

Seven Brazilians and one Peruvian resident here were killed by the quake. About 1,500 Brazilians and 350 Peruvians, most with Japanese ancestry, have worked for factories in Hanshin district for several years.

Some 40 Brazilians who feared aftershocks left for their country, according to the Association of Japan-Brazil, a local group nurturing friendship between the two nations.

Three deaths were reported in the Filipino community in Kobe, according to the Philippine consulate. No one was injured seriously, and many have already returned to Kobe.

The earthquake claimed no victims from Hyogo Prefecture's international schools, but the future of some of the schools were thrown into question as some foreign residents opted to return to their home countries.

George Gibbons, headmaster of St. Michael's International School in Chuo Ward, said it would be "touch and go" whether the school survives as an institu-

tion in the long term.

According to Gibbons, many of the school's 115 students moved to Osaka or returned to their home countries after the quake.

"The school will definitely be very seriously affected financially. It all depends on how many students come back," Gibbons said. The institution's language school, which has about 200 students, faces a similar situation, he said.

Others meanwhile appear more optimistic despite lingering inconveniences. The German School in Nada Ward opened Jan. 26, although class hours were changed because of heavy traffic.

The Canadian Academy on Rokko Island in Higashi-Nada Ward was holding all its classes, although only about 340 of its 750 students were attending. The school day was shortened to between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. because of the extra commuting time caused by heavy traffic and the lack of rail services.

The school expects nearly all students back in the long term, but is unsure how

many of the 15 staff members still away will return. "We are trying to be very positive" said Tami Mizushima, the headmaster's secretary.

Ethnic media lends a hand

By YOKO HANI

Representatives of the ethnic media in Tokyo joined hands to fill an information vacuum that has robbed non-Japanese earthquake survivors of chances to get aid and services, and to provide moral support to minority groups in the devastated areas.

Nine newspapers and magazines in seven languages, including Chinese, Thai, Portuguese and Korean, formed a relief group for foreigners immediately after the Jan. 17 earthquake.

"Although Japanese people seemed to have reacted rather calmly thanks to the thorough coverage of the quake by television and radio, information for foreign survivors was insufficient," said Akira Koike, editor in chief of the Tagalog monthly *Kaibigan*.



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