

## New Year's Reflections

Osaka Foundation for International Exchange Director Yukio Shibaike

Happy New Year to everyone!!

Thank you very much for promoting the Internationalization Strategy of Osaka Prefecture and for cooperating and giving guidance to our foundation.

This year would be the last year of the 3-year Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Action Plan and we hope that we, as a foundation, would be able to produce substantial output.

I think that up till now, the International Exchange enterprise has been prone to be in deep slumber as real time output has not been required from it.

Through a successful presentation resulting in the selection of Tokyo as the next venue for the Olympics, I think that the flow of international exchange of Japan will rapidly advance.

From this trend, the Foundation will first make an overall renewal of its homepage in April, have a 2-man system for its foreign resident consultation desk, and is considering on negotiating with municipalities for the expansion of the consultation desk.

In 2014, we intend to conduct a level check for community

interpreter volunteers not only for English, but for other languages, as well. Furthermore, we will be doing our best to maintain a living environment for international student. The large-scale repair being done on Orion International Hall since 2012 will be completed in 2014 and all rooms will be equipped with an air conditioner and replace old refrigerators with new ones.

Also, as part of the Osaka Prefectural Internationalization Strategy Executive Committee, we are conducting the necessary studies to determine the venue to scout students, replacing Vietnam and Indonesia, to decide the next term Action Program Plan.

The globalization wave is getting higher every year and we would like to move forward at a steady pace.

Moreover, starting this year, OFIX News will be published bi-monthly at the beginning of the month and we would be putting efforts in enhancing its content.

As for our New Year cards to our supporting members and related personnel, from this year, we will be replacing it with this New Year's Reflections.

## (1) Activity Report

### ■ Disaster Prevention Workshop for School Staff in charge of International Students

In considering a support system for international students at the event of a disaster, we held a workshop on November 27 (Wed.) at My Dome Osaka where we invited Professor Kazuko Suematsu from Tohoku University International Center, which was busy supporting international students after the Great East Japan Earthquake, to give a lecture based on experience entitled "Learning from the Support for International Students -Towards the Enhancement of Risk Management and Support". An exchange of opinion on the present situation and problems regarding support of international students in Osaka Prefecture followed afterwards. 33 people attended from a wide range of fields including university and vocational school staff in charge of international students, administrative staff and personnel from international associations.

Prof. Suematsu talked about the situation after the disaster and the analysis of a survey result regarding the mindset and activity patterns of the international students. Furthermore, she gave a substantial and easy to understand explanation about the "International Risk Management Handbook at the Event of a Disaster", which is being considered in collaboration with other universities.

There was good feedback from the participants who said they were happy to hear precious talk based on actual experience, such as talk about fictitious chain mail about support for international

students to return to their countries, resulting in many students gathering at the airport, how a large group of international students suddenly appear at evacuation centers and frictions starts, and how they realized the importance of the day-to-day exchange with the community.

During the opinion exchange, there was an active exchange of ideas regarding the current status and problems/solutions of how to check the safety of people and disaster prevention trainings. Participants remarked that it was a meaningful being able to listen to different talks, but on the other hand, time was too short, which would be a task for the future.

OFIX will continue to advance collaboration with other related institutions and strive to create an environment for foreigners, including international students. We ask for your support and cooperation with our endeavors.



### ■ Tondabayashi Community Interpreter Volunteer Training

A training to develop community interpreters who will become bridges of communication was co-hosted with Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center as part of creating a safer environment for foreigners who live in Minami Kawachi area such as Tondabayashi. About 20 volunteers of 5 languages participated in the training.

Aside from learning about the attitude of a community interpreter and training methods for interpreting skills, native speakers of each language were invited to help conduct a role play of situations in areas of maternal and child health or School

Education.

It was a very meaningful training and participants gave comments like "It was an encouraging training for future activities" "It was a precious opportunity" and "I'm glad I could study about different things I don't know".

## (2) Special Series on Foreign Child/Student Education

### ■ Consideration for Foreign Children who Need Japanese Language Instruction

Secretariat of the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education  
Municipal Education Office Elementary and Junior High School Division

#### 1 Introduction

As of May 1, 2013, the number of children needing Japanese language instruction in Elementary and Junior High Schools in Osaka Prefecture, including designated cities, is 1869 and this is increasing each year. Also, the native language of these children totals 36 languages showing an advancement of multilingualization.

In recent years, cases of students, who need Japanese language instruction, transferring to Elementary and Junior High Schools that have never admitted such students and cases of students entering high school, but have not studied in a Japanese Junior High School are also increasing.

#### 2 Support for Japanese Language Instruction in Elementary and Junior High Schools

When admitting students needing Japanese language instruction, it is important to support them so they can get used to school life as soon as possible. The Osaka Prefectural Board of Education has created and distributed the 2 manuals below. These manuals are used at Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools within the Prefecture to enhance the admission system of students who need Japanese language instruction and for the implementation of the preliminary instruction Japanese. These manuals can be downloaded from the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education WEB page.

