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(1) Notice from OFIX**■ Call for Participation of Staff from Educational Institutions in-charge of International Students**

In this time when there is apprehension about a Nankai Trough earthquake, we will be holding a workshop where you can directly listen to the experiences and difficulties of university staffs who were busy supporting foreign students during the Great East Japan Earthquake, and exchange opinions about the present condition of the international student support system within Osaka Prefecture.

Date and Time: Nov. 27, 2013 (Wed.)
14:00-16:30

Lecture: International Student Support Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake
— Towards the Enhancement of Risk Management and Support

Lecturer: Tohoku University International Center Prof. Kazuko Suematsu

Venue: My Dome Osaka 8th Floor 6th Meeting Room
For details:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#20131017>

(2) Activity Report**■ Sakai City International Volunteer Interpreter Training (Joint sponsored by OFIX)**

-- Sakai City International Division, International Affairs Department Culture and Tourism Bureau

On September 8 (Sun.) at Sakai International Plaza, an Interpretation Training was held jointly with OFIX for interpreters under Sakai City's International Volunteer System. It was the aim of the training to deepen the understanding of the mind-set and interpretation skills of interpreters, and make use of what they have learned in the future to promote the development of a town where foreigners in the area would be able to live at ease.

Ms. Noriko Muramatsu, who works at the Hyogo International Association Information and Advisory Service was welcomed as the lecturer. The 1st part was a Power Point Presentation, which was clear, well presented and easy to understand that the

34 trainees had no problem following. After listening to the mistakes the lecturer had experienced, participants were made to think about the possibility that the same things may happen to them, resulting in a very active exchange of opinion during the case study.

In the 2nd part, the participants were divided into English (5 groups), Chinese (2 groups), and Korean (1 group) groups and role playing was conducted. Since the scenario was made to fit the situation in Sakai City, the practice would be useful in an actual situation.

We would like to thank OFIX volunteers who came and everyone who helped in the training.

■ International Understanding Education: Visiting Hirakata City Nakamiya Kita Elementary School

At OFIX, we are conducting the International Understanding Education project to promote internationalization in Osaka Prefecture. Under this project, we send international understanding education supporters to elementary, junior and senior high schools to teach the children about their country's history and culture.

On October 9, as part of the international understanding education project, 6 people from 4 countries, Sri Lanka, China, France and the Philippines, went to Hirakata City Nakamiya Kita Elementary school. Each supporter went to their assigned classes, from Grades 1 to 6 and were greeted

by about 50 lively children. Aside from introducing their countries and culture, they also introduced history, education, songs, games and quizzes, depending on the grade of the students.

The two French supporters, who were in charge of Grades 1 and 3, taught a French song. The supporter from the Philippines, who was in charge of Grade 2, introduced



a Philippine game. The two Chinese supporters, who were in charge of Grades 4 and 5 introduced a Chinese song and the differences of Chinese and Japanese Kanji. Finally, the supporter from Sri Lanka, who was in charge of Grade 6, talked about Sri Lankan history. The children listened intently to

what the supporters have to say and they also asked many questions.

For the children, it was a meaningful time spent learning about different countries and spending a fun time together with foreigners.

(3) Feature on International Students

■ The Changing Environment of International Students

Osaka Prefectural University International Center Director Masahiro Terasako

China, 500,000. Korea, 200,000. These figures represent the number of international students that these two countries aim to accept. This information came from the "International Student Acceptance Strategy for World Growth mid-term Report)" as reported by the Ministry of Education in the summer of 2013. In this mid-term report, it is written that in this time when the world is competing to accept excellent international students, Japan also has to take on the strategy of acquiring excellent international students, as well. China has plans to invite 500,000 students to China through its Confucius Institute (104 countries, 826 hubs) and Korea has also announced that it will accept 200,000 students through its Korean Language Centers overseas (14 countries 38 facilities). Japan is now feeling the pressure.

In 2008, the Japanese government announced it will accept 300,000 international students and plans to realize this by 2020. However, the stance of the Ministry of Education does not seem to be leaning towards that direction. The dwindling number of international students is proof of that.

The "Global 30", which is supposed to select universities that will be the hub for the acceptance of international students in Japan, selected 13 universities on its first year and stopped there. The search for universities is still closed in the 2nd year and afterwards. On the contrary, because of media publicity about Japanese not wanting to leave the country, support shifted to sending out Japanese students overseas. Short stays and short visits were the symbolic projects of that, but it was discontinued after 2 years.

