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### (1) Notices

#### ■ Careers Information Day for International Students

##### \*\*Participating Companies Confirmed\*\*

This event provides an opportunity for international students to meet with companies (both Japanese and international) looking to hire international students. There will also be plenty of general information available on job-hunting in Japan.

##### Eligible to attend:

International students graduated in March 2010 or scheduled to graduate in March 2011.

Japanese and international companies looking to hire international students.

Companies Confirmed:

Around 30 companies including, Kyocera, Shimadzu, USJ, Sumitomo Electric, Komeri, Suminoe Textile, Synztec.

##### Outline:

Company booths (around 30), consultation corner, career counseling, status of residence/visa advice, HR staff advice.

#### ■ Information and Advice Day for Foreign Residents

Free information and counseling services will be offered to foreign residents at International House, Osaka to help with difficulties experienced in everyday life, and offer advice on how to live comfortably in Osaka. Specialist advice will be available regarding many common difficulties experienced by foreign residents such as legal advice, visa issues, work, insurance, and child-rearing. Volunteers will provide interpretation in 10 languages, and all advice is offered free of charge.

**Date/Time:** Sat 26<sup>th</sup> June 10:00-17:00

**Venue:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, My Dome Osaka

**Participation:** Free

**Enquiries:** OFIX Tel: 06-6966-2400

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

Further details: :



<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index2.html>

\*\*\* We look forward to seeing you there \*\*\*

**Date/Time:** Sun 11th July 2010, 11:00 ~ 17:00

**Venue:** 2nd Floor Meeting Room, International House, Osaka

Admission Free

**Languages available:** English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese, Japanese

**Further Details:** OFIX TEL: 06-6966-2400

**Homepage:**

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/news.html#information>

## (2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

### ■ Information about Child Allowance

This April saw the start of the new Child Allowance system in Japan. Foreign residents registered with the authorities in Japan are eligible to receive this allowance for any children they have aged between 0 and the age of finishing junior high school. If your residential status is "short-term" or "entertainer", or you have no residential status you are not eligible to receive the allowance. The new allowance differs to the previous Children's Allowance, in that there is no limit set according to the income of the applicant. Children living abroad are also applicable, but in this case the applicant, must meet with the child at least twice a year, or the applicant's passport must show they have left and reentered Japan more than 2 times a year to meet the child. They must also confirm that living expenses are being sent to the child

at least once every 4 months. The applicant must also prove that he/she was living with the child prior to coming to Japan. (However, this policy with regards to payment of the allowance to children living abroad may be reviewed during the next financial year). The allowance totals 13,000 Yen a month per child, paid in three payments (June, October, February).

◎Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents  
(Mon ~ Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)

Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297 (Hours 9:00 ~ 17:45)  
Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

## (3) OFIX Network

### ■ Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Osaka

#### 1. The Consulate General

The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Osaka was opened in 1976. The Consulate General covers the Kinki, Shikoku, and Chugoku regions (apart from Yamaguchi). There are a total of 26 Consul's each covering a particular area such as politics and culture, trade, education, and general affairs. The current Consul General is Mr. Zheng Xianglin, and the Vice Consul General is Ms. Zhang Xin.

#### 2. Shanghai Expo

The Shanghai Expo began on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. It will run for 6 months, and its theme is "Better City, Better Life". A total of 246 nations, regions, and international organisations will exhibit at the event, making it the biggest Expo yet to be held. The logo for the event conveys the ideals of understanding, gathering together to have fun, and cooperation. The mascot for the event represents the treasures of the world, and uses the Chinese character for people.

#### 3. Shanghai Expo Commemorative Event: Shanghai Acrobatic Show

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April, this event was held in Osaka by the Consulate General to commemorate the opening of the Shanghai Expo. It was attended by around 1000 people. In his welcome greeting prior to the show the Consul General said that "the Expo is a chance to learn from each other, and deepen our understanding and friendship". The Governor of Osaka Prefecture then

expressed his excitement at visiting the Expo in July alongside the Mayor of Osaka City. The audience was then amazed by the show which included many amazing acrobatic feats. The



Shanghai acrobats will be performing in Osaka up until the 6<sup>th</sup> June at a special arena on Nakanoshima in Osaka City. Further details (Japanese only): <http://www.zatsugi-revo.com>

#### 4. China Proficiency Test

This test has been organised by the Consulate General to commemorate the opening of the Shanghai Expo, and to promote understanding of China and the Expo amongst Osaka citizens. The questions and answer sheet will be put on the Consulate Generals website on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, an awards ceremony for the top placed students is scheduled to be held at the start of August. Prizes will include a return trip to Shanghai, as well as mascot goods. Anyone with Japanese citizenship can take part. For further details please see the following page from 15<sup>th</sup> June (Japanese only).

