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Official Character
Bora-chan

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Inaugural Greetings



Executive Director/Secretary General

Takeshi Oba

I would like to increase the number of people from various countries who come to Osaka, stay in Osaka, and become fans of Osaka!

Hello, my name is Oba. I took office on April 1.

Recently, an article in the Nikkei Newspaper on April 13 caught my eye: "For me (Haruki Murakami), a wall is a barrier that divides our world from another world. Any person who is able to pass through the wall to the other side and come back is important." This is my first time to be involved in international work and I have learned about the three "walls" of language, institutions, and heart. These are the main challenges in realizing multicultural coexistence.

With the current pandemic and various regions at war, it is becoming increasingly important to break down these "walls," to accept differences in character, culture, and customs, and to promote mutual understanding. With the 2025 World Expo approaching and Osaka receiving the first approval in Japan for its IR development plan, the question is now how to make Osaka a successful international city. As a trusted "multicultural hub institution," OFIX will steadily promote its mid-term management plan starting from April 2023, and contribute to addressing issues in international relations.

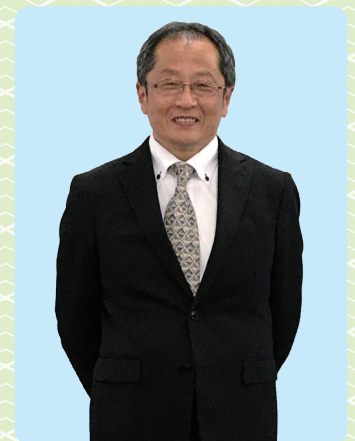
I love the TV show, "World! Nippon Ikitai Hito Ouendan." The show features people from abroad who are interested in Japanese culture coming with different goals to fulfill their dreams. In the process, they end up loving Japan even more. Like the TV show, I would like to increase the number of people from various countries who come to Osaka, stay in Osaka, and become fans of Osaka!

Hello everyone, my name is Mukai. I assumed the position of chief of the Planning and Promotion Section in April. Until now, I have worked in school education and social studies education. In the course of that work, I had opportunities to think about support for residents from abroad in Japan and multicultural coexistence, but it stopped at a surface level.

OFIX has been working hard to fulfill its role as a center promoting multicultural coexistence over the past five years. Based on what was accomplished during this time, we have formulated a new mid-term management plan for the next five years. I think the plan's three main pillars are the following: "To create a safe and secure environment where no one is left behind." "To improve our abilities as an organization that promotes multicultural coexistence by strengthening our partnerships and enhancing our ability to provide information." "To have a network of highly specialized staff and management to support organizational goals."

Although I have tried to pick out what I consider to be the focus of the plan, because I'm not fluent in any foreign languages and I'm an outsider when it comes to the work carefully done by OFIX so far, I cannot say that I fully understand the weight of these goals. I am studying and working hard every day so that I can catch up with the knowledge and insight my colleagues possess.

Although I am still working on being able to contribute equally, I am excited to be part of what OFIX has promoted so far and continues to accomplish with their activities. Activities that support and empower each individual, foster people, and encourage the broadening of horizons.



