

## **Announcement of the course for the cultivation of Disaster Foreigners Assistance Supporter**

### **1. Course Description:**

Japan is a country where large-scale natural disasters often recur traditionally as damage of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake are well known. In addition, as the number of foreign residents in Japan increases in recent years, many problems in a disaster situation are coming up to the surface, for example they would be exposed to secondary disasters with taking time too long to evacuate due to the language barrier or they would be unable to receive services equally as other Japanese because of isolation in evacuation shelters. Accordingly, our foundation, Okinawa International Exchange and Human Resources Development Foundation, has created the course of "Disaster Foreigner Assistance Supporter" as a countermeasure for those problems, and cultivate human resources in charge of helping information transmission and being a liaison to local administration in foreign languages.

In this country, local schools and community centers are usually designated to be an evacuation shelter in the disaster situation. So, if a large-scale natural disaster happens, many residents, whose houses are destructed by an earthquake or swept away by a tsunami, would evacuate to these kind of facilities and live together in the place for quite a while until restoration. Normally, a respective person responsible for each facilities is in charge of shelter management but, in fact, those managers themselves would also be one of sufferers from the disaster in many cases and this same thing can be said for local government officials as well. That is to say, evacuees in each shelter must survive by themselves for a term expected to be one of the harshest time with no electricity, no gas, and no water. Taking Kumamoto earthquake that occurred on last April as an example, this term continued for 3-5 days. Furthermore, if a tsunami invades here in Okinawa, an island surrounded by a sea, it would take more time to restore about 7-10 days and even leaving from the island would be impossible.

Consequently, the most needed thing in this situation is the knowledge of disaster mitigation. And this is the reason why the lecture about "how to save myself and a family" was taken as the most part of the course of Disaster Foreigner Assistance Supporter mentioned above because there is a basic assumption that

you will be able to help others only if you can survive and save families by yourself.

In the course this time, we would like to let you know that self-protecting in disaster situation with the knowledge to prevent damage of a disaster from becoming serious would eventually boost local disaster prevention capabilities.

## **2. About Course:**

- (1) Date and Time: 13:00~14:30, August 23rd, 2016
- (2) Venue: Conference Room (TBA), Okinawa Institute of Science Technology
- (3) Certificate: Course certificate will be given to those who participate in the course.

## **3 Remarks:**

Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation advertises for people in Okinawa as well as the public by means of various public medium, such as our official website (<http://www.oihf.or.jp>) and poster. It is important for us to post more realistic and concrete information to represent our activities diversifying into many different areas. We would appreciate if you could agree that we can use your photographs including personal photographs and videos.

## **4 Inquires:**

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# **Announcement of the course for the cultivation of Medical Interpreter Assistance Volunteer**

## **1. Course Description:**

This foundation has conducted the project to cultivate “Medical Interpreter Volunteer” since 2010 and has registered total 79 volunteers in 4 languages such as English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish. However, demands of interpreters in other languages that we have yet to cultivate volunteers are also increasing gradually in recent years. For instance, we had some cases that some tourists who don’t speak English or Japanese from especially Europe such as France, Belgium, and Germany, got sick in Okinawa and a local hospital had a difficulty to give the patient appropriate treatments.

In order to solve this problems, we had a briefing session for researchers and staffs of OIST cooperated with its Community Relations Section and could have 7 volunteer interpreters registered from OIST. The role that volunteers from OIST would take is to interpret from native languages, in which we didn’t train volunteers, into English for our foundation’s volunteer (then our volunteer will translate it into Japanese from English). This is our measure to deal with requests to send an interpreter in multiple languages.

In this fiscal year, we are thinking of opening the advanced course and we would like to invite new volunteers; native speaker of languages except Japanese and English. We are looking forward to have many participations.

## **2. About Course:**

- (1) Date and Time: 15:00~16:30, August 23rd, 2016
- (2) Venue: Conference Room (TBA), Okinawa Institute of Science Technology
- (3) Certificate: Course certificate will be given to those who participate in the course.

## **3 Remarks:**

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