

**Contents**

**(1) Announcements from OFIX**

- “1-day Information Service” for Foreigners (Free Consultation)
- Interpreter/ Translator Training and Disaster Training/ Training for the Establishment of the multilingual Support Center for Foreign Students

**(2) Activity Report**

- Orion Local Community Exchange and Welcome Party
- FY 2011 Volunteer Dispatch Report

**(3) Announcement from JICA**

- The Establishment of JICA Kansai (Closing of JICA Osaka and its Move to and Integration with JICA Hyogo)

**(4) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents**

- Valid Period of the Alien Registration Card

**(5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report**

- Summer time in the Philippines

**(1) Announcements from OFIX**

**■ “1-day Information Service” for Foreigners (Free Consultation) This year it will be held on June 24 (Sunday)**

There are many foreigners living in Japan who have problems in their daily life caused by the differences in social and educational systems, administrative procedures, etc.

To help solve the problems of foreigners living in Osaka and making life for them easier, a 1-day free consultation service will be held again this year, where specialized institutions (institutions that strive to make Osaka a more comfortable place to live for foreigners) from various fields will come together to give consultation to foreigners.

At the event, through the support of volunteer interpreters, consultation and information will be provided in 9 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.

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

Date: June 24, 2012 (Sunday) 11:00-17:00 (registration is until 16:30)

Venue: International House Osaka 2F

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

Target: Foreign residents in Osaka and related people (it does not matter if you are a general person, student, or other residential status) Consultations will be kept confidential

- Consultations are free, you can ask as much as you want about anything in 1 day.

- No need for pre-registration. Please come on the day itself.

- Please introduce the event to your other foreign friends.

Sponsor: 1 Day Information Service Executive Committee

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 Municipal Child Care Counseling Information Center, Kansai NPO Alliance, Osaka Foundation for International Exchange, Osaka International House Foundation, and others

Inquiries: Osaka Foundation of International Exchange Planning and Promotions Group

Telephone: 06-6966-2400

E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

**■ Interpreter/ Translator Training and Disaster Training/ Training for the Establishment of the multilingual Support Center for Foreign Students**



OFIX will hold interpreting and translating training and disaster training which is about disaster response, disaster prevention and first-aid and training for the establishment of the

multilingual support center on how to inform relevant organizations and share information in times of disaster and translating the disaster information for foreign students within the Osaka prefecture as shown below.

① Interpreter / Translator Training  
When: Saturday 16th June, 9:30~16:30  
Meeting time: 9:15

Outline: ※We might change the contents.

	Contents
AM	Manners and attitudes of an interpreter / Interpreting training (Role-Play)
PM	Technical terms and previous knowledge of disaster and emergency / Translation work

Fee: Free

Eligible to attend/Number slots available

40 slots for international students and foreign residents

**Application Deadline:**

Sunday 10th June 2012 (first come first served)  
② (A)Disaster Training / (B)Training for the Establishment of the Multilingual Support Center  
When: Saturday 30th June, 10:30~16:30  
Meeting time: 10:15

Eligible to attend/Number of slots available:  
50 slots for foreign students and foreign residents

Application Deadline:  
Wednesday June 20, 2012 (first come first served)

Where: Sakai International Hall  
(2-226, Higashi Uenoshiba-cho, Kita-ku, Sakai City, 591-803, 400m walk from Uenoshiba Station on the JR Hanwa Line)

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

\* Please visit OFIX Homepage <http://www.ofix.or.jp/> "What's New" for the specific details of guideline and application form.

Outline : ※ We might change the contents.

	A	B
AM	Experiencing being in an evacuation shelter	What is the multilingual support center?
Lunch	Emergency food tasting	
PM	Disaster prevention lecture by fire department, lifesaving drill etc (CPR, AED practice etc)	Translation of disaster information and training on what to do at evacuation shelters as a volunteer

Fee: Free



**(2) Activity Report**

**■ Orion Local Community Exchange and Welcome Party**



On May 12 (Saturday), the "Local Community Exchange and Welcome Party" was held at the Orion International Hall. Orion residents, people from the local community, and members of the Osaka

Prefecture University International Exchange Circle Orion, a total of about 70 people, participated in the event. The Kita Sakai Police taught the students safety measures and how to live safely in Japan. People from the local community taught calligraphy

and merrily sang Japanese children's songs with everyone. Staff from the International Relations and Tourism Division put up a takoyaki booth and taught beginners how to cook takoyaki. The international students ate the takoyaki with delight.



