 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Place: Ikeda Central Community Center

Consultations: law, residence status, education, National Health Insurance and daily life

(English, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Thai)

- ◆ Free Consultations for Foreign Residents - Jointly hosted by Sakai City, Haboromo University of International Studies and OFIX

Date: Thursday, November 22 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Cafeteria at Haboromo University of International Studies

Consultations: law, residence status, labor, education, social insurance, pension and daily life

(English, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese)

OFIX Booth at Ritsumeikan University' s Asia Week Festival

At Ritsumeikan University's Osaka Ibaraki Campus, OFIX will set up a booth during the festival, which aims to bring different parts of Asia together. Under the theme of "connecting with the community: learning how you can support others", international students and other visitors will be able to learn about OFIX programs and also visit our information corner for foreign residents.

Date and Time: Sunday, October 21 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Venue: Ritsumeikan University Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC),
1st Floor Event Hall, Future Plaza

URL: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/events/detail/?id=80>

《 Company Profiles of Listed Banner Ads 》

● Osaka International Law Offices

Providing a wide range of services to deal with legal issues

Our attorneys provide a broad range of legal services in international and domestic legal matters including corporate legal affairs, intellectual property, bankruptcy-related issues and family affairs cases.

Our clients are individuals as well as business enterprises, both Japanese and non-Japanese.

Feel free to consult us below:

TEL: 06 - 6446 - 1123

E-mail: lawoffices@yamaintl.gr.jp URL: <http://www.yamaintl.gr.jp>

● HIROSE Certified Public Tax Accountant Office

We provide tax advice and assistance with tax report filings for foreign residents who have or wish to invest in businesses in Japan.

As foreign residents in Japan often pay too much tax, we can also help them to receive tax refunds.

For example, we are able to assist people to retrospectively retrieve owed tax money who have recently gotten married, or who are applicable for tax exemption but failed to apply under the tax treaty.

TEL: 06-6942-3360

Website: <http://h2tax.sakura.ne.jp/en/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/HiroseCPTA.
JPWisdomConsultancy/](https://www.facebook.com/HiroseCPTA.JPWisdomConsultancy/)

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【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 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday)
※except for national holidays
Lunchtime (12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

Designated Line 06-6941-2297

Available Languages English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish,
Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai and Japanese

E-mail jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp ※Japanese/English only

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≫≫ Looking for Banner Ads for OFIX' s Website!
Japanese page: 10,000 yen per frame per month
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/banner.html>
English page: 5,000 yen per frame per month
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/banner.html>

≫≫ Want to become a supporting member of OFIX?
Corporate Member: Annual fee of 50,000 yen per unit
Individual Member: Annual fee of 3,000 yen per unit
⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/support/index.html>

≫≫ Towards the 2025 World Expo In Osaka-Kansai

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★OFIX 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>

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»» 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_no88.pdf

»» Back Numbers

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

»» OFIX Facebook

⇒ <http://www.facebook.com/osakafoundation>

● The next volume of OFIX News (Vol. 89) will be available on January 15th 2019 (scheduled).

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