Planning and Promotion Section Chief

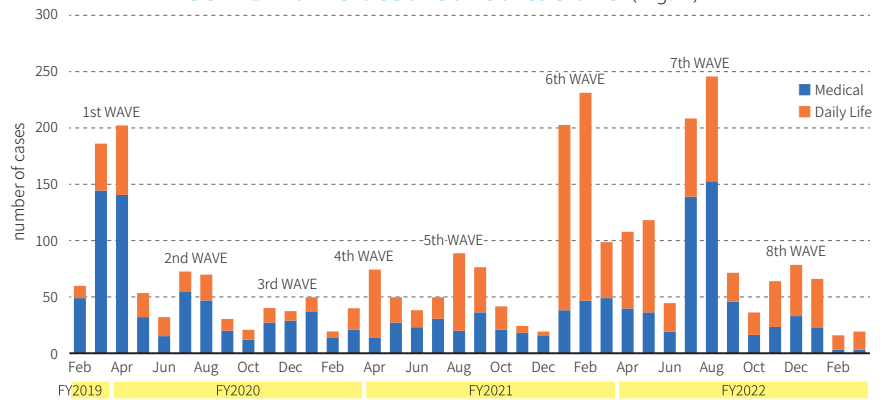
Yukikatsu Mukai

2022 Report for the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

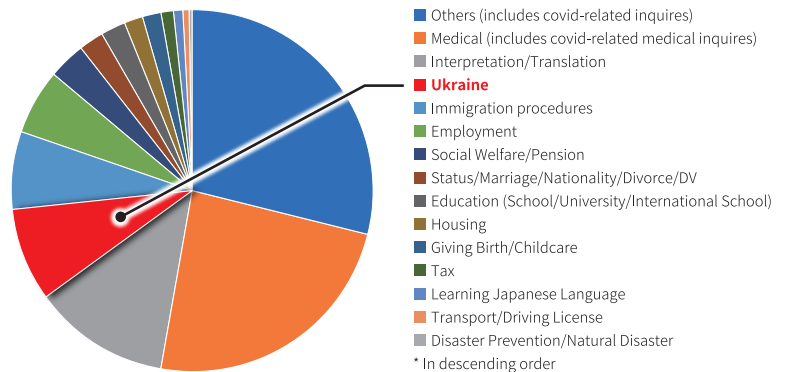
In 2022, the number of people from abroad living in Osaka reached a record high. Combined with the impact of the spread of COVID-19, the number of consultations also reached a record high of 2,648 cases. The pandemic entered its third year and the number of COVID-19-related consultations increased sharply due to the sixth wave from the end of 2021 to the early spring of 2022. This continued with the record seventh wave from early summer to autumn. However, the peak of the 8th wave was not as high, and with the decision to shift COVID-19 to a class five disease, COVID-19-related consultations have now calmed down (Fig. 1).

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, we took consultations regarding people displaced from Ukraine (Fig. 2). We also began to provide services in Russian and Ukrainian, and received many consultations from companies, organizations, and individuals who are supporting the reception of Ukrainians. We also received consultations from Ukrainians who had actually already arrived in Japan.

COVID-19-related Consultations (Fig. 1)



Content of Consultation (Fig. 2)



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)
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What is life like for residents from abroad living in Japan?
 OFIX supporters have created their own introductory videos about their reasons for coming to Japan and their life in Japan.
 Please take a look!

OFIX YouTube Channel

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Global Voices



Name

Cheng Shiyin

Home Country

China



Hello everyone! My name is Cheng Shiyin, and I am from China. This is my fifth year in Japan. I am currently studying at a Japanese university. My hobbies are cooking and traveling.

Why did you decide to come to Japan?

Japan is a country with especially beautiful scenery, whether it is the cherry blossoms in spring or the autumn leaves in fall. I longed to live in such a beautiful country.

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

What surprised me the most when I came to Osaka was how warm the people are. I was worried about whether I would be able to make Japanese friends, as Japanese people are often said to be distant. However, when I arrived in Osaka, I had many good experiences with *Osakajin*. My classmates always naturally started talking to me and even though we had just met, they would invite me to do things together. When I go to *izakaya*, the owners always talk to me with friendly smiles. Once, when I was eating at a restaurant, a guy next to me told me about his experiences in China, and we ended up taking pictures together. I consider it an amazing experience to have lived in Osaka and met and made friends with so many interesting people.

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

One of the problems in Osaka is that the streets are narrow. In many places, there is only one lane for pedestrians and bikes, so you have to ride very carefully.

How do you feel about being a supporter?

Becoming a supporter has given me a deeper sense of the value of culture and self-worth. I was worried that the children might not be interested in Chinese culture and that I would not be able to convey what I wanted to say to them in my poor Japanese at first. However, I was encouraged by the children's reactions at every school I visited. They actively asked questions and participated in the class, and in the feedback written by the children after the class, they said things like "I became interested in China from this class," "Shiyin-san's Japanese is easy to understand, and the class is fun," etc. Receiving such words, I became more and more confident that my culture was recognized by many different people.

