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

On November 19 (Tuesday), OFIX held a “Disaster Prevention Workshop in Collaboration with the Consulate Generals in Kansai” at My Dome Osaka, jointly sponsored by Kinki Claire, an organization composed of Kinki Prefectures and Government ordained cities. 59 people including personnel of the Consulate generals in Kansai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Osaka detached office, the Ministry of Justice Osaka Immigration Bureau, and staff from each Kinki prefecture, government ordained cities, and International Associations all came together to participate.

First, there was a lecture by the British and Philippine Consulates about their disaster prevention measures. Afterwards, Kobe City gave a report about “Support to foreign residents and



correspondence with foreign diplomatic establishment in the event a disaster”. Lastly, an exchange of opinion was held.

Recently the super typhoon Haiyan had just directly hit Leyte in the Philippines,

a heated discussion developed afterwards.

Let me introduce a few of the main opinions that were shared at the opinion exchange session.

- Q Please tell us what the expected damage would be if a Nankai Trough earthquake occurs. Also, is it possible to receive the disaster alert mail in other languages? (The Consulate General of India)
- A With regards to the expected damage, the national government makes the announcements. In Hyogo Prefecture, a simulation is being done. With regards to the disaster alert mail, you can choose

the language of your preference through the Hyogo Disaster Net and you can receive mail in that language. (Kobe City)

- A The expected damage and disaster information is on the homepage of Osaka where we will also be posting the disaster prevention plan for this year. Also, for now, the homepage is in Japanese, but we would be translating it to different languages. (Osaka Crisis Management Office)
- Q How would you check the safety of Britons living in Japan and other foreigners in Japan on a business trip in the event of a disaster? (British Consulate)
- A Taking the Great East Japan Earthquake as an example, it was difficult for the local government to check, so the Embassies in Tokyo made an inquiry on the safety of their constituents, then later, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the police made inquiries. In the future, depending on the scale of the disaster, there is room for examination for changing to a system that would allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Osaka detached office to transmit information immediately. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Osaka detached office)

- Q From the viewpoint of Japan’s Privacy Law, limitations are too strong. I think revisions are necessary so that in the case of checking the safety of people during emergencies, these limitations could be abolished, like in the US. (US Consulate)

Kinki Clair will be considering about the proceedings of future disaster prevention workshops based on this workshop’s discussion.

**■ Volunteer Coordinator Training**

Starting this year, OFIX will be holding a “Volunteer Coordinator Training” for personnel of local governments and international associations in Osaka, with the aim of creating a network between people in charge of supporting foreigners, considering a system for training and dispatching volunteers.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> training held on October 24, 15 personnel from local governments and international associations participated and each one reported on the current situation of language volunteer training and the problems in the registration and dispatch system.

After that, an introduction on how to use the Community Interpreter Volunteer Capacity Interview Guide was given.

Furthermore, an opinion exchange about the Community Interpreter/Translator Volunteer skill evaluation is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in February next year.

OFIX would be conducting future Volunteer Coordinator Meetings utilizing the opinions and requests of people in charge to promote the creation of a multilingual support system within the whole Prefecture.

## ■ Ando Training Program

This year's 21<sup>st</sup> Ando Training Program welcomed 8 trainees majoring in Architecture and the Arts from 8 countries and conducted a 1 month training from September 26. The program ended on October 23 and the trainees went home safely to their own countries.

This project is being implemented every year by OFIX with the donation of Mr. Tadao Ando and with the cooperation of companies that agree to the aims of this program, which is to contribute to the development of architecture and the arts of countries in Asia by providing Asian youth an opportunity to learn about Japanese architecture and arts and deepening their understanding and interest in Japanese culture.



(At Awajishima Honpuku-ji Temple)

Ltd. and Takenaka Corporation, the trainees were given an explanation about the latest technology, instruction in construction site inspection and design work in a designing department, in accordance with the training content prepared by each company.

