

Good-bye Marcelo (さよならマルセロさん)

Marcelo, CIR from Brazil, will be leaving for home next month. I asked him a few questions about his time here and his future.

What was your favorite thing about Obihiro?

Marcelo: Definitely, the people. The best memories of the time I lived in Obihiro are from the nice people I met here. From the moment I stepped in this town, I was surprised with a welcome banner and the smiling faces of those who I were to work with. Their encouragement and support made the last two years a very enjoyable and rewarding working experience.

Besides my coworkers, I met a whole lot of people during this period. I think it is safe to say that two years in Obihiro made me know more people than, say, ten years in Sao Paulo! Here, I made friends from different places in the world, places I wasn't even aware existed! I learned about different cultures, languages and customs. That made me review what I thought I knew about the world, which in turn made me less judgmental about stuff in general.

I was also blessed with the hospitality of those who invited me to their homes. Visiting them, I could learn what life in a family is like in



Japan, as well as enjoy some good home cooking, conversation and even music. Knowing different families and their lifestyles made me more open-minded. Japanese food made me more health-conscious. Conversation and music made me happy.

What did you learn from working in Japan?

Marcelo: For one thing, it helped me improve my language skills. I've always wanted to have a job where I could communicate in different languages on a daily basis. I did that in the jobs I had back in Brazil, and hoped I would be exposed to different situations in Japan. In Obihiro, I've appeared on radio and TV programs, hosted events,
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来月、ブラジル出身の国際交流員、マルセロさんが帰国します。後任の国際交流員は、来月帯広市に着任予定です。

International Festa Thank You (国際フェスタのお礼)

We would just like to thank everyone who came to the International Festa last month. In particular we give a big thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out at the event. We wouldn't have been able to put it on without your help. Thank you.

先月開催された国際フェスタには多くの来場者が来られ無事終了することができました。ボランティアの皆様には心よりお礼を申し上げます。

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Events in Tokachi and Obihiro

1/7	What	Where/Contact
 3/2 - 3/4 (Fri - Sun)	ISU World Junior Speed Skating Championships 2012 (2012 ISU世界ジュニアスピードスケート選手権大会): 3/9 - 3/10 (Fri - Sat) ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating Final 2011/12 (2011/12ジュニアワールドカップスピードスケート競技会ファイナル): Tickets (1 day): Seated Spectator Area (elementary school and up): ¥1,000 in advance ¥1,500 day of event Non-seated Standing Spectator Area (Junior High School and younger free): ¥500 Advanced tickets are available at: Lawsons, 7-11, Meiji Hokkaido-Tokachi Oval, Kachimai Salon (7th floor of Fujimaru), Ticket Live (Obihiro Citizen's Hall)	明治北海道十勝オーバル Meiji Hokkaido-Tokachi Oval 0155-65-4210
 1/28-3/31 (Sat-Sat)	2012 Shikaribetsu Lake "Kotan" (2012しかりべつ湖コタン): The Shikaribetsu "Kotan" was started 31 years ago to allow everyone to enjoy Hokkaido's winter wonderland. Pulling a fast one on the bitter coldness of winter, we have created a bright fun village on top of the ice on the lake. Please come and enjoy it to your hearts content. (translated from event website)	鹿追町然別湖畔及び湖上 Shikaoi-cho Lake Shikaribetsu 0156-69-8181 http://www.nature-center.jp/2012-kotan/kotan-top.htm (Japanese)
 3/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	Mini-Volley (ミニバレー): Held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. A simple sport to play and enjoy!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
 3/17 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	Kids Playground (キッズプレイグラウンド): Come play with your children and interact with local families. You can also come as a volunteer to help play with the kids.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
 3/24 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	30th International Talk (第30回インターナショナル・トーク): This month, Marcelo Miyashiro Arce, Obihiro City Coordinator for International Relations from Brazil will talk about his country and his experiences in Obihiro. Please register by phone or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
 3/28 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	Tokachi Amigos Mini-Volleyball (とちあミーゴスミニバレー): Let's meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport! Fee: 100 yen	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center Contact: Hector TEL 080-3295-4875

Chef Hector's Cuisine Corner (ヘクター調理人の料理コーナー)

The Tokachi region of Hokkaido is known for its fertile land and rich agriculture and dairy industry. Some of the many products produced in Tokachi include potatoes, red beans, beets, wheat, and milk. These are also some of the common ingredients used in sweets, and naturally, Tokachi has become renowned for its delicious desserts and confectionery.

To promote Tokachi as a "Kingdom of Sweets", the Obihiro Tourism and Convention Bureau regularly offers a "Sweets Tour Ticket" (スイーツめぐり券). This is a ticket that you can buy for 500 yen, and includes five coupons that you can exchange for sweets at any five participating confectionery stores. For the 8th installment of the event, which runs from January 3 to June 30 this year, there are 36 participating stores located all over Obihiro. Most of the sweets on offer are normally priced at more than 100 yen, so you get to taste the delicious local confections at a bargain.



