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(1) Notices**■ Job Fair for International Students !**

This event is held to offer international students an opportunity to meet with HR staff from companies interested in hiring international students.

Date/Time: : Saturday
15th January 2011,
10am-5pm

Venue: 1st Floor Event

Hall, My Dome Osaka (2-5 Honmachi-bashi, Chuou-ku, Osaka 540-0029)

Eligible to attend:

- Companies (Japanese and foreign) interested in hiring international students
- Students scheduled to graduate in March 2011 or 2012, or those already graduated.

Details:**① Company Booths**

Separate booths run by all 60 participating companies

② Individual Consultation Corners

Advice from careers counselors
Advice on residential statuses

③ Seminars

Advice on residential status
Job hunting tips DVD corner

Participation is free

Enquiries: Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

Tel: 06-6966-2400 E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

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

○ Registration is required to attend. Please see the following page for details on how to register, and for a list of participating companies

<http://www.grs-project.jp>

We look forward to seeing you there

■ Overnight "Hinanjo" Training for Foreign Residents

This event is organized by OFIX and the International House Osaka, in collaboration with Kinki CLAIR, the Osaka Prefectural Government, and the Osaka City Government. Many foreign residents are unaware of "hinanjo" (emergency shelters) that come into use at times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons. This event will give participants a chance to stay in a mock "hinanjo", find out where "hinanjo" are situated, and also gain advice from the director of the Center for Multicultural Information & Assistance (Osaka).

Date/Time: Saturday 18th December 4pm ~ Sunday 19th December 10am

Venue: 3rd Floor, International House Osaka (8-2-6 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka)

Details: The aim is to inform foreign residents about evacuation shelters which are used at times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, through an overnight stay in a mock shelter, and the giving of

lectures on related subjects. Meals provided will be emergency food used in such situations.

Participation is free

Provided: Sleeping bag, meals

Application deadline: Friday 10th December

Places available: 50

How to apply:

Send your address, name, nationality, sex, phone number (email address) by either phone, fax, or email to the International House Osaka. Contact details are as follows:

Address: 8-2-6 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka

Tel: 06-6773-8182

Fax: 06-6773-8421

E mail: johokikaku@ih-osaka.or.jp

* Interpreters in various languages on hand to help

For general enquiries please contact OFIX

Tel: 06-6966-2400

(2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Social Security Treaties

Recent years have seen a marked increase in the people living and working abroad, with many more foreigners working in Japan, as well as Japanese living abroad. This can lead to problems such as paying into two pension schemes at the same time, and failing to meet requirements for receipt of pension, leading to the cessation of pension payments. In order to solve such problems Japan has mutual agreements in place with a number of countries such as Germany, Korea, the UK, and America. In July of this year Japan entered into a social security treaty with Brazil. This is the 14th such treaty for Japan, and each one is slightly different. In the Brazilian treaty, the period of insurance payments made in each country is totalized, meaning that payments are not missed. Also, for work placements abroad lasting less than 5 years, the person involved is exempt from having

to enroll in the foreign pension scheme. Foreign residents in Japan who have contributed to the national pension and employees' pension insurance schemes for over 6 months are entitled apply for a lump-sum withdrawal payment (applications must be made within 2 years of leaving Japan). However, those applying should be aware that this then means the payments made during the period spent in Japan then become void.

◎ Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

(Mon ~ Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)

Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297 (Hours 9:00 ~ 17:30)

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

(3) OFIX Programme Report

■ Job Hunting Support Seminar for International Students

Recent years has seen an increase in the number of international students seeking to find work in Japan after graduation. However, in the current economic climate the active hiring of new graduates has become more difficult for Japanese companies. Having said this many companies are attracted to international students because of the global outlook they possess.

With this comes the important role of bringing companies and international students together. It is with this in mind that this year sees OFIX running Job Hunting Support Seminars for International Students.

The seminars are attended by international students studying at colleges and universities in Osaka, and focus on things such as the recruiting schedule in Japan, self-evaluation of skills and qualifications, understanding of what companies

are looking for, hints and tips for entry exams and interviews, and lectures on residential statuses for working in Japan. All of this information will also be compiled into a manual to be distributed amongst schools and universities in Osaka.

Seminars have been taking place since October of this year, with successful sessions already held at Kansai University and the Hospitality Tourism College Osaka. Seminars are currently being held at the Osaka University of Economics and Law and the Osaka Sangyo University, with future seminars planned to take place at universities involved in the Sakai City International Student Exchange Committee, and at the ECC Kokusai College of Foreign Languages in January. We hope to have the manual completed and sent out to schools before the end of March 2011.

(4) OFIX Network

■ Survey into Information Dissemination to Foreign Residents in Osaka

Hello everyone, my name is Mari Yanagisaki. Since October I have been working as a researcher for the survey into information dissemination to foreign residents which is currently being undertaken by OFIX in collaboration with Minoh Association for Global

Awareness, and the Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Centre.

The aim of the research is to find out exactly how much information on administrative procedures and life in Japan reaches foreigners or those with foreign roots living in Osaka. We are also hoping to

locate the key people acting as focal points in the dissemination of information to foreign residents.

With the results of the survey we aim to enhance the level of information that reaches foreign residents and those with foreign roots living in Osaka, and awareness of how best to come by the information.

Along with my fellow researchers and interpreters, I am visiting places frequented by foreign residents such as consulate generals, municipal international exchange organizations, NGOs involved in supporting foreign residents, religious institutions such as churches and mosques, and Japanese language schools.

When interviewing people at these places we are often lucky enough to gain introductions to other groups and people worth talking to. Thanks to the support of a great many people we have so far spoken to over 300 people.

It seems that there are many different reasons for people not gaining sufficient access to

important information. We do our best to interview people face to face, which helps us to gain more in depth information, with prior experiences leading to ideas for the future revealing themselves as we talk. This has shown us the importance of such in person interviews, and has been a really interesting part of the whole project.

On a personal note I was born and raised in Osaka, and over the years have made many foreign friends through both work and school. However, taking part in this project has really made me realize how international Osaka is. Also it is possible that the amount of information being received differs depending on the community in question. I will continue my research over the coming months to better ascertain the level of information dissemination amongst international communities in Osaka, and hopefully contribute to the development of a better system for the future.

(5) Osaka International Club News

■ Letter from Abroad

Former International Student (OFIX Scholarship Student), You Jun Chen (China)

Hello everyone. My name is You Jun Chen, and I was an OFIX Scholarship student from April 2007 to March 2009. It is now more than a year and a half since I left Japan and the time has flown by so quickly. I often think of the time I spent in Osaka, my second home. I truly hope to visit again in the near future.

As many of you will know the World Exposition was recently held this year in Shanghai from May 1st to October 31st. According to official statistics, during the 184 days of the Expo a total of over 70 million people visited the site. The day with the highest attendance was the 16th October with over 1 million visitors.

Of course the success of the event was not just down to the organizers in China, but thanks to the support of countries around the world including Japan and other Asian nations.

The Japanese in particular contributed so much towards the event with not only a Japan Pavilion, but a Japanese industry showcase, and of course the Osaka Pavilion. Okinawa and Nara also put together showcases introducing regional culture and food to visitors from around the world.

Indeed, along with the Saudi Arabia Pavilion, and China Pavilion, the Japan Pavilion was one of the 3 most popular pavilions. Personally I was most impressed with the way the Japanese Crested Ibis character was used to guide visitors through the exhibitions on the latest technology, traditional culture and arts. There was also lots of information about Sino-Japanese friendship relations.

I was lucky enough to take part in the opening ceremony on the 30th April, and in the Expo Summit held on the 31st October. In total I visited the site over 10 times, guiding visitors from Japan,



America, and Europe. Despite all of these visits, it was not enough to see everything. The Shanghai Expo was an opportunity for China to promote exchange with the world, as well as enhance economical and cultural relations.

(6)OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ The Wonders of Osaka

Hi everyone, Richard here yet again!

I realized that over the past few months my articles have been rather too serious perhaps, with my getting on my high horse about various topics. Well, I thought I'd give you all a break from that for a month or so! This month, I'm going to write about the wonders of Osaka, something I really should have written about months, if not years ago!

Like the best things in life, the wonders of Osaka take their time to emerge, but after living here for 3 years I have really come to love the city. Having said this, it is not the most obvious of places for sightseeing. I have tried asking locals for recommendations on numerous occasions, and even they have problems coming up with places. The list usually consists of the following: Dotonbori, Osaka Castle, Universal Studios Japan, and the Osaka Aquarium. All worth a look, but to be honest, not that exciting for western tourists, who tend to be much more interested in the ancient temples of Kyoto and Nara, especially if it is a once in a lifetime trip to Japan.

However, if you are trying to decide where to live in the Kansai area, I would wholeheartedly recommend Osaka. It is a place whose character reveals itself over time, and is therefore fairly hard to appreciate during a short visit. First and foremost it is the people of Osaka that make it such a great place. Osakans are so full of verve and good humour that you are guaranteed to make friends almost as soon as your plane touches down at Kansai Airport. If the common stereotype of Japanese people is a

tendency towards shyness and conservative behavior, then whoever came up with that stereotype can't have visited Osaka!

People in Osaka seem to be a fair bit more easy going than elsewhere, which in my opinion is never a bad thing! Perhaps being the centre of Japanese comedy has helped Osaka develop this way, with a laugh always being around the corner even when things get tough. There is also a genuine interest in foreign countries and cultures here. People are always saying hello to me in the streets which never really happened in the other places I have lived in Japan. Admittedly most of the time it is kids calling me Harry Potter or American (neither of which are true!).

Then there is the food. Osaka really is a place where you can eat until you drop! The sheer number of restaurants to suit all tastes still amazes me. With eating out often cheaper than cooking at home there really is no excuse not to head out and enjoy yourself in the city. Drinking also plays a big part of life in Osaka, but it is always good-natured, and after a few beers at a local bar you are sure to have made a few new friends.

But it's not just the bawdy side of things that Osaka does well. Osaka is full of culture, being the focal point of a number of world famous traditional Japanese performing arts such as Bunraku (puppet theatre), and Kabuki. Osaka is also home to the largest ancient burial mounds (kofun) in Japan, mainly situated in Sakai, just south of Osaka City.

So forget the apparent lack of surefire tourist sites for a second, and enjoy Osaka for what it is. An exciting melting pot of culture, history, great food, and last but not least some of the warmest and most welcoming people you are likely to meet!



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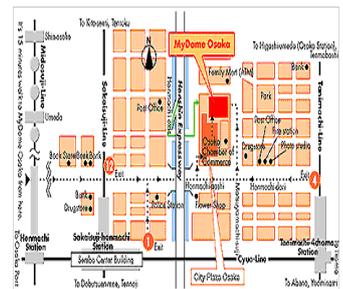
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