

## FOCUS

### CCAIE Coordinator Interview

We interviewed a coordinator for our Cross Cultural Awareness Education Program about her experiences and what she finds important during her time working in cross cultural awareness education. → P. 3



Official Character  
Bora-chan

## TOPICS

- Plain Japanese Language Training
- Our Widening Volunteer Circle  
~Cross Cultural Awareness Education and Community Interpretation~
- Free Consultation Information

## ▶▶ Plain Japanese Language Training ◀◀

Smooth communication is essential for foreign residents and foreign nationals to live stress-free in Japan. However, with the increasing number of diverse languages and cultures, it is no longer enough to just provide support for each language. If we focus on diversity, one way to further provide support is to help foreign residents build their Japanese language ability since there are many skilled Japanese language teachers and Japanese language schools. Another way is for those who have frequent contact with foreigners, such as at local government facilities and stores, to try to communicate in a more simple and easy way with "plain Japanese". At OFIX we offer an interactive training program to learn "plain Japanese".

### Past Trainings

#### 1st Training

“Communicate in Communicable ‘Plain Japanese’ Lecture (Speaking)”

Date and Time: Friday, July 5, 2024 13:30~16:30

Location: Osaka Prefectural Labor Center (L Osaka)

Participants: 55 participants

Lecturer: International Multi-Culture Training Lab.

Representative Yoshihiro Matsumoto

Details: The participants were local government officials, with 90% of them attending "plain Japanese" training for the first time. Also 75% of participants requested continuing training (e.g. for written Japanese).

Participants' Thoughts:

- I realized that the words and honorifics I use unconsciously on a daily basis are difficult for foreign residents to understand.
- I realized how difficult it is to choose what the main thing is that I want to convey to them or ask them to do.
- I learned that it is necessary not only to communicate information, but also to change my wording with an attempt to encourage an action beyond that.
- I was so concentrated on simplifying the text that I did not think of adding extra information.



### Upcoming Trainings

#### 2nd Training

“Foreign Human Resources Coexistence Support Seminar  
“Plain Japanese Language Training”

Date and Time: Monday, January 27, 2025 14:00~16:00

Location: Ikeda Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Lecturer: Kobe YWCA Academy Japanese Teacher Training  
Course Coordinator Takeshi Fukui

Target Participants: Persons in charge of hiring foreign human resources at companies, local government officials, etc.

#### 3rd Training

“Plain Japanese Language Training for Welfare and Child Social Workers”

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 14:00~16:30

Location: Mydome Osaka

Lecturer: Citizen's Network for Global Activities  
Coordinator Midori Nii

Target Participants: Welfare and child social workers, social welfare council employees etc.

#### 4th Training

“Plain Japanese Study Group for Everyone”

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 13:30~16:00

Location: Izumisano City Southern Residents Exchange Center

Lecturer: Medical Interpreter Research Group (MEDINT)  
President Noriko Muramatsu

Target Participants: Social welfare council employees, local government staff, community inclusion officers, people from foreign resident support groups, volunteers, etc.

# ~Our Widening Volunteer Circle~

OFIX is looking for volunteers aiming to help create a multicultural community. People from various different countries are working as volunteers (language volunteers, disaster-related volunteer interpreters/translators, and cross-cultural awareness education supporters).

## Types of Volunteers and What They Do

### ○ Language Volunteers

Provide interpretation at city halls or translation for administrative public relations materials, etc.

### ○ Disaster-Related Volunteer Interpreters/Translators

Provide interpretation and translation (on-site or online) for multilingual support centers that will be set up in disaster stricken areas in the event of a large-scale disaster such as an earthquake.

### ○ Cross Cultural Awareness Education Supporters

Visit schools and/or classes throughout the prefecture to offer interactive classes that deepen understanding of different cultures through introducing their home country's culture and history, along with giving students an opportunity to experience their country's traditional dances, instruments, games etc.

## What are Community Interpretation Services?

What do you think of when you hear the term “community interpretation services”?

The word “interpreting” may conjure up images of international conferences, business meetings, entertainment, and sports, but community interpreters provide language support to foreign residents so that they can receive the public services they need in their daily lives.

These include various procedures at city hall, health checkups for infants and toddlers, parent-teacher conferences at schools, etc. However, this also includes welfare-related matters such as public assistance, and in some cases, interpretation during consultations with specialists such as bureaucratic specialists.