The courtesy visit to Mr. Tadao Ando was a wonderful opportunity for the trainees, which they will remember for the rest of their lives. They had a



(Osaka Prefecture University English Project)

most valuable experience in learning about Mr. Ando's architecture by visiting the Ryotaro Shiba memorial hall, the buildings within Osaka Prefecture that Mr. Ando designed, and the Awaji-shima dream stage/Honpuku-ji Temple, accompanied by the staff of Mr. Ando's office.

The trainees also gave a presentation on the themes of "Renewal and Preservation in a Sustainable Global Environment" and "The Responsibility of the Designer: Respect the human and nature", and an

active exchange of opinions and academic discussion was also held. In addition to that, they were also able to make memories with the many people they have met through an exchange with Osaka Prefecture University and Kobe Design University students and a 1-night 2-day homestay.

Many people cooperated with us in implementing this almost 1 month project and it became an opportunity for the trainees to not only learn about architecture, but they were also able to touch on the culture and the people of Osaka, who are full of human warmth.

◆ After the trainees have gone back to their countries, we sent them a Questionnaire by e-mail and we will introduce to you some of their answers.

Q Please tell us about your impression of Osaka. How different is it with your town?

A I think the Osaka people are friendly, the towns are clean and safe.

A The transportation system is very convenient, and you can neither find refined architectural skills nor a highly-developed road network in my town.

Q How was the company training? What did you learn at the training?

A I learned about the work flow when advancing a project, and I was impressed with the staff's industriousness and sense of responsibility over work.

A In addition to the construction site inspection and lecture, I also tackled a project on re-designing a university. I was impressed that in the company, everyone eagerly tackled a job with everything they have got, no matter how difficult the work may be.

Q What was the most memorable thing during the Ando Program?

A Meeting Mr. Ando and being able to listen to his talk about the architecture and lifestyle of the world.

A Being able to deeply learn and understand Japanese lifestyle through my long stay in Osaka,

A Being able to experience not only Japanese architecture, but life as well. Whenever I wake up in the morning, I feel like I was a Japanese living in Japan.

Q Please tell us about your career plan.

A I am currently doing research about a fishing village residence at the university Graduate school. In the future, I would like to become a teacher and teach about my knowledge and experiences.

A In the future, I would like to put up my own architecture office where I can utilize my ethics and ideas.

Name	Country	Training Company
Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti Retno	Indonesia	Obayashi Corporation
Rirermvanich Karjvit	Thailand	Obayashi Corporation
Sulkhlan Priyanka	India	Zenitaka Corporation
K.C. Apil	Nepal	Zenitaka Corporation
Cupcupin Glenda	Philippines	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.
Karunanayake Suranga	Sri Lanka	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.
Miao Ting	China	Takenaka Corporation
Gozin Sara	Iran	Takenaka Corporation

■ **Vietnam•Indonesia Student Exchange Program**

OFIX participated in the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Program Study in Osaka Promotion Project “JAPAN OSAKA Study Abroad & Job Fair” being implemented by the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee since last year and held the “Vietnam•Indonesia Student Exchange Program”. The exchange students who participated in the program had planned and prepared since spring for the Indonesia Fair (Jakarta) on September 21 and 22, and the Vietnam Fair (Ho Chi Minh) on November 2 and 4. Aside from giving a presentation about the attractiveness of Osaka and experience living in Japan as international students, they also conducted seminars and presented materials introducing the attractiveness of Osaka and student life in Japan. At the consultation corner, they also answered the questions of students about studying in Japan.

- ◆ Participating in the Indonesia (Jakarta) Fair  
Osaka University School of Foreign Studies  
Senior Nobushige Ito



Presentation at the Indonesian Fair

As a student majoring in Bahasa-Indonesia, it is my honor to have participated in this program. I was able to experience the zeal of the students and their cheerfulness, which can be said to be their national trait. At the same time, I was able to reaffirm the attractiveness of Osaka, their study destination. Although I was also skeptical at the beginning, now I have no doubt of the potential affinity between the students of Osaka and Indonesia. If I have a chance in the future, I would like to fulfill my role in deepening the relationship between Osaka and Indonesia.