A Foreign dish you can make in Japan



Shiyin's recommended:

Tomato and Egg Stir-fry

Tomato and egg stir-fry is a traditional home-style dish in China, much like *Nikuajaga* in Japan. Its simple preparation and sweet and sour taste is so perfect served with noodles and rice. This makes it a popular dish in all regions of China.

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 1 clove of garlic
- A few chopped green onions
- 1 g salt
- 2 g sugar
- A little oyster sauce
- A little cooking oil

Recipe:

- 1 Wash tomatoes, peel and de-stem in freshly boiling water, slice and set aside.
- 2 Beat the eggs in a bowl with a bit of salt and stir well with chopsticks for 30 seconds.
- 3 Heat oil in a frying pan over high heat, quickly pour the egg mixture into the pan and stir gently, then scramble the eggs and place it on a plate.
- 4 Heat more oil, fry the tomatoes, add a little garlic and fry for a few more minutes, add the eggs from 3 and fry for a bit longer.
- 5 After mixing the eggs with the tomato, add salt, sugar and a little oyster sauce. Finally, fry just a little more lightly to finish. Sprinkle with chopped green onions before serving!



Let's meet the new members at the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents!



Atsuko Kawata

My name is Atsuko Kawata and I have been working as a consultant since February. I experienced being a student, working, and having a baby in the UK. It wasn't all fun and games while I was living abroad, but I was helped by many people. Friends, teachers, employers, colleagues, neighbors, officials from government and medical institutions, and even just people passing by helped me during hard times. I am very honored to have been given the opportunity to work here, as I have always wanted to support residents from abroad in Japan. I will do my best to be of help to everyone!



Asuya Nanami

I have been working as a consultant since the end of last year. My name is Asuya Nanami. My name has the meaning that I have crossed seven seas in my life. Before this job, I worked for a Japanese manufacturer in the overseas operations department and was involved in work in various countries mainly in Asia. I also had the opportunity to work on the immigration side of Kansai International Airport, which gave me valuable experience in helping people from many countries. In the midst of the great need to create a society that overcomes cultural and language differences, I am committed to make use of my experience and multilingual skills to provide useful information and consultation to solve various problems for foreign residents in Osaka Prefecture.



Nobuko Hayashi

Hello, I am Nobuko Hayashi. I have been working as a consultant at OFIX's Foreigner Information Corner since August 2022. When I was a child, my family took me to a foreign country that I knew nothing about, and I only then returned to Japan when I had already forgotten Japanese. Even though I was very young, I experienced firsthand how unreasonable society can be. However what I remember the most was how happy I was when I was treated kindly while being abroad. I feel that what I felt at that time is still the driving force for my life now, more than half a century later. Now that I am getting involved in this counseling service for foreigners, I hope that I can help people in Osaka even a little bit to live bright and successful lives. It has only been a short time since I started working as a consultant, but I am happy with the many encounters I have had and things I have learned, and I am striving hard to make society a little better every day.

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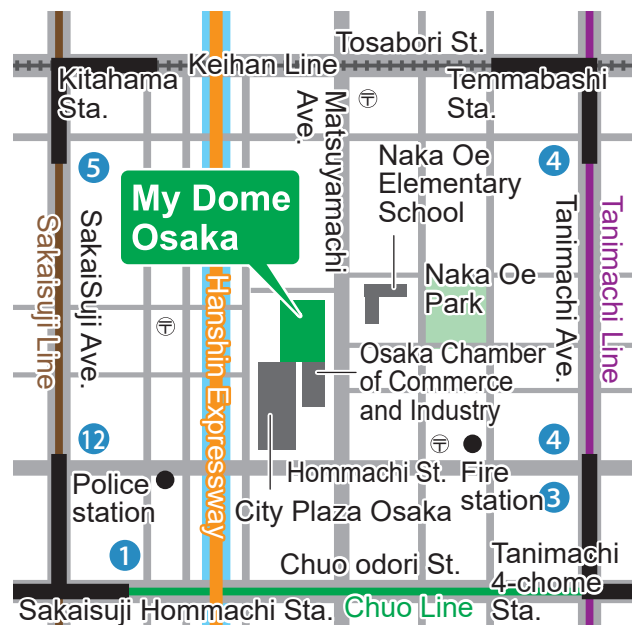
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