

## The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center Newsletter No. 4 • March 20, 1995

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The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center was established after the recent earthquake centered in southern Hyogo Prefecture to provide information and consultation services to foreign victims of the earthquake in their native languages. We offer advice on visa status and other matters via telephone hotlines in English, German, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and many other languages.

FEIC Interpreters' Schedule								
	Hrs.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Spanish	★	●		●		●		
Chinese	★	●		●			●	
English	★	●	●	●		●	●	●
Indonesian	p.m.2-9	●				●		
Filipino	p.m.2-8	●		●				
Vietnamese	p.m.2-5	●	●					
Korean	p.m.7-9	●		●		●		
French	★							●
Portuguese	★					●		
Thai	p.m.2-5						●	
Farsi		not yet scheduled						

**Need help!? Let us help you!!**

**Call us at: (06) 941-4793**

### LET US HEAR YOUR IDEAS:

Two months have passed since the Great Hanshin Earthquake. NGOs and various volunteer groups offering urgent, emergency aid have started being replaced by volunteer organizations providing a wide variety of services aimed more at mid-to long-range reconstruction and renovation. A network of these organizations is currently under formation.

As foreign residents of Japan, do *you* have any ideas about the future of Kobe and how life could be improved? Please tell us what you think. The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center wants to hear *your* ideas. We would like to draw up plans and proposals for renovation that reflect the opinions of foreign residents here.

**USE OF TEMPORARY TELEPHONES:** The number of temporary telephones available for use by earthquake victims has dwindled recently and the number of requests for information regarding these phones received by the Center has increased. Many people explain that someone got angry at them when they tried to use the temporary phones or that they were told not to make any international phone calls. Temporary telephones are for the use of all people who lost the use of their telephone because of the earthquake. International phone calls can also be made with temporary telephones. We ask, of course, that people who can use their home phones do so and that people who can't use their home phones but can afford it to please use public telephones (international calls can be made by using all gray telephones or green ones with a gold front plate).

**JAPAN RED CROSS PRIMARY EARTHQUAKE AID (GIENKIN):** To those who were affected by the quake in Kobe: If you are one of the people who are eligible to receive The Japan Red Cross Primary Earthquake Aid (*Gienkin*), have you received it? In Kobe City, only people who received The Red Cross Primary Earthquake Aid are eligible to receive the Hyogo Prefectural Aid (*Engokin*) and The City Relief Aid (*Mimaikin*). Anyone who hopes to continue receiving financial aid from the state or local-government should apply now for The Red Cross Primary Earthquake Aid.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE RED CROSS PRIMARY EARTHQUAKE AID

- **People who have completed Alien Registration procedures:**

You may apply for The Red Cross Primary Earthquake Aid by taking personal identification with you to the city or ward offices (*shiyakusho* or *kuyakusho*) in the area where you live and filling out the appropriate forms there.

- **People who have not completed Alien Registration procedures:**

The Red Cross will process your applications (starting March 1). Take the necessary documents (listed below) to the reception desk at the Hyogo Prefectural Branch of the Red Cross.

Location: Japan Red Cross, Hyogo Prefecture Branch  
5-7-11 Shimo-yamate Dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 651  
(2nd floor of the Hyogo Prefectural Parent-Children Auditorium). Tel.: 078-362-4564  
Walk north for about 10 minutes from the JR Motomachi Station. Next to the Red Cross Hospital.

Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Necessary documents: 1.) Earthquake Damage Certificate (*Risai-shomeisho*) issued by city or ward offices (*shiyakusho* or *kuyakusho*). 2.) Something to prove your identity (passport, identification card, etc.). 3.) Something to prove that you lived in an earthquake disaster area (mail, housing rental contract, etc.).

- People who have not completed Alien Registration procedures need an Earthquake Damage Certificate.
- To receive an Earthquake Damage Certificate (*Risai-shomeisho*), you must have the items described under numbers 2.) and 3.) of "Necessary documents" above.
- Someone may apply for you, if you give them power of attorney.

All applications will be conducted in Japanese. Anyone who cannot understand Japanese sufficiently should contact the Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center to have an interpreter accompany you (free). The Hyogo International Association also offers free interpretation services in English, Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese. Call them at (078) 382-2052.

**EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED EARTHQUAKE AID WITHOUT AN ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD (WHERE A REPRESENTATIVE WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY ACTS ON THEIR BEHALF)**

**Case 1:** Ms. A, from Peru, used to live in Higashinada-ku, Kobe, until her house was totally destroyed by the earthquake. She lost her passport so she had her embassy issue her an ID card. She brought the ID card and her Earthquake Damage Certificate to the Japan Red Cross and received Earthquake Aid (*Gienkin*) totaling ¥100,000.

**Case 2:** Mr. B, from the Philippines, used to live in Nagata-ku, Kobe, till his apartment was completely destroyed by the earthquake. He received ¥100,000 in Earthquake Aid by proving his identity by showing his passport, proving where he had been living by showing some mail he had received before the earthquake, and proving his current situation by showing the Earthquake Damage Certificate issued by his ward office (*kuyakusho*).

As shown above, you can get Earthquake Aid by proving who you are and what your living situation is, even if you don't have an Alien Registration Card.

**RECEIVING THE RED CROSS SECONDARY EARTHQUAKE AID (GIENKIN):**  
The Japan Red Cross has announced they will be offering Secondary Earthquake Aid (*Gienkin*) specified below. (However, they have not yet determined all the details concerning application, distribution period, and other specific procedures. Please keep abreast of new developments.)

**Amount of The Red Cross Secondary Earthquake Aid (*Gienkin*):**

- Persons injured for one month or more: ¥50,000.
- People on welfare, elderly people living alone, physically or mentally handicapped people, or single-parent households who request aid and whose living quarters were totally destroyed in the earthquake: ¥300,000
- Infants through high-school students who lost both their parents or legal guardians: ¥1,000,000.
- Home-owners intending to rebuild their houses: ¥300,000.
- Home-owners intending to repair their houses: ¥300,000.
- People intending to move into rental housing: ¥300,000.

**HAVE YOU FOUND WORK?:** Kansai Interpreting Center (*Kansai Tsuyaku-sha*) is offering employment services to foreign victims of the earthquake. The jobs they offer are non-skilled labor positions, with work locations in Nara and Osaka prefectures. They are also offering consultation services regarding homestays and moving. Call: (0742) 48-0181, daily, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. , and ask for Ms. Nakagawa.

**TAX REFUNDS:** People whose houses or household effects sustained major damage because of the earthquake may be eligible to have their 1994 income taxes partially or totally returned, by applying at tax offices.

**EXAMPLES:** Ms. C's rental apartment, in Hyogo-ku, Kobe, sustained partial damage and she lost more than half of her household effects including a television, a refrigerator and cabinets. Ms. C's 1994 yearly income was ¥2,400,000 (her monthly income of ¥200,000 times 12 months). Because this amount is below ¥5,000,000, and because the amount of damage she suffered exceeded one-half of the assets she

owned before the damage, all of the income taxes she paid in 1994 (e.g., ¥20,000 each month for 12 months, equaling ¥240,000) will be returned to her.

To apply, you must have something to prove you paid your taxes (proof of tax withheld at source for fiscal 1994 from your place of employment or itemized salary slips for the entire year). Also, submit with your application any proof you may have (if you have it) of having sustained damage during the earthquake—for example, an Earthquake Damage Certificate (*Risaishomeisho*). Apply at your local government tax office.

**NO-INTEREST LOANS:** SUPPORT 21 WELFARE FOUNDATION is offering no-interest, no-collateral loans for foreigners who suffered damage in the earthquake. To apply, you need: 1.) an application form\*, 2.) a letter of recommendation from someone holding Japanese citizenship (the person who recommends you does not have to guarantee your loan) 3.) a copy of your Alien Registration Card, and 4.) an Earthquake Damage Certificate. If you cannot acquire all the required documents, please consult with SUPPORT 21. Application procedures include a personal interview.

For information: Contact SUNNY FUND, c/o SUPPORT 21 SOCIAL WELFARE FOUNDATION toll-free at (0120) 55-5560.

\* Application forms are available at the following locations:

The Foreigners' Earthquake Information Center (06-941-4793), Kansai International Exchange Organizations Association (06-773-0256), Nishinomiya City International Exchange Association (0798-35-3459), Nishinomiya YMCA (0798-35-5987), Hyogo International Association (078-382-2051), Takatori Catholic Church, Nagata-ku, Kobe (078-731-8300), the Kobe Student Youth Center (078-851-2760), and Kobe YMCA (078-241-7201).

Other places you might consult:

1) Asian Friends (ph) 06-634-2127, 7.00-9.00 p.m. English (Mon., Fri.), Spanish (Tue.), Thai (Wed.), Chinese (Thr.)

2) Asian People Together (APT) (ph) 075-451-6522

(Thr. 6:00-8:00 p.m.) Spanish, Portuguese,

(Mon, Thr. 3:00-6:00 p.m.) Filipino, Thai, English, Japanese

3) Korean Legal Support Center (*Kankoku Houritsu Kyuen Center*) (ph) 06-731-3520

#### A MESSAGE FROM KDD

Why not talk to your family and friends overseas?

KDD's 001 offers you a better price. From 7 p.m.,  
rates are reduced 20%; from 11 p.m., 40%.

As a special offer, a 20% discount is also available during the day on  
Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays.