



OFIX News (Vol.89) January 15, 2019  
Osaka Foundation of International Exchange E-Newsletter



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【01】 New Year' s Reflections

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Striving for a better, more multicultural Osaka  
with our foreign residents

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange Chairman  
Hidetaka Yoshikawa

Happy New Year everyone!

At OFIX, we have been working hard to strengthen our multiculturalism support services.

2018 saw our foundation make significant efforts to improve our support for foreign residents in the event of a disaster.

Following the northern Osaka earthquake in June, for the first time, OFIX and Osaka Prefectural Government established the Osaka Multilingual Disaster Information Center to provide disaster-related information and consultations over the phone to foreign residents and visitors.

I am proud to say that much of the Center's success was thanks to ongoing drills OFIX has carried out over the past few years.

This year we intend to work with related organizations and like-minded universities to enhance the capabilities of our disaster response through initiatives including expanding our volunteer network as well as revising our operation manual for the Center.

Furthermore, at the end of last year the Japanese Government passed a revision to the immigration control law, creating the "designated skills" visa to allow more foreign workers into the country. After welcoming 30 million overseas visitors last year, Japan now hopes to see that climb to 40 million by 2020.

Given Osaka's upcoming events such as the G20 Summit in June this year, and its selection to host the 2025 World Expo, the scope of support for foreign residents must and will continue to diversify.

As we witness the ever-growing need for consultation support services and the provision of multilingual information to an increasing foreign resident and visitor population, I have a renewed clarity regarding our foundation's mission.

OFIX intends to help Osaka realize its dream as an international metropolis through the development of comprehensive services, focusing on the further multilingual expansion of our consultation service.

With these initiatives in mind, OFIX hopes to have the continued support from everyone concerning our future goals.

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■ FY 2018 Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees  
in Architecture and Arts (Ando Program)

The eight trainees mentioned in the last issue completed their one-month training and returned home on October 25.

The trainees had ten days of corporate training at one of four construction companies in Osaka Prefecture - Obayashi Corporation, The Zenitaka Corporation, Takenaka Corporation and Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd., where they learned not only about traditional and new architectural techniques, but also about the attitude shown by Japanese architects towards achieving high-quality work and through their attention to detail.

During their courtesy visit to Mr. Tadao Ando, the renowned architect gave the trainees the advice that “when creating architecture, one must never forget to consider the background and history of the proposed site as well as its surrounding environment.”

The trainees seemed to have learned a crucial lesson about the importance of thinking for oneself and searching to discover their own answers. We hope that the trainees utilize the knowledge, experiences and encounters they gained through this training and become bridges that help further bring together Japan and its Asian neighbors.

OFIX would like to thank everyone involved in making this year’s training such a success.

《Being in Charge of the 2018 Ando Program  
OFIX Planning Officer Jiang Lijun 》

After starting to work at OFIX in July 2018, I was soon given the reins to lead this large, international program. Experiencing both nerves and with a sense of anticipation, I spent many busy days preparing for the arrival of the trainees. Even though I only first met them upon their arrival on September 27, having seen their profiles in advance helped me to quickly develop a rapport with everyone, and I enjoyed their company from the very first day. Soon after the trainees were calling me “sensei” ,

which initially made me feel slightly embarrassed.

However, perhaps due to my previous experience as a teacher, this grew on me as I later began to see the trainees as my “students”, which helped me guide them through the program.

While I felt a little sad following the completion of the one-month training, we are already in the planning stages of next year’s program.

I am currently working hard to introduce new aspects into the program for 2019.

## ★ International Student Support ★

### ■ Orion International House (OIH) Evacuation Drill

Date: Saturday November 3

Participants: 42

This year’s drill involved a simulated fire in the kitchen of the dormitory, requiring participants to take turns in extinguishing the “fire” and call 119 to report the “emergency”. Orion residents were shown the correct way to use the fire extinguisher.

Also, participants walked together to Nishimoto Elementary School, their designated emergency evacuation area, to familiarize themselves with the route in case evacuation is required following an earthquake or similar emergency situation.

Students also discussed what to do immediately after an earthquake as well as the important measures in ensuring a safe evacuation.

Given that many students had experienced an earthquake originating in Wakayama that registered 4 on the seismic scale the previous day, they were extra attentive in conducting the drill.

### ■ Local Exchange Event (OIH Winter Party)

Date: Sunday, December 23

Participants: 62

A local exchange event is held twice a year for Orion and local community residents to help foster friendships among each other.

This time we welcomed members of AIKI-NET, an NPO group promoting Aikido, for the first time, who performed and then introduced some self-defense techniques to the students.

After that participants played bingo, joined members of the Kenroukai Senior Citizens Club in singing together, and also tried out Japanese calligraphy.