Someone played the piano, some sang songs, and some won prizes through the bingo game. It was an enjoyable party for all.

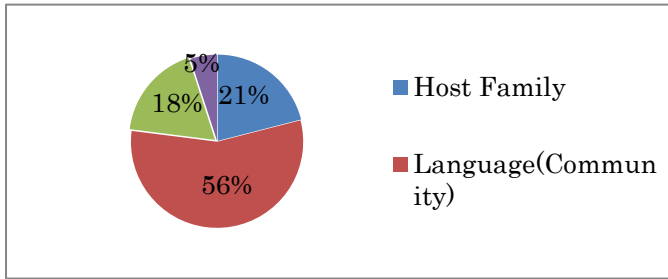
**■ FY 2011 Volunteer Dispatch Report**

OFIX is operating the "OFIX Volunteer Registration System", the aim of which is to promote international understanding and local support for foreign residents through the participation of residents in Osaka in volunteer activities. In 2011, the total number of registered volunteers reached 772. And for 2011, 104 language volunteers, 5 cultural volunteers were dispatched and 50 home stay/home visit families were introduced.

Especially in 2011, because of the growing interpretation/translation needs of foreign residents, the demand for language volunteers to act as community interpreters and the requests for the translation of disaster risk reduction management information accounted for 75% of total activities of language volunteers.

In response to this, for 2012, OFIX aims to promote international understanding and local support for foreign residents by continuing training programs, such as the community interpreter volunteer and disaster-period interpreter/translator training programs.

【 Ratio of each activities per total dispatched requests 】



**【Detail of Activities and Clients】**

**Language Volunteers**

- 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
- Elementary School Class Assistance, Chinese Interpretation ( Fujiidera Border of Education )
- Guardian Interview, Spanish Interpretation (Chuo Child-Family Center)
- Parents-Teacher Meeting, Persian/Arabian Interpretation & Translation (Minoh city office)

• “Questionnaire for foreign evacuees and Pointing sheet”

(Osaka Pre.Gov. International Relations and Tourism Division)

English/Chinese/Korean/Spanish/Filipino/Portuguese /Vietnamese/Thai Translation

**Cultural Volunteers**

- International Exchange Tea Party, Experiencing wearing the Kimono (Urasenke Tankokai Osaka Western Group Namihaya Youth Group)
- Convivial exchange meeting for scholarship students, Playing Japanese Instruments (The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research)

Nationalities of those accommodated by host families Singaporean, Bruneian, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Indian, Australian, New Zealander, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, Thai, Nepalese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Belgian, French, Dutch, Swedish etc.

★Thank you everyone for your cooperation.★

**(3) Announcement from JICA**

**■The Establishment of JICA Kansai (Closing of JICA Osaka and its Move to and Integration with JICA Hyogo)**

Since long ago, Kobe-Hyogo, as a representative port of Japan, has been an advanced region of exchange and cooperation with overseas countries and has a local characteristic of being a region where support and understanding for international cooperation may be easily obtained from citizens, local governments, universities, research institutions, companies, etc. are easily obtained more than any region from Kansai from the fact many foreigners were accepted into the community and many Japanese who immigrated to South America were from the region.

Ever since the establishment of the old Hyogo International Center in Suma in August 1973, JICA has been conducting Overseas Development Assistance Programs, focusing on the acceptance of trainees from developing countries. After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, JICA moved to the Kobe Eastern New City (HAT Kobe), a project to revive Hyogo, and the Hyogo International Center (JICA Hyogo) was opened in April 2002.

And because of the latest "budget screening", starting from the fiscal year 2012, it was decided that the old JICA Osaka will be closed and integrated to JICA Hyogo, and rename it as JICA Kansai.

