

## Contents

### (1) Notices

- Job Fair for International Students
- One World Festival
- ★ OFIX Programme: International Students Forum
- ★ JICA Osaka at the One World Festival
- (2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents
  - Unemployment Procedures in Japan
- (3) Event Reports

- International Exchange Tea Ceremony for International Students

- International Friendship Festival

### (4) OFIX Network

- German Consulate General Osaka-Kobe

### (5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

- Idoling Stop!

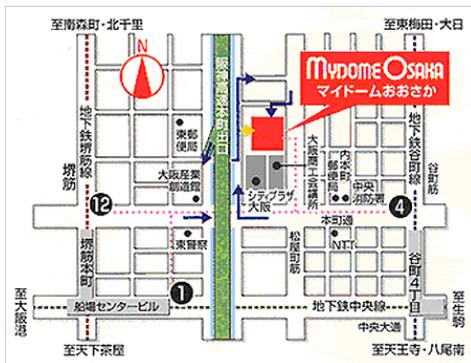
## (1) Notices

### ■ 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. The event is supported by a number of consulate generals based in Kansai, where you can also find flyers for the event.

**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

### ■ One World Festival

The One World Festival will be held at the Osaka International House on the 5th and 6th February. Organizations engaged in international cooperation mainly in the Kansai region, such as NGO/NPOs, international organizations, government organizations and companies, gather together to promote better

understanding among citizens of Osaka of the importance of international cooperation through introduction of their activities, exhibitions, symposiums and panel discussions. OFIX will run a booth, as well as an **International Students Forum**. Please come along!

**Date/Time** Saturday 5th February 2010 10:00 ~ 17:00

Sunday 6th February 2010 10:00 ~ 16:00

**Place:** Osaka International House

**Entrance Fee:** Free

**Enquiries:** One World Festival Secretariat

⇒For further details see the following website:

<http://www.interpeople.or.jp/owf/index.php>

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**★OFIX Programme: International Students Forum**

**Date/Time:** Sun 6<sup>th</sup> February 15 : 00 ~ 17:00

**Place:** Osaka International House

Outline: A number of international students will give presentations on life in Japan, the importance of an

international outlook, and their hopes for an international Osaka. There will also be a chance to chat with the students in small groups. We look forward to seeing you there.

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**★JICA Osaka at the One World Festival**

JICA Osaka will be holding a number of programmes at the One World Festival also. Please come along!

**① From Kansai to the World!**

Participants on programmes such as the World Youth Boat and Japan Overseas Cooperation/Senior Volunteers Programmes hailing from Kansai talk about their time abroad.

**② Find the Trainees !**

Trainees from around the world currently studying at JICA Osaka are dotted around the OWF hall. Say hello and get them to stamp your card. If you fill your card you'll get a small gift!

**③ Trainees Introduce their Home Countries**

Trainees from around the world studying at JICA

Osaka give fascinating insights into current issues facing their home countries.

**④ Learn about Africa!**

~Our Visit to Tanzania~

This summer a group of school teachers visited Tanzania, and on returning to Japan told their pupils all about it. What did they gain from the experience, what did the kids learn, what teaching materials came out of it? Participants report on the programme.

**⑤ JICA Booth**

A JICA booth is situated in the ODA corner. Please come along and feel free to ask JICA staff anything about JICA programmes, working for JICA, upcoming events etc.

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**(2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents**

**■ Unemployment Procedures in Japan**

If a foreigner working in Japan loses his/her job, there are a number of procedures which need to be undertaken. If the person involved was making payments via his/her employer to a health insurance or pension plan, the benefits from these cease with the job. So the person needs to enter the national health insurance and national pension schemes, which can be done by heading to his/her local town hall. However, if the person recently made unemployed becomes the dependant of working family members, they can be placed in the same scheme as those working members. The former worker may decide to continue paying into the former scheme with his/her own money. If all criteria are met to receive unemployment benefit, the applicant must take his/her unemployment form to the nearest Hello Work office, and fill in an application to

receive the benefit. Depending on the reason for unemployment a 3 month limit may be placed on benefit payments. Residential status may be revoked if the person involved has restrictions on the type of work allowed, and does not provide sufficient reasons for not being employed in such work. Also, if the type of work or employer changes, foreign residents must visit their local town hall to alter the information on their alien registration card.

**◎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) Event Reports

#### ■ International Exchange Tea Ceremony for International Students

Over 80 students attended this event held at the Sakai International House on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. Students from countries and regions such as China, Taiwan, and Thailand tried on traditional kimono's and experienced the Japanese tea ceremony. A fun time was had by all with everyone taking lots of photos. In an adjoining room there were lots of activities for the students to try out such as origami,

shogi (Japanese chess), and mixing tea for themselves.



#### ■ International Friendship Festival

This annual International Friendship Festival was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Japanese Language Institute-Kansai. The aim of the event is to promote exchange between students studying Japanese at the Institute, and local residents living nearby. Students ran booths introducing their home countries, and there were also opportunities to try calligraphy, painting, and play with Japanese toys. In the main hall there were a plethora of events such as a fashion show,

and a wonderful Hawaiian dance performance. Everyone had a lovely time at the festival.



### (4) OFIX Network

#### ■ German Consulate General Osaka-Kobe

The Osaka-Kobe German Consulate General is the only one of its kind in Japan. Its history goes back far into the Meiji era, but recent history has found its way even into the name of the institution itself: After decades of successful work in Kobe, the big earthquake of 1995 hit us hard. The consulate was completely destroyed. At least, at 5 o'clock in the morning neither staff nor visitors were present. Thus, fortunately, no one was hurt, but the whole office had virtually disappeared in a moment.

Consequently we had to look for a new location and found office space available in the then newly built Umeda Sky Building in Osaka. Ever since we have resided on the 35<sup>th</sup> floor of its East Wing, being in charge of 29 prefectures of Western and Southern Japan. Please feel free to come by and visit us!

#### 150 Years of German-Japanese Exchange

What is our most prominent activity these days? To explain that we have to go back in history exactly 150 years. In the fall of 1860, a Prussian expedition to East Asia led by Count Friedrich Albrecht zu Eulenburg debarked in Edo bay and effected a treaty of amity and commerce – the foundation of our long-standing and friendly relations. To celebrate this friendship, from fall 2010 to fall 2011 events of all sizes are scheduled

to take place in Germany as well as in Japan. The future in sight, we would like to „raise the treasures of our common past“ so as to build a bridge to the future. Our aim is not only to foster the old-established ties but also to create new bonds, to knit together Germany and Japan using new media and to „win the hearts of the youth for each other“. We would like to particularly motivate young people to develop interest an interest in exchange between Germany and Japan.

Who can participate? Everybody! Cultural institutes, mediator organizations, cultural societies, twinned municipalities, companies as well as involved individuals who stage or would like to support events referring to the German-Japanese relations are asked to get in touch with the organizers.

#### German Christmas Market

The best way to find out about us today is to visit the German Christmas Market located between the towers of Umeda Sky Building, just below our windows. Complete your day with German Bratwurst, a cup of Gluehwein and some nice christmas presents for your beloved ones!

Homepage: <http://www.osaka-kobe.diplo.de/>



## (5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■Idoling Stop!

Hi everyone, Richard here again.

As my friends and family will tell you I am bit a of a snob when it comes to music. Well, I know what I like and what I don't, and what I definitely don't like is manufactured pop music. Unfortunately the majority of mainstream music in Japan is of the manufactured pop variety, and if you only watch TV you'd be mistaken for thinking that is all there is!

Where boy bands are concerned nearly every group is managed by a talent agency called Johnny and Associates, and the collective term for the different idol groups controlled by the agency is "Johnnys". The majority of the fame hungry upstarts enter the agency when they are 11 or 12, and after 3-4 years of training the lucky few get placed in a new idol group ready to sell millions of records. The most successful current acts are SMAP (an acronym for Sports Music Assemble People), and Arashi. Where girl bands are concerned the most popular at the moment is definitely AKB48. Rather unbelievably this band consists of 48 members! I suppose they are covering all bases where their fans are concerned, but to be honest, they pretty much all look the same to me!

SMAP has five members, and although they are technically supposed to be singers, none of them can really hold a note. After 7 years of living in Japan I have just about learnt their names. Takuya Kimura is probably the most popular, apparently being the best looking of the bunch. But personally I think Goro Inagaki is the tastiest.

As with most idol groups they have branched

out into any number of other things such as hosting their own television shows, and acting in movies. Then there are the commercials that all idols take part in. I have always found this rather interesting. Idols (not to mention all popular celebrities, actors etc), seem to have no problem at all lending their name to all manner of products from food, electronic equipment, cars, and the one I find most amusing, baldness treatment products.

In the UK hardly any celebrities or pop stars put themselves in adverts. To do so would equal "selling out", and lead to a lack of credibility. Japanese consumers don't seem to mind if their favourite singer starts selling the latest chocolate bar, but in the UK consumers would just laugh and poke fun. A few foreign celebrities end up making commercials for the Japanese market, but I have heard they always try and do their best to make sure no one back home find out! With the internet though that's not so easy these days!

I tend to get annoyed at the apparent lack of decent mainstream artists in Japan, but I think my mistake here is confusing these idols with artists. The difference? Well, if you asked an idol whether or not they'd continue making music if they weren't famous, the answer would most likely be no. Ask an artist? Well, I may be wrong, but I'd like to think the answer would be yes. Of course there are lots of great music artists in Japan, but finding them requires that you turn your television off and get out there searching.

### ★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★

- Information for foreign residents in Osaka <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/life/index.html>

◎ 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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