

2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea

This month from the 9th to the 25th, the 2018 Winter Olympic Games will take place.

The host city, PyeongChang, South Korea, is the only Asian city outside of Japan to host a Winter

Olympic. Naturally, most of Japan's Winter Olympians call Hokkaido their home. In this month's Obihiro Pioneer, we will introduce the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic games and some of the local athletes who will be competing.

Elementary school students in Hokkaido learn to either skate or ski in school. Having grown up in some of the lowest temperatures in Japan, Tokachi kids learn to skate. Obihiro is home to Japan's newest indoor speed-skating rink, the Oval (one of only 2 in Japan). Naturally Tokachi produces many top-level speed skaters, including 1998 gold medalist and current 100 m world record holder Hiroyasu Shimizu.



This year's Obihiro Olympians
(L to R) Kamiya, Kondo and Shiga.

Olympians from Obihiro

This year, 3 female athletes from Obihiro will compete. Erina Kamiya 神谷衣里那 (left) will speed skate in the women's 500 m. Mai Kondo 近藤真衣 (center) and Aoi Shiga 志賀葵 (right) will represent Obihiro on the Japanese Women's Ice Hockey Team.

Olympians from Around Tokachi

Coming from Obihiro's next door neighbor, Makubetsu Town, are speed skating sisters Ms. Miho and Nana Takagi 高木.

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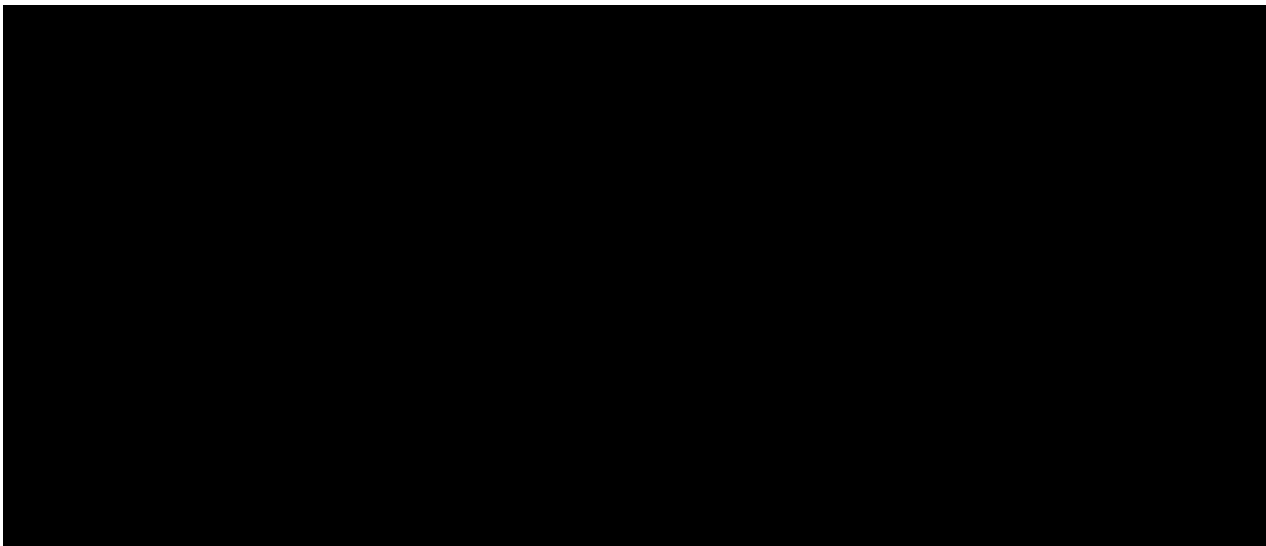
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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
2/10-11 (Sat-Sun) 10:00-15:00	International Festa in Tokachi 2018 Experience international exchange and cooperation through various activities. Join English conversation lessons for kids, watch free films, tour JICA's facilities and participate in the hunt for clues to win prizes! TIRC and JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro) /Free of charge Organized by Tokachi International Association Co-organized by the City of Obihiro, JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro)	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
2/10, 2/24 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by Tokachi International Association	
2/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. Organized by Tokachi International Association	
2/17 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night (Thailand) Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from around the world. This time, our guest from Thailand will introduce you to Northern Thai Curry Noodle, Khao Soi. TIRC Kitchen Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring a dish or drink to share. Organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City	
2/2-4 (Fri-Sun)	55th Obihiro Ice Festival 第55回おびひろ氷まつり With this year's concept "warm up in the Northern winter," the Obihiro Ice Festival will take place in the Midorigaoka Park. Various winter activities and ice displays will be prepared. Fire works and plenty of events are sure to "warm you up!" There will be a free shuttle from the Obihiro Station and Banei Horse Track.	
2/3 (Sat) 10:00-13:00	Ecology Park Event: Mamemaki (Bean Scattering) エコパ歳時記「豆まき会」 To celebrate Setsubun, or the last day on winter, there will be indoor crafts and a bean scattering event outside. Craft participants are required to pay a 500 yen fee, which includes a free ride on a snowraft!	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
2/4 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	Children's Hall Winter Festival 児童会館冬まつり In cooperation with the Obihiro Ice Festival, the Children's Hall will be holding craft activities, science experiments and more!	Obihiro Children's Hall 帯広市児童会館 0155-24-2434

2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea (Con't)



Alpensia Resort will be the main venue for this year's Olympic Games.

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This will be 23 year old Miho's 美帆 second time as an Olympian and the first Olympic games for older sister, Nana 菜那. From Nakasatsunai Town, is long distance (5000m) speed skater Misaki Oshigiri 押切美沙紀.

Athletes Associated with Tokachi

Although not originally from Tokachi, a handful of athletes call Tokachi their second home. Graduating from Memuro Town's

Shirakaba Academy are speed skaters Tsubasa Hasegawa 長谷川翼 and Arisa Go 郷亜里砂.

Last, but not least, is Shoko Ono 小野粧子 who will be a forward on the Women's Ice Hockey Team. Ono, originally from Asahikawa, is a member of Shimizu Town's FTS Mikage Gretz Hockey Team.

Be sure to cheer on these Tokachi Olympians as you watch this year's winter Olympic Games in PyongChang!

55th Obihiro Ice Festival



Make the most of the cold weather by checking out this year's Obihiro Ice Festival! This year's festival will **only** take place at Midorigaoka park. Free shuttles will again be provided from the Banei Horse Track and Obihiro Station. Enjoy daily fireworks, local food, beautiful ice sculptures and events to warm you up this cold February!

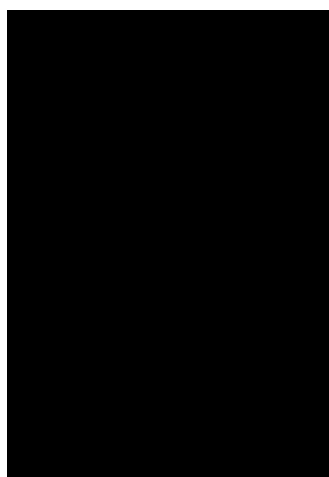
February 2nd to 4th @ Midorigaoka Park

<http://obihiro-icefes.com/> ←Check up latest info on their homepage!

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

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



Title	Language	Dates
Star Wars: The Last Jedi	Eng Sub/Dub	Until 16th
Kingsman: The Golden Circle	Eng Sub	Until 16th
Geostorm	2D Eng Sub	All month
The Greatest Showman	Eng Sub	From 16th
Godzilla (Animation)	Japanese	From 17th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
2/14 (Wed) 15:00-20:30	28th Ice Candle Night 第28回 氷灯夜 On the evening of Valentine's Day in Memuro Town, about 5000 ice candles light up the night. An evening of fun will be prepare for of course couples, but also for families and all.	Memuro Park 芽室公園内 第28回氷灯夜実行委員会事務局 0155-66-6522 https://memurokankou-hyoutouya-hy.jimdo.com/
2/18 (Sun) 10:30-13:00	35th Churui Nauman All Hokkaido Sled Race 第35回 忠類ナウマン全道そり大会 Watch sleds made of cardboard show off their speed and designs.	Churui Hakugindai Ski Area 忠類白銀台スキー場 幕別町忠類支所地域振興課 01558-8-2111
1/27-2/25 (Sat-Sun)	Tokachigawa Swan Festival "Sairinka" 十勝川白鳥まつり「彩凜華」 Come and enjoy a fantasy show of lights and sounds, snow rafting, walking in the forest of lights and so much more!	Tokachi Gaoka Park 十勝が丘公園 音更町十勝川温泉観光協会 0155-32-6633 http://www.tokachigawa.net/
1/27-3/21 (Sat-Wed)	Lake Shikaribetsu Kotan (Village) しかりべつ湖コタン "Kotan" is the Ainu word for "village." Seen only in the coldest time of year, you can come and experience an entire village made of snow and ice. Try dipping in a hot spring made of ice!	Lake Shikaribetsu 然別湖 しかりべつ湖コタン実行委員会 0156-69-8181 http://www.nature-center.jp/kotan/index.html

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 (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.