

Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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Teaming Up with Tuomas

Happy October, Pioneers! Now that the summer festivities are wrapping up and the weather is getting colder, start keeping an eye on the trees as the fall colors are not far behind! Last month, we bid farewell to Ha, our Vietnamese CIR. This month (and next month) we are interviewing the new CIRs coming into Obihiro to get to know them better. This month's interviewee is Tuomas Pykäläinen from Finland. Join us in giving Tuomas a warm welcome!

OP: Nice to meet you Tuomas, and welcome to Obihiro! We're here to learn a bit more about you. Is this your first time in Japan?



Tuomas: Thanks, it's nice to meet you as well! Actually, I have been to Japan two times before coming to Obihiro, but this is my first time living here! The previous stays were short and both times I was staying in the Tokyo area, so this is actually my first time in Hokkaido! It has been almost two months since I came here and so far, I have liked it a lot!

OP: I see, that's great to hear! I heard you were from Finland. Where is your hometown, and what kind of place is it?

Tuomas: I'm from a town called Käräsämäki in Finland! Käräsämäki is a small town located right in the heart of Finland. It's in the countryside and the population is only around 2,500 people, so you could say it's basically a village, but actually it is bigger by area than Obihiro! Although

トウオマスさんようこそ!

it's just covered with forests and fields, I liked living there since it's so peaceful and quiet.



Because it's a small town, there

isn't much to do and there are basically no restaurants besides a pizzeria. However, for me it was the perfect place as I like to take long walks, and Käräsämäki is rich in nature. I have lived in many towns across Finland because of my studied, but I grew up in Käräsämäki and always went there during the holidays as all of my family still lives there.

OP: Wow, sounds like such a nice and beautiful place! So, what are your first impressions of Obihiro and Hokkaido?

Tuomas: For Obihiro, I would say that I was quite surprised how hot it was here at the start of August when I came! I thought that it would be similar to the summer in Finland, where it's like 20-25 degrees, but it's definitely a lot hotter than that here! Otherwise, Obihiro seems like a nice city with lots of nature and the familiar birch tree! Birch is actually the national tree of Finland and you can see it everywhere, so every time I see one, it reminds me of Finland.



I was also a bit surprised to notice that there

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Teaming Up with Tuomas

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weren't many people walking outside the city center, but most people were going everywhere by car. As for Tokachi and Hokkaido, I feel really excited to see all the nature and I want to eat different foods made from the local ingredients.

OP: Wow, that's great to hear and I hope you explore a lot and eat a lot in Hokkaido while you're here! What are some other things you are looking forward to doing in Japan?



Tuomas: As I mentioned earlier, I haven't been to many places in Japan, so I want to travel around Japan and see different parts of it. Besides many places in Hokkaido, I want to visit places like Osaka and Kyoto, as well as Kumamoto and Hiroshima. I also have a few acquaintances living in Japan, so I hope to meet them if possible. I'm

really interested in the Ainu culture and literature and if I have the time, I would like to study more about them. I also want to try all kinds of foods here, especially sushi which is my favorite food. Then of course I would like to make lots of new friends and try many new things!

OP: Wow, you have yourself quite the bucket list! Having lived in Tokyo, you got the city experience, so now you can check out more of what Japan has to offer! Now that you're here in Obihiro, you're working as a CIR, so you use Japanese in daily life, right? How did you learn Japanese in the first place?

Tuomas: Although my first contact with Japan and the Japanese language was anime like most people, I only wanted to start studying it after I had encountered the works of Japanese author Natsume Soseki. His works gave me inspiration and motivation to start studying so I could one day read his works in their original form.

So, I decided to enroll in a Japanese language and culture course in a college far away from my hometown and

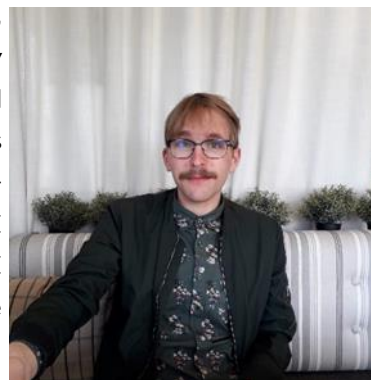
トウオマスさんようこそ!

move to the college's dormitory. This was around 5 years ago and it was the first time I loved to live on my own. I enjoyed it a lot and felt that I was finally able to study something that really interested me.

After the college course finished, I continued on to university where I chose Japanese studies as my major and I actually graduated in January of this year and came to Obihiro through the JET Program.

OP: I see, keep up the studies and maybe you can teach the pioneers a bit about Natsume Soseki in the coming months! Now you are working as a CIR for Obihiro and we are happy to have you! What do you want to accomplish as a CIR?

Tuomas: First and foremost, I want to represent my country Finland well! Finland is a small country where it's very difficult to get accepted into the JET Program, so I want to make sure that I represent Finland to the best of my ability.



Of course, I also want to share information about Finland and introduce Finnish culture to many people. Fortunately, Finnish inventions like the sauna and Moomins are really popular in Japan, and many people have a good image of Finland, which makes it really fun! Many Japanese people are also quite interested in Finland itself. Personally, I want to do my work well and grow as a person through challenging myself and meeting many new people!

OP: There really are many people here interested in Finland, so I hope that you have a lot of opportunities to showcase your country and become a strong bridge between Finland and Japan. Good luck here in Obihiro!

Tuomas: Thank you, I'll do my best!

Tuomas will be contributing to Obihiro Pioneer in the future as a writer. We hope his unique insights and fresh ideas will help to make Obihiro Pioneer a better newsletter and can teach us all more about Japan and beyond!

Japanese Corner: Making Questions 2 日本語コーナー:疑問文2

Last time we learned how to make yes/no questions (Q) from statements (S) using the particle *か* and by using interrogative words to ask for specific information.

This time we will review a bit more, specifically with **interrogative** words. Remember, interrogative words ask for **information** rather than yes or no answers. You make a sentence by replacing the word in the statement you'd like to know with the correct interrogative and keep the particle the same, and then add *か* at the end. Use the words below to solve the practice problems. Use the answer to the question to help you figure out which interrogative to use.

- だれ: who
- なに: what (なん before です)
- いつ: when (no particles after)
- どこ: where
- どうして: why
- いくら: how much (price)
- なんじ: what time
- どの: which
- どれぐらい: how long (time)

1. A: すみません。トイレは (どこ ・ なん ・ だれ) ですか?
B: トイレは あそこ です。
2. A: かばんの なかに (だれ ・ なに ・ いくら) が ありますか?
B: さいふが あります。

3. A: (どれぐらい ・ いつ ・ なんじ) に ともだちに あいますか?
B: 12じに あいます。
4. A: ヘヤの なかに だれ (と ・ を ・ が) いますか?
B: ヘヤの なかに ジョンさんが います。
5. A: しゅうまつに なに (が ・ を ・ と) しますか?
B: テニスを します。
6. A: いつ (に ・ で ・ none) とうきょうに いきますか?
B: にちようびに いきます。
7. A: おびひろ から さっぽろ までの でんしゃは (どれぐらい ・ いくら) かかりますか?
B: 500えん かかります。
A: そう ですか。(どれぐらい ・ いくら) かかりますか?
B: 3じかん ぐらい かかります。



Soon enough, you will be able to make interrogative sentences on the fly! There are more interrogatives and more complex sentences we can make in the future, but for now, keep practicing! The answers to these questions are on the back. **がんばって ください!**

Movies @ Cinema Taiyo in Obihiro

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

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
Fromage Japonaise ~the dream of Nihon Cheese~ <i>Furomāju Japone</i>	Documentary	JP	Until 10/3
Look Back <i>Rukku Bakku</i>	Anime	JP	Until 10/10
Alien: Romulus <i>Eirian Romurusu</i>	Sci-Fi/ Horror	EN, JP	Until 10/17
Beetlejuice Beetlejuice <i>Bītorujūsu Bītorujūsu</i>	Horror/ Comedy	EN, JP	All month
Joker: Folie à Deux <i>Jōkā: Fori a Du</i>	Action/ Suspense	EN, JP	From 10/11



Joker: Folie à Deux




Fromage Japonais ~the dream of Nihon Cheese~

KEY: EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles JP = Japanese voice with no English subtitles

Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events are subject to changes. To find out the latest information about these events, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
<p>10/5 (Sat) 10:30-14:30</p>	<p>Autumn Tea Ceremony 2024 森の茶会・秋2024</p> <p>An event for all foreign and Japanese residents of Tokachi to come together and experience one of the oldest parts of Japanese culture. There will be a skilled instructor to serve you and teach you, even if you don't know anything about tea ceremony. Sessions 1-4 are tea only, session 5-6 include a tea serving etiquette lesson. Sessions: 1)10:00-10:20 2) 10:30-10:50 3) 11:00-11:20 4) 11:30-11:50 5) 13:00-13:40 6) 13:50-14:30</p> <p>Fee: First 50 foreign residents are free, first 10 Japanese residents pay 300 yen (sessions 1-4) or 500 yen (sessions 5-6) Registration: Register by phone until 10/4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">帯広市観光交流課 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp</p>
<p>10/6 (Sun) 10:00-14:00</p>	<p>51st Annual Autumn Wine Festival 第51回池田町秋のワインまつり</p> <p>Enjoy an afternoon of wine outside of Ikeda's famous wine castle. Festivities include wine tasting, a food corner, a raffke, and a number of stage performances.</p> <p>Fee: 8000 yen/adult, 6000 yen/middle school student Participants: First 2000 people to buy a ticket (QR Code)</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wine Castle Park @ Ikeda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">池田町観光協会 015-572-2286</p>
<p>10/19 (Sat) 14:30-16:30</p>	<p>Mori no Pumpkin Carving 森のパンプキンカービング</p> <p>Parents and children can work together to carve a scary (or cute) pumpkin for Halloween! The instructor will help you to design a face and cut it out using the provided tools to make an authentic Halloween decoration with candle and all!</p> <p>Fee: Free Participants: 12 parent-child groups (decided by raffle) Registration: Register by phone until 10/4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">帯広市観光交流課 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp</p>
<p>10/20 (Sun) 10:00-15:30</p>	<p>Mori no Halloween 2024 もりのハロウィーン2024</p> <p>Experience the fright and fun of Halloween in Obihiro! You can bring your kids to take part of a stamp rally, make Halloween crafts, take pictures in costumes, and go through a haunted house!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">帯広市観光交流課 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp</p>

Japanese Corner Answers: 1. どこ 2. なに 3. なんじ 4. が 5. を 6. none 7. いくら、どれぐらい

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.

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, JICA Obihiro International Center, and Cinema Taiyo. The digital version can be found on Obihiro City's homepage at www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp (search for "Obihiro Pioneer") or by scanning the QR code on the right.

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