OFIX operates a language volunteer system, but most of its activities would be classified under community interpretation services. As an organization active in the Osaka area, many of our volunteers interpret particularly for child consultation centers and special support schools.

A certain level of language proficiency is required to interpret, but a wide variety of background knowledge is also very helpful. Many foreign residents are more perplexed by the different administrative service systems (health insurance, pensions, etc.) in different countries than by the language itself. It is important to know not only the field where the interpretation is taking place, but also the administrative services, culture, and religious values of the foreign resident's country of origin.



## Community Interpreter Training

OFIX provides training twice a year for volunteers interested in multilingual support. The training covers the basic knowledge related to community interpretation services and helps newly registered volunteers as well as volunteers with little experience.

The content of the training is based on knowledge of various fields such as administration or education, as well as the basic position of community interpreters. The goal is to improve their skills as interpreters through lectures and group work.

### 1st Training

#### Volunteer Community Interpreter Training

Date and Time: Monday, July 22 13:30~17:00

Location: Mydome Osaka, 8th Floor,  
Conference Room 3

Participants: 23 people

Lecturer: Ms. Yumi Lee,  
President, Multilingual Center FACIL

Content:

- Lecture about "What Types of Interpreters are Needed Today? ~From the Perspective of a Translation/Interpretation Coordinator"
- Group Work  
"What do you do in this situation?"
- Roleplaying

Participants' Comments:

- Her lecture was easy to understand.
- It made me realize that there are many fields I don't have knowledge about.
- I would like more role play time.
- Regarding future training, I would like to experience roleplaying for parent-teacher conferences at schools.

## CCAIE Coordinator Interview

We interviewed a coordinator for our Cross Cultural Awareness Education Program about her experiences and what she finds important during her time working in cross cultural awareness education.

Q. Please give us a brief self-introduction. (Home country, why you came to Japan etc.)

A. Hello everyone. I am Hu Nannan from China. I moved to Osaka last year. I was drawn by the warmth of the people here and I fell in love with Osaka. I am now taking on many challenges as a volunteer and as a coordinator for the Cross Cultural Awareness Education Program.

Q. What made you want to register as a supporter for the Cross Cultural Awareness Education Program?

A. Since I was in college, I have worked with international students to introduce the culture of their home countries to Japanese people and held various international exchange events at school. It is a lot of fun, and the exposure to each other's culture helps us understand each other better and live together more easily. It helps me see the importance of cross cultural awareness education.

Also, I found the introduction section on OFIX's website for the cross cultural awareness education program.

I became interested in introducing Chinese culture to children using my college experience, so I registered as a supporter.

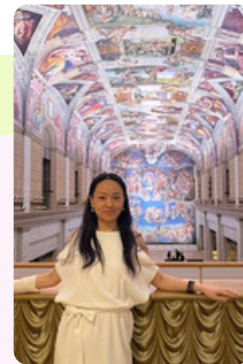
Q. Why did you apply for the position of a coordinator for the Cross Cultural Awareness Education Program?

A. After working as a supporter for the CCAIE classes, I was approached by OFIX staff and I applied for the coordinator position because of the job description (working with children and the chance to learn about multiple cultures) and because of the flexible work hours that fit my lifestyle.

Q. What is important to you as a coordinator?

A. As a coordinator, I always strive to ensure that the activities of our supporters run smoothly.

Also, I try to facilitate communication with the school and help facilitate the Q&A section after a supporter's class. When I teach classes as a supporter, I also try to plan topics and hands-on activities that would be interesting to the specific grade I am teaching.



An extra part of this interview will be posted on OFIX's official NOTE, so please check it out.

## Gathering for Foreign Residents

The 1st Gathering: "Let's Hear from Veteran Foreign Residents About Working in Japan!"

Date and Time: Friday, September 20 14:00~16:00

Location: β Honmachibashi

Rental Space "Labo" 2nd Floor

Participants: 11 people

Content: Through a panel discussion with veteran foreign residents, participants heard about their experiences, specific advice, and were able to directly ask questions as they discussed each topic.

Participants' Comments:

- I learned a lot from talking with people working in Japanese society.
- It was great to get to ask so many questions.



## Ritsumeikan University "Asia Week"

Ritsumeikan University "Asia Week" 2024

Date and Time: Sunday, October 20 10:00~16:00

Location: Ritsumeikan University Ibaraki Campus

Participants: 50 people

- Content:
- ① A supporter from Peru introduced a traditional Peruvian game called "Jackston," a popular Latin American game called "dominoes," and Spanish tongue twisters.
  - ② A supporter from China introduced famous spots in China and played a kanji quiz with participants.
  - ③ A supporter from Mongolia played the traditional Mongolian game "Shagai" with the participants, and there was also time for children to try on traditional Mongolian clothing.



# Free Consultation Information

**1/18 (Saturday) 13:00 ~ 17:00**

## One-day Information Service for Foreigners

- Location : International House, Osaka 2nd Floor  
(8-2-6 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka City)
- Consultation Topics : Law, human rights, immigration and residency (visa), labor, employment, daily life, medical, dentistry, medication, health insurance, pension, raising children, school/higher education, taxes, and business management
- Available Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepali, Russian, and Ukrainian
- How to Consult : In-person or by phone (No reservation required)

**1/25 (Saturday) 13:00 ~ 16:00**

## One-day Consultation Service by Lawyers for Foreign Residents

- Location : Toyonaka Shonai Municipal Shonai Community Center, Shonai Collaboration Center Shocora 4th Floor  
(4-29-1, Shonaisaiwai-cho, Toyonaka City)
- Consultation Topics : Law, human rights, labor and daily life
- Available Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Nepali
- How to Consult : In-person  
(Reservations are required at least one week in advance for those who wish to consult with an interpreter.)
- For Inquiries : Association for Toyonaka Multicultural Symbiosis  
(TEL: 06-6843-4343)

## 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's activities and international exchange
- ◆ FREE banner advertisements (for corporate members)

※ Donations to public interest foundations are eligible for tax benefits

## Want your banner to shine on our page?

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/banners/> ※ To be updated

## JICA Osaka Desk @OFIX

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For comments and suggestions, go to [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

December and January  
OFIX Consultations with a Specialist  
for Foreign Residents

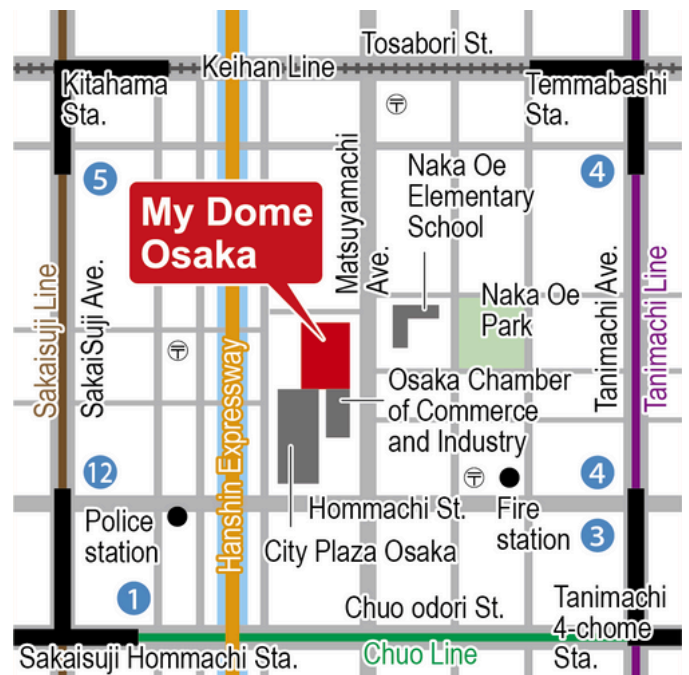
- Location : OFIX (2-5 Honmachibashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka Mydome Osaka 5th Floor)
- Consultation Dates, Times and Content :
  - ▷ Immigration Consultations  
12/25(Wed) 13:30~17:30  
1/22(Wed) 13:30~17:30
  - ▷ Legal Consultations  
12/22(Sun) 13:30~16:30  
1/24(Fri) 18:00~21:00
  - ▷ Bureaucratic Consultations  
12/20(Fri) 18:00~21:00  
1/26(Sun) 13:30~16:30
  - ▷ Labor Consultations  
12/2(Mon) 13:30~17:30  
12/16(Mon) 13:30~17:30  
1/6(Mon) 13:30~17:30  
1/20(Mon) 13:30~17:30  
1/23(Thu) 18:00~20:00
- Available Languages : 13 Languages
- How to Consult : In person, online, or by phone  
※ Reservation required

Please see the event  
calendar for details!

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



## Access



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