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(1) Notices

■ Call for Participants for the Job Fair and Job interview for International Students

This year, we will be having again the Job Fair for international students, which began in 2008. This year’s



Job Fair will not only be company briefings, but will also include direct job interviews by participating companies. So we would like to have all

* Career counseling corner (in Japanese, Chinese, English)

* Consultation corner regarding visa status

Participation fee: Free

The results of the questionnaire, “What is given importance when employing international students?”, given out to exhibiting companies at the last Job Fair have come out and valuable information has been clarified. Please use the information as a reference when applying for a job in the future.

international students come and participate.

We aim to increase the percentage of international students’ employment rate by holding a 2-day event that will provide a venue for international students to meet 44 companies that aggressively employ international students, and give the international students the necessary information to be employed.

Date and Time: June 6, 2011 (Thurs.)-June 10, 2011 (Fri.) 11:00-16:30

Venue: 2nd Floor Hall Osaka Fusaki Shiima Chousha Cosmo Tower (Formerly World Trade Center)

Address: 1-14-16 Nanko Kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka City

Target: International students (Graduating on or have graduated by March 2012)

Participating companies: June 9→22 companies, June 10→22 companies a total of 44 companies

Content: * Briefing and Interview booths from 44 exhibiting companies.

Japanese Language Proficiency	24%
Communication ability	23%
Flexibility, Cooperativeness and Adaptability to various environments	14%
Initiative	13%
Business Manner	8%
Specialization	4%
Presentation Ability	4%
Nationality	3%
Others	3%
University	3%
Consideration for rules	1%
Network	0%
Information gathering ability	0%

@ We are conducting a pre-registration to make registration on the day of the event easier.

●Please click the URL below for application procedures and search of participating companies.

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

By pre-registering, you will be sent a mail magazine where you can see detailed information on exhibiting companies.

For inquiries: Osaka Foundation for International Exchange Promotions Group

Tel.: 06-6966-2400

E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

We await the participation of everyone.

■“1-day Information Service” for Foreigners (Free Consultation)



We will be holding the “1-day Information Service”, an event held yearly, to help foreigners living in Osaka solve the problems in their daily life cause by their inability to speak or understand Japanese well enough. To do this, the event will bring together specialized institutions that are closely related to the lives of foreigners and provide foreigners living in Osaka a 1-day free consultation service.

At the event, through the support of volunteer interpreters, consultation and information is provided in 10 languages on the subjects of law, human rights, immigration and visas, labor, work, pension and health insurance, daily life, city administration, taxes, medical and dental topics, medicines, education, child rearing, and other general living topics.

The consultation is free and you can consult as much as you want in a day. Please come and avail of this

service and please invite any foreign friends to come with you.

Date and Time: June 26 (Sun) 11:00 am-5:00pm

Venue: 2nd Floor International House, Osaka

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

Languages available: Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Bahasa-Indonesia, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese

Constituting Organizations: Osaka Legal Affairs Bureau, Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau, Osaka Labor Office, Japan Pension Service, Otemae Branch Office, Japan Health Insurance Association Osaka Branch, Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka Municipal Government, Osaka Bar Association, Osaka Gyosei-Shoshi Lawyers Association, Osaka Medical Association, Osaka Dental Association, Osaka Pharmaceutical Association, Osaka Chamber of Commerce, Kinki Certified Public Tax Accountants Association, Osaka Social Insurance Association, Labor Attorneys Association, JASSO Osaka Japanese Language Education Center, Osaka Osaka Municipal Child Care Counseling Information Center, Kansai NPO Alliance, Osaka Foundation for International Exchange, Osaka International House Foundation

■3rd China Knowledge Certificate

From June 1 to July 17, The Chinese Consulate in Osaka, together with the National Tourism Administration of the People’s Republic of China in Osaka and Ritsumeikan University Confucius Institute, will hold the “3rd China Knowledge Certificate—A Cultural Tour of China”. The winner will receive a grand prize of a Trip to China.

○Qualifications to Participate

The participants must be of Japanese nationality and not a native speaker of Chinese. Furthermore, participants for the Student Division must be junior or senior high school students and must not have stayed in China for 2 years or more. Adult Division participants must be 18 years old or above.

○Date and Venue

June 1, 2011 (Wednesday) 9:00

Student Division Entry Start

Adult Division Start of 1st Screening

June 30, 2011 (Thursday) 17:00

Student Division Entry Deadline

Adult Division 1st Screening Deadline

July 17, 2011 (Sunday) Finals

12:00-15:00 Student Division

15:00-17:00 Adult Division (2nd Screening)

17:00-17:30 Awarding Ceremony

17:30-19:00 Exchange

Finals Venue: Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus
Soshikan Hall Conference Room

Address: 56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8577

○Inquiries

Student Division :TEL:06-6821-2301、FAX:06-6821-2303

Adult Division :TEL:06-6445-9425、FAX:06-6445-9476

(If the person-in-charge is not available, please contact by fax.)

(2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Renting an Apartment

For a foreigner, finding a place to rent is often followed with many difficulties. Reasons for this are because it is difficult to find a place that can be rented to a foreigner, and there are many customs and unfamiliar words such as “deposit”, “Real estate office commission”, “Earnest Money”, “Key money”. Recently, there are real estate agents for foreigners and there are also furnished apartments and apartments whose contracts can be renewed monthly. Templates of English contracts have also been made. There are also real estate agents that put out multilingual for rent ads online. Those online ads may be useful in getting pertinent information. One problem which makes finding a place to live difficult for the foreigner is the need to find a “cosigner”, a person who would share in the legal responsibilities when signing a rental contract. There is a “Rent Guarantee Scheme” to replace this “cosigner” system and there are also some companies that offer “Proxy Guarantor” service. There is also the “Osaka Trusted Renting Support Program” which



provides information of private homes for rent to foreigners and senior people. Foreigners can also apply for public housing and UR housing if they meet the conditions set. Generally, tenants are chosen by drawing lots.

“Osaka Trusted Renting Support Program”

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/jumachi/ansin/house03.html>

◎ Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

(Mon-Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays) (Hours 9:00-17:30)

Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297

E-mail: jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp

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

(3) Activity Report

■ FY 2010 Volunteer Dispatch Report

OFIX is operating the “OFIX Volunteer Registration System”, the aim of which is to promote international cooperation and understanding at the grass roots level through the participation of residents in Osaka in volunteer activities. In 2010, the total number of registered volunteers reached 750. And for 2010, 74 language volunteers, 9 cultural volunteers were dispatched and 71 home stay/home visit families accepted visitors into their homes.

【Detail of Activities and Clients】

Language Volunteer

- Blood Program Training English Interpretation (Osaka Red Cross Blood Center)
- “1-day Information Service for Foreigners” (Osaka International House & OFIX)
English/Chinese/Korean/Spanish/Filipino/Portuguese/Vietnamese/Thai Interpretation
- Information Dissemination to Foreign Residents in Osaka Prefecture Survey Bahasa-Indonesia Translation (OFIX)

• Public health nurse home visit Nepalese Interpretation (Higashi Osaka Human Rights Department Cultural and International Section)

• “Job Fair for International Students” Chinese Interpretation (OFIX)

• OFIX HP Update Korean Translation (OFIX)

Cultural Volunteer

• “Japan-Korea High School Exchange Program” Experiencing Origami (OFIX)

• International Exchange Tea Party Experiencing wearing the Kimono (Urasenke Tankokai Osaka Western Group Namihaya Youth Group)

Nationalities of those accommodated by host families

American, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, Thai, Nepalese, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, etc.

★Thank you everyone for your cooperation.★

(4) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Japanese Time

Hello! How time flies when you're piled up with work! This is your International Coordinator, Alvin!

Recently, I have been trying to recall the things that surprised me when I came to Japan. I know there were a lot of things that surprised me then, but now, they are all "atarimae" to me. Finally, something came to mind and I'm sure many people will agree with me that this is truly Japanese. It's Japan's obsession about being on time.



When I came to Japan, I was surprised that everything was "on time". The watches in the public places are all synchronized, the stores and offices open at exactly the time they are supposed to open, trains and buses come and leave at the time they are supposed to. Japanese even come on time for an appointment. This is what I call "Japanese Time".

I'm sure this is not the case for many countries. In the Philippines, for example, we have what we call "Philippine Time". This is the exact opposite of "Japanese Time". Almost nothing is on time. Mostly everything and everyone is late. Transportation is not organized. There is no specified time for a bus to come and go. They come and go at their own convenience. We have a monorail system, but there is no time schedule. Some offices sometimes open late. And people never come on time for an appointment...except of course if the person will

lose something if he is late. When I attended a gathering of my high school class, I was told the meeting was 7 in the evening. I went there on time. When I arrived there, no one was there, yet. I called one of my friends and confirmed the time. I was on time, but my friend said I was too early. The next person who arrived came 30 minutes later.

When most Filipinos plan an event, like a birthday party, for example, they always set the time one hour earlier than the actual time of the event. So if they want to have the party at 5 in the afternoon, they will tell people the party is at 4 in the afternoon. I always do this.

I like to be on time (to the surprise of many of my Filipino friends) and when I came to Japan, I loved this idea of "Japanese time". However, I think that this concept of being on time has been given too much importance that sometimes it can have some bad effects. I am sure many will agree that there are many instances when people try to be on time and get hurt or lose something in trying to do so. For example, I have seen Japanese who try to get on a train that is about to close its doors. Some people get caught by the door and eventually hurt themselves. Doing such a thing may also lead to death. When people try to hurry, they tend to forget about everything around them and become less careful. They make themselves vulnerable to accidents and get hurt or even get others hurt or, in the worst case scenario, killed.

Time is important, but sometimes we just have to learn to be flexible and relax. And talking about being flexible, I changed my schedule and submitted this article a day after the actual deadline...just kidding.

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