Among the participants were some former Orion residents who could be seen updating local residents about the recent developments in their lives, which all helped to make the event a warm experience.

#### ★ Simple Japanese Training Study Group★

At OFIX, we have been making efforts to establish “Simple Japanese” as an effective means of offering information to foreign residents. For this fiscal year, we have held meetings and workshops for municipal governments and local international exchange organizations and ran a practical study group from November for our OFIX staff.

Through the process of creating a “Simple Japanese” version of our “Naruhodo Guide” for Disaster-related Volunteer Interpreters/Translators - already available in eight languages - our study group has been learning about the process involved in converting regular Japanese into simpler Japanese while keeping in mind how to convey the most important message as simply as possible.

#### ★ Networking with Related Organizations ★

##### ■Ritsumeikan University’ s International Exchange Festival: “Asia Week”

Date: Sunday, October 21

Venue: Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC), Ritsumeikan University

OFIX set up a booth during Ritsumeikan University’ s international exchange festival, “Asia Week 2018” under the theme of “connecting with the community: learning how you get support

and how you can support others” .

We had OFIX cross-cultural awareness education foreign supporters introduce things from their home countries, such as calligraphy, games and traditional garments, allowing visitors to experience these activities as well, which helped make the day a great success.

At the same time, we established our consultation service for foreign residents next to the booth and responded to daily life inquiries from international students. Overall, setting up the booth created an excellent opportunity for people to come to know about some of OFIX’ s programs.

#### ■21st International Friendship Festival

Date: Thursday, November 23

Venue: The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

This annual event is held by the Support Council for Participants of Japanese Language Institute, Kansai\* to provide students of the institute and local residents with a place to come together.

Following last year, OFIX had a booth where supporters from the cross-cultural awareness education program introduced aspects of their countries and conducted various games and activities.

This year, supporters from Egypt, the Philippines, Vietnam, along with OFIX’ s coordinator for international relations, were on hand to show visitors interesting attributes of their countries including local martial arts and traditional attire, which all combined to create a friendly environment conducive to multicultural exchange.

\*Comprised of OFIX and 10 international exchange organizations in and south of Kishiwada city.

#### ◆Minoh Multiethnic Festival 2018

Date: Saturday, November 10

Venue: Onohara Park, Minoh City

With the help of our cross-cultural awareness education supporters, OFIX held a discussion on the theme of “talking about disaster-prevention with foreign residents” at the site of the festival.

During the discussion with local residents, the supporters shared their experiences following the northern Osaka earthquake in June and their thoughts regarding their local governments’ responses, particularly relating to the lack of relevant information.

Hearing this, visitors gave some advice regarding how to prepare for the next possible earthquake, and commented how hearing about their experiences first-hand will help them when assisting other foreign residents in their community.

Since the festival’s main aim was to help build a multicultural community, we believe our booth directly contributed to this goal.

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### 【03】 Featured Article

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#### Employment Opportunities for Osaka’s International Students

The number of foreign workers in Japan continues to grow from year to year, with 72,226\*1 people working within Osaka Prefecture alone in 2017.

This is an increase of 22% compared to the previous year.

Of the 267,042 international students studying in Japan in 2017, 21,683\*2 attend schools in Osaka, marking an 18% rise from the previous year.

We have also seen a growing number of international students choosing to work in Osaka (refer to article below for details).

At the same time, a revised immigration law was passed to allow more foreign blue-collar workers into Japan by creating a “designated skills” visa.

In this volume of OFIX News, we have asked an expert on this topic, Mr. Hayato Mori, Managing Director of MORI KOSAN CO., LTD, to discuss the current employment situation

for international students and companies,  
and given a prospective relaxation of immigration laws,  
how Osaka can develop as an attractive area with an abundance  
of job opportunities for these kinds of students.

\*1 “Employment Situation for Non-Japanese residents” ,  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (As of October 31, 2017)

\*2 “International Student Enrollments Survey” ,  
Japan Student Services Organization (As of May 1, 2017)

《 Employment for International Students in Osaka  
- Now and in the Future -》

Hayato Mori, Managing Director of MORI KOSAN CO., LTD.

With the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Osaka/Kansai Expo 2025,  
Japan is enjoying an unprecedented boom in the number of inbound visitors  
to its shores. Last year, Osaka came third\*3 in the rankings  
for the “World’ s Most Livable Cities,”  
developing into an attractive destination not only in terms  
of sightseeing but also as a permanent place to live.

The number of international students gaining employment  
in Osaka Prefecture continues to increase every year,  
with 2,228 acquiring jobs in 2017 ( “State of Employment  
for International Students at Japanese Companies in 2017”  
by the Ministry of Justice).

Reasons for this current climate are not only limited to the growing needs  
of Japanese companies, but can also be attributed to the development  
and better accessibility of information related to job opportunities,  
as well as educational institutions accumulating significant knowhow  
and knowledge regarding potential employment for their students.

However, the job finding process differs considerably between  
those who use Chinese characters as part of their native language,  
and for those who do not. In order to employ an international student,  
it is imperative that information is provided in English  
and their native language, and that the company itself spends time  
to learn about the students through an internship program  
or other similar measures.

Companies should not simply equate the capabilities of international students with their Japanese abilities, nor should they expect them to fit neatly into the traditional ideal of a Japanese employee. Instead, companies should provide these students with a platform to utilize their multilingual ability (native language, Japanese, English or other) and intercultural skills (new creative power developed by different sensitivities), which will in turn lead to the development of their products and services throughout the world.

Currently we are at a turning point for non-Japanese human resources. Will we witness an increase in foreign workers following the relaxation of regulations? As an option for overseas education, Japan's position as a potential place to study has fallen. On the other hand, there are many international students who chose this country because they admire Japan sub-cultures such as anime and manga, or simply love Japan, the language and the culture. For these types of individuals it is essential that as many of them as possible come to live, study and work here, and to help make Osaka a truly wonderful place to live.

\*3 “Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)” , Economist Magazine, Published August 2018

<Photo> Global Talent & Business Meetup 2017  
(Project consigned o MORI KOSAN CO., LTD.)

## ★ Career Counselling for International Students ★

Date: Wednesday, November 7  
Venue: Namba Midotsuji Hall  
Participants: 50 (seminar), 5 (counselling)

During the Senshu Ikeda Bank and Ehle Institute-hosted “International Student Job Fair” where about 230 non-Japanese students participated, OFIX held an employment consultation booth and handled five consultations related to starting companies. At the “Job Hunting Seminar for International Students” during the same event, students were advised that “resumes should be filled in by hand very neatly” and that

“it’s important to have your own vision for the future when choosing a company”, among other things.

It was a pleasure to have the Managing Director of MORI KOSAN CO., LTD., Mr. Mori give us such an invaluable lecture during the seminar and help support our employment consultation booth. MORI KOSAN is also a supporting member of our foundation.

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## 【04】 Notifications & Tenants Wanted

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### Notifications

Disaster-related Multilingual Volunteer Training Course  
《Co-hosted by OFIX and Ikeda City》

Would you like to become a volunteer and assist foreign residents overcome Japanese language difficulties?

Date: Tuesday, January 22 1:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Venue: Large Meeting Room, 7th Floor of Ikeda City Office  
Contact: Ikeda City Human Rights & Culture and International  
Division TEL: 072-754-6232

Volunteer Training for Foreign Resident Disaster Support  
Using Simple Japanese  
《Co-hosted by OFIX, Izumiotsu International Communications Association  
and Izumiotsu City》

Learn how to convey information to foreign residents in the event of a disaster using Simple Japanese.

Date: Saturday, January 26 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Venue: Room 302, Texpia Osaka  
Contact: Izumiotsu International Communications Association  
TEL: 0725-33-1131

More information:

<http://www.city.izumiotsu.lg.jp/kakuka/sogoseisaku/seisakusuisin/kokusaikoryu/1378699828355.html> (Japanese language only)

## ■OFIX Booth at the 25th One World Festival!

The One World Festival will take place again this year under the theme of “what we can each do to live in the world together” . During the festival, OFIX will set up a booth at the Kitakumin Center.

Date and Time: Saturday, February 2 and Sunday, February 3  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Venues: Kitakumin Center, Ogimachi Park and Kansai Television  
Ogimachi Square

More Information: <http://interpeople.or.jp/owf/>

## Tenants Wanted

Orion International House Tenants Wanted from Spring!

OFIX' s Sakai International Hall - Orion International House is looking for tenants to reside in the dormitory from April.

10 male rooms and 10 female rooms are available.

For further details:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/accept/support/orion.html>

(You can also view an introductory video about the dormitory here)

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»» Comments and suggestions for OFIX News

⇒ E-mail [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto: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](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\\_no89.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/info/mail/backnumber/pdf/mail_english_no89.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. 90) will be available on April 15th 2019 (scheduled).

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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](mailto: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>

【Membership Benefits】

◆Free or priority subscription to OFIX printed materials, reports and other publications.

◆Subscription to quarterly newsletter "OFIX News".  
This newsletter contains information on international exchange activities and OFIX programs and activities.

◆Half price for banner advertisements on OFIX's website.  
(For corporate members donating two or more units)

\* Donations made to Specified Public  
Interest Corporations are subject to preferential tax

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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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