Furthermore, when the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) managed Tokyo International Exchange Center was subject for review in 2010, the Ministry of Education and JASSO unanimously decided to close down this Center for international students. Residents were informed to vacate the premises within a certain period of time.

After that, I heard that there were talks of continuing the project, but I feel anxious with the inconsistent policies and measures of the Ministry of Education and JASSO with regards to the acceptance of international students.

In the mid-term report, a new position called "International student Coordinator", who was supposed to gather excellent international students, was introduced. However, this is also mysterious. Money must not be placed on extra things, but should be used to increase the slots of National Scholars, and if you also ensure lodging, you can get international students of good quality. These past years, the number of national scholars has not been growing and has remained below 10,000 students. Looking at

this situation, it is difficult to say that the environment for international students has improved.

While the country's measures ran about in confusion, Osaka Prefecture decided on its original internationalization strategy and started the study-abroad promotion (Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City) in collaboration with OFIX. This program is designed to promote the acceptance of international students with the keyword "from admission to employment".



Government offices, educational institutions and companies joined hands in aiming for the invitation of high quality international students. It is a very rare project in Japan and deserves attention. At present, the 2nd year promotion is being conducted and it can be said that the popularity of Osaka in Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh has grown. The next step is how realize the dream of high school and university students who want to come to Japan. The system to realize that is being developed.

The view that the ability of excellent foreign student are indispensable for Osaka to play a role of an important area in Japan equal to Tokyo and still aim for a more dynamic development speaks of the truth of Japan which is quickly heading towards a senior society with the dwindling youth. Osaka has many educational institutions and companies. There is a wide range to choose from. The Osaka people are also very hospitable comparable to other prefectures. By fully explaining the situation to the prefectural residents and if, for example, an "Osaka Prefecture Scholar" program is made, surely high school and university students from overseas would find Osaka an attractive place to study. I would like to expect Osaka to build its own system, take the lead and realize it.

(4) Contribution Corner

■ Multicultural Turkey Osaka Turkey Japan Association Vice-Chief Director Aytek Cifti

Merhaba! How are you?

Turkish people are very cheerful and love to

talk. Turks and Japanese living in Osaka come together at the Osaka Turkey Japan Association and hold various events.

Relations between Turkey and Japan started 120 years ago when the Ertuğrul, a Frigate of the Ottoman Navy, was shipwrecked at sea and was saved by the people of Wakayama. After that, cooperative relations between Turkey and Japan realized in the form of mutual aid at times of disaster and difficulty still continues today.

Both countries are geographically far from each other, but very close culturally. For example, the grammar of the Turkish language is similar to Japanese. The latitude of Turkey is also the same as Japan that it also has 4 seasons and sports, such as rafting and skiing, are very popular.



change in various civilizations and empires. The largest empire was the Ottoman Empire, which covered 4 times the present area of Turkey. Wherever you go in historical Turkey, there are ruins, and Istanbul, Pamukkale, Cappadocia, and Ephesus



are very famous as tourist spots, The places where most Japanese go and visit are Istanbul and Cappadocia. In Istanbul you will find a mosque called Ayasofya where you can see Christian and Islam ornaments displayed together with Allah's seal. Ayasofya is the first to have 2 great religions in 1 building. The picture above is of the Blue Mosque of Istanbul. It is called the Blue Mosque because of the blue tiles used in building it.

The picture below is Cappadocia in central Anatolia.

In Cappadocia, you will find the Chimney Rocks, which were formed from a volcanic eruption, and the Kaymakli Underground City, where Christians escaped to avoid persecution. Here, you

Next I will introduce history and culture. Even before the Common Era, Much culture, ruins, religion, and customs intermingled and developed with the

can experience naturally made scenic beauty and history between religions. If you go to these ruins, you will also find cats.



I will introduce the Van cat (Van kedisi), which is famous in Turkey. It is a white cat and odd-eyed: their left and right eyes are of different colors. These cats

are very intelligent. They can remember 15 words and love to swim, which is very rare in cats. Furthermore, tulips originated from Turkey. You can find many Turkish accessories with tulip designs. If going the shortest way of direct flight by Turkish Airlines, Turkey is only 11.5 hours away, so when you go, don't miss the Turkish accessories.

