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**(1) Notice from OFIX**

## ■ OFIX Activities in 2013

OFIX is promoting the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program (established in October 2011) together with the Osaka Prefectural government. Again this year, we will be implementing various projects based on 3 pillars: “Development of Global Human Resources”, “Creating an Environment for Admitting Foreigners” and “Collection and Dissemination of International Exchange Information”. We will be announcing our training activities and projects for public bidding on our homepage (some projects will be announced through the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee (composed of OFIX and Osaka Prefectural government) homepage: <http://www.osakaglobal.jp/>) We await your participation.

## ○Development of Global Human Resources

For the Global Training Program, we will be implementing practical English education for high school students utilizing mock facilities with the scenario of going and staying overseas. This year, we will also be preparing a homestay simulation menu.

In the Osaka Global School, after the short-term overseas study preparation course, students go to either the US or UK for weeks of short-term overseas study in August and after coming back to Japan, a course will be held in preparation for long-term overseas studies. A feature of this year’s course is that the TOEFL iBT, for the US Course, and the IELTS is also included in the program to strengthen the English proficiency of the students necessary for studying abroad.

Furthermore, the intensive overseas study preparation course, which was held last year as part of the Global Training Program, will be held as an independent program this year. In addition to university and vocational/technical school students, high school students will also be the target of this program. The program content would be more practical including TOEFL/IELTS reviews and tips, how to write an application form and apply to an overseas university, etc.

With the aim of promoting understanding of other countries, we are also sending international students from different countries as international understanding education lecturers to schools within Osaka Prefecture of students who have interest in other countries. We will also hold the Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts and the ESSEC Business School Training Program to admit young people who wish to be active globally and provide a venue for exchange with the youth and working people in Osaka to give them an opportunity to expand their viewpoint.

## ○ Creating an Environment for Admitting Foreigners

In continuation of last year, we will be holding a study abroad promotion in Indonesia (9/21, 22) and Vietnam (11/3, 4) together with universities, vocational and technical schools and companies in Osaka. This year, in addition to the Fair event, we are scheduled to hold an exchange event for the personnel of the local educational institutions and educational institutions of Osaka.

To promotion job hunting and employment support, we are also holding an internship program for international students to decrease a mismatch after employment and ensure that hired international students would stay long at a Japanese company. Furthermore, we are also scheduled to hold a job fair (12/3, 4) for international students together with the Osaka Institute of Labor.

For the international student exchange project, international and Japanese students studying in Osaka will create a video and pamphlet about Osaka and a presentation will be held at the promotion venue in Indonesia and Vietnam.

As the need for multilingual support is increasing, we will be collaborating with the international organizations of each municipality and hold trainings and level check for the interpreter and translator volunteers in their areas as well as consultation meetings.

Furthermore, as part of the support for foreigners during a disaster, we are planning to hold an emergency drill for foreigners in each area.

## ○Collection and Dissemination of International Exchange Information

Information on the Foundation’s activities and international exchange are disseminated through the Foundation’s homepage and mail magazine.

**(2) Call for Application**

**■ The Community Interpreter & Disaster Response Interpreter/Translator Volunteer Training**

We will be holding a training for community interpreters, disaster response interpreters and translators, who serve as bridges of communication

for foreigners living in Osaka, to enable them to live at ease in Osaka. OFIX will be holding the training as follows:

\*Contents might change

Community Interpreter Volunteer Training		Theme
May 22 Wed. Session 1	10:00-10:30	Situation of foreigners in Osaka
	10:30-12:30	Lecture: Resident status
	13:30-14:30	Entrance Examination System for public high schools in Osaka
	14:30-16:30	Manners and attitudes of a community interpreter and a Case-Study
May 24 Fri. Session 2	10:00-11:00	Lecture: Maternal and Child Health
	11:00-12:00	Lecture: Child Abuse
	13:30-16:30	Role-Play and the OFIX language volunteers' System
Disaster Response Interpreter/Translator Volunteer Training		Theme
May. 27 Mon.	10:00-10:30	Interpreter and translator system during a Disaster
	10:30-12:00	Situation of foreigners disasters with workshop
	13:00-14:30	Easy Japanese and Workshop
	14:30-16:30	Role-Play and Translation Workshop

【Venue】My Dome Osaka 8th Floor Meeting Room  
 【Deadline】  
 May 6, 2013(Mon) (\* We might move the deadline depending on the application status.)

Please visit OFIX Homepage for the specific details of guidelines and application form.  
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20130416>  
 (Japanese only)

**■ Call for Applicants for the 2013 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts**

In May 1992, Mr. Tadao Ando, a world-class architect from Osaka, was awarded the Carlsberg Architectural Prize and received a prize money of 30 million yen. Mr. Ando donated all of the prize money to the Osaka Prefectural government with the intention of making it useful for furthering international exchange between Osaka and other countries. OFIX received this donation through the Osaka Prefectural government and, in accordance with the wish of Mr. Ando, established the "Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts" as a Memorial Program of Tadao Ando winning the Carlsberg Architectural Prize. Also there are companies who support with the objective of inviting about 8-10 graduate students majoring in architecture and similar courses or architects from various Asian countries.

This program is held every autumn for a period of one month. This year will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Program since it started. During this program all trainees experience about 10-days of practical on-the-job training at the representative construction companies in Osaka have discussions with Japanese students, experience home-stay with a Japanese family, visit Tadao Ando's works and

tour the city.

OFIX is also now accepting applications of this program and will be selecting 8 participants from countries and regions in Asia. For application forms and this year's schedule, please visit:

<http://ofix.or.jp/aprogram/overview.html>  
 (Japanese)  
<http://ofix.or.jp/english/aprogram/overview.html>



(2012 Courtesy Visit to Mr. Ando's Office)

## ■ “1-Day Information Service” for Foreigners

This year, we will hold again a “1-Day Information Service” where foreigners who have problems regarding law, residential status and visas, work, insurance and pension and medical treatment can consult for free with professional in the respective fields.

Date: June 9, 2013 (Sunday)

11:00-17:00 (Registration is until 16:30)

Venue: Osaka International House Foundation  
8-2-6 Uehommachi 8-chome, Tennoji-ku,  
Osaka 543-0001

Telephone: 06-6772-5931

Target: Foreigners in Osaka and related people (no residential status limitation) All consultations are strictly private

Language: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese

Inquiries: Osaka Foundation for International Exchange Planning and Promotion Division

Telephone: 06-6966-2400

E-mail: info @ofix.or.jp

### (3) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

#### ■ 2012 Foreigner Consultations Report

★What is the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents?

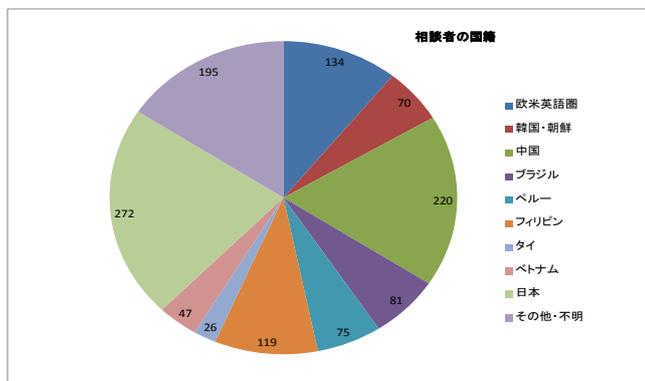
With the commission of the Osaka Prefectural government, OFIX has been conducting consultation services for foreign and Japanese residents of Osaka from 2009. One can consult in the following languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese and Japanese. Consultation hours are from 9:00-5:30 from Mondays to Fridays. Language support is conducted by connecting the person consulting, the information service personnel and registered counselor (interpreter) using trio-phone.

★ How many consultations are being received?

In 2012, the total number of consultation cases was 1,318. The number has been increasing for the past 2 years.

★Who ask for consultation?

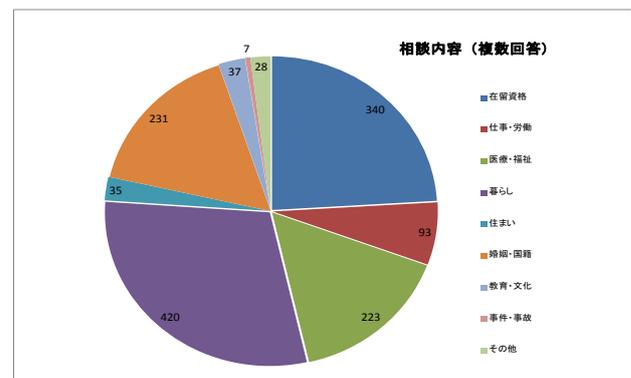
Persons consulting who are not Japanese make up 78.6% of the total number and most of them are from China. Filipinos come in second (155 people) and followed by European and American English-speaking countries (137 people) Excluding Japanese, the most cases were in English numbering 311. Consultations in Filipino and Korean increased greatly in 2012. On the other hand, Chinese consultations dropped down to 74.5% as compared to last year.



★What kind of problems were consulted?

The subject of most consultations in 2012 was on “Living”, and covers 29% (1,414 cases) of the total consultations. Consultations on various aspects of life are included, such as trouble with internet service contracts, and problems in claiming

a dead relative because of financial problems, etc. Also, in July last year, there was a significant revision in immigration law. Because of that, there were consultations on when to change to the “Residential Card”, how to avail of the Special Re-entry System and how to report when leaving Japan and moving overseas. There were also many consultations from people who feared losing their residential status in cases where a spouse is uncooperative because the marriage is not going well and cases where someone loses a job and could not immediately find a new one. Consultations like these, regarding residential status, make up 24% of the total consultations and ranks second. Next is “marriage and nationality” at 16.3%. There were various forms of marriage problems between a foreigner and a Japanese and foreign couples. There were consultations where the foreigner was driven out by their spouses and they have no place to stay, and where the relationship is not going well so their child had to be put in a facility because of the never-ending quarrels. There was even a consultation from a mother who was very anxious and panicky because she was afraid that her child might be taken away. In the field of “Medical Treatment and Social Welfare” (15.7%), Inquiries about hospitals that have foreign language support and about the possibility of dispatching interpreters were the same as usual, but there were also complicated matters, such as an inquiry about whether foreigners who became disabled by some misfortune while living in Japan are qualified to be recipients of disability pension.



★What is the recent consultation trend?

From the consultations, it seems that foreigners feel alienated from Japanese society in

different aspects, such as relationship with neighbors, job-hunting, house-hunting, etc. In order to create a society that is comfortable for the foreigner to live in, there is a necessity to change the consciousness of each person. Also, there are times that systems and laws of other countries are also concerned, so it is important to have enough knowledge about the systems in other countries.

★How can one consult?

Most consultations were done by phone which was 82.2% of the total consultations. However, but you can also consult by mail (117

cases) or by coming in person (115 cases). Many of the consultations by mail also include inquiries from overseas.

©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

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

■ **Philippine Life**

Hello, everyone!! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin again. Finally it has become warmer and feels like spring already. I only wish that it would turn spring in my life, too. (lol)

Well, now that you are warmer inside and out, I'll talk about a warmer place. That's right. I'll talk about the Philippines, where the people and climate are warm.

Recently, I hear people around me say that they want to go to the Philippines or they want to live in the Philippines. Personally, I would like to spend my life in the Philippines when I retire. So what is good about the Philippines? What kind of life do people live in the Philippines?

If you live in a general community, at around 5:30 in the morning, you would hear roosters crowing and people talking lively as they go about their work. Yes, the morning starts early in the Philippines. Many people are already awake at around 5:30, so the baker wakes up at around 2 or 3 and opens shop at around 4:30 or 5:00 in the morning. If you would go out to the streets at around 6:00 am, you will find many jeeps and cars already bustling. The town is already alive. At 6:00 am, many Japanese are probably still sleeping. At the wet market, you can already shop from 4:30 am. Many shop at this time as you as the food are still fresh at this time.

Father goes to work and the children go to school. If mother also works, the helper (most middle class families have stay-in helpers) does the housework and in some cases, also looks after the children. Japanese mothers would probably also

have an easier time with their work if they had helpers.

The Philippines is definitely hot (an average temperature of 33 degrees C), there are many cars and the air is dirty (in the city), but commodities are cheap (a kilo of mango is only about 100 yen), a beautiful sea, delicious food and you can hire a helper. However, not only this, but the Filipinos are warm and cheerful people. This is probably why many people want to go to the Philippines. How about going to the Philippines and see its beauty yourself? By the way, you could buy an air ticket for as low as 20,000 yen.



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Distributed by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange  
5th Floor, My Dome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, 540-0029  
TEL:06-6966-2400 FAX:06-6966-2401 Homepage: <http://www.ofix.or.jp>

