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(1) Activity Report 1

■2011 Foreigner Support Network Disaster Training

Because of the Great East Japan earthquake on March 11, in cooperation with the Consul-Generals in Osaka, a disaster prevention workshop was held where the personnel of Kinki Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (Kinki CLAIR), personnel of administrative offices in the Kinki region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Osaka branch office, immigration office personnel and Consuls General personnel in Osaka, a total of 68 people, participated. In the morning, a disaster prevention drill was held at the Abeno Life City Learning Center, and in the afternoon, a workshop was held at the 8th floor of My Dome Osaka, home of OFIX. At the workshop, participants experienced eating emergency food, learned about emergency goods they could buy at a 100 yen shop, learned about Kinki CLAIRE and its activities, and got to know about FM.COCOLO, after which, there was an exchange of opinion with the personnel of Consuls General. It was a valuable time for sharing information.



【Fire Extinguishing at the Abeno Life City Learning Center】

Through this workshop, we hope to strengthen

the future collaboration of related institutions to create a comfortable environment for foreigners to live in.



【Experiencing Emergency Food】

【Comments and Opinions of Participants】

- It was very helpful in learning about actual cases of support activities of Kinki CLAIR and FM.COCOLO for foreigners.
- Learning what to do in case of an earthquake through experiencing a virtual earthquake and how to put out a fire at it's initial stage at the Abeno Life City Learning Center has proved very meaningful in making us more conscious about disaster prevention.
- It was good to have an opportunity to exchange opinions with local authorities and people from the Consuls General. We would like to create a collaboration system that will allow immediate correspondence and sharing of information between Consuls General and local authorities in the event of an emergency.

(2) Activity Report 2

■Evacuation Drill and Career Counseling at Orion Dormitory

On November 12 (Saturday), an evacuation drill and career counseling was held at Orion Dormitory.

It is said that within 30 years from now, there is

a 60-70% chance that an earthquake will occur in the East Nankai region. The drill was implemented assuming that a level 6 earthquake occurred.

At present, there are about 80 international

students residing at the dormitory. There were students who have never experienced an earthquake and students who have just experienced the Great East Japan earthquake last March. There are still many students whose knowledge about earthquakes is not sufficient and they would not know what to do when an earthquake hits.

There were 41 students who participated in the drill. The students were instructed not to evacuate alone, but to cooperate with others and go to the evacuation site together. Everyone actually walked together until the evacuation site, Nishi Mozu Elementary School and checked out the route to the site.

After explaining what to prepare in case of a disaster, what to do in an earthquake, the use of 171 message service in confirming someone's safety, and how to put out a fire if it happens after an earthquake, the Osaka Kita Sakai Police gave a lecture on disaster prevention. After the training, we could see some students who were not able to participate in the drill walk to the evacuation site with students who participated. We feel that people are getting more

concerned with regards to disasters.

After the disaster drill, a counselor from the Osaka Labor Association came and gave career counseling to those who wanted counseling. There were dorm residents who consulted for more than one hour, intently listening to what the counselor has to say. A dorm resident commented that "it was very helpful. Please hold another session again."

At OFIX, we offer support to international students by holding Job Hunting Seminar, Disaster Prevention Drills and similar activities.



Career Counseling



To the evacuation site

(3) Activity Report 3

■ Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts Trainees Interview - PART 1-

As we reported on previous OFIX News Issue No.39 (October 2011) about 2011 Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts, we have made an interview of the 2011 Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts trainees, which we have reported about in the previous OFIX News Issue No.39 (October 2011). In this issue we would like to introduce four trainees: Hetti Arachchige Amal Priyantha Peiris (Sri Lanka) and Wang Wenya (China), who had training at Obayashi Corporation, and Tran Hoang Kien (Vietnam) and Rachaniporn Tiempayotorn (Thailand) who trained at Zenitaka Corporation -.

1. Is it your first time to come to Japan? What is your impression?

(Hetti Arachchige Amal Priyantha Peiris / Sri Lanka) – This is my first time. Japan is the best place to live and people are very polite, as I heard from my friend who is living in Japan. When I get



lost to take a subway, I asked a guard woman for directions. She kindly taught me the directions, but later she suddenly realized that she told me the wrong way, she came running to catch me, then she showed me a piece

of paper with a note written in English, apologizing for telling me the wrong direction. (Maybe she asked a staff who can understand English to write a memo.) – From this experience, I felt the kindness of the Japanese.

