


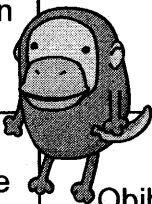



Tokachi Events

April 2007



We would love to have you come and be a part of any or all of these local events!

When	What	Where/Contact #
4/1 (Sun) 9:30 ~	Aruku Ski Event: Cross-country ski in the Eastern Taisetsu Mountains to the Tomuraushi Hot Springs. Last year was supposed to be the final year, but they are doing this event one more time, due to popular demand. Adults 1500 yen Kids 500 yen	新得町屈足トムラウシ トムラウシ温泉 Kuttari Tomuraushi, Shintoku Tomuraushi Onsen 0156-65-3021
4/8 (Sun) 11:00 - 15:00	Tokachi Tokatoka Fair: Soroptimist International is going to have a bazaar, a free-market where anyone can set up shop (¥2500 fee). You can enjoy all kinds of delicious foods while enjoying musical and other great performances. ("tokatoka" means a small gathering place with a purpose in Fijian)	道の駅なかさつない Michi no Eki Nakasatsunai 0155-67-2811
4/27 ~5/6 (Sat-Sun)	Rekifune River Koinobori: There will be 236 giant carp "swimming" over the Rekifune River. Every year Taiki hangs up these giant windsocks shaped like colorful carp to remind us of the spring season.	歴船川 Rekifune River, 50m upstream from Taikibashi bridge 01558-6-2111
4/28~5/11 (Sat-Fri) 	"An Inconvenient Truth" Exclusive Showing: In this documentary, Mr. Al Gore talks about the disastrous consequences of global warming looming in the future, and discusses ways to ameliorate the problem. He strongly urges us all to take action with the words, "The choice is ours. The responsibility is ours. The future is ours"	 CINEとかちプリンス劇場 CINE Tokachi Prince Theater 090-1460-3049
4/28~9/30 (Sat-Sun) 10:00 - 16:00 3000 yen per couple	Kofuku Station Happy Ceremony: Get ready for a "wedding" experience! You can borrow a tuxedo and dress, and be "witnessed" with anyone you want! You ring the station bell while the "witness" takes a perfect picture of you both to finish off the ceremony. Afterwards, you receive a certificate with a message of your choice and that perfect picture on it too.	帯広市幸福駅 Kofuku Station, Obihiro (30 min South on Hwy 236) 0155-24-4111
4/29 (Sun) 10:00 - 	Satsunai River Park Opening: Come to the Pyotan Waterfall to celebrate the park opening for the season. Watch the river get restocked with fish, and even do a little mountain stream fishing if you want. There will be kids events and a new restaurant opening as well!	ピョータンの滝 Pyotan Waterfall (In Nakasatsunai) 0155-67-2311 
4/29 (Sun) 9:00 - 16:30 	Obihiro Zoo Opening Day: Lions, tigers, and bears, and more! You can see them all here at the Obihiro Zoo. Admission is 450 yen, but in addition to the animals, the zoo has lots of rides and games and even a big ferris wheel to ride! I wonder if they have any ligers....	おびひろ動物園 Obihiro Zoo is right next to Green Park (both are contained in Midorigaoka Koen) 0155-24-2437

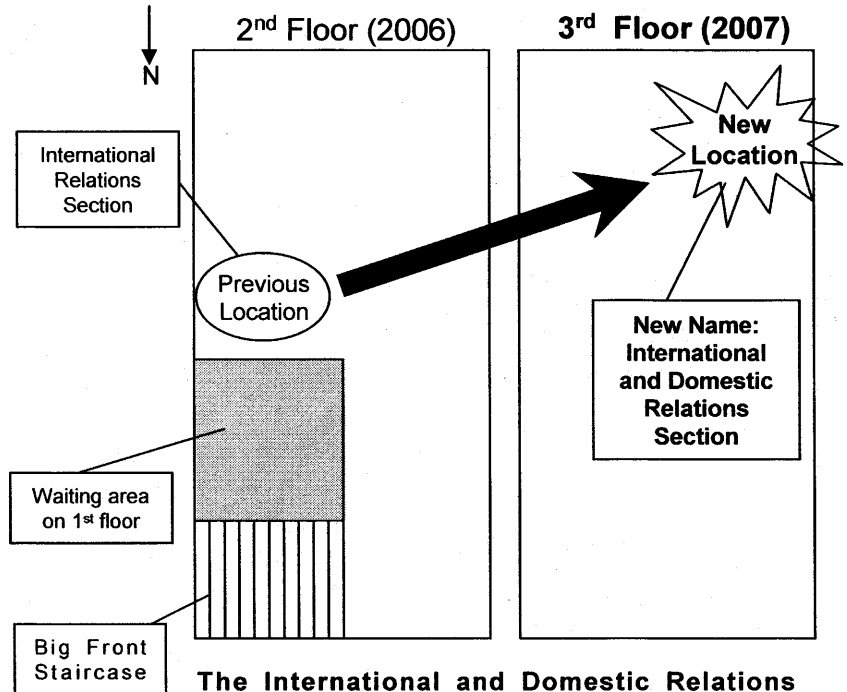
The End of the International Relations Section

This is the end, my only friend, the end. Well, not exactly. However, this April at City Hall there are going to be a lot of changes, and the International Relations Section is going to be very different when the dust settles. Let me explain what those changes are and how they might affect you.

As you may already know, April is a very important month in Japan. You've got the beautiful cherry blossom trees blooming and all