Lastly, if you mention Turkey, you think about food. It is also called one of the world's 3 major cuisines. As Turkey is in a good location connecting Asia to Europe, various ingredients gather in Turkey. Just for eggplants, Turkey has at least 400 kinds of eggplant dishes. There are different seasonings, so there is a taste that will suit everyone. For those who would not be able to go to Turkey, there is a Turkish restaurant in Osaka. Please try to visit it one time.



Through various events such as cultural courses, lectures and exchanges, our Association is striving to

achieve a multicultural symbiosis by introducing Japanese culture to Turks and Turkish culture to the Japanese. Please do come and visit us. Let's have some Turkish tea together.

Address: 3rd Floor Yottsubashi Bldg. 1-1-16 Minami Horie Nishi-ku, Osaka-shi.
 TEL:06-6556-9505 FAX.:06-6556-9506
 Mon.-Sat. 10:00~19:00 Closed on Sundays and Holidays



(5) Newcomer Corner

■ Hello

Hello everyone! My name is Mariko Tanigawa, a part-time staff of OFIX since August. I am in charge of work related to the formation of a multilingual support system. I lived in Shanghai, China for 2 years from 2010 because of my husband's work. 2010 was the year the Shanghai Expo was held. I had been lucky to get a chance to do work related to the Shanghai Expo. As I battled with the Chinese culture and trait of being too flexible, I have learned 4 "don'ts" to help get along with the Chinese. These are "don't panic", "don't be impatient", "don't give up" and "don't rely".

It was very difficult, but it was fulfilling, deep, valuable experience.

From now on, I would like to use my experience



living as a foreigner in a different culture and be able to do work that would make me grow together with the foreign residents in Osaka and the people around

them. I would also like to learn from the different people of the world, to share and enjoy together with them.

(6) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Counselors' Network Meeting

In order to exchange information share knowledge and collaborate with each other, staff in-charge of providing administrative information and consultation to foreigners have held a Network Meeting 2-3 times since 2010.

The 1st meeting this year was held on Oct. 2, where Public Notary Tatsuhiko Nakano was invited to be a lecturer to talk about the trend after the revision of the immigration law. An exchange of opinion was also held. Questions about the management of the "Residential Status Cancellation System" regarding foreigners with a status of "Spouse or Child or Japanese National", but have been living separately, have been divorced or there has been no actual condition of marriage for 6 months and more. Although it is written in No. 6

or clause 1 Section 4 Article 22 of the Immigration Law that it "can be cancelled", it is not cancelled automatically. Foreigners can apply for a Hearing where they can receive an opportunity to voice out their opinion. Depending on the situation, there is a possibility to change their status to another status.

It was a good venue to learn about the new system.

©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
Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

(7) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Philippine School Fair

Hello everyone! This is your Coordinator for International Relations, Alvin. The other day, I went to a high school together with 2 other Filipinos for an Exchange in English. There, we talked about the school fair. Philippine schools also have school fairs. However, what they do at the school fair is a little different.

In Japan, preparations are made by each class, but in the Philippines, only those people who want to do something make preparations. It is more like a club activity. Another difference between the Japanese high school fair and the Philippine high school fair is that there are few booths selling food in Philippine high schools. Instead, there are different booths for enjoyment, such as shooting, goldfish scooping, etc. I will introduce 3 booths.

1) Kissing Booth: As the name implies, it is a booth where you kiss. Here, you pay money and specify the person you want to kiss. The person at the booth will catch that person, and have him or her kiss you...but only on the cheek. Even though it is only a kiss on the cheek, you would be very excited if it is someone you like.

2) Jail Booth: It's a prison. An announcement will be made through the school PA system of who will be caught (for example, people wearing blue shirts or women wearing shorts, etc.)

and people from the jail booth will go after those people. People caught will either pay money or spend about 1 hour in the jail. The amount to be paid is only about 100-300 yen.

3) Water Dunk Booth: I'm not sure if this is still being done, but at the booth is a big tank filled with water. Over the tank is a seat. I think you can imagine what will happen. You pay money and name a person. The people from the booth will get that person to sit over the tank and the person who made the request will try to hit a target with a ball. If the ball hits the target, the person sitting over the tank falls into the water. A variation of this booth is that the person named will be bombarded with plastic bags filled with water. I hear this is still being done.

You must be wondering if people don't get angry after all these. Well, it's a school fair. The moment you step in, you have to accept that these things may happen. Up till now, I haven't seen any fighting because of this. However, I did run away to escape from them, though.

Lastly, one more thing that is different is that there are schools that set up rides, such as ferris wheels or mini roller coasters. My high school did that and some schools are still doing it now.

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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>

