

# Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center

NEWSLETTER NO.1 FEBRUARY 1 1995

発行・外国人地震情報センター

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The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center has been established by four private organizations based in the Kansai region in order to help improve the lives of foreigners affected by the Southern Hyogo Earthquake. We provide information on various matters, such as transportation systems, utilities, free medical services, assistance programs, visas and passports. If you have any inquiries, contact us at 06-941-4793 (Fax: 06-941-5875). You will be served regardless of your visa status, with strict confidentiality.

There are many rumors spreading on the earthquake.  
Contact us for reliable information.

## Medical services

There are a number of temporary clinics where you can get free medical services. Some of them are staffed with medical workers who can speak English and/or other languages. AMDA Information Center (06-636-2333) can refer you to doctors who can speak English, Spanish, and other languages. Contact us for details.

## Free International Telephone Calls

More than 100 telephones for free international calls have been installed in temporary shelters and local government offices in the quake-stricken area. For details, call the Information Center.

## Words from the Osaka Immigration Office

The Kobe Immigration Office has been closed due to the earthquake but is now partially open on the second floor of the same building. The Osaka Immigration Office, of which the Kobe Immigration Office is a subsidiary branch, answered the following questions:

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- Q: I have lost my passport. What procedure should I follow?  
A: Please contact your country's embassy or consulate. Your case will be handled there.
- Q: My visa is about to expire, but I can't go to the Immigration Office because of the earthquake. What should I do?  
A: Those who cannot extend their visa status due to the earthquake, should not worry

because there will be special measures taken that will apply to your situation. If you cannot reach the Osaka Immigration Office, because of the earthquake, you can wait until the transportation system improves. But if you are able to reach the immigration office please do so. Along with the main Osaka branch there are 3 smaller branches that can serve you. They are as follows : Amagasaki, Himeji, and Higashi-Harima. If you have already left the Kansai region please go to the nearest immigration office in your area.

Q: I applied for a visa at the Kobe Immigration Office, and I've been waiting for my paperwork to be processed. Now that it's closed, what should I do?

A: One thing you can do is to wait for the Kobe office to re-open. If you are in a hurry go to the Osaka office. If you are planning to return to your home country for a short visit, go to the Osaka Immigration Office to get a visa and a re-entry permit .

Q: My visa has expired, and I want to go back to my home country. What should I do?

A: It does not matter whether or not your visa problem is a result of the earthquake, the regular procedure will be taken. This procedure is called "Enforced Deportation." You will not be fined, nor will you have your personal belongings confiscated. You should go to the Immigration Office, with your passport and/or affidavit and your money which will cover your travel expenses.

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## The latest information!

The Kobe Immigration Office, in its temporary location on the second floor of the same building, started to issue re-entry permits from February 1st. The phone numbers are 078-391-4747 and 078-391-4748.

## Financial Aid Programs

Information for those whose family members were severely injured or killed as a result of the earthquake.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare has decided to pay "accident money" for those people mentioned above. "Severely injured" includes people who have been blinded or severely handicapped (e.g. loss of a limb, etc.) This applies to Japanese and foreigners alike. However, if you have a temporary-stay visa or no visa at all, the Ministry said that money will not be paid. We will work on the Ministry, so that money will be paid to such people.

AMOUNT TO BE PAID (Yen)		
	Head of the Family	Other Family Member
Killed	5 million	2.5 million
Injury resulted in serious disability	2.5 million	1.25 million

You should be able to obtain this money from your local government office. Please

contact the one in your area for more information.

### What about my daily, weekly, or monthly pay?

There are many severely damaged businesses and companies. The Ministry of Labor has decided to give monetary compensation to employees of these entities. This applies to foreigners both with and without visas. If you understand Japanese, go to the "Haro-waaku (Hello work)" Public Employment Office to have your case handled. You may contact us for help.

If you have not been paid for work completed before the earthquake: There is a Ministry of Labor program under which employees of bankrupt businesses are compensated by the government. You can apply for this compensation at the Public Employment Office. Those who need help can contact us.

If you were injured on your way to, from, or during work in the earthquake, you are entitled to apply for "Workmen's compensation insurance". If you have any inquiries, contact us at the Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center.

The situation is very fluid now. Please check with us on the latest information. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to ask us at the Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center.

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Contact us for reliable information.

All the information here is valid as of Feb. 1st.

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これは外国人地震情報センターのニュースレターです。  
地震被災者のために正確な情報を提供しています。  
近くに外国の方がいらっしゃったら、ぜひ渡して下さい。

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