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(1) Activity Report 1

■“1-day Information Service” for Foreigners

Many of the foreigners living in Japan find it inconvenient to live here because of many differences from their own country, such as the social education system,



procedures at public institutions, etc.

To solve the inconveniences and worries of these foreigners and make living in Osaka much easier for these

foreigners, the 20th “1-day Information Service” for foreigners was held on June 26 (Sunday) at i-House, where different institutions specializing on giving consultation with regards to living in Japan, especially in the areas of law, human rights, immigration and visa status, labor, work, insurance, taxes, medicine, education, child rearing, etc.

At the event, there were volunteers who interpreted 9 languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian and Thai, to help in the communication between the experts of the various institutions and the foreigner who is asking for consultation. There were a total of 18 interpreter volunteers who participated, all having participated in the Community Interpreter Training held by OFIX on May 3. There were some consultation cases taken up during the training were actually encountered and many positive

feedback were received from the interpreters, such as “the clients were all very satisfied” and “it was good that there were many experts from different fields to answer to the different problems”. Also, there was also a comment that

by making an appointment by telephone beforehand, a more accurate advice could be given on the actual day of consultation.



On June 26, there were 94 foreigners from 26 countries and regions who came to have consultation. There were 44 consultations related to immigration and visa, 18 consultations related to law, 16 consultations related to work, 13 consultations related to labor and pension, plus other consultations, giving a total of 161 consultations. The booth OFIX was in-charge of had 10 consultations on different concerns, but mostly on divorce, how to rent a city-managed apartment, and work for children coming to Japan.

In the future, the Steering Committee intends to plan a more effective way to disseminate information about the event and improve on the content based on the analysis of questionnaires taken from volunteers and those who came for consultation.

We would like to thank the OFIX Interpreter Volunteers for their cooperation.

(2) Activity Report 2

■ Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association 2011 General Meeting and Lecture

The Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association recently held its 2011 Meeting and lecture on June 21 at My Dome Osaka.

At the General Meeting, last year's financial and activities report was made and this year's

budget and activities were discussed. The new officers were also presented. Visitors from JICA Osaka and Osaka Prefecture were also present. There were messages from Governor Hashimoto and The Association of Nikkei and Japanese

Abroad Executive Director Mr. Okano, which were read at the meeting.

After the General Meeting, newly appointed Treasurer Koichi Asai gave a lecture entitled “Experiences from Paraguay”. He gave a very interesting lecture about the difficulties of life after settlement, how the Japanese settlers were able to



overcome the difficulties and presently have improved their lives established a position as Nikkeijin.

After the General Meeting and Lecture, there was a party where everyone talked about their recent condition. Songs illustrating the spirit of the Japanese settlers were also sung. It was truly a

meaningful exchange.

☆ The Osaka Prefecture Overseas Emigrants Family Association was formed in 1962 to provide a venue for the relatives of overseas (mainly Brazil, Paraguay and Latin America) emigrants in Japan to exchange information. OFIX is acting as the Secretariat and aside from relatives of overseas emigrants, we welcome the participation of people who are interested in other countries and would



like to have an exchange with overseas Japanese emigrants. For interested parties, please contact OFIX. ☆

(3) Notice

■ 2011 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

The trainees selected for the 2011 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts are as follows (personal information which may identify the individual is withheld)

Country	Sex	Age	Major	Specialization
Thailand	female	28	Architecture	Design
Indonesia	male	27	Architecture	Design
Indonesia	male	27	Architecture	Design
China	female	26	Architecture Urban Design	Architecture
Vietnam	male	28	Architecture	Design
Sri Lanka	male	26	Architecture	Design
Nepal	female	28	Architecture Urban Design	Design
India	female	25	Architecture Conservation	Design Architecture

■ Let's show the Spirit of Osaka and Kansai to China!

Because of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, the number of tourists from China has decreased immensely. In order to energize Osaka and Kansai through the revival of visiting tourists, the International Relations and Tourism Division of the Osaka Prefectural Government shot a PR video on June 10 in one of the rooms of the Osaka Prefectural Office overlooking Osaka Castle and featuring Chinese students studying in the Kansai region, who talked about the current situation of



Osaka and Kansai and their favorite place in Kansai. It is the aim of the video to show China a safe, appealing, energetic image of Osaka and Kansai.

OFIX, playing a role in making Osaka a place that is easy to live for foreigners, conducts different activities, such as providing multilingual information to foreigners. An OFIX employee from China and two Chinese students living in the OFIX-managed International Hall actively participated in the making of the PR video.

The video was done in free conversation style, starting with a self-introduction and then about the favorite spot or restaurant in Osaka, the condition of Osaka after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, and the present condition of Osaka and Kansai.

The video will be shown from July 14-16 at the Osaka booth in the “ALL JAPAN SHOW IN CHINA”, which will be held at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre. The event is sponsored by the China Commerce Association for

General Merchandise and the Tourism Promotion Associates. It is an event where over 20,000 people, from department store representatives to buyers, will gather to create business and develop the region's industry from the point of view of the promotion of Japan-China tourism/trade.

I hope that through the video message of the

students, the image of Osaka as an appealing tourist destination can be promoted. This video will also be used in other tourism promotions aside from this event.

OFIX is striving forward for the future development of Osaka

(4) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Bicycle Registration



In Osaka, if you are going to ride a bicycle, you are obligated to get a "bicycle registration". It is a system to positively identify the owner of the bicycle. There is no fine, but there is a big chance of recovering your bicycle if it gets stolen. Also there are

times that police stop and question you when you are riding a bicycle. Since ownership can be verified immediately, foreigners who cannot explain themselves fully have little to worry about police being suspicious of you. If you buy a brand new bicycle, you can have your bicycle registered at the shop where you are buying it. Just write your name, address and other necessary information on the registration card and pay a registration fee of 500 yen. If you are getting the

bicycle from your friend, you also need to register the bicycle. You will need a certificate from your friend saying that the bicycle is being given to you and the old registration card. With the documents, bring the bicycle to any bicycle shop that provides bicycle registration service and complete the procedure there. The registered data will be stored at the Osaka Police. Not only that, you are insured in case of theft and third party insurance in case your bicycle gets into an accident.

◎ 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

(5) Introduction of OFIX Activities

■ Osaka International Club

The Osaka International Club was formed to promote the internationalization of Osaka as well as to further international exchange and understanding between the people of Osaka, and those that have visited Osaka from abroad, or have lived in Osaka as a foreign student, language trainee and so on.

We hope that members will be enthusiastic ambassadors for exchange. Our club activities' main objectives are both Japanese resident and overseas members educational and cultural exchange in order to promote "Mutual Understanding" and constructing the multicultural society as well as contributing to enlarge young people's point of view and make an effort to continual friendship with each other. The clubs activities include distribution of a mail-magazine "International Club News", holding International Understanding classes for its members, etc.

Our activities(Plan):

- 1.Organize "Understanding Japanese culture Classes" for foreign members in Osaka.
- 2.Organize "International Understanding Education Classes" by foreign members in Osaka for Japanese members.
- 3.Workshops and discussion sessions for club members (on the theme of multicultural understanding and about the club's plans)
- 4.Online exchange with Ando program participants.
- 5.Publishing the International Club news through e-newsletter:

Overseas members are requested contribute articles on anything from tourist spots, food, fashion, memories of your time in Osaka, along with a self-introduction and a few photos, which will be published in the mail magazine.

For details and registration, please visit <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/club/index.html>

(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Filipino and Tagalog

Hello, everyone!! This is your OFIX Coordinator for International Relations, Alvin. Summer is here!!! Japan now is even hotter than the Philippines. Please take care not to get a heat stroke. Please drink lots of water.

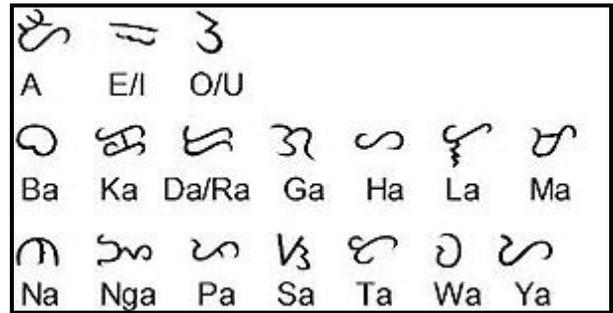
Last month, I received a lot of questions regarding the Philippine language. What is the Philippines' national language? Tagalog? Filipino? Many are confused about this. So, this month, I'll be talking about Filipino and Tagalog.

Filipino and Tagalog

In the Philippines, there are many languages, but there are only 8 major languages. These are Cebuano, Bicol, Hiligaynon/Ilonggo, Waray, Kapampangan, Pangasinense, and Tagalog. Tagalog is the language spoken in Manila and neighboring regions. Tagalog comes from the Malayo-Polynesian language group and has words similar to the languages of Indonesia and Malaysia. Because the Philippines had been a colony of Spain for about 333 years, many Spanish words entered the Philippine language. In Tagalog, there are about 4,000 Spanish words being used, mostly nouns, for example, the words "silya, mesa, relo" (chair, table, watch). Spanish is used for expressions of time, for example, "a la una, a las dos, a las tres y media" (1:00, 2:00, 3:30) and "Lunes, Martes, Miyerkules" (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and "Enero, Pebrero, Marso" (January, February, March) After the 2nd World War, as a result of English education introduced by the Americans, English words entered the language. Some words in Tagalog were replaced by English, such as "guro", which became "titser"(teacher), "ipagpaumanhin" became "sori" (sorry), and "pisara" (which is Spanish) became "blakbord" (blackboard). The Tagalog being used today is a language that has incorporated many

Spanish and English words.

Before Tagalog, the Philippines did not have a national language. In 1937, the National Language Institute selected Tagalog as the basis for the national language. However, there were people from other regions (especially Cebuanos), who complained why Tagalog has to be the national language. In 1961, the new national language was known as "Pilipino", which was later renamed as "Filipino" in 1972.



Old Tagalog Alphabet

The Difference between Tagalog and Filipino

The grammar and lexicon of Tagalog and Filipino are basically the same. The only difference they have is the alphabet and pronunciation. The Tagalog alphabet (a total of 19 letters) includes "a b k d e g h i l m n ng p r s t u w y", and the current Filipino alphabet (a total of 28 letters) includes "a b c d e f g h i j k l m n ñ ng o p q r s t u v w x y z".

Originally, Filipino was supposed to incorporate words from other Philippine languages. However, up till now, this has not been done. The standardization of Filipino remains to be a problem and until a real "national language" can be developed, Filipino and Tagalog will still remain to mean almost the same thing. It would be difficult to distinguish Tagalog from Filipino in a spoken conversation, but it is easy to distinguish them in written form.

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