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(1) Activity Report 1**■ A Symposium on Developing Global Human Resources**

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange and Osaka Prefecture have drawn up the “Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program” to strengthen the international competitiveness of Osaka, and are undertaking activities in “Developing Global Human Resources” and “Preparing an environment to accept foreigners”. On December 3, a kickoff

symposium entitled “Developing Global Human Resources” was held.

Aside from the speeches from Akita International University President Mineo Nakajima, UN Public Relations Center Director Mari Yamashita, there was an explanation on



how to go study in America and sharing of the experiences of those who graduated from American Universities. Students who intend to go overseas, parents and educators all listened intently to the presentations.

A video of the event can be seen on YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/osakaglobal>

International Exchange and Tourism
Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee

http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kanko/kokusaika_action/

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

<http://www.ofix.or.jp>

(2) Activity Report 2**■ 2nd Community Interpreters Volunteer Training**

Community interpreters help residents of foreign nationalities to communicate smoothly when dealing with education and social welfare matters. The 2nd Community Interpreters Volunteer Training was held on November 21, 22 and 25, to create an opportunity for community interpreters to be active and also an opportunity for the volunteers to understand the different programs that foreigners are involved in and learn manners, logic and interpreting skills needed as a community interpreter.

33 interpreters (21 of whom are foreigners) for English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Portuguese, and Spanish, a total of 6 languages, participated.

The themes for this training were visa status,



education, mother and child health, and labor, which are all closely connected to the life of foreigners. Experts in the field also gave a lecture on these themes. Participants listened intently to the lectures and later gave their questions based on their experiences. And as for the language part of the training, aside from role playing, everyone got to practice shadowing, reproduction and quick response.

Some participants said, “it was good to become acquainted with interpreters of the same language, as not so many people know it”. As the sponsor of the event, we are happy that it was a fulfilling event. Comments in the questionnaires included, “it was good to hear each expert's lecture”, and “it was a good motivation, being able to learn interpretation techniques from a professional”.

Participants of the 1st training are playing an active role in different areas such as, “1 Day Information Service for Foreigners” and support

centers for children in Osaka. We hope that the

participants of this training will be active and put to use what they have learned.

(3) Activity Report 3

■ Interpretation and Translation Level Check

On, 1st Dec, OFIX held a Level Check for OFIX language volunteers with the aim of setting up their standards when they work volunteer activities.

Volunteers who participated underwent an interpretation/translation check, an interview where they were asked about the history of their volunteer activities and future desired activities. OFIX has very

few opportunities to talk with each of the volunteers, so the event proved to be a very good opportunity for communicating with each other.

OFIX will make effort to improve the environment for language volunteers and engage in activities including translation/interpretation to help volunteers be active in the areas of their choice.

(4) Activity Report 4

■ Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts Trainees Interview - PART 2-

In the previous OFIX News Issue No.40 (November 2011) we published an interview with four 2011 Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts. In this issue we would like to introduce the remaining four trainees: Yusfan Adeputera Yusran (Indonesia) and Gadkari Mayura Mukund (India) who had training at Daiwa House Industry Co.,Ltd, and Oryza Angga Irawan (Indonesia) and Kanchana Nyaichyai (Nepal) who had training at Takenaka Corporation.

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

(Oryza Angga Irawan / Indonesia) - This is my first time. People are nice, and the city is clean. Japanese technology is far beyond my expectation.

2. What is the difference between your country and Japan?

Yusfan Adeputera Yusran / Indonesia) - In Indonesia, people are usually coming late for work but Japanese are punctual, disciplined and hard-workers. Another different point is the development of transportation. It is easy to get to many places in Japan.

3. How did you spend your weekend?

(Gadkari Mayura Mukund / India) - I visited around Osaka city and Kasugaoka Church made by Ando in Ibaraki City. Also, went to see the Danjiri-Festival (at Saka-City), which was exciting. Home-stay was a great experience for me, too.

4. What is your impression about Ando's architecture?

(Oryza / Indonesia) - If I go into his architecture, I feel a space, and a design and a process of it's architecture. Ando is the great architect because he is thinking and helping his own country.

5. When did you start getting interested in architecture?

(Kanchana Nyaichyai / Nepal) - At first, I was not interested in architecture until high school, but as I got influenced and familiar with the environment of historical and cultural background of architecture of my hometown in Nepal, it brought me an want to become an architect.

