

Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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Nice to Meet You, Ngoc! ゴックさん初めまして！

This month, Obihiro City welcomes Le Minh Ngoc, a new CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) who comes to us all the way from Vietnam! Miss Ngoc will be working at the Tokachi International Relations Center and will be helping prepare events such as Kid's Playground and International Talk. We sat down with Miss Ngoc for an interview about her new position.

OP: Welcome to Obihiro! Why don't you tell us a bit about yourself?

Ngoc: Nice to meet you! My name is Le Minh Ngoc and I started working at the TIRC this October as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR). Please call me Ngoc (pronounced ゴック)! I am from Ha Nam Province, Vietnam. When people think of Vietnam, they usually think of the two big cities, Hanoi in the north and Ho Chi Min in the south. Ha Nam is connected to Hanoi in the north and has convenient access to the city center, as it is only an hour away by train. Due to its accessibility, this area is known for its industrial parks and economic development. Also, the tourism industry has been steadily increasing in Ha Nam over the past few years. This is in part due to the reconstruction of Tam Chuc Temple, widely considered to be the world's largest temple at 500 hectares wide. Please come visit Ha Nam in the future!



OP: Hokkaido and Vietnam have different climates. Are you excited for the Hokkaido winter?

Ngoc: I sure am! I'm used to the year-long hot weather in Vietnam. We have winter as well, but it is over in about two months. It never snows, either. Also, while it mainly stays at 15 degrees, there are some winter days when it gets below 10, so I recommend taking some warm clothes when traveling to Vietnam in the winter. People here spook me when they say that winters here can get below negative 20 degrees! I have never experienced this in my life, so even though I am worried, I am also excited at the same time!

OP: I heard that you attended a Japanese school in Tokyo for a year. What made you want to come back to Japan?

Ngoc: In December of 2019, I studied for a year in Tokyo as an international student. I always wanted to come to Japan and I was interested in Japanese culture, so I wanted to take the

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opportunity to experience and visit many places around Japan. However, in February of 2020, COVID-19 started to spread. I couldn't travel anywhere and attended classes online from my room. I planned to travel once the situation died down, but I ended up having to cancel my reservations and eventually went back home.



I had two main reasons for wanting to come back. Firstly, I felt that one year was not enough. Although I wasn't able to experience much in Japan, I had a taste of Japan's scenery, sky, kindness of people, and hospitality. I loved it and kept Japan with me even after going back home.

Secondly, Japan is considered to be a very important partner for Vietnam. I wanted to use the Japanese I majored in and build bonds of friendship between our countries in my own way, so I applied to the JET Program and came to Obihiro as a CIR!

OP: What do you want to do while you're in Obihiro?

Ngoc: There are many things I want to do. First, I want to quickly get my driver's license. Unfortunately, I cannot use my Vietnamese international license in Japan, so I do all my shopping and commuting by bike. With only a bike, I can't go far and can't enjoy all that Obihiro has to offer. Once winter comes around, I won't be able to use my bike and life will get a bit harder, so I want to get my license ASAP! Once I get my license, I want to travel all around Hokkaido! I want to see Hokkaido's flower fields, ski resorts, ocean, and peninsulas. I have a wonderful image of Hokkaido! Its scenery and climate is completely different than what I am used to, so in addition to Obihiro,

OP: As a CIR, what is your goal?

Ngoc: I have two main goals right now. The first is getting used to my new role as a CIR. I just started my job, and there are so many things that I don't understand, so I want to learn from everyone each day and get used to my job as soon as possible. As a CIR, I want to create an environment where residents and foreigners in Obihiro can have free exchange and connect through understanding other cultures. By doing this, we I can help create an environment that is easy to live and work in, both for Japanese and foreign people alike.

Secondly, I want to advance relations between Japan and Vietnam specifically. According to census data, there were many living in Obihiro in 2019. It was a large percent of the population of foreigners here and made up the biggest group. Recently, the number has increased by a lot more. The increase in Vietnamese people is not just in Obihiro, but all throughout Japan. While I am happy to see evidence of the improvement of our two country's relationship, many people are probably worried, me included, about the increase in crimes committed by Vietnamese people here. Although they live in Japan, they have a hard time making relationships with Japanese people and have no one they can depend on or speak to. Because of the language barrier and differences, they don't know what to do and there are people that resort to crime. I want to become a bridge that connects our two countries in a way that stops these sad occasions from happening. Those are the two things I want to focus on.



Obihiro is excited to have Ngoc as one of our new CIRs. Best of luck in your new position and we hope that you enjoy your time here in Obihiro!

Babibu Language Game

言葉遊び：バビ語

Many languages have their own language games that kids enjoy. In English, kids use language to play games such as Pig Latin. Pig Latin is a game where you take the first consonants of a word, move them to the end of the word, and add “ay” to the end. For example, dream becomes eam-dray, shark becomes ark-shay, and book becomes ook-bay.

Japanese has a game called *babibu* (バビ語) played mainly in Tokyo. In this game, each sound of a word is followed by either *ba*, *bi*, *bu*, *be*, or *bo*, depending on the vowel in the previous sound. If the sound is *n*, then *bu* follows.

EX) ねこ neko ねべこぼ nebe-kobo
 カメラ kamera かばめべらば kaba-mebe-raba
 しんぶん shinbun しびんぶぶぶんぶ shibi-nbu-bubu-nbu

There are a few extra rules with dealing with certain parts of Japanese. For example, if there is a geminate sound or a long vowel sound, the small *tsu* is pronounced as a regular *tsu* and long vowels are split and pronounced based on their hiragana spelling.

EX) がっこう gakkō がばつぶこぼうぶ gaba-tsubu-kobo-ubu
 せんせい sensei せべんぶせべいび sebe-nbu-sebe-ibi

Also, if there is a sound followed by a small *ya*, *yu* or *yo* sound, they are split up.

EX) きょうかい kyōkai きびよぼうぶかばいび kibi-yobo-ubu-kaba-ibi
 だいじょうぶ daijōbu だばいびじびよぼうぶぶ daba-ibi-jibi-yobo-ubu-bubu

This is a fun way to have fun with the Japanese language for both adults and kids. Have fun practicing!

Movies @ Cinema Taiyo, Obihiro

Not all movies are listed. Times and movies are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro			
Title	Genre	Lang	Dates
No Time to Die <i>007 Nō Taimu Tu Dai</i>	action	EN	All month
Lupin's Daughter <i>Rupan no Musume</i>	action	JP	Until 25 th
The Last Duel <i>Saigo no Kettō Saiban</i>	action	EN	Until 18 th
Ron's Gone Wrong <i>Ron Boku no Ponkotsu Bot</i>	animation	JP	All month
Eternals <i>Etānaruzu</i>	action	TBA	From 5 th
Encanto <i>Miraberu to Mahōdarake no Ie</i>	animation	JP	From 26 th



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

Eternals

KEY: JP = Japanese voice EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles

Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events may be affected by COVID-19. To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
11/7 (Sun) 10:00-12:30 13:30-15:30	Mori no Halloween 2021 森のハロウィーン2021 Have fun at our Halloween event with a trick or treat stamp rally, photo booth, and crafts! Fee: Free. Participants: Children 10 or under need a parent/guardian. Notes: Limited to 500 people. Registration can be done from the QR code. Please come during the time period you are assigned to.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp 
11/13 11/27 (Sat) 16:00-17:30	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 日本語講座 Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Fee: Free of Charge	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
11/13 (Sat) 10:30-12:00	Kids Playground (Christmas) キッズ・プレイグラウンド(クリスマス) Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. This month's theme is "Christmas". Your kids will interact with each other through song, dance and arts and craft. Fee: Free of charge Participants: Children 0-6 years old and their parents/guardians. Limited to 40 participants (decided by raffle) Notes: Register by contacting TIRC. The registration period is 10/5 (Fri) to 11/2 (Tue)	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp 
11/23 (Tue) 14:00	Violin and Piano Concert: Wako Yuto and Nagao Takahito ヴァイオリンとピアノコンサート: 和光優人と長尾崇人 Come and enjoy the music of two professional musicians in this one of a kind combination. Enjoy a wonderful time with heart-moving music sewn together through violin and piano. Fee: Free of charge (order slip needed to enter the building) Notes: Please wear a mask at all times. When receiving the order slip, please write your name, address and telephone number on the slip. The event may be cancelled for any reason.	Toyokoro Erumukan Harunire Hall 豊頃町文化協会 090-6991-1440

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 (search for "Obihiro Pioneer").

Obihiro Pioneer is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange 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 Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Contact the Editing Team at:
 Tel: (0155) 65-4133 Email: international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp