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**(1) Activity Report****■ Disaster Prevention Workshop with Consulate Generals in Kansai**

On November 8 (Thurs.), a Disaster Prevention Workshop was held at the Tsunami Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station where a total of 62 people consisting of personnel from Consulate

Generals in Kansai, Administrative

Personnel from the various prefectures in the Kinki region, and staff of the Kinki Council of Local

Authorities for International Relations.

First, everyone participated in a tour of the Tsunami Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station Exhibit Building. After that, a lecture about the following was held.

1. Introduction of the activities of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations.
2. Foreigner support by the Osaka Immigration Bureau, the Ministry of Justice at the time of a disaster



3. Multilingual Broadcasting by FM802 Media Works • FM Radio Station Response to a Disaster

Afterwards, an exchange of opinion was held with the personnel of the Consul Generals.

Here are the comments and opinions of the participants

\* The Experience Theater of the Tsunami Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station was wonderful. It was educational.

\* It was a good opportunity for experts and personnel of Consul Generals who face difficulties with Disaster Prevention.

In the future, would like to strengthen collaboration with related institutions through workshops like this and aim to create an environment where foreigners can live at ease.

**■ Orion Dormitory and Osaka City University International Student Dormitory Joint Emergency Drill and Career Counseling**

On October 27 (Saturday) an “Orion Dormitory and Osaka City University International Student Dormitory Joint Emergency Drill” and

“Career Counseling for

International Students” was

held at Orion Dormitory.

About 50 people from both

dormitories participated in

an emergency drill where it

was supposed that a large

earthquake occurred and a

fire broke out inside the

building. After learning

about not evacuating alone

but with other people, about

leaving a note about your

safety and learning from the

Sakai City Fire

Department about how to use a

fire extinguisher, everyone

walked together to the nearest

evacuation center to confirm

the route.

Even before the start of the

drill announcement there

were people who were already

evacuating and some using

the stairs near the supposed

fire instead of



the specified evacuation stairs. However, the drill went well and was completed within the time.

A comment from the participants was “I think it is important to practice to prepare for a fire.” Participants also had a lecture on crime prevention from the Kita Sakai Police Department.

As for the Career Counseling, 8 international students who wish to work in Japan participated and consulted with the counselor on their questions about and important points of job hunting.

Comments from the participants were, “I was able to get advice on the job that is best for me and have made a new discovery”, “I have never known just how to look for a job. I was glad that someone could teach me”.

We have also receive glad tidings from students who said that they were able to find a job and the counseling was a great help.

We always hear international students who are looking for a job say: “I don’t know what to do when looking for a job.” At OFIX, we will continue to give such job hunting support to international students.

## (2) 2012 Ando Program Activities

### ■ Exchange with Kobe Design University and Osaka Prefectural University Students

As we have reported in the 51st Issue of OFIX News, during the 2012 Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (Ando Program), not only did the trainees participate in a 10-day training at Obayashi Corporation, Zenitaka Corporation, Daiwa House Corporation, and Takenaka Corporation, and make a courtesy call to Osaka Prefecture and the office of Tadao Ando, they also had an exchange with Japanese students (including international students) in an event hosted by Kobe Design University and, this year, Osaka Prefectural University, where they had an opportunity to learn many things.

For two days, October 4 and 5, the trainees had an Asian Youth Architects exchange meeting with Kobe Design University at the Kobe Design University Campus and Awaji Yume Butai, a work of Mr. Tadao Ando.

Upon arriving at Kobe Design University, the trainees were given a tour of the campus and after learning about the curriculum of the university, were warmly welcomed at a welcome party. After University President Mr. Saiki's welcome speech, 6 students who will join the symposium were introduced, including international students from China, India, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and then the symposium was started.

This year's symposium theme was "Revival and Disaster Prevention: Measures in Various Countries." The KDU students and trainees presented about the different measures and cases in their countries. As a case of Japan is the regeneration and revival of the towns damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake was taken up. The trainees gave a presentation about the pace and measures for revival in their countries after the tsunami, the situation after the earthquake, and tasks to solve. There was an active exchange of question and answers and an academic discussion was conducted.

After that, everyone moved to Yume Butai. During the Night Session, through the games and icebreaker that was done on the first day where they had to



make a case for an egg, which will prevent it from breaking when dropped from the 7th floor, using limited materials (newspaper, Styrofoam, etc.), the

distance between the trainees and students became closer and everyone was engaged in talk about their specializations, hobbies and architecture.

On the 2nd day, the latter half of the presentation was conducted. After that, they toured the Yume Butai and Honpuku Temple, where they could again see the magnificence and presence of Mr. Tadao Ando's work. It was a fruitful 2 days with everyone learning many things. The symposium ended with a wish that the exchange between the young architects would last for a long time.

In continuation, on October 6, the 8 trainees and 18 Osaka Prefectural



University students participated in a workshop entitled "Design Our Campus" and was held at the Nakamozu Campus of Osaka Prefectural University. After a big welcome of

Osaka Prefectural students, who stood at the entrance of the Nakamozu Campus with flags of the countries of the trainees, everyone moved to the workshop venue and Vice-President and International Exchange Promotion Institute Director Mr. Terasako gave his opening greetings.

The participants were divided into 4 groups and discussed how to design the university pond with a Japanese taste and make it a more attractive place where people can relax and enjoy. After self-introductions mixed with picture-taking, by the time they surveyed the pond to get ideas, the somewhat tense trainees began to relax and be at ease and communicated well with the aggressive university students, overcoming the language barrier.

In the afternoon, they returned to the classroom and in each group started writing down the current problems and made a presentation about ideas on how to make improvements. In each group, original and characteristic ideas were earnestly shared one after another. By going beyond nationality and language, respecting each other's opinion and working together, the trainees and Osaka Prefectural University students were able to have a meaningful and stimulating exchange. Lastly, President and Director, Mr. Okuno gave his comments and wished for the continued exchange between the students and trainees. With that, the 1-day workshop came to a close.

### 2012 Ando Program Trainees List

Name	Area	Country	Training Site
Bui Quoc Thang	Hanoi	Vietnam	Zenitaka Corp.
Raquel Cabatac	Manila	Philippines	Zenitaka Corp.
Hareesh Haridasan	Mumbai	India	Takenaka Corp.
Hilda Multi Artarina	East Java	Indonesia	Takenaka Corp.
Korkiat Kittisoponpong	Bangkok	Thailand	Obayashi Corp.
Liu Xudong	Shanghai	China	Daiwa House Corp.
Shyanaka Dananjaya	Colombo	Sri Lanka	Obayashi Corp.
Suman Shakya	Kathmandu	Nepal	Daiwa House Corp.

## ■ Ando Program Trainees Interview

Here is a mail interview with the trainees after they went home.

### 1. How did you learn about the Ando Program?

I learned about the Ando Program from a presentation of my senior in 2006 when I was still in 3rd year College. He talked about the valuable experience he had as a trainee and I got very interested and thought that I would like to participate in the program, too. (Hilda)

### 2. What was your first impression of Osaka? What is a big difference between Osaka and your town?

I thought it was a very clean town. Osaka and Shanghai don't look very different, but I think the public morality and environment in Osaka is much better. (Liu)

### 3. How was the training that you received at your host company?



My most memorable experience at my training at Daiwa House was the construction site visit and visit to Hannan sky town. There I learned about Japan's effective usage of

space and architectural technology. In my home country, I work in home design and it was very educational in learning something that was directly related to my own field. (Suman)

There were many discussions with people of different specialization, OJT and studying in a relaxed atmosphere at the office. I was able to spend time with many people during the lunches and farewell party. (Korkiat)

### 4. Please tell us your impression when you met Mr. Ando.

It was like a dream. I can't describe in words. It was wonderful to directly listen to Mr. Ando and I will always remember it. I was very impressed with

Mr. Ando's architecture and his advice to young architects. (Hareesh)

Mr. Ando's office was smaller than I expected, but it was unique and symbolizes Mr. Ando. He was very frank and his advice that we should immediately decide our direction as architects left an impression on me. He also appealed to us about the importance of considering the environment as world citizens. (Hilda)

### 5. What was the most impressive experience for you during the training?



Aside from meeting Mr. Ando, it was the discussion with the students of the Design University at Awaji, sleeping in a Japanese style room and touring the Yume Butai. (Raquel)

There were really many people who gave their efforts for this program and I am very grateful. (Korkiat)

### 6. How did you spend your weekends and free time?

There wasn't a day when I had free time. I visited different places in Osaka and understood the town's transportation network. I went to Osaka Castle, the Church of Light., Shitennoji, Tsutenkaku, etc. (Hareesh)

I went to places not in the training itinerary. It was fun riding the Monorail going to the "Church of Light". I was also lucky to be able to participate in the "Danjiri Festival". (Suman)

### 7. What is your goal or future career plan now that you have returned to your own country?

I'm thinking about going to graduate school or studying overseas. Or I might return to Japan. When that time comes, of course I will choose Osaka. (Raquel)

To finish my MA and move to PhD. After the Ando Program, I dream of working in Japan someday. After getting my PhD, I will try the challenge. (Shanaka)

## (3) Notice

### ■ Introduction of Crime Prevention DVD and Crime Prevention Pamphlet for Women

The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research has made an educational DVD on the prevention of sex crimes against women entitled "Anticrime Measures for Women-To Protect Oneself-" in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean.

Various tactics to prevent crime, such as anticrime measures for women, how to avoid becoming victims of snatching and bicycle thefts,

how to call 110 etc. are explained clearly.

The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Assistance & Research is distributing the DVD to those who want it. If you want a DVD, please contact the Foundation's telephone: 06-4304-0180.



## (4) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

### ■ Pension Premium Deferred Payment System

Depending on the conditions, foreigners are also forced to enrolling the pension program. Have you been payments without knowing the system? This October, the National Pension Premium Deferred Payment System was implemented and will be in effect for only 3 years. So premium that could not be paid in the last 10 years because the 2-years statute of limitations ran out can now be paid. Through this system, you can increase the pension you will receive after retirement. And those who could not receive pension because the period of payments does not satisfy the minimum period may be able to become qualified for pension. However, in the case of foreigners, this system does not apply to periods when the foreigner did not have an address in Japan and was living abroad.

Also, according to the Japan Pension Service, to be able to receive pension, you need to have a total of 300 months for the paid period, including the period of exemption of payment, under the present system. However, from October 2015, it will be shortened to 120 months.

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## (5) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ “Kris Kringle” of the Philippines

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin. Winter has already come. Are you all keeping warm? Talking about winter, the season that the Philippines has been waiting for has come: Christmas!

If you go to the Philippines at this time, you will see Christmas decorations wherever you go. The town would probably be lighted up with beautiful illumination. Last year, I wrote about Philippine Christmas and this year I would like to write about “Kris Kringle” an event that we do in schools and offices during Christmas.

In the Philippines, we have this tradition of holding a “Kris Kringle” or “Monito Monita” in school or at the office when December comes. One thing everyone is looking forward to in Christmas is getting presents. However, if no one gives, no one gets a present. So, to make the Christmas season livelier and so you can feel kinder, we have the “Kris Kringle”. How do we do it?

First, we write the names of everyone on pieces of paper and put it in a box. Then we draw 1 paper each. We do not tell anyone who we got. The person that was drawn will become “child” during the Kris Kringle period and as the “parent”, the person who drew the “child” must give presents. In school, we usually have Kris Kringle a week before Christmas vacation. During this week, the “parent” must

give a present to the “child” everyday. However, not just any present will do. The “Kris Kringle Committee”, who sets the rules and holds the list of names of the participants, decides the theme for each day, for example, on Monday “Something hard”, on Tuesday “Something sweet”, on Wednesday “Something fluffy”, and so on. Of course, there is a limit to how much the present will cost. There are people who give actual presents, while others give “joke” presents. For example, for the theme “something hard”, some people will give a rock. As the presents are given secretly, there is no way of telling who gave the presents, so you cannot complain. However, on the last day, it is the child’s turn to give a present to the parent. If you keep giving “joke” gifts, you would not get a good gift on the last day. The aim of the activity is so that everyone will enjoy. You get excited just thinking what kind of gift you will receive next. And since you do not know who your parent is, it is also fun to do a lot of investigation to try to find the identity of your parent. There are probably some people who are excited thinking “what if it’s my crush!!”

How about it? Don’t you think it is fun? Why not have an exciting Christmas? Let’s try do Kris Kringle at school or at work!!

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