

■ Important Update ■

Starting from May, the i-house's E-Zine will be posted every Tuesday. We hope to bring you the latest information on i-house events and living in Osaka.

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Living Information

Municipal Housing

Osaka City provides municipal housing to people who are on a low income and require immediate housing. The applicants are chosen from a lottery process. The number of housing will be increased for the upcoming application.

Date: April 8th, 2010 (Thurs) 9:00 – 10:00 (Applicants will be chosen from a lottery process based upon their rank order.)

【Distribution】 Application forms will be available at the Housing Information Plaza (Osaka Municipal Housing Information Center) and Osaka City Service Counters (in Umeda, Tennoji, and Namba). The housing catalogue will be available from April 2nd, 2010 (Fri).

If there are still openings available for the municipal housing, then applications will be accepted from the order of arrival on April 19, 2010, from 9:00 to 9:30.

Inquiries

Osaka Municipal Housing Corporation
TEL: 06-6882-7024 FAX: 06-6882-7021

<http://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/toshiseibi/>

National Health Insurance for Fiscal Year 2010

○Health Insurance Premium

Residents who are under the National Health Insurance program will know their insurance premium amount during June. A notice form stating how much you need to pay for your insurance premium will be sent by post during mid-June.

○ Reduction of Insurance Premium for Persons without a Job

For persons who lost their job or left their job on March 31, 2009 or after, they may be eligible for a reduction in their health insurance premium.

In order to receive this reduction, you must possess a certificate of eligibility for unemployment insurance, and the certificate must contain a number within the following range (11, 12, 21-23, 31-34). If you fulfill these conditions, please apply at your local ward office's National Health Insurance Department.

For more on the National Health Insurance, please check here.

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/enjoy/jp/sick/02.html>

Inquiries

National Health Insurance Department (in your local ward office)

<http://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/index.html>

Ward Offices Open on 4th Sundays

Service counters for each ward office (excludes branch offices) will be open from 9:00 to 17:30 on every 4th Sunday.

Services Available

○Resident Registration Department

Reporting of birth and marriage, change of address, school registration, personal seal registration, foreign resident registration, issuance of family registry, issuance of residence cards and more.

○National Health Insurance and Pension Department

Procedures relating to applications for the National Health Insurance and National Pension upon changes in residence status, Health Care Insurance Plan for the Elderly and more.

※In addition to the services mentioned above, each ward office may also offer other

services. For more information, please refer to your local ward office.

Inquiries

General Affairs Department (of each ward office)

TEL : 06-(Ward Office #)-9625

Citizens' Affairs Bureau

TEL : 06-6208-7324 FAX : 06-6202-7074

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Event Updates

i-house Culture Salon "Let's make Japanese Sweets & Tea Ceremony"
(For Foreign Residents only)

Let's enjoy making Japanese sweets and experience tea ceremony. Participants will also receive a gift at the event.

※The class will be instructed in Japanese by i-house volunteer teacher.
Materials and equipments will be arranged by the i-house.

【Date & Time】 Wednesday, April 21st 15 : 00~16 : 30

【Venue】 International House, Osaka Japanese Room

【Admission】 1,000 yen (Material cost included)

【Applications & Inquiries】

Planning and Communications Division

Osaka International House Foundation

Tel: 06-6773-8182 Fax: 06-6773-8421

E-mail: johokikaku@ih-osaka.or.jp

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/010/10bunkasalon1.html>

Global Citizen's "Talk Plaza" Vol.1 "Introduction of J Bungaku (Literature)"

Mr. Robert Campbell, who appears in NHK's Educational TV programs and other popular quiz shows, will talk about his experiences and flavor of Japanese literature from the eyes of foreigners.

【Date & Time】 Saturday, April 17th 14:00 – 16:00 (Doors open: 13:00)

【Venue】 International House, Osaka, MET Hall (2F)

【Admission】 500 yen (Please pay the fee at the reception desk on the day of the lecture.)

【Limit】 180 (If the number of applications exceed the limit, selection will be determined by lottery. Tickets will be sent after the due date to those who are selected.)

【Applications】 Please send a postcard, fax or e-mail with your postal code, address, name, telephone number and number of applicants (Up to 2 people for one application per person) to the following address.

【Application Due Date】 Friday, April 9th

【Applications & Inquiries】

Planning and Communications Division "Talk Plaza" Vol.1"

Osaka International House Foundation

8-2-6 Uehommachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka 543-0001

Tel: 06-6773-8182 Fax: 06-6773-8421

E-mail: talk@ih-osaka.or.jp

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/010/10talk1.html>

The Children's Carnival in Osaka 2010

You can enjoy performances by the Osaka Junior Brass Band, a variety of games, food stalls and bazaars. We look forward to your participation!

【Date & Time】 Sunday, April 25th 10:30 – 15:00 (If in the case of heavy rain, the carnival will be cancelled)

【Venue】 Osaka Castle Park, Taiyo-no Hiroba (Piazza of the Sun) and Baseball Field

【Inquiries】

Osaka City's Child-Rearing Council

Tel: 06-6941-1116 Fax: 06-6943-8906

Flower & Green Festival, "Hana-Ranman 2010"

Come and join the Flower & Green Festival! You can see a variety of flower beds and enjoy gardening lessons, craft activities for parent and child and tasting herbal tea. Consultations on making a greener environment will also be available.

【Date & Time】 Thursday, April 29th to Wednesday, May 5th

【Venue】 Flower Expo Memorial Park Tsurumi Ryokuchi, Osaka, "Ikoi no Hiroba"

【Inquiries】

Osaka City's Recreation and Tourism Bureau

Tel: 06-6615-0965 Fax: 06-6615-0989

International Picture Book Readings "AI-AI"

AI-AI International Picture Book Readings is an event for children and parents of all nationalities to enjoy. We provide an opportunity to make friends while experiencing different languages and cultures through picture books from all around the world. Not only can you enjoy book readings in various languages, but there are also sing-along and panel theaters.

No need to book, just turn up on the day! It's free, so please come and enjoy some fun reading!

* We are looking for native English speaking volunteers for picture book readings.

For further information:

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/031/post-6.html>

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Japanese Lessons

Tanoshii Nihongo – Application Open!

This Japanese course is based on textbooks to practice everyday Japanese conversation necessary for living in Japan. A placement interview is needed to enroll at the class. Join us to enjoy studying Japanese!

Classes offered:

<Elementary Class 1 & 4> (Tuesday)

<Elementary Class 2 & 3> (Wednesday)

12 classes in total, once a week

Date:

<Tuesday Class> From May 11th to July 27th 2010 (Every Tuesday)

<Wednesday Class> From May 12th to July 28th 2010 (Every Wednesday)

* Time: Each class runs from 19:00 to 20:30

* Enrollment limit: Ten students for each class (in order of application)

* Placement Interview: Tuesday, April 20th or Wednesday, April 21st 19:00 - 20:30 (10 minutes per person) Appointment necessary.

* Tuition: 5,000 yen (includes 12 classes and textbook)

* Venue: International House, Osaka

(Map: <http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/map/localmap.html>)

Inquiries:

Planning and Communications Division

Osaka International House Foundation

(Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese)

TEL: 06-6773-8989 FAX: 06-6773-8421

E-mail: johokikaku@ih-osaka.or.jp

For further information:

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/031/tanoshii-nihongo.html>

Fureai Salon

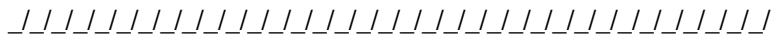
Enjoy learning Japanese with experienced volunteer teachers! The initial class is free.
No booking needed. Visit us on the class day before the class starts (14:00).

※ The class will be closed on April 24th.

- * Class Style: One-on-one basis. In some cases, you may have a group lesson depending on the number of participants
- * Date & Time: Every Saturday, 14:00 - 15:30 (Classes may be closed)
- * Venue: International House, Osaka
- * Tuition: ¥500 for registration, ¥1,500 for 12 lessons (valid for one year)

For further information:

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/031/post-6.html>



Interpreters Required

Volunteer Thai & Indonesian Interpreters Required

We are looking for volunteer Thai & Indonesian interpreters who are able to interpret between our staff and people seeking advice.

Conditions for Volunteering:

- * You are able to work at home.
- * Thai interpretation applicants must be able to work Mondays (Thai) and Wednesdays (Indonesian).
- * Registration fee to volunteer is 300 yen per year.



Living Information Services Available in 7 Languages

Information Plaza Osaka

Information Plaza Osaka offers free consultation and counseling services by professionals, over the telephone or in person, for issues relating to life in Osaka.

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/020/information-center.html#i-osaka>

Counseling for Foreign Residents

Counseling services for foreign residents, including legal advice, are available in 7 languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian and Thai).

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/030/post-4.html>

Living Information

Have you seen our website with useful living information for foreigners in Osaka? There is information about various topics including medical agencies with foreign language services, living procedures (i.e. registration for foreign residents), housing, and much more. (Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese)

Access at: <http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/enjoy/en/index.html>

Living Information for Foreign Residents FAQ in Osaka

Q&A page covers the necessary living information in Osaka in Japanese with Furigana, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. Mobile phone Service: Available in Japanese and English.

<http://www.osaka-livinginfo.jp/en/>

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Access to International House, Osaka

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/900/post-15.html>

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i-koko (International Exchange Event, Information Station)

This website is hosted by International House, Osaka, to provide information on international exchange events held by other organizations and volunteer activities.

(Japanese only)

<http://www.i-koko.com/>

<Inquiries>

Planning and Communications Division

Osaka International House Foundation

Tel: 06-6773-8989 Fax: 06-6773-8421

E-mail: johokikaku@ih-osaka.or.jp

Available Languages: (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese)

Should you wish to change your registration details or stop receiving this E-zine, please enter the email address you used to register.

To update: http://www.ih-osaka.info/asp/user_mail_top.asp?Lang_flg=1

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<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/english/>