- “Welcome to Osaka  
—International Students Admission Manual—”
- “Welcome to Osaka Part II  
—Japanese Language Support Idea Book—”

#### 3 Support for Elementary and Junior High Schools in Osaka Prefecture, and Parents/Guardians

##### ○ Multilingual Education Guidance

With the help of high school teachers and education board of the municipalities, international associations and personnel of related institutions, a high school admission education guidance is held at 7 venues within the Prefecture every year for students who need Japanese language instruction and their parents/guardians. Explanations about the high school entrance examination system,

introduction of high schools by the teachers, talks by senior students about their experience and individual consultation is conducted in various languages with the help of an interpreter. Participants commented that “we were able to get useful information”, and “we feel relieved to know about the different high schools, so we’ll do our best”

##### ○ School Life Support Information for Returnees and Foreign Students

Information on high school admission, as well as the Japanese education system and school life, is provided on the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education WEB page “School Life Support Information for Returnees and Foreign Students” and is available in 8 languages, including Japanese (English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Spanish and Portuguese).

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/jidoseitoshien/toniti/index.html>

##### ○ Implementation of High School Life Orientation

Every year in March, an orientation is held to provide international students and their parents/guardians necessary information on high school life.

#### 4 Support for Guardians and Students of Public High Schools in Osaka Prefecture

##### ○ Dispatch of Education Supporter

Students that require Japanese language instruction are provided with the necessary interpreters (education supporters) during classes and meetings in order for the student to be at ease, lead a meaningful school life and achieve his/her chosen career. In the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education’s “Education Supporter Bank”, there are currently about 400 supporters registered. We are also conducting training for the education supporters for exchange and the improvement of their skills.

#### 5 Conclusion

In the future, together with enhancing the school life support given to students who need Japanese language instruction, we will also strive to raise children with a wide perception, understanding other cultures, accepting difference as richness, and having a mind for living together accepting one another.



### ■ 2014 Osaka Public High School Student Selection

#### ◎ Qualification-requirements examination

“Among the graduates (including candidates for graduation. Same as below) of schools overseas equivalent to a junior high

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Education Promotion Office Senior High School Division

school, students and their parents who would surely be living in Osaka by the day of admission” must take an examination for qualification before submitting the application form.

Details of the Qualification Examination is posted on the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education Web page.

[http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h26\\_ohbo.html](http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h26_ohbo.html)

◎ **Admission Application Form**

The Forms are included in the “Osaka Prefecture High School Admission Selection Application” (hereinafter, “Admission Application” ).

The Admission Application will be given at the Qualification Examination, but these are also on the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education Web page.

[http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h26\\_yoko.html](http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kotogakko/gakuji-g3/h26_yoko.html)

◎ **School District**

From 2014, the school district will be the Osaka Prefecture districts.

○ **1<sup>st</sup> Admission Selection (The Academic Test is in 3 Subjects: Japanese, Math and English)**

Subject	Examination aside from Academic Test	Schedule
General Education (Among the schools with only Full time · General Education and schools with Special Subjects Osaka Prefectural, Yuhigaoka High School and Higashi Sumiyoshi High School)	Short Essay	Application Period Feb. 14 (Fri.), 17 (Mon.)  Academic Test, etc. Feb. 20 (Thurs)
General Education General Selection System (Full time · Prefectural High School)		
General Education General Selection System (Full time · Nisshin Senior High School)	Interview	※Practical test for some subjects will be conducted on Feb. 16 (Sun.) and 21 (Fri.)  Release of Results Feb. 27 (Thurs)
General Education Credit-based System (Full time)	Short Essay	
Osaka Prefectural Education Center High School	Information Utilization Test	
Specialized Course (Full time)	Short Essay or Practical Test	
Comprehensive Course (Including Full time · Dual Comprehensive Course, excluding Creative School)	Short Essay	
Comprehensive Course (Full time · Creative School) Multi-course system Credit-based System I · II (Creative School)	Interview	

○ **Admission Selection of Returnee Students from Overseas**

(Same schedule as the 1<sup>st</sup> Admission Selection)

- ◆ Conducted in the English Course, International Education Course, International Culture Course, Global Course and Comprehensive Course
- ◆ As a rule, applicable for students who have resided overseas for 2 consecutive years or more and has been in Japan no more than 2 years after their return
- ◆ Academic test (Math and English) and essay (for Global Studies, writing in English is possible. For other courses, writing in a foreign language is possible)

○ **Returnees from China and Foreign Student Admission Selection**

(Same schedule as the 1<sup>st</sup> Admission Selection)

- ◆ Implementing Schools and Implemented Courses  
Kadoma Namihaya High school (General Education General Selection System ), Fuse Kita High school (General Education and Dual Comprehensive Course ), Narumi High school (General Education General Selection System ), Nagayoshi High school (General Education Credit-based System High school), Yao Kita High school (Comprehensive Course )
- ◆ As a rule, applicable only for Returnees from China or foreign nationals who have transferred to a school in Japan from Grade 4 or above
- ◆ Academic Test (Math and English) and Essay (can be written in a foreign language)

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Admission Selection**

Subject	Academic Test, etc.	Schedule
General Education (Full time)	Japanese Language, Social Studies, Math, Science, English	Application Period March 5 (Wed.), 6 (Thurs) Academic Test, etc. March 12 (Wed.) Release of Results March 19 (Wed.)
General Education General Selection System (Full time)		
Comprehensive Course (Full time · Creative School) Credit-based System I · II (Creative School)		
Part-time Course (Including Creative School) Credit-based System III (Creative School)	Japanese Language, Math, English	
Correspondence Course	Interview	Application Period March 2 (Sun.), 5 (Wed.), 6 (Thurs) Interview Any of these days: March 9 (Sun.), 10 (Mon.), 11 (Tue.) Release of Results March 19 (Wed.)

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