⇒ <http://osaka.china-consulate.org/jpn>

## (4) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ Accent Fun

Hi everyone, Richard here again.

This month I'd like to share a few thoughts on the different dialects and accents that can be found in both English and Japanese. Of course when you start to learn a language it is important thing is to gain a grasp of the standard form of speech and pronunciation. The textbooks that I used to learn Japanese only mentioned standard Japanese and didn't even mention the many different regional dialects that I would come across here. Osaka has its own dialect (Osaka-ben), and as a result when I first came to Osaka I wasn't really sure what most people were saying. Standard Japanese is what is spoken in Tokyo, and understood (if not spoken) by the majority of people all over Japan.

Having lived in Osaka now for nearly 3 years I more or less understand what people are talking about, and in fact I am sure there are many words I now take as standard Japanese which are in fact Osaka dialect! If I ever move to Tokyo I'll be in trouble! Actually this is the reason I try, in the workplace at least, to speak predominantly in standard Japanese. At the weekends though I do my best to live as an Osaka-ben speaking native!

In Japan I have met many people who come up to me and say how much they like British

English, and find it much easier to understand than American or Australian English. I always find this an amusing comment, since they are quite obviously only talking about BBC English, the admittedly easy to understand English spoken by newscasters. Although there are no drastically different dialects spoken in the UK, there are hundreds of different regional accents. I'm not sure the people that say they find British English the easiest to understand would be of the same opinion after an afternoon in Glasgow, Newcastle, or Belfast!

It always strikes me as amusing that some people have a preference for what type of English they want to learn. Although there are of course some phrases particular to the UK, US, or Australia, for the most part we speak the same language! Therefore to my ears, this preference for British English, is merely a preference to "sound" British. In my opinion if you can speak clearly and make yourself understood, then the accent you use is of no importance whatsoever. If you think about it, the majority of English speakers in the world today are non-native in any case! Having said that, I would love to hear a Japanese person speaking English in a Welsh accent one day!

## (5) Osaka International Club News

### ■ Kai-hsiang Liang (Taiwan), 2009 Ando Programme Participant

Hello everyone, my name is Kai-hsiang Liang, from Taiwan. I was a participant on last years Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (Ando Programme). I was one of the 10 participants all hailing from different countries and regions around Asia. During my time on the programme I realized that even on the same topics all of the participants had wide and varying views. Since returning to our respective homes, we have all kept in touch with each other. In April of this year, my fellow participant, Eka, from Indonesia, told me that Taiwan would be holding a world-class competition, and he invited me and some friends from different parts of Asia to join. After hearing about the project I immediately said yes. Partly because taking part would enable me to learn about how architects from different regions approach designing for a complex area in Taiwan,

and of course partly because I would be able to work in conjunction with friends from different countries, which is very interesting for me! I feel so lucky that I was able to take part in the Ando Programme, for it has enabled me to make such positive links with people from around the world. No matter the result of the competition, I believe simply taking part will prove to be a great experience for me.

I also heard from Eka that a reunion for all Indonesian participants on the Ando Programme planned to take place at the end of the year. I very much hope that links between participants can continue to flourish in the year ahead.



## (6) OFIX Sakai International Student Hall News

### ■ Exchange Party for Students and Local Residents

This party was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at the Sakai International Student Hall which OFIX runs. The aim of the event was to promote exchange between the international students living there and local residents.



Members from Senshu Himawari Net also came along and provided a magic show, and a demonstration of handmade Japanese toys and games. The magic show in particular was great fun, and all watching tried their best to work out how the various tricks were done.

Members of the local residents association took the

time to teach some basic Japanese calligraphy, and a local police officer also came along to tell the new residents about safety in the area.

Next up two students from Russia and Brazil wowed the group with a spirited Brazilian dance, and the event was rounded off with a really fun bingo game led by the students. Prizes included such useful items as washing up liquid and soap! It was a wonderful event and a fun time was had by all. The next party is scheduled for December.



### ■ Seeking residents at Sakai International Hall

※ Further details⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index.html>



### ★Osaka Prefectural Government E-Newsletter★ 『GEO(Global E-net Osaka)』

Full of information about events in Osaka, and fun facts about the area.

⇒ <http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kokusai/geo/index.html>

### ★Other Notices★

- Donations for Osaka exhibition at 2010 Shanghai Expo: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#syanghai>
- Information for foreign residents in Osaka <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/life/index.html>
- Japan Times (English language newspaper) now available to read at OFIX Plaza!

Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

Osaka International Club Reports: [clubnews@ofix.or.jp](mailto:clubnews@ofix.or.jp)

Register to OFIX News: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>

OFIX News Back Numbers:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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