

NOTICE

Starting in FY 2024, OFIX's e-newsletter will be distributed once a month! Please sign up!



Official Character Bora-chan

TOPICS

- Renewal Announcement
- Introducing OFIX's Disaster Prevention Programs
- Interview of Former House Manager at Orion International House
- Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Renewal Announcement

We have renewed our website and email newsletter with the new fiscal year. We have also opened an official note account, which we will introduce in detail.

1

OFIX Website

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



We have renewed our website to make it easier for foreign residents and other users to access information. A multilingual homepage has been created to provide easy access to useful information for foreigners living in Japan, such as through the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents or the Frequently Asked Questions collection.

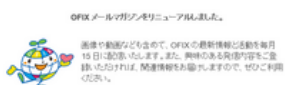
In addition, a multilingual disaster information webpage (in 11 languages) has been created in place of the "Osaka Safe Travels" website and app. This webpage is linked to OFIX's social media accounts to quickly provide information in multiple languages during an emergency.

Also, we have added an event calendar that lists of all OFIX's activities, including OFIX-sponsored events, training sessions, and exchange events. Please check it out!

2

OFIX E-NEWSLETTER

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



In order to keep you up-to-date on the latest news and activities at OFIX, starting in April we will be sending out a monthly e-newsletter in both Japanese and English. If you are interested please try subscribing!

3

OFIX note Account

https://note.com/ofix_jp



We created an official OFIX note account as a platform to think about international exchange and multiculturalism together. We plan to update it once a month.

Introducing OFIX's Disaster Prevention Programs

Many disasters have been occurring. It is not just the Noto Peninsula earthquake that occurred at the beginning of the year, but also many other disasters have occurred outside of Japan. It is predicted that not only your home will be hit by a disaster but you may also encounter a disaster while visiting somewhere. If you are a foreign resident, you can expect to experience double the confusion and trouble due to language and communication difficulties. Foreign residents who have actually experienced disasters have voiced their concerns about the difficulties they encountered when not being able to understand the situation or evacuation information.

In response to this, OFIX has set up a multilingual disaster information center to provide various types of support in the event of a disaster. We provide multilingual information such as alerts and evacuation information, and depending on the needs of the disaster area, we can also dispatch interpreters and other services. In addition, there is a system in which we have a network with relevant organizations to be able to cover a wider variety of needs in the event of a disaster.

We believe being able to respond quickly and appropriately during an emergency depends on how much you learn about disaster prevention in advance. In order to prepare for such disasters, OFIX conducts various training programs.

“Cooperative Disaster Prevention Game "LIFE" Workshop” February 8 (Thu.)

Have you ever heard of the cooperative disaster prevention game "LIFE"?

"LIFE" is a cooperative board game using the theme of "disaster prevention".

In this game, various disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons, and infectious diseases occur, and then players have to try to survive. The beginner level is an individual game to learn self-help, and the intermediate level is a team game to learn how survival depends on helping one another and also about the importance of mutual-aid.

The game has already been featured in many schools and disaster prevention events for local residents, and OFIX has also held hands-on workshops together with the Kinki region international exchange associations.

Participants commented that they would like to have an opportunity to experience the workshop with local residents and disaster relief volunteers. Also they commented that it would be better if the workshop incorporated the perspectives of not only foreign residents but also various minorities.

We hope that you will try playing "LIFE" with your friends at school, at work, and in Japanese language classes. Please then share what you have learned with your friends and the foreign residents around you.



“2023 Training for Volunteer Disaster Interpreters/Translators” February 13 (Tue.)

After an introduction to OFIX's volunteer disaster interpretation/translation system and its activities, participants joined a hands-on course at the Osaka Municipal Abeno Disaster Prevention Center, where through direct experience they learned about disaster prevention and skills. Afterwards, the participants discussed in groups about the difficulties they would face and the support they would need in the time of a disaster from the perspective of foreign resident.

Next, Mr. Adhikari Bikash, a registered consultant at OFIX for Nepali, shared his own story of experiencing the Kumamoto earthquake that occurred in 2016. He spoke about how the earthquake occurred soon after arriving in Japan, how difficult it was to eat the provided rice balls, and how he could not drink the provided tea because it was too bitter. Once again, we were made aware of how things that seem normal to Japanese people can be difficult to those from other countries.

Finally, the participants were divided into groups according to their language and practiced interpreting for a hypothetical disaster situation. Participants interpreted a conversation between a foreign resident/visitor and a multilingual disaster information center staff member in their respective languages.

After the role play, the foreign resident/visitor gave feedback to the group as a whole, and participants commented that it was very helpful. Later, a record of this training and a website on disaster terminology in Plain Japanese were shared with all registered volunteer disaster interpreters/translators.



“The 2nd Osaka Prefecture Disaster Support Network Meeting for Foreign Residents in 2023” March 25 (Mon.)

This meeting is held twice a year in order to smoothly provide support to foreign residents in the event of a large-scale disaster in the Osaka area.

Amidst the growing interest in support for foreign residents following the Noto Peninsula earthquake that occurred on New Year's Day, we invited Mr. Mitsuru Masuda, representative of the Medical Interpreter Network for Disaster (J-MIND), to speak about medical interpretation in times of disaster, which included a report on his activities in Noto. His activities were also covered by the media and thoughts from the foreign victims who received interpretation support related to the disaster are shown in the video.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgjT8AlteoU>) Participants also asked many questions in advance about J-MIND's activities ranging from their regular cooperation with consultation services to the planning of co-sponsored projects.

Throughout the discussions showing his direct experience, participants learned about medical interpreting in times of disaster, which cannot fully be handled by international exchange associations alone.



Interview of Former House Manager at Orion International House

Mr. Nakamura, who worked as the house manager at Orion International House for 13 years, retired at the end of March 2024. Before his retirement, we asked him about his experiences and thoughts of his work up until now. Mr. Nakamura, thank you very much for your long service at Orion and all of your hard work!

Self Introduction

My name is Nakamura and I am the house manager of Orion International House. I was hired as the house manager of Orion International House in April 2011, just when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, and I have continued working here for 13 years. However, due to my age, it has become difficult to commute long distances, so I will be retiring and handing my work over to a new house manager.

Over the past 13 years, I have welcomed in and sent off many different types of international students from many different countries. My daily experiences with these students are vividly etched into my memory and I will never forget them. It has been such a great experience for me.



Mr. Nakamura at Orion International House

Becoming a House Manager

I worked for a long time as an engineer in a foreign company that handled a German manufacturer's equipment that is used in the commercial printing process "pre-press". I installed machines, responded to problems that occurred, and I had many opportunities to travel to training centers in Germany as well as to other countries for equipment training courses. I met and befriended engineers from many different countries and have experienced first hand how wonderful it is to be able to connect with people from other countries.

When I was job hunting after retiring from this company, I saw a job posting for a house manager at OFIX's Orion International House. The dorm acts as the welcome point for international students coming from abroad to this very international city Osaka, and I wanted to spend my life promoting internationalization through supporting the lives of international students in the dorm. So with this goal I applied and was hired.

House Manager Work Duties

The job of a house manager is to manage the entirety of Orion International House as an on-site OFIX employee. The duties of a house manager include: fixing any problems with the inside or outside dorm facilities, managing moving-in and moving-out procedures, managing the mail for dorm residents, receiving mail in place of residents and then handing it to them later, answering any consultations, questions, or claims residents may have, and assisting any non-dorm residents who visit the dorm. In the event of a disaster such as a typhoon, I may have to stay at the dorm until the disaster situation settles down.

Things I Keep in Mind While Working

Students who wish to study abroad in Japan may feel anxious and unsure about many things since they will be living away from their home country. If the house manager is difficult to approach, it makes it difficult for students to ask questions or to ask for advice. Therefore, I try my best to be easy to talk to and approachable.

I intentionally try to talk to all the dorm residents on a daily basis, saying "Have a nice day (Itterasshai)" when I see them going out and "Welcome back (Okaerinasai)" when I see them coming back home. In my experience, many residents do not respond to these greetings at first, but if I continue to greet them, their reactions change to replying with "I'm heading out (Ittekimasu)", "I'm back (Tadaima)" or some sort of gesture. This helps increase a sense of friendship with the dorm residents and then they even begin to initiate greetings or talking to me. In addition, as these interactions increase, I can match names to faces which then makes it easier to interact when the job requires me to contact a specific resident.

Difficulties or Special Memories

Orion International House is a place where many international students live together in one place, so when the coronavirus broke out, being anxious daily about the virus was difficult and it was all an unforgettable experience. There were a few dorm residents who had to isolate in their rooms, but we got through the peak of the virus without any major outbreaks in the dorm. I think this is because the residents at the time did a great job at taking care of themselves.

Another memory that sticks out is when former residents had a chance to come back to Japan, they would stop by to see me because they were in the neighborhood or said they miss their dorm days. It made me also remember when they lived here and it would touch my heart.

An additional part of the interview will be posted on OFIX's official [note](#) account, so please check it out!

オリオン寮・Orion International House
<https://www.ofix.or.jp/dormitory/>



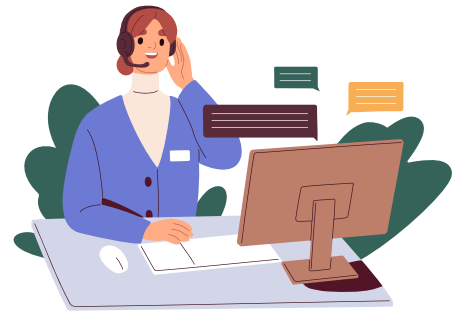
Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Monday & Friday 9:00~20:00 (the 3rd & 4th Friday of each month 9:00~21:00), Tuesday to Thursday 9:00~17:30, and the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month 13:00~17:00

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

Tel : 06-6941-2297

Email : jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp ※only for Japanese and English



We Also Offer Consultations with Specialists

We offer consultations with specialists (lawyer consultations, bureaucratic consultations, labor consultations, immigration consultations, and therapeutic counseling with a certified clinical psychologist) for foreign residents every month. Please feel free to use these services. A reservation is required in advance.

*Please note that there are some specialized consultations that are not held every month.

For details, please see the event calendar on our website.

<https://ofix.or.jp/calendar/>

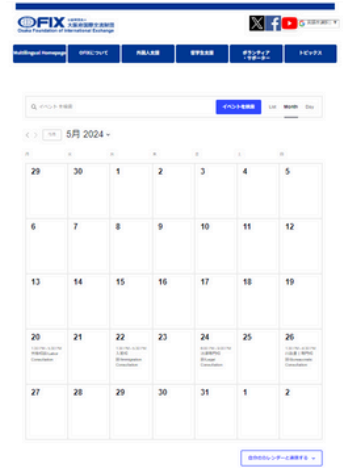
Frequently Asked Questions for Living in Japan

A collection of questions about daily life for foreign residents is posted on our website in 11 different languages.

There are various topics such as immigration, nationality, marriage, medical care/welfare, labor/work, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions (11 languages)

<https://ofix.or.jp/life-in-japan-faq-japanese/>



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) and Report (yearly) containing information on OFIX activities and international exchange
- ◆ FREE banner advertisements (for corporate members)

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JICA Osaka Desk @OFIX

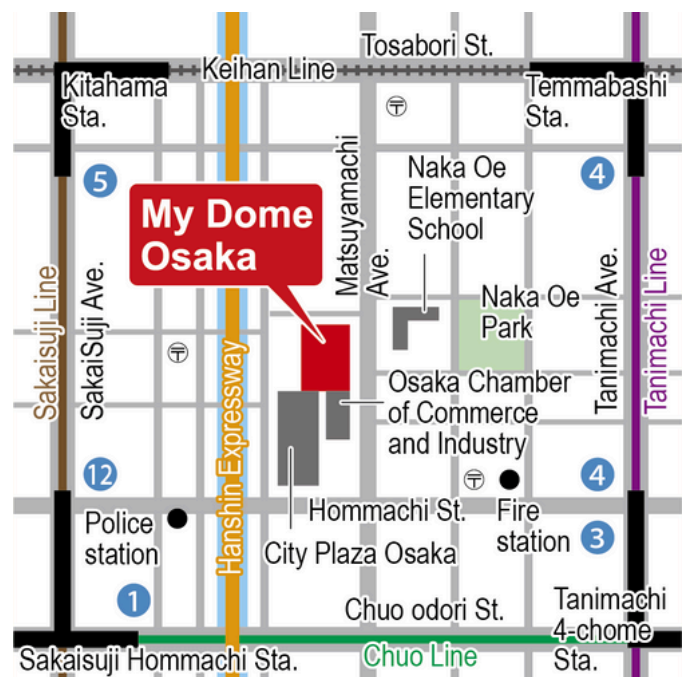
Tel: 06-6966-2400

Email: jicadpd-desk-osakafu@jica.go.jp



For comments and suggestions, go to info@ofix.or.jp

Access



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