6. How was the host company training?

(Oryza / Indonesia) - I learned the Japanese way of management system (for example, keeping the deadlines, how to start designing etc.) at Takenaka's training -Also, I enjoyed a site visit, and typical Japanese corporate culture.

Mayura / India) - It was wonderful. People in the company were very nice and they took care of us well and we were able to have a close relationship with them. The prevention technique know-how that I learned was a very helpful skill for me, so I would like to carry out the skill that I acquired someday in the future. Daiwa House is like my second home to me and I have homely feeling for my host company.

7. What did you learn through the host company training?

(Kanchana / Nepal) - My training was mostly visiting construction sites. I learned the prevention technique and also how to cooperate and work together with other divisions. Knowing their working pattern, having meetings often, and reporting frequently about a process were very interesting.

8. How do you want to make use of the knowledge you gained though the training?

(Oryza / Indonesia) - I learned the know-how to work smoothly from the host company training, so from now on I want to be strict with my schedule management.

(Yusfan / Indonesia) - If I go back to Indonesia, I want to make use of the knowledge that I learned and acquired through Daiwa's training, (for example, prevention technique, how to make use of partial material, and designing an architecture that is helpful for the handicap and elderly people etc.)

9. Please tell us the most impressive thing in Japan.

(Mayura / India) Most impressive thing was meeting with Mr.Ando. Also, riding the Shinkansen from Kobe to Osaka and my home-stay experience allowed me to know about Japanese culture and traditional way of living.

(5) Activity Report 5

■ International Exchange Festival

On November 23 we held the 15th International Exchange Festival at the Kansai International Center (near the Kansai International Airport). The event was sponsored by the Kansai International Center Trainees

Support Council, which consists of 10 international exchange associations in southern Osaka, Osaka Foundation of International Exchange and the Kansai International Center.

As the event is done year-by-year, there is a tendency that the activities are repeated, but the Support Council values the exchange with the Trainees and we make it a point to have the Trainees experience many things for the first time. Many of the trainees are very familiar with the Japanese and through this event could experience many things and have much cultural exchange with Japanese. There were many exhibitions and demonstrations, such as the old art of sword drawing or "iaido", calligraphy, post card making, and making of traditional Japanese toys. The trainees held an exhibit and aggressively introduced their own countries. The event that draws a big audience every year is the Fashion show of the trainees' traditional wears. 30 of the trainees show off their traditional wear with pride.

Even though it was only for a moment, it was a

moving time when you can mingle with many people of different cultures and see a dazzling array of costumes before you despite the fact that you are in Japan.

There were about 500 people who attended the event, which started at 1 pm. Thanks to the people who attended, we were able to have a successful event. We are now looking forward to having the 16th International Exchange Festival next year.



(6) Activity Report 6

■Orion Dormitory Winter Party

On December 10, the Orion Dormitory Winter Party was held. Local community people and Japanese students, who have been helping the dorm residents, attended the party. The North Sakai Police Department was also present and instructed the dorm residents on crime prevention. Everyone had an enjoyable exchange singing songs, doing calligraphy and playing games. Children from "PowerArts", where some dorm residents are also affiliated

with, performed a very energetic acrobat show. It was a very exhilarating party and everyone was rejuvenated by the smiles and energy of the children



(7) Activity Report 7

■Job Hunting Seminar and Exchange Meeting with Companies



A "Job Hunting Seminar and Exchange Meeting with Companies", sponsored by Sakai City, Osaka Foundation of International Exchange, and the Osaka Institute of Labor, was held on December 10 at the Sakai City International Exchange Plaza. 22 international students who are thinking of applying for a job in Japan participated in a lecture where they learned how to

write entry sheets, how to do self analysis, how to collect and research on company information, what to do during an interview, how to go about looking for a job and how to schedule activities. After that, they had an opportunity to listen to company personnel in charge of hiring and were able to participate in an exchange meeting where they asked questions and self-promotion. International students comments such as, "I was able to understand how to go job hunting and the seminar was really helpful" and "I hope you do another seminar like this again."