2. What is difference between your country and Japan?

(Wang Wenya / China) - Japanese and Chinese have similar words and Chinese characters, so sometimes I can understand the meaning. However, I find difference between the city structures; for example, narrow roads, buildings, and local houses.

3. How did you spend your weekend?

(Rachaniporn Tiempayotorn / Thailand) - I enjoyed cultural exchange by drinking with my Host Family. They also taught me how to cook Yakitori and how to make Umeshu. I met and had exchange with a lot of their friends who majored in art, music, and many other fields.

4. What is your impression about Ando architecture?

(Wang / China) - Mr. Ando is very famous in China and I knew him through a book. Mr. Ando has many experiences, and his architecture is very special and unique.

(Tran Hoang Kien / Vietnam) - His architecture is symbolic and makes good use of wide spaces, which gives an inspiration to young architects. I



find some similarities to "Zen". His design is stiff, but has coziness. His design is well harmonized, so I feel like I wanted to discover it more.

5. When did you start getting interested in architecture?

(Racha / Thailand) – Buildings make an environment built by man, which is deeply related to human life. In Buddhism, it is believed that food, clothes, shelter and medicine are four of the basic human needs. Shelter is one of the most important human needs—that's why I got interested

in architecture.

6. How was the host company training?
 (Amal / Sri Lanka) - Obayashi Corporation is one of the leading companies in Japan and they helped us in designing the project even though everyone was very busy. Training at Obayashi Corp. is the first and last great experience in my life.
 (Racha / Thailand) - It was beyond my expectation. At Zenitaka Corporation, they helped and worked closely as a team. Also they changed the program and took us to the places in the Kansai area (which was not in the program); such as “Kiki” (in Kyobashi),” Church of Lights” (in Ibaraki Kasugaoka Church), which was made by Ando.
7. What did you learn through the host company training?
 (Amal / Sri Lanka) – Teamwork, respect towards others and modern technology of architecture.
 (Kien / Vietnam) –Japanese people’s industrious working attitude.

8. How do you want to make use of the knowledge you gained though the training?
 (Amal / Sri Lanka) - I want to make an improvement to make my country safe. After returning to my country, I want to start from small like showing the photos of Japan and sharing the ideas which I acquired in Japan to my co-workers.
 (Kien / Vietnam) - I want to become an architect who can design and build buildings that last for 100 years.
9. Please tell us the most impressive thing in Japan.
 (Wang / China) - Obayashi people are worked quickly, patiently and silently. I was impressed with their working attitude.
 (Kien / Vietnam) -, I was especially touched when I visited the Disaster Prevention Centre in Kobe. Some of the techniques of prevention and reduction systems are worth trying in my country. Also, I feel it is important to follow the strict procedure and the precise work of the site.

(4) Activity Report 4

International Understanding Education Program: English International Exchange with Ando Program Trainees

On October 14, 2011 (Friday), as a first trial, OFIX, together with an Osaka University student organization, “Pankyo Kakumei”, held an English workshop entitled “The Globalization of Osaka and Japanese Students” with the Ando Program trainees for 2011 at Osaka University, Toyonaka campus.

First, four trainees from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and China talked about their life Program for the future. After that, Osaka Prefecture’s International Relations and Tourism Division Osaka Promotion Bureau Keiji Yoshimura talked about the outline of the Internationalization Strategy Action Program of Osaka. Based on the guidelines of the Action Program, the 8 trainees from 7 different countries discussed with about 20 Osaka University students “How to improve Osaka’s Global Competitiveness and Attract Overseas Students” and “How Japanese students can become People who will play an active role in the Global

Community”.

After the program, the trainees from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal talked about the culture shock (things that surprised them) in Japan.

It was a very short program, it was an opportunity for the Osaka University students to discuss Osaka Prefecture Internationalization Action Program with people from different countries, and at the same time widen their point of view through deepening relations with the trainees. It was also an opportunity for the trainees to deepen their understanding of Japan a little more.

OFIX, together with Osaka Prefecture, will continue to conduct English Workshops such as this to promote exchange between foreigners and Japanese students and provide a venue for students to share their ideas in English to people of various countries.

(5) Notices

Free Telephone Consultation for Foreign Children and their Parents

The Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents, with the request of Osaka Prefecture’s International Relations and Tourism Division Osaka Promotion Bureau, will be holding a free telephone consultation for children of foreign nationalities and their parents, who have problems because of language, for three days from December 22 (Thursday) to December 24 (Saturday).

In addition to the counselor, an outside

professional counselor, midwife, lawyer, Public notary, etc. will also be at hand to answer questions. Aside from Japanese, consultations can be made in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, Filipino and Vietnamese. People who are worried about language can feel at ease when consulting. Please do not worry by yourself. Let’s find a solution to your problem together. Won’t you call us? We’ll be waiting.

Free Telephone Counseling for Foreign Children and Parents

Areas of Consultation:

- Bullying, School Refusal, School Entrance, Learning, Grade Promotion, Life course after graduation (continuation to higher education, Career-path change, Dropout) and other troubles in school life
- Mother and Child health (Pregnancy, Childbirth, Postnatal Care etc) , Childcare, Child Education • Discipline, Child Abuse, DV, Immigration, Divorce, Legal Issues on citizenship and so on
- ★ No charge (except cost for the phone call) ★ Confidential

Date: Thursday, Dec. 22 (5:30pm-9pm) Friday, Dec. 23 (9am-5pm) Saturday, Dec. 24 (9am-5pm)

Phone Number: 06-6941-2297 **Secretariat:** International Relations and Tourism Division, Osaka Promotion Bureau, Osaka Prefectural Government

■ Call for Participants for the Job Fair for International Students

OFIX will be holding the 2nd Job Fair for this fiscal year to provide a venue for international students to meet companies that are aggressively hiring international students. The event is scheduled to have about 100 of these aggressive companies and will be the largest Job Fair in Japan.

Date: January 14, 2012 (Saturday) 10:00-19:00
Venue: My Dome Osaka 3rd Floor Exhibit Hall
Address: My Dome Osaka 2-5 Honmachi-bashi, Chuo-ku Osaka City

For details on directions to the venue, please access:

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

Target: International Students (scheduled to graduate

or have already graduated by March 2012/2013)
Participating companies: 100 Companies

Details: Orientations by participating companies, opening seminars, Japanese/English/Chinese career consultation at the Global Rookies Café, Materials Library corner, Consultation regarding residency status, etc.

Participation fee: Free

Application Method: There is pre-registration to make registration easier on the day of the Job Fair. Please visit:

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

We hope to see you there.

(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Philippine Christmas 1

Hello everyone! What?!! Another month has passed already? Unbelievable! Time really flies. Recently, it has been getting colder and Christmas is just about a month away. So this time, I'll be talking about Philippine Christmas.

For the Filipinos, Christmas is the most awaited season. There are a few reasons why this is so. First, Christmas is the longest celebrated event. What does this mean? Actually, in the Philippines, when it is already the “-ber” months (September, October,...) people start preparing for Christmas. Last



November 1, I went home for a short visit. When I went to the mall, Christmas songs were playing, there were Christmas trees and lots of Christmas decorations already. Everyone was in the Christmas mood. Speaking of Christmas decorations, the Philippines has a traditional decoration called the “Parol”. The parol is a star shaped decoration which is hung at the window or the door of the house.

Next, there are a lot of Christmas parties. Two weeks before Christmas, there is a party held almost every day. I remember going to about 6 parties in a week long ago. And if there are parties, there are presents. Yes, this is another reason why Filipinos

love Christmas.

Usually, during Christmas parties people always exchange gifts. And you receive a lot of presents from different people. Of course, you also have to give. People usually give presents to their father, mother, brothers and sisters, and sometimes to cousins, close friends and boyfriend and girlfriend. It's not obligatory, though. However, the Christmas spirit is the spirit of “giving” and people feel like giving something. In my family, I gave the most presents. Over half of the presents under the Christmas tree were from me.

Another reason for Filipinos loving Christmas is because most Filipinos are Christians. Christmas is originally the birthday of Christ. It is the season to remember the love of Jesus Christ, who came to this world as a human to die for the salvation of mankind from sin. That's why during Christmas, people are a little kinder. People show love to each other, just as Michael Jackson sang, “Give love on Christmas day”.

I feel sad when it's Christmas. That's because my birthday is on December 24. If I hold a party, very few people can come, and I always get 1 present. My birthday and Christmas present is joined into one. But I love Christmas anyway. Next issue, I'll talk more about Philippine Christmas. Until then, be careful not to eat too much and gain weight. (lol)

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