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Official Character Bora-chan

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- Volunteer Interpreter and Translation Training Report
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## New Year's Impressions for 2023

Happy New Years!

This year's Chinese zodiac sign is the rabbit. Rabbits are known for their docility and calmness, and are also a symbol of safety. In some cultures they also represent leaps in improvement due to their prowess in jumping.

Japanese has beautiful words for each season, for example, welcoming the new year is called "Geishun," which means welcoming spring instead of just waiting for it to come. At last year's soccer World Cup, videos of origami cranes left in the Japanese player's locker rooms and the Japanese fans cleaning up the stadium were seen throughout the whole world, leading to an outpouring of praise for the "kind" and "respectful" heart shown.

The spread of the COVID-19 disrupted international exchange activities and travel for the past three years, but since the end of last year, restrictions around the world and in Japan have finally been eased and many overseas tourists, students, and workers have gradually returned to Japan.

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange  
**Hidetaka Yoshikawa, Chairman**



With the return of visitors and new residents from abroad, I am convinced that what is needed is more projects providing multilingual information and support by places such as our Osaka Foundation for International Exchange. Cultural exchange and businesses will be more active than ever in preparation for the upcoming Osaka-Kansai Expo in 2025.

We would like to promote Japan as a safe place to vacation, study, and work by providing easy-to-understand information on Japanese language, daily customs, and culture, as well as information and answers to inquiries about disaster preparedness, all while maintaining a spirit of hospitality. Our entire staff will continue to work hard together this year, and we ask for your further understanding and cooperation in this endeavor.

"I want to do something for the children and students in Osaka!"

"I want to practice and use my Japanese!" and "I want many people to know my country and people!"

**Why don't you introduce your country to the children of Osaka?**



Official Character Bora-chan

## OFIX International Understanding Education Foreign Supporters Wanted!

Would you like to introduce your country's history, culture and share your traditional clothing, musical instruments or games with the students of Osaka and contribute to making multicultural coexistence a reality in Japan? We are always looking for more OFIX Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporters!

### Who can become a Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporter?

1. Foreign nationals or those with roots abroad, living, studying, or working in the Kansai region
2. Those who want to introduce their country at schools in Osaka Prefecture
3. Those who have Japanese ability to present in Japanese (N3)

\* Permission to engage in activities outside your status of residence might be required depending on your status of residence.  
\* We will give you an honorarium of 6,000 yen (including transportation and tax) per school visit.



For details, please refer to "Supporter Activities"  
<https://www.ofix.or.jp/supporters/>

**Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)**

5th Floor, MyDome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachibashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-0029

TEL: 06-6966-2400 FAX: 06-6966-2401 E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

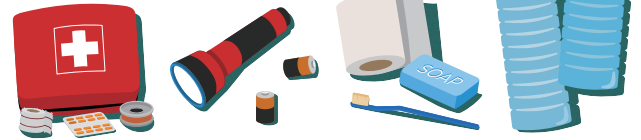
# OFIX Volunteer Interpreter Translator Training Report

## Volunteer Interpreter Translator Training in time of disaster for International Students of Momoyama Gakuin University (St. Andrew's University)

On Tuesday, November 29, training was held for international students from Momoyama Gakuin University. We signed a cooperative agreement with the university to provide students with disaster preparedness interpreter/translator volunteer opportunities. 18 people participated in the training.

In the first half, we watched a disaster prevention video provided by Sendai Tourism Convention and International Association, "What should we do if there is an Earthquake!?" and discussed in groups how to be prepared in case of an actual earthquake. In the latter half of the session, participants practiced interpretation role-plays that simulate actual volunteer activities.

About this training, participants commented, "It was useful because there are not many earthquakes in my country," "It was a good experience because I could imagine what kind of advise I would receive in the event of an actual disaster," and "I learned some Japanese words that are not used in everyday speech such as "temporary housing," "rationing," and "hot food distribution," etc.



## Community Interpreter Volunteer Training 2022



On Friday, December 9, Mr. Eiji Tamura, Chief Senior Staff of the Suita Child Family Center in Osaka Prefecture, Ms. Asuka Iwaki, Deputy Executive Secretary General Affairs of the Minoh Association for Global Awareness, and Ms. Makiko Mizuno, Professor of the Department of English, College of Humanities at Kinjo Gakuin University were invited to give lectures about "The Need for Interpreters at Child and Family Centers", "Community Interpreters and Their Roles", and "Interpretation Skill Training Theory and Practice", and to facilitate practical role plays.

