

# Obihiro Pioneer

## Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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## Happy Travels, Ha!

*For many Pioneers, August is the month of change. New Pioneers have arrived in Tokachi while others have moved on to pioneer new horizons. One such Pioneers is our very own Nguyen Huang Cam Ha, Obihiro CIR from Vietnam. She leaves us after a year of service. We sat down with Ha to ask her about her time in Obihiro and her future goals.*

**OP:** Thank you for taking the time to sit down with us! It seems like only yesterday you joined us here in Obihiro. What led to your decision to move on?

**Ha:** Thank you for having me! Yes, it feels like it was only a few days ago that I was getting off the plane from Vietnam to Tokyo, and then off the train from Chitose to Obihiro.



I decided to not renew my contract for a couple of reasons. My first reason is that this is actually my first time living in Japan and I want to experience other parts of the country. I loved living in Hokkaido, but I have always wanted to try living in Tokyo. Maybe someday I will be back in Hokkaido, who knows!

**OP:** That's great to hear! It's a great idea to get experiences in many different environments. You mentioned that you like Hokkaido. Hokkaido is quite different from Vietnam. What was your impression of Hokkaido, Tokachi, and Obihiro?

**Ha:** There is so much I love about Hokkaido that I can't even begin to tell you! Of course, it is quite different from Vietnam. I am from central

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Vietnam which is hot and humid all year round. The coldest it gets is around 15 degrees Celsius. I knew Hokkaido would be cold when moving here and... it was! However the snow and winter scenery made me come



to enjoy the cold weather. I like that Obihiro gets just the right amount of snow; not too much and not too little.

The nature here is so wide, green, and diverse. There are high mountains, beautiful lakes, and colorful flowers. There are so many places and things to see. The food in Hokkaido is also so delicious. My favorite foods are now seafood bowls, sushi, and ebi ramen!

Obihiro is more spacious than my hometown, and I do not drive, so it was difficult for me to get around at first. However, I learned how to use busses and taxis. Also, I like that the people here are so kind. I've been helped by so many people during my time here and I appreciate the many friendships I made. It is a very international town with many events and foreign residents. Obihiro is my second home!

**OP:** I'm glad to hear you had such a nice impression of Hokkaido! What places in Hokkaido do you like the best?

**Ha:** I will tell you three of my favorite places. First is Asahidake, which is the tallest mountain in Hokkaido. There is a ropeway that takes you to the top. I went on a beautiful day with a blue sky and let me tell you, it's so beautiful! I recommend going here even just once.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## Happy Travels, Ha!

*Continued from Page 1...*

I also recommend visiting Furano and Hakodate. You can see pictures of the flowers and lavender of Furano online, but it is NOT the same as seeing it all in person! Hakodate is far from Obihiro, but it has a nice city feel to it different than Sapporo. I recommend visiting Goryokaku Park, the giant star-shaped park in Hakodate. There is a lookout tower you can go up to see the park from high up.

Lastly is of course, the TIRC! I worked in this building for a whole year, and I love it. You can enjoy plants in the winter, study, do sports, meet new people, and join events. I made many connections here, I love it!

**OP: How about other places in Japan? Did you get a chance to travel and see other parts of the country?**

Ha: Yes, I did! Being my first time in Japan, I was eager to see many parts of the country, so I traveled by myself often. I went to Tokyo where I met some friends and saw the



big city at my own pace for the first time. After that, I went to Kansai and saw many places, including Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto. There I saw temples, shops, and famous tourist sites.

I also went to Naha in Okinawa, which was a wonderful experience. The temperature reminded me more

of Vietnam. There was tropical feeling to it. I also took a train ride all the way to Aomori, where I saw Aomori City and Hirosaki. There I visited art museums and saw a castle giant mountains! Other places I went to are Nagoya, Yokohama, and Mt. Fuji.

**OP: Wow, you are so well-travelled! Let's talk about your work. What were some of your memories from working as a CIR?**

Ha: Working as a CIR was one of the best experiences of my life. I won't lie, it was very busy. Despite the time and difficulty, I was able to make many good memories. I met so many people from so many countries. Since I worked often with the international students from Obihiro University, I made many friends and sometimes we travelled together on the weekends.

I learned more about how to work in a Japanese work

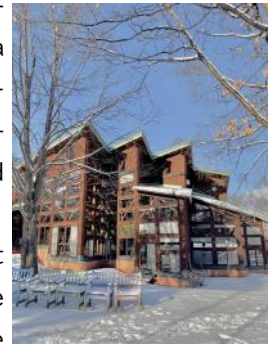
## ハーさんさようなら!

environment. I learned about how to make documents, how to get permission, how to manage events, manage people and contact people for planning.

I am lucky because my coworkers were so kind. They always asked about my health, cared about my work, and always offered to help me. If I was busy or needed help, my coworkers would call to me and help me. They taught me wordplay and words in Japanese that you can't find in textbooks and made me appreciate the language more.

I enjoyed the events at the TIRC. My first event was the festival Bon-odori. I enjoyed International Talk, Potluck Night, Friends of the World, the Multicultural Festival, and all of the other activities that I participated in. I felt like I was making a difference and helping people to become more aware of international culture in Obihiro. Actually, this helped me improve my English a ton as well!

Also I cannot forget about my best work friend, Kar Yin Au! He was the Australian CIR that left in April. He was here when I started working. He taught me a lot about the job and we had a very good connection. Thanks to him I was able to become a good CIR! We hung out often and we talked about so many things. I was sad when he left the job, but we talk every day. He is doing well in his new job!



**OP: That's great to hear! I'm glad that you had such a good experience. What will you be doing after this job?**

Ha: From here, I will be moving back to Vietnam for a month to visit my family and see my friends. I am homesick, so I want to visit everyone! After, I will move back to Tokyo. I have a job lined up at a company in Tokyo that employs Japanese and Vietnamese people. It will be a chance for me to live in a new environment and meet new people.

**OP: Good luck in your new job, and I hope you can come visit us someday in Obihiro!**

Ha: Thank you, I'll do my best! Thank you Obihiro, and good luck to the new CIRs coming in, you will love it!

*Thank you Ha for all of your hard work, and from all of us at Obihiro Pioneer, good luck in your future travels!*

# Japanese Corner: Making Questions

# 日本語コーナー：疑問文

We have covered quite a bit of grammar up until now, but we have yet to make questions!

To make a yes/no question (Q), add **か** to the end of a statement (S), similar to adding a question mark in English.

Example:

1. S: あなたは ジョン です。 You are John.

Q: あなたは ジョン ですか? Are you John?

2. S: かれは すしが すき です。 He likes sushi.

Q: かれは すしが すき ですか? Does he like sushi?

Another way is to use **interrogative words**. These are words that ask for specific information. Here are some:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| だれ: who                 | いくら: how much (price)  |
| なに: what (なん before です) | なんじ: what time         |
| いつ: when                | どの: which              |
| どこ: where               | どれぐらい: how long (time) |
| どうして: why               |                        |

To make an interrogative sentence, you replace the word in the statement that you'd like to know with the interrogative and keep the particles the same. Then you add **か** at the end.

Example:

1. S: これは はなこ です。 This is Hanako.

Q: これは **だれ** ですか? Who is this?

1. S: はなこが きのう みずを のみました。 Hanako drank water yesterday.

Q: **だれ**が きのう みずを のみましたか? Who drank water yesterday?

Q: はなこが **いつ** みずを のみましたか? When did Hanako drink water?

Q: はなこが きのう **なに**を のみましたか? What did Hanako drink yesterday?



As you can see, the interrogative keeps the particle that the word it asks for would require. Take some time translate a few sentences below for practice. The answers are on the back!

- A. これは がっこう ですか? = \_\_\_\_\_
- B. ジョンは あしが ながい ですか? = \_\_\_\_\_
- C. まいにち、なんじに おきますか? = \_\_\_\_\_
- D. この ちいさい ほんは いくら ですか? = \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Does your mother like Japan? = \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Where is the train station? = \_\_\_\_\_
- G. What will you eat tomorrow? = \_\_\_\_\_
- H. What is this? = \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Which train goes to Sapporo? = \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro)

| Title   | Genre             | Lang   | Dates      |
|---|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Inside Out 2<br><i>Insaiddo Heddo 2</i>                 | Family/<br>Comedy | JP     | Until 9/19 |
| The Colors Within<br><i>Kimi no Iro</i>                 | Anime             | JP     | Until 9/19 |
| Bad Boys: Ride or Die<br><i>Baddo Bōizu RIDE OR DIE</i> | Action/<br>Comedy | EN     | Until 9/19 |
| Alien: Romulus<br><i>Eirian Romurusu</i>                | Sci-Fi/<br>Horror | EN, JP | From 9/6   |
| Beetlejuice Beetlejuice<br><i>Bitorujūsu Bitorujūsu</i> | Horror/<br>Comedy | EN, JP | From 9/27  |



Alien: Romulus





Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

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   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 9/14<br>(Sat)<br>10:00-<br>15:00 | <b>Yotsuba Milk Festa 2024</b><br>よつ葉ミルクフェスタ2024<br>Celebrate Tokachi's dairy culture at this event! There will be tours of the milk and butter factory, pizza and milk product sales, ice cream, stage shows, and a pseudo-cow milking experience. Also, you can exchange empty milk packs for toilet paper! (5 packs for 1 roll, max 8 rolls)  | Yotsuba Tokachi Main<br>Factory @ Otofuke<br><br>よつ葉乳業十勝主管工場<br>0155-42-2121  |
| 9/21<br>(Sat)<br>10:30-<br>12:00 | <b>Kid's Playground: Halloween</b><br>キッズ・プレイグラウンド:ハロウィン<br>Parents and children can learn together about foreign cultures through song, dance, and crafts at Kid's Playground! This month, English teachers will be our guest speakers as we learn about and enjoy Halloween. We will be making Halloween-themed decorations.<br><br>Fee: Free<br>Max Visitors: 45 parent-child groups<br>Registration: Fill out the form at the QR code  | Tokachi International<br>Relations Center @<br>Obihiro<br><br>芽帯広市観光交流課<br>0155-34-0122<br>tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp  |
| 9/21<br>(Sat)<br>15:00-<br>16:30 | <b>International Talk: Finland</b><br>幕別町夏まつり盆踊り大会<br>International Talk is an event where guest speakers give talks about their home countries. This time, Tuomas from Finland will give a talk about Finnish culture, every day life and interesting facts about Finland.<br><br>Fee: Free<br>Registration: None   | tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp   |
| 9/29<br>(Sun)<br>10:00-<br>13:30 | <b>21st Annual Shintoku New Soba Festival</b><br>第21回しんとく新そば祭り<br>Do you like soba noodles? Then don't miss out on the New Soba Festival, an event where soba restaurants and noodle-making groups set up stalls where you can buy and compare the tastes of Tokachi soba. You can try the "4 Tate Soba", the 4 methods of making soba. Freshly picked, freshly milled, freshly kneaded, and freshly boiled soba. There will also be stalls selling other foods and games for children as well!                                | Shintoku Hoken Fukushi<br>Center Nagomi @<br>Shintoku<br><br>新得町産業課観光振興係<br>0156-64-0522<br> |

Japanese Corner Answers: A. Is this a school? B. Does John have long legs? C. What time do you wake up every day? D. How much is this small book? E. あなたのおかあさんはにほんがすきですか? F. えきはどこですか? G. あしたなにをたべますか? H. これはなんですか? I. どのでんしゃがさつぽろにいきますか?

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](http://www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp) (search for "Obihiro Pioneer") or by scanning the QR code on the right.

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