

## Friends of the World 2017 世界のともだち 2017



It's finally getting hot here in Tokachi, meaning more and more outdoor events are taking place! One of the main annual events of the International and Domestic Relations Section is the "Friends of the World" performance and food-based event at the Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC).

There will be a kids corner with activities for young children to enjoy, a gallery of items on display from around the world, a "Yatai" or food stand with food prepared by both Japanese and International residents,

and more!

Please join us and become one of the  
"Friends of the World!"

Time: July 2nd, Sunday 10:30—15:00  
Place: Tokachi International Relations Center  
West 20, South 6, Obihiro City  
Fee: No Admission Fee!  
Contact:  
Tel: 0155-34-0122  
Email: [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)

## Japanese Calligraphy Class 2017 書道体験会 2017

The Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC) is having its annual Japanese Calligraphy, or 書道 *shodo*, class for international residents and students. Even if you don't know Japanese, there will be an

instructor there to help you! There will be 3 sessions for 10 participants each (total 30 persons). Each session is 45 mins, starting at 10:00, 11:00, and 13:00.

**Reserve your spot now!**

Time: June 24th (Saturday) 10:00-13:45  
Place: TIRC Library  
Fee: Free!  
Application/Contact: Apply by June 20th (Tuesday)  
Tokachi International Relations Center  
West 20, South 6, Obihiro City  
Tel: 0155-34-0122  
Email: [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)



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# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
6/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiko.hokkaido.jp
6/10, 6/24 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	<b>Japanese Conversation and Learning Table</b> Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment.	
6/17 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Potluck Night (Egypt)</b> Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from around the world. This time, you can enjoy Egyptian-style chicken soup as well as roasted chicken and omelet side dishes.	
6/24 (Sat) 10:00-13:45	<b>Japanese Calligraphy Class</b> Try out the traditional Japanese art of calligraphy. <u>June 24th (Sat) 10:00/11:00/13:00</u> (3 sessions/ 45mins each) TIRC Library Fee: Free of charge (max 10 participants per session) Apply by June 20th (Tue) Please wear clothes that can get dirty. <b>For Tokachi international residents only.</b>	
6/17-18 Sat-Sun 10:00-19:00	<b>Ecology Park Event: Enjoy the Long Day!</b> The "Fuwa-fuwa" Dome will be open for 2 days. There will be local produce, taiyaki, cotton candy and more for sale. ●Candle Night Concert (17th) (Free!) 16:00-17:30 ●Blue Sky Yoga (18th) for kids Time: 13:00-14:00 Fees: Elementary schoolers and under (including ice cream) 300 Yen, middle schoolers and above (including drink, ice cream) 1500 Yen *Children below 4th grade need a parent/guardian to accompany them Items to bring: Loose clothing, a towel, water	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp

## A Fake Backpacker's Journey: Hanoi, Vietnam

*It's finally back! The last we heard from CIR "Gan-Chan" about her backpacking trip around southeast Asia, she was in Laos*



*riding elephants. With elephant license in hand, let's follow Gan-Chan onto the next leg of her journey: Hanoi, Vietnam.*

After an hour-long flight from Luang Prabang to Hanoi International Airport on Vietnam Airlines, we arrived into Hanoi around 8 at night without plans for the next day. We booked a hostel on Old Quarter Street and decided to stop by a travel agency to book a day trip to Halong Bay before checking in. Unable to settle on a fair price, we ended up leaving the travel agency around 10 pm. Our first meal in Hanoi was sticky rice with fried meat from a street vendor.

Even late at night, many young people and foreigners could be



seen sitting on small chairs and low tables on sidewalks, drinking and talking. We found our hostel after wandering around for about an hour. The front gate was closed because it was late, so we tried knocking on the

rolling steel door before eventually calling the booking company to have a staff member open the door.

We booked 4 beds in a mix dormitory room. There were 8 bunk beds in the room with air conditions free wifi service, but there were only 4 of us on that floor. The shower rooms and toilets were clean and new, but the room and beds were a bit old. To tell you the truth, I didn't like the room. It was scary. We paid just about 400Y each for one night and I booked it myself, so I couldn't complain!

One long night at the scary hostel passed, and morning came. I got up early and was so excited to explore Hanoi.

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Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)  
To confirm, call or check online at: [http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/\\_obihiro/movie.shtml](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2	Jpn Dubbed	Until 23rd
Logan (R15+)	Eng Subtitles	All Month
King Arthur :Legend of the Sword	2D Eng Subtitles	From 12th

## A Fake Backpacker's Journey: Hanoi, Vietnam

After we checked out, we started the day by grabbing “Bánh canh,” a thick Vietnamese soup noodle dish for breakfast. It cost just 30,000 Vietnamese Dong (around 150 Yen) for



1 bowl and it was good! Before I came to Hanoi, I thought there were many bikes and cars on the road in

Thailand, but it

pales in comparison to Hanoi! After breakfast, we walked around; visiting 2 famous temples in Hanoi, Ngoc Son temple and Bach Ma temple. Then we had lunch and Vietnamese coffee at a nearby café. And walked again, visiting

Tran Quoc Pagoda. In the evening, we found a group of teenagers playing soccer at Lenin Park. Since our 2 male members were soccer lovers, they asked to join the fun, while the girls took a break.

Our day in Hanoi ended with



spring rolls and Hanoi beers at a restaurant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of a building downtown. After dinner, we gathered our things and caught a taxi to Hanoi station, to board the next train to Dong Hoi.

**Obihiro Pioneer** can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on “Information for Foreigners”)

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