Obtaining the support of everyone in the region, we will develop international cooperation activities, becoming a bridge between Kansai and developing countries as the comprehensive office for JICA projects in Kansai.

Aside from the office, there are training and accommodation facilities (single: 92 rooms, twin: 4 rooms (including two barrier-free rooms) where about 1,350 persons stay per year.

In addition, anyone can use the JICA plaza Kansai (a public-relations exhibition room, a data room, a dining-room, and an entrance lobby) on the first floor as a center open to the community.

There are also facilities for a simple exhibit and a cafeteria where one can eat ethnic food.

Please do not hesitate to drop by JICA Kansai which

overlooks the sea.

**【Homepage】**

<http://www.jica.go.jp/kansai/office/plaza.html>

**【For Inquiries】**

Japan International Cooperation Agency Kansai International Center (JICA Kansai)

1-5-2 Wakinohama Kaigandori, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture 651-0073

Tel: (078) 261-0341 (Trunk Line)

Fax: (078) 261-0342

E-mail: [jicahic@jica.go.jp](mailto:jicahic@jica.go.jp)

**【Access】**

- From JR Nada Station, walk South about 12 minutes
- From Iwaya Station, walk South about 10 minutes



## (4) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

### ■ Valid Period of the Alien Registration Card

From July 9 this year, the Residential Basic Book Act will be applicable to mid to long term foreign residents, marking a move from the Alien Registration Management System. The Alien Registration Card can still be used for a period of time after that, but the period will depend on the residential status and age. So it is necessary to be careful. The "Residential Card" will be granted by the Immigration Office.

For those below 16 years old, until July 8, 2015 or until their 16th birthday, whichever comes earlier  
 For Special Permanent Residents, if the period for the start of renewing your Alien Registration Card, which is your birthday, is within 3 years after the implementation of the revised law, the limit is until July 8, 2015. If the period is more than 3 years, it will be until the day written on your Alien Registration Card. At that time, Special Permanent Residents should go to their municipal offices and a "Special Permanent Resident Certification" will be given to them.

Residential status	Period of validity of Alien Registration Card
Permanent Residents	Until July 8, 2015 For those below 16 years old, until July 8, 2015 or until their 16th birthday, whichever comes earlier
Others	the expiration date of the period of stay

©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](mailto:jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp)  
 Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

## (5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ Summer time in the Philippines

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin. Recently, the climate has been changing to warm and cool very often, so I hope everyone is doing alright. This month, I would like to talk about the Philippine summer, entitled "Summer Time in the Philippines".

about in the last issue of OFIX News. Other famous festivals are the "Pahiyas", which is celebrated in Lucban province to give thanks for a bountiful harvest; the "Carabao Festival" in Bulacan, which pays homage to the Carabao; and the "Santa Cruzan" (also called "Flores de Mayo") which is held almost all over the country.

Some of you may think that it is a bit early to talk about summer, but actually, summer in the Philippines is from April until the end of May. This period is the hottest period in the Philippines. I went home recently and I was told that the hottest day was about 38°C. During the summer, it is very rare to have rain, but in May this year, it rained very often.

If you talk about the Philippines, the seas come to mind. The Philippines is a warm country and you can go to the sea almost any time you want. However, most people go to the sea in the summer. Famous destinations include Cebu, Boracay, Puerto Gallera and Palawan. If you want to escape from the heat, people don't go to the sea, but to places like Tagaytay, Baguio or Banawe. Especially in Baguio and Banawe, even during mid-summer, the temperature is about 16°C to 25°C.

For the student, summer is the longest vacation they have, so they look forward to it. However, for high school students who have bad grades, they have to take summer classes. The University also conducts classes during the summer. Classes that usually take 1 semester to finish can be taken in two months. Usually, students will take 2 classes 5 days a week for 8 weeks. That is why there are many university students who make use of the summer period to take difficult classes.

If you cannot wait for summer in Japan, go to the Philippines in May for that summer feeling. Won't you enjoy summer in the Philippines? Now, the tourism slogan of the Philippines is "It's more fun in the Philippines". Find out for yourselves why.

Of course, there are also many festivals and events during the summer. Philippine summer is the season for festivals. One example is "Holy Week", which I talked

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