(8) Greetings from JICA Desk

Hello, everyone. My name is Tomoko Nakagawa and I have been working at OFIX's JICA desk since May 2010. It has been 1 year and 7 months since I have started working and this month, I will be leaving my job. During my term, I was able to meet people from different local governments in Osaka Prefecture and people in the education field. It was an opportunity for me to learn about many things not just about international cooperation volunteers, but

education and the life of foreigners in Japan, as well. I am really grateful to the relationships I have made, the people I have worked with and helped me with many things. In the next issue of OFIX news, my successor will be giving her greetings and I wish that you would extend to her and JICA desk the cooperation and kindness you have extended to me.

(9) Notices

■International Cooperation Square entitled "Looking at the World: a Movie Festival"

JICA Osaka, together with Osaka Foundation of International Exchange, will be holding an International Cooperation Square entitled "Looking at the World: a Movie Festival". Documentaries in three areas, International Cooperation • Economy • Environment, will be shown.

【1st Showing】International Cooperation-Millennium Development Goal
January 22, 2012 (Sunday) 13:30-16:00
"8-Eight" (100 mins.) Movie showing+Talk by

Oxfam & JICA Osaka Director

【2nd Showing】Economy
What is "Richness"?
February 26, 2012 (Sunday) 13:30-15:30
"The Economics of Happiness" (68 mins) Movie showing+Talk by a JICA Volunteer
【3rd Showing】Environment
Islands Shaken by Climate Change
March 18, 2012 (Sunday) 13:30-16:30

“Beautiful Islands”(106 mins) Movie showing+Special Talk by Director Tomoko Kana

<Venue> Osaka International Center Small Hall
<Fee> Free <Limit> 200 people (for each movie)
<Registration> Registration is open 1 month before the

showing. Please call and give your name, contact details and number of people going.

Registration and Inquiries: Osaka International Center Information and Planning Tel 06-6773-8989

■Bidding for the Consignment of Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program Projects

OFIX and the Osaka Prefectural Office have drawn out the “Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program” and have established the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee.

We are now open to receive proposals and bids to consign the various projects related to “Global Human Resources Development” and “Preparing an

environment to accept foreigners”, to make use of the knowledge and know-how of private enterprises and implement the projects more effectively and efficiently.

For details, please see the website below.
http://www.ofix.or.jp/ap_koubo.html

(10) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Philippine Christmas 2+ New Year

Hello everyone! How was everyone’s Christmas? By the time you are reading this, you must be preparing for the New Year already. Last time, I talked about Philippine Christmas, but I did not speak in detail about what we do. This time, I will talk about that and about the Philippine New Year.

As I’ve said last time, in the Philippines, we start preparing for Christmas starting September. However, the actual start of the celebration is the 16th of December. This day is the start of the “Simbang Gabi” or Midnight Mass. This Mass is held from the 16th every early morning for 9 days. This is why you will hear church bells at around 3 or 3:30 in the morning. After the mass, people buy sweets called “puto bumbong” and “bibingka”, which is similar to a hotcake, then go home.

December 24 is a day for the family, so on this day the family spends it together. The 24th is called “Noche Buena” or “Good Night” in the Philippines. On this day, we prepare lots of food to welcome the guests, relatives, friends and neighbors, who will come to visit. At midnight, the whole family eats together, the same way as Japanese families eat together when it is the New Year. We usually eat Pancit, spaghetti, Puto, and barbecue during Christmas. There are food which are eaten only on Christmas like ham and “Quezo de bola” or a ball of cheese. Even though Christmas ends, the celebration does not end, yet. Next is the New Year.

The Philippine New Year has a reputation of

being “noisy”. Like other countries, the Philippines greets the New Year with a loud noise. And many make use of firecrackers to make a loud noise. This



tradition was probably from China. However, not only do people make noise on New Year’s day, but from 2 weeks before, you could hear the sounds of firecrackers. I

have seen a strong firecracker blow up near a street post. The blast was so strong that the light of the electric post almost went off. There are strong firecrackers like that and many people get injured every year because of the explosions. Recently, the thinking of Filipinos have changed that many use toy trumpets or beat the bottom of pans to make loud sounds instead of firecrackers. Others turn up the volume of the radio, while those driving their cars honk their horns. The barrage of noise lasts for about 30 minutes, after which everyone eats then go to sleep. In the morning, people get black noses because of the smoke of the firecrackers. (To avoid this, some people stuff cotton in their noses.)

The Philippine Christmas and New Year is the liveliest season of the year. Won’t you go and see it for yourself?

- ◎ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Osaka International Club Reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp
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