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Official Character
Bora-chan

TOPICS

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New Year's Message by OFIX Chairman

Happy New Year!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued understanding and cooperation in our Foundation's operations.

Looking back on last year, I wonder if "heat" will be one of the themes. The countdown to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, has begun, and fiery excitement is growing. Looking around the world, there have been reports of abnormal heat in terms of weather and the environment, and we still remember the heated battles that took place in the WBC Baseball Championship and the Rugby World Cup.

On the other hand, as the global spread of the novel coronavirus has subsided, foreign visitors to Japan are now viewing Japan as the "hot" country to visit. Against this background, companies, educational institutions, and government agencies are putting considerable effort into acquiring international students and foreign workers.

Similarly, as we consider the news and events that transcend Japan's borders along with the increasing number of foreigners

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange
Hidetaka Yoshikawa, Chairman



visiting Japan, we also need to consider our response to the growing diversity of foreigners' origins and reasons for visiting Japan. There may need to be a shift from the way we focused on just numbers before the COVID-19 pandemic, to a cooled conscious focus on the quality of our response to foreigners. I think this would look like changing the goal from viewing foreign residents as "the neighbor I should love" to "the roommate I love".

Under our new mid-term management plan, our foundation aims to realize a multicultural society, and we will fulfill our role so that foreign residents can live a safe, secure, and comfortable life with "Osaka as their home".

This year, the Year of the Dragon, is said to be the year of taking shape after growth, and this year marks the 35th anniversary of OFIX's establishment. We would like to build on our past activities and further refine them, so we ask for your continued understanding and tremendous support.

謹賀新年

2024



Happy New Year! I am Sabina, a former OFIX employee. I enjoy drawing illustrations when I need to concentrate or when I want to give shape to an idea I have in my head. 2024's Chinese zodiac sign "Dragon", is often depicted as a scary figure in movies, but in China it has long been a symbol of good luck, power, and health. I wish you all a happy New Year of the Dragon, filled with good luck, power, and health.

Activity Report

9.30
[Sat]

Orion International House Party

On September 30 (Sat), a dormitory student exchange party organized by the tutors of Orion International House was held, and many dormitory students attended and had a good time! We have compiled a video of the day's events. Please take a look!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSQhgwVcOcs>



12.17
[Sun]

Orion International House Community Exchange

On December 17 (Sun), we held a community exchange event at Orion International House! The Kenrokai [健朗会] and local residents attended and had a great time with events such as musical instrument performances, an exhibition of ethnic costumes, a dinner party, and a calligraphy experience.



10.13
[Fri]

Plain Japanese Language Training Session

On October 13 (Fri), "Plain Japanese Training" was included as part of the Osaka Prefecture Housing Supply Corporation's staff training. Plain Japanese training was provided to people in various occupations such as management, clerical, and technical positions.

This time, we have invited Mr. Takeshi Fukui, a lecturer from Kobe YWCA, to teach participants how to convey various phrases in Plain Japanese, starting with "What is Plain Japanese?" and "What is communication?" The lecture was organized like a quiz game where the participants could learn as they figured out the answers.

Including those who watched the archived videos, approximately 180 people joined the session.



10.22
[Sun]

Asia Week

On October 22 (Sun), the international exchange festival "Asia Week" was held at Ritsumeikan University, and OFIX also ran a booth. With the help of supporters from Peru, China, the Philippines, and South Korea, we were able to have fun interacting with the participants through foreign language quizzes and games.



11.23
[Thu]

International Friendship Festival

The 24th International Friendship Festival was held on November 23 (Thu) at the The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai. At the OFIX booth, we introduced the very popular Filipino martial art, Arnis, last year, and many people tried it out. Also, this year, a Cuban supporter participated for the first time and introduced Cuban dominos. Both children and adults had fun playing with the special rule of matching dominoes together with the same number instead of knocking them over.



12.3
[Sun]

Enjoy International Foods at Danchi! Multicultural Understanding and Exchange Across Borders

On December 3 (Sun), a multicultural exchange event was held at Shodai Danchi. This event was organized with the Osaka Prefectural Housing Corporation and HANEI Company. It was packed with activities for the diverse backgrounds that make up the residents of the housing complex, including quizzes on life in Osaka and tasting food from various countries. It was a fun time for all participants to experience multiculturalism.

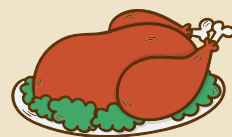
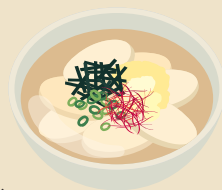


CROSSWORD

This is a crossword themed around year-end events, new year events, and customs from all over the world! Please give it a try! The answers will be posted on the OFIX website by the end of February.



