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## Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center

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発行・外国人地震情報センター

3F Tokiwa Central Bldg. Tokiwa-cho, Chuo-ku, Osaka

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The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center has been set up by four private Kansai-based organizations, which are involved in FOREIGN WORKERS' ISSUES, in order to help improve the lives of foreigners affected by the Great Hanshin Earthquake. We provide information on transportation systems, utilities, free medical services, assistance programs, visas and passports, and other matters, answering questions in the following languages: Japanese, English, Tagalog, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Thai, Chinese, and Korean. If you have any questions, call us at 06-941-4793 (FAX:06-941-5875). We respect your privacy.

**You are in trouble!? Why not let us help you? All you have to do is call !!**

**Tel: 06-941-4793**

The following are just a few of the calls we've received so far and how we answered them.

Q: The earthquake destroyed my workplace. How do I get paid for the work I did before the disaster?

A: Your local government MAY help you. Fill us in on the details.

Q: I got badly injured in the quake. But I don't know where I can get medical treatment. I don't speak Japanese.

A: We will refer you to doctors who can speak English and/or other languages.

Q: I lost my home in the quake. Now I don't know what to do. I have no money to rebuild my life.

A: Local government have come up with a few programs to financially help people like you who have had their houses partly or totally destroyed. We can check out whether any of the programs may apply to your case.

Q: I applied for a visa at the Kobe Immigration Office. But I lost my passport during the tremor while I was waiting for my paper work to be processed.

A: We will give you updated information about how the Osaka Immigration can help you.

## **"THE LATEST INFORMATION"**

**MEAL SERVICE:** Have you been eating right---three times a day? If you can't get enough food where you live, whether it's your friend's house or one of the evacuation centers, we will try to supply you with food.

**HOUSING & HOMESTAYS:** We will refer you to organizations which are involved in housing and homestay arrangements. Applications for temporary housing units have already started in many of the cities hit by the quake. We can tell you when and where you can apply. Anyone who is a "registered alien" is qualified.

**FREE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CALLS:** Did you know you can call overseas for free? More than 180 telephones for free international calls are installed in evacuation centers, local government offices, and other facilities in Hyogo and Osaka prefectures. Call us for the locations.

**MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND LEGAL COUNSELING:** A) Do you need medical advice? AMDA International Medical Information Center will answer your questions on the phone from 9a.m. to 5p.m. in the following languages: Japanese, English, and Spanish from Mon-Sat; Portuguese on Tue, Thurs, and Fri; Thai on Mon and Wed; and Chinese on an irregular basis. Call AMDA at 06-636-2333 or fax to 06-636-2340.

B) You can also get psychological counseling in English from Dr. Mirton Wormack from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 078-851-8487.

C) The Yodoyabashi Sogo Law Firm will give you advice on employment, renting land, houses and apartments, etc. in English and French, either at the firm or on the phone. Call 06-231-3114.

D) You can also receive legal advice from lawyers on jobs and laws at the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Consultation Counter from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and from social insurance specialists from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; both on Mondays. You can get counseling only on a visiting basis. Please make phone reservations from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Mon through Sat, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sun. Call 078-362-4558 /4559.

**INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN:** Mikag International Preschool, located at 2-1-18 Yamate, Mikage, Nada-ku, Kobe, will re-open on March 6. All nationalities will be admitted, but you have to hurry up; applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Call 078-851-8487.

**APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF MONEY:** A) You lost your family member in the earthquake. B) Your family member is still missing. C) Your home was "half" or "totally" destroyed---evaluations depend on where you live. If you fall under any of the above, you will be qualified for ¥100,000 monetary donation from the Japan Red Cross Society. You don't need a proper visa to apply for this. The Red Cross Society, however, hasn't decided on what procedures you have to go through to receive the money. **SO PLEASE STAY TUNED!**

The situation is still quite fluid. Please check with us for the latest reliable information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at the Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center.