We learned about the need for interpreter support with specific locations in mind and were exposed to the current situation surrounding community interpreters as revealed by actual data trends. It was an opportunity for us to rethink how we should act as community interpreters, including the need to be careful because as interpreters we can be deeply involved in privacy and are the only ones in the conversation who understand both languages. We also learned about foundational abilities such as how to train memory and how to use interpreting memos effectively and other methods to improve interpreting performance. During the role play, participants were divided into Chinese, Korean, and English, and challenged to interpret conversations with native staff in real-life situations. The 24 participants were able to have fun while also learning.



## The First Training in 2022 for Counselors and Interpreters

On Friday, November 11, we invited Mrs. Muramatsu from the Hyogo International Association to give us a lecture and run a workshop titled "Preparing Counselors and Interpreters - Biestek's Seven Principals". She summarized the roles required for counseling people with foreign roots, and further introduced the "Biestek's Seven Principals," which allows for analysis of the feelings of counselors based on seven indicators. Interspersed with group work, we shared what we felt from each other's experiences, which helped us to better understand the lecture content.

She advised that the counselors themselves, who have the role of hearing about other people's hardship, can be at risk for things such as "burnout and secondary injury" and that there are things they should keep in mind on a regular basis. At the end of the session, we experienced "peer counseling" in which we listened to each other with fellow counselors and received hints on points we had questions about on a daily basis. The 14 attendees had a fun and meaningful time together, and the day was a great reminder of how wonderful it is for people to come together in a real way. The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 27, 2023.



## Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

A free consultation service for foreign residents.



TEL 06-6941-2297

### 【Consultation Hours】

Monday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (excluding holidays)  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (excluding holidays)  
Second and fourth Sundays of each month: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### 【Professional Consultation】

Professional consultations and labor consultations with a public notary or lawyer  
\*Appointment required

### 【Languages available】

English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Indonesian, Nepali, Japanese, Russian, Ukrainian

### 【E-mail】

jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp  
(only in Japanese and English)

### 【FAX】

06-6966-2401  
(only in Japanese and English)

### 【URL】

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/life/japanese/>



# Global Voices



**Name:**  
**Thomas Fujita**

**Nationality:**  
Brazil

**Self-introduction:**

I'm from Sao Paulo, Brazil. I love reading and listening to music. Relaxing with a good book and a warm cup of coffee is my favorite activity.

## Why did you decide to come to Japan?

I am half Japanese and half Brazilian. I came to Japan because I wanted to know more about my roots.

## Was there anything that surprised you when you came to Osaka?

I was surprised by the people of Osaka. I've lived in other parts of Japan before, but it was a shock at first to see how easy it was to talk to people in Osaka and how energetic they all are.

## Were there any problems you faced when you came to Osaka?

My bicycle has been stolen. Before I came to Osaka, I hardly locked my bicycle, and when I went to Osaka, my bicycle was stolen. After that, when I went to the police but, they just got mad at me.

## How do you feel about being a supporter?

Japanese people don't know much about Brazil other than soccer and samba. When I go to a school, I feel healed by the inquisitive faces of the children.

## A Foreign dish you can make in Japan

Thomas's recommended:

### Brazilian pancake

It is minced meat, sauce and cheese wrapped in a savory pancake. It is delicious when eaten with rice.



### Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 300 g of minced meat
- 300 ml of milk
- 120 g of flour
- 250 g meat sauce
- Cheese

### Recipe:

1. Mix the wheat, eggs and milk with a mixer until creamy.
2. Put oil in a pot and when it gets hot, add the minced meat and fry until the moisture is gone. Add salt to your taste.
3. When it dries, leave a little (about 50g) meat sauce in the can while adding the rest to the pan and mix with meat. This finishes the filling.
4. In a new pan, apply a little oil and heat it over medium heat. After that, take the cream mixture with a ladle and put it in the frying pan little by little. After the bottom part is cooked, flip it over.
5. Put cooked meat and cheese in the middle of the pancake and roll it up.
6. Pour the meat sauce left over in the can over the top, sprinkle grated cheese if you like, and bake in the oven or microwave for 2-3 minutes to complete.





**SYNOPSIS** Harisha (the main character) moved to Osaka with her family of three, her mother from Osaka and her father from India, and since she could not speak Japanese, she spent her days being lonely and helping her father in his Indian restaurant. One day, an international student from Orion International House comes to the restaurant and tells her about OFIX. With OFIX's help, she is able to find a place to learn Japanese. By learning Japanese, Harisha and her father start to feel more at home in Osaka. It is a heartwarming story about a family with foreign roots living in Osaka.



## OFIX Has Produced a Promotional Video!

# “OFIX For Life in Osaka”

OFIX has produced a promotional video focusing on our main activities: our consultation service at the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents, the activities of our Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporters and the Sakai International Hall (Orion House) in Osaka Prefecture.

Writer / Director: Mana Yasuda

Cast: Shanti Miyata Dash, Sunny Francis, and others.



You can also watch it on the OFIX YouTube channel!

[https://www.youtube.com/@ofix\\_jp](https://www.youtube.com/@ofix_jp)

**It will be broadcast on cable TV (J:COM channel 11) from January 1 (New Year's Day)!**

**\*Scheduled to be broadcast until March 2023.**

Broadcasting time differs depending on the area. For details, please refer to the J:COM website (Program Guide).

<https://www2.myjcom.jp/tv/>



### Writer/Director: Mana Yasuda

Director and Writer. Born in Nara, and lives in Osaka Prefecture. Directed the following works: "The Switch to Happiness" which is a movie about a family that owns an appliance store featuring Juri Ueno and Kenji Sawada, "TUNA GIRL" a coming-of-age story featuring Fuka Koshiba who is raising Pacific Bluefin Tuna at Kinki University, and "Parents' Day" which is an experimental short film by Reiko Kataoka. <https://yasudamana.com/>

## We are looking for supporting members!

Annual membership: 50,000 yen for corporate members, 3,000 yen for individual members

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/donate/>

- ◆ Provision of OFIX's printed materials, reports and other publications free of charge or on a priority basis
- ◆ OFIX News (quarterly) containing information on OFIX's activities and international exchange
- ◆ 50% off banner advertisements (for corporate members with two or more accounts)

*Donations to public interest foundations are eligible for tax benefits*

## Want your banner to shine on our page?

**Japanese page: 11,000 JPY banner/month**

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/banners/>

**English page: 5,500 JPY banner/month**

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/english/banners/>

**For comments and suggestions, go to**

▶ [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)



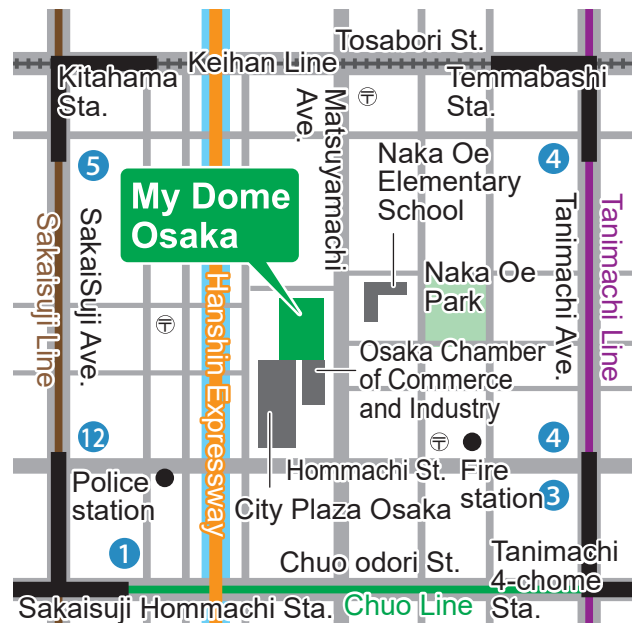
**JICA Osaka Desk @OFIX**

TEL: 06-6966-2400

E-mail: [jjcadpd-desk-osakafu@jica.go.jp](mailto:jjcadpd-desk-osakafu@jica.go.jp)



## Access



### Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

5th Floor, MyDome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachi-bashi,

Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-0029

TEL: 06-6966-2400 FAX: 06-6966-2401

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