Seminar at the Indonesian Fair

- ◆ Participating in the Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh) Fair  
Osaka Prefecture University Graduate School of Science 2<sup>nd</sup> Year MA  
Takaya Yamamoto

I experienced many things through the student



Panel talk at the Vietnam Fair

exchange program. One thing I experienced was the difficulty and enjoyment of working and cooperating with other people and people from other countries in doing a task. The exchange students spent months in preparing the materials for this program. Corresponding with each other and dividing the work was difficult, but everyone pitched in their ideas and we were able to produce something very creative and interesting.

- Osaka Prefecture University Graduate School of Engineering 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD

Le Ba Luan

I had always wanted to be a bridge between Vietnam and Japan. This time, I was able to have a great opportunity to fulfill that wish. During the Fair in Vietnam, Mr. Yamamoto and I were able to smoothly conduct the activities at the Fair with the cooperation of the personnel concerned. For the first time, we introduced to the students of Vietnam the life in and the people of Osaka. A was filled with admiration to know that many students want to do research and work in Osaka. I think we were able to give very beneficial information to those students.



Presentation at the Vietnam Fair

## (2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

### ■ Permission for Permanent Residence

There have been many consultations at the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents about “Permission for Permanent Residence” procedures from foreigners who would like to become permanent residents in Japan. There are different reasons and backgrounds for wanting to become a permanent resident. Once you acquire permanent residency, you not only would be able to continuously live in Japan without renewing your status, but there are also no limitations to the activities you can do in Japan. Furthermore, it is easier to make commercial transactions get financing from financial institutions because you are trusted more. The requirements for permanent residency are listed in the “Guidelines for Permission for Permanent Residence” on the homepage of the Bureau of Immigration. The guideline states that as a rule an applicant has to

have lived 10 years in Japan. However, there are special considerations. If the applicant is 1) a spouse or child of a Japanese national, special permanent resident or permanent resident, 2) a “Long term resident” 3) someone who has been recognized as a refugee 4) someone who has been recognized to have made a contribution to Japan, they can receive permission even if they haven’t stayed 10 years in Japan.

©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

## (3) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

### ■ The Resilient Filipinos

Hello everyone! This is your OFIX International Relations Coordinator, Alvin. Is everyone doing well? It’s been cold lately, so please take care not to catch a cold.

Speaking of the Philippines, the hottest topic is the devastation brought about by typhoon Haiyan. The strongest typhoon in the world this year directly hit the Philippines and caused much destruction. The areas mostly affected were Leyte and Cebu areas, where some of my friends and their families are living. According to my friends, they and their families are alright, but others are living a difficult life. They have lost everything, they have no place to live, have no food or water. Those who have experienced a large earthquake would probably understand how the victims of the typhoon feel.

The Philippines has been receiving support from various countries. It has received support also from Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, as a Filipino, for the support you are giving the Philippines. To the doctors, self-defense forces, and volunteers who have gone to the Philippines for support activities, to the people, organizations and companies who have collected funds to donate to the Philippines, thank you very much.

The Filipino people will never forget. When Japan is in trouble, we promise to be there to help you, too.

It is true that the victims of the typhoon have suffered so much that it is unimaginable. It is the topic of the news on TV and you find it in newspapers and the internet. There are also a lot of pictures of the devastated area circulating. However, I would like you to take note of one thing. Even though the Filipinos are in a very difficult situation, they always stand up and move forward. CNN Anchorman Anderson Cooper, who was covering the disaster, had this to say about the Filipinos:

“So many people in the Philippines must now pick up the shattered pieces of their lives, and move forward without their lost friends and loved ones. Throughout these tough days, they haven’t given up. Their strength is incredible.”

Yes, that’s the Filipino. Whatever happens, they will surely move forward. They have to move forward. However, this positive attitude of theirs is also thanks to all of you who have supported them and will continue to support them. Thank you very much.

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