- 1 Ainu word for "new" or "New Year"
- 2 The name of the first month of the Islamic calendar
- 3 The Japanese word [旧正月] means "● New Year"
- 4 On New Year's Eve, Japanese temples will ring the ● 108 times as custom.
- 5 Noodles that the Japanese usually eat on New Year's Eve.
- 6 Hebrew word for "Have a Happy New Year"
- 7 Name of the Ukrainian New Year's Festival
- 8 A cuisine that is usually eaten during Christmas time in America.
- 9 The name of the Japanese traditional custom for visiting a Japanese shrine or temple for the first time in the New Year.



- 10 In Spain, there is a custom of eating ● grapes on New Year's Eve.
- 11 One of the common countdown events around the world
- 12 The name of Thai New Year Festival
- 13 During Chinese New Year, people will give out ● envelopes as gifts with money inside.
- 14 The zodiac animal for 2024
- 15 The name of Korean soup dish eaten during New Year's time.
- 16 ● is a traditional Japanese verbal entertainment of storytelling.
- 17 The city OFIX is located in
- 18 "New Year's" in Japanese



Here are the consultation sessions from January to February. Please see the OFIX homepage for details.

Renewal of OFIX Homepage

OFIX's homepage is under renewal and scheduled to reopen in April 2024. For more information, please check OFIX homepage and SNS(Facebook, X).



1.14^[Sun] One-day Information Service for Foreign Residents

- Consultation Topics: Law, human rights, immigration/residence (visa), labor, work, life, medical care, health insurance, education, etc.
- Place: Osaka International House 2/F
- Time: 13:00 – 17:00



1.20^[Sat] Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

- Consultation Topics: Law, daily life consultation
- Place: Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center
- Time: 13:00 – 16:00

1.27^[Sat] Consultation Service Day for Foreign Residents in Higashiosaka

- Consultation Topics: Consultation on laws, visas/naturalization, pensions/social insurance, municipal and prefectural tax, national health insurance, child allowance/child rearing allowance, and provision of information on daily life, etc.
- Place: Multicultural Information Plaza
- Time: 9:00 – 12:00

2.3^[Sat] Moriguchi City Consultation for Foreign Residents

- Consultation Topics: Status of residence, life, national health insurance, national pension, labor, human rights
- Place: Moriguchi City Office 1/F, Conference Rooms 101-102
- Time: 11:00 – 14:00

2.17^[Sat] One-Day Divorce Consultation Hotline for Foreigners

- Consultation Topics: Divorce, worries about your relationship with your husband/wife, visa issues, etc.
- Consultation Method: In-person, Phone, Online
- Place: Osaka Bar Association
- Time: 10:30 – 16:30

Specialist Consultation for Foreign Residents (OFIX)

11 languages available! You may consult in-person, online or by phone.

Reservation/Contact:

06-6941-2297 jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp

1. Labor Consultation

- Date: January 15 (Mon), January 29 (Mon)
- Time: 13:30 – 17:15

2. Immigration Consultation

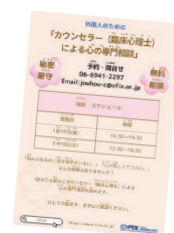
- Date: January 24 (Wed)
- Time: 13:30 – 17:00

3. Legal Consultation

- Date: January 28 (Sun)
- Time: 13:30 – 16:30

4. Therapeutic Consultation [NEW]

- OFIX has started offering a therapeutic counseling service with a certified clinical psychologist. We are here for you, please feel free to call in.
- First time: January 19 (Fri), 16:30 – 19:30
- Second time: March 10 (Sun), 13:30 – 16:30
- ※It is advised to come to our office directly for consultation. If you wish to consult online or by phone, please let us know beforehand.



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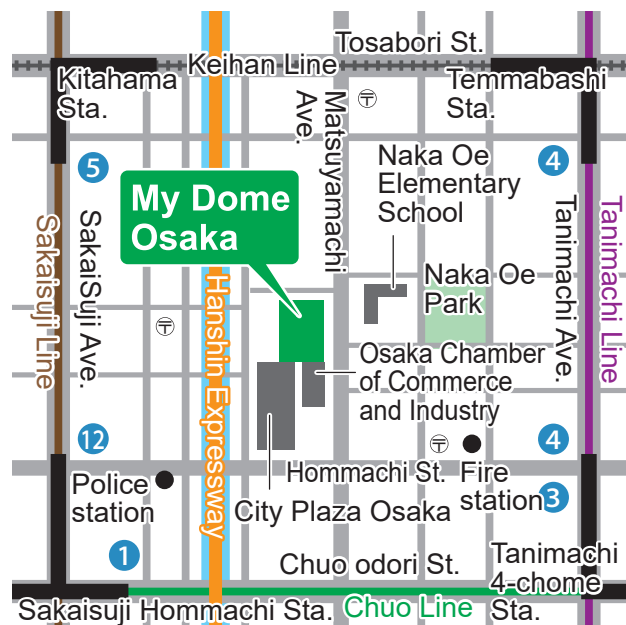
JICA Osaka Desk @OFIX

TEL: 06-6966-2400

E-mail: jicadpd-desk-osakafu@jica.go.jp



Access



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