The tickets are sold at over 15 locations, including ESTA at Obihiro Station 2nd floor, and many hotels around the city. You can also buy them at the participating stores. After buying a ticket, just go to the participating store of your choice and show your ticket to exchange one of the attached coupons for their designated delicacy. Note that you can only use one coupon for one store (i.e. you cannot exchange all 5 coupons on your ticket for 5 servings of their sweets).

The participating stores and the sweets they offer are as follows:

- Cranberry main store: Tart potato
- Cranberry East 1 store: Potato pie
- Ryugetsu Odori main store: "Tsuki Fuwari" cake
- Ryugetsu West 2 store: Bonne cake
- Cafe Porte: Blanc manger

- Taiyaki Kobo main store: Taiyaki
- Masuya Pan main store: 3 kinds of bread
- Mochidango Kobo: Mochidango
- Takeya Seika: "Mametarou" pie
- Papalagi Kids: Mini gelato
- Kizuna: Ice milk
- Shichiku Garden Cafe: Scone
- Tokachi Hills: Sweets of the day
- Ele Mercato: Macaron
- Tokachi Bussan Center: Soft cream
- Cream Terrace: Waffle or Mini soft cream
- Torantorán Masuya: Walnut bread
- Uteberg Esta store: Baked sweets
- Kobayashi Esta store: Soft waffle
- Taiyaki Kobo Esta store: Taiyaki
- Shichiku Garden Yuka: Scone
- Uteberg main store: Baked sweets
- Kadora Shugetsu: Dorayaki
- Dandelion Doughnuts: Doughnut worth 150 yen or less
- Tokachi Bagel: Plain bagel
- Tokachi Sweets Lab: Milk doughnut
- Akutsu: Rhubarb and apple galette
- Toteppo Kobo: 3 kinds of cheese
- Cranberry Yayoi-dori store: Tart potato
- Cranberry Shirakaba-dori store: Potato pie
- Taiyaki Kobo West store: Taiyaki
- Ryugetsu Toskachina: Toskachina Tokacho
- Bonheur Masuya: Cream cornet
- Patisserie de Bourbon: "Yumeuguisu" cake or cream cheese
- Takeya Seika main store: 3 kinds of sweets
- Uemon's Heart: Milk

For more information on ticket sales locations and the participating stores, please refer to <http://www.obikan.jp/new/sweets08/index.html> (Japanese).



Tokachi is famous for its various confectionery treats. Why not get a Sweets Tour Ticket book and try them out?

第8弾「菓子王国十勝! 十勝スイーツめぐり券」は、500円で引き換えチケットが5枚ついており、36店舗の中から好きなお店5店を選んで、各店舗のオススメ商品と交換できます。有効期限は今年1月3日から6月30日までです。詳細につきましては、<http://www.obikan.jp/new/sweets08/index.html>をご参照ください。

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
Robo-G	Japanese	Ends 2nd
Shiawase no Pan	Japanese	Ends 16th
Always San Chome no Yuuhi '64	Japanese	Ends 30th
Kirin no Tsubasa ~ Shinzanmono~	Japanese	Ends 30th
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo	English	Ends 23rd
Ace Attorney Phoenix Wright (Gyakuten Saiban)	Japanese	Ends 30th
K-On!	Japanese	Ends 1st
Rengou Kantai Shirei Choukan Yamamoto Isoroku	Japanese	Ends 16th
In Time	English	Ends 16th
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	English	Ends 30th
War Horse	English	Starts 2nd
Liar Game	Japanese	Starts 3rd
Doraemon: Nobita and the Island of Miracles	Japanese	Starts 3rd
Sherlock Holmes 2: A Game of Shadows	English	Starts 10th

Good-bye Marcelo (Continued) (さよならマルセロさん)

translated and interpreted speeches, made up catchphrases, taught dance steps, made countless presentations, met and talked to lots of people; that and a lot more, mostly in Japanese and often in English, too. It was a very enriching experience, not only from a language standpoint, but also for the interpersonal skills I learned. Communicating and interacting with people is easier for me now, in any language.

What will you be doing once you return home?

Marcelo: As soon as I get off the plane, I want to go for some good beef barbecue, or churrasco, with pão francês (Brazilian bread roll), vinagrete dressing and guaraná soda pop for a drink. It's a delicious combo highly appreciated by both Brazilians and foreigners visiting Brazil.

I would also like to keep up my capoeira. I hadn't practiced it for a few years, and never in my wildest dreams thought I would be doing it anywhere in the

future, let alone in Japan as part of my job! But it turned out as a good way to get people to know and enjoy Brazil's culture and I now do it regularly here. In Brazil, it will be nice for a workout and as a hobby.

Apart from that, I'll need to look for a new job. Maybe I'll do something with my Japanese skills, like teaching or translating. Maybe I'll use my degree in physical education and work in fitness or teach capoeira. Maybe I'll just take a sabbatical! I don't know!

Do you have any parting words for our readers?

Marcelo: Thank you all for two great years! The experience I had in Obihiro will become a lifelong treasure. Thank you very much!

We thank Marcelo for all his hard work these last two years. Marcelo's replacement will be arriving next month.

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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, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (click on "Information for Foreigners")

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