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### (1) Event Report ①

#### ■ One World Festival and Asian International Students Forum

The One World Festival was held at the Osaka I-House



from the 5th-6th February. This was the 18th time it has been held. The aim of the festival is to promote international exchange and cooperation work to citizens of Osaka

Prefecture. Over 100 groups ranging from NGOs and NPOs to international organizations and businesses took part and introduced their activities through booths, symposiums, and workshops with the theme of "Let's deepen International Understanding! Let's talk about how to train Global Human Resources who have an International point of view".

Participants were able to get a taste for issues relating to international cooperation through the many booths,

ethnic music and dance shows, film showings, and programs. The ethnic food stalls

where visitors could try lots of tasty dishes such as Sri Lankan curry,

Turkish kebabs, and Vietnamese Coffee were particularly popular.

OFIX had a booth at the Festival where we promoted our activities, and were able to chat to people of all ages, from kids to adults. On the 5th February we held an



Asian International Students Forum where 2 former international students, Joe Cortez from America and Cho Gyo Ko from China, talked about their lives as students in Japan, their exchange with the Japanese, and the internationalization of Osaka. There were over 20 participants and everyone listened eagerly to Joe and Cho's talk. After their presentation, i-house's Ms. Naomi Kimura instructed the participants to form 4 groups where they would discuss how to achieve the theme of the One World Festival, "Let's deepen



International Understanding! Let's talk about how to train Global Human Resources who have an International point of view". Each participant was asked to write their ideas on a piece of paper and post it on a large parchment. Many ideas came up and each group was having fun in the discussion. In the end, a representative from each group gave a summary of what had been discussed in their group.

A total of 17,500 people visited the One World Festival over its two days, 3,000 people more than the attendance last year. The good weather, an increase in participating organizations and events in the large and small halls by famous personalities could have contributed to this increase in participants. It was a great opportunity to exchange information, learn about the activities of different groups, and network.

## (2) Notices

### ■ Seeking Residents at the Sakai International Hall



OFIX is managing the Sakai International Hall (Orion International House), a residence for international students. We are currently seeking new residents to move in

from April 2011.

**Currently, the rooms available are about 5 rooms for male residents and 11 rooms for female residents.**

Orion International House: about 400m Northeast from JR Ueno Shiba Station

Each room is for single occupancy. Each room is fitted with bath, toilet, air-conditioner, fridge, desk, bed, internet connection, etc.

Monthly Rent: : 26,000 Yen (includes communal fees, no deposit required)

There is a kitchen on each floor and you can cook and do your laundry.

There is a friendly caretaker, and support officer on site. (1 male and 1 female)

※You may visit and have a look at the rooms anytime.

※You can only move in from April 1 because of cleaning schedule.

Applications should be made through the relevant international offices at the applicants' university.

※ Sakai International Hall Homepage

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

### ■ Additional Language for the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents FAQ

Up till now, the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) of the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents has been in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. In addition to

that, information in Thai, Vietnamese and Filipino are now available.

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/life/index.html>

## (3) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

### ■ Job-hunting and the Visa

“Shukatsu” or job hunting is not irrelevant even to the international student studying in Japan. There may also be those who may be worrying because they still have not received an informal acceptance from the company they are applying for, and graduation is already drawing near. In the present guidelines of the Immigration Bureau of Japan, international students who have graduated and acquired a title from a university or special training college can stay in Japan for 1 year at the most to continue to look for a job. If a recommendation from the educational institution graduated from could be obtained, a “designated activities” status for 6 months can be received. Furthermore, the system allows a one-time

renewal. During this time, if a “Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted under the Status of Residence Previously Granted” is acquired, it possible to work part-time for up to 28 hours per week. Also, for international students who intend to start their own business after graduation, after receiving a recommendation from their university and satisfying the requirements, such as securing the necessary capital, their status may be changed to “temporary visitor”, which can be renewed once. At the longest, a stay of 180 days is possible. However, this is only applicable for those graduating from a university.

## (4) OFIX Volunteer News

### ■ Introduction of Volunteer Activity ~The Host Family~

At OFIX, we offer various international volunteer activities with the aim of promoting international understanding and cooperation at the grassroots level.

This time, we will be introducing one of those activities, the Host Family Volunteer.

#### What is a Host Family?

The family that can cooperate in the following activities is a Host Family.

•Providing an opportunity for foreigners visiting

Osaka to understand Japanese life and culture by warmly accepting the visitor in the home and treating him/her as one of the family. (Home stay)

•Inviting foreigners visiting Osaka into the home to deepen exchange. (Home Visit)

※In the fiscal year of 2010, there had been 6 families who hosted about 70 visitors. (As of the end of January)

#### Can anyone be a Host Family?

We would like to ask the cooperation of families

who meet the following conditions.

• Families who live in or within the outskirts of Osaka and have the understanding and zeal for international understanding and cooperation.

• Families whose members all agree to the purpose of Home stay and Home visit and will accept any foreign visitor into their homes regardless of the visitor's country or place of origin.

I'm worried if I can do it...

It is not difficult if you have the heart for it.

Please ask those who have hosted foreign visitors.

« Voice of Experienced Host Families »

★ It was a good experience because I was able to meet and exchange with people from different countries and I could tell them a even a little about Japanese culture and thinking.

★ I am happy that we were able to understand

each other's feelings, even if we used broken language.

★ It made me want to learn language more so that I could explain in more detail.

★ The visitor we had was the same age as our child so there were many common topics for discussion and we were able to become friends very quickly.

Won't you draw out some courage and register as a Host Family, too?

**Please register here:**

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index3\\_2.html](http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index3_2.html)

**(5) Event Report ②**

**International Understanding Education: Visit to Suita City's Kishibe Elementary School**

At OFIX, we are implementing the International Understanding Education activity with the purpose of promoting the internationalization of

Osaka. In this activity, we send the International Understanding Education Supporter to Elementary, Junior High school, and High schools, and have them

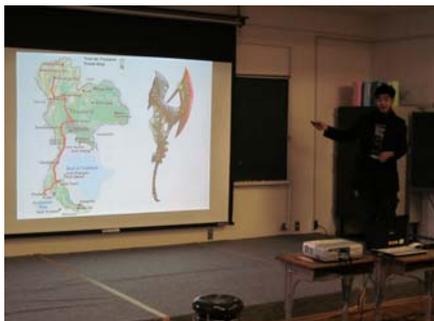
talk about their countries, its history and culture.

As part of the International Understanding Education activity, on January 20, Larpatikul

Supasit (Dew), an International Understanding Education Supporter from Thailand, visited Suita City's Kishibe Elementary School. 53 lively children welcomed him and listened enthusiastically to his presentation.

Dew introduced the history and children's games in Thailand. It was very educational not only for the students, but for the teachers as well. An especially new discovery was the official name of Thailand, which is too long and difficult to say.

The children really thought Dew's story about the "Panda Boom" in Thailand (everything is being made to look like a Panda) was very interesting. It was when everyone tried out the games children play in Thailand that the children became very lively. It was a very meaningful time for the children in that they could learn many things about Thailand and have an enjoyable time at the same time.



Dew explaining about Thailand.

**★ Become an International Understanding Education Foreign Supporter!**

~Introduce your country at schools! ~

OFIX is currently looking for foreign residents living in Osaka to become OFIX International Understanding Education Foreign Supporters, and visit schools to introduce their country's

culture, history, music, traditions, and games in Japanese.

Prior to joining the program there will be a training session to give all supporters an idea of what is

involved in school visits. So beginners are more than welcome! All those interested please get in touch with OFIX.

Requirements:

○ Applicants must be foreign residents living in or around the Osaka area, be interested in visiting schools to introduce their home country, and be able to communicate well in Japanese.

※ Further details

⇒

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyoku/index.html>

※ List of current Supporters (Japanese only)

⇒ [http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyoku/index2\\_2.html](http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyoku/index2_2.html)

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Dew playing Thai games with the children

## (6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ ~From a Country down South~



Hello! Kumusta kayo! I am Richard's successor, Alvin Tan. Please call me Alvin. Since this is my first time to write, I'll be writing my introduction.

I come from Manila, which is from the Philippines, a country down

South. When talking about the Philippines, the images that come to mind are bananas, mangoes and palm trees. However, the Philippines is not just that. The Philippines is also famous for its beautiful nature, seas, and the delicious cuisines that came from the influence of various cultures. By the way, there are also many World Heritage spots in the Philippines.

Well, about me...many people tell me that I look Japanese. (A long time ago, many told me that I looked like a Japanese actor called Naoki Hosaka.) Maybe it's because I came from a Chinese ancestry, so my facial features aren't that different from the Japanese. However, before I studied Japanese, I didn't look Japanese. I was born on December 24, 1969. Yes, I was born on Christmas Eve. Many people would probably think that it must be cool to be born on Christmas Eve, but actually, even though it should be easy for anyone to remember my birthday, people forget because they are all thinking of Christmas. In addition to that, I only get 1 present a year. (sob) I'm now 41, (an old man, but still young at heart), but I'm still single. Maybe it's because I enjoyed the single life so much that I didn't get married. I think it's high time that I start looking for a wife. (LOL) My hobbies include photography, playing sports (table tennis,

tennis, badminton, bowling, volleyball, Judo) although I haven't been doing any recently, listening to music, watching movies, playing musical instruments (piano and Sanshin: an Okinawan musical instrument). I can speak Tagalog, English and Japanese fluently. I love languages and have studied French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Korean. Right now, I'd like to learn Korean and Chinese, and I'm looking for someone who can teach me.

I majored in English at the university, but because I had the chance to make friends with Japanese, I studied Japanese as my foreign language. It has been 11 years now since I came to Japan. The first time I came to Japan was in 1992 under the Japan Foundation's Japanese Language Program for Outstanding Students. Then, in 1995 I was able to stay in Japan long-term for the first time under the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Teacher's Training Program. In 1998, I returned again to Japan to study. After studying at Osaka University for Foreign Studies as a research student, I entered the graduate school of Obirin University in Tokyo next. I graduated in 2001, and after graduating I worked at Keio University's International Center. In 2005, I changed jobs and worked for Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. Then from January 17, I started working for OFIX.

I love to meet many people and it is my dream since long ago to be a bridge between people. That's why I think work at OFIX is interesting and that this job was made for me. There are still many things I have to learn, but I would like to do my best in the hope of contributing to the promotion of the internationalization of Osaka and developing global human resources.

If ever you see me somewhere in Osaka, please say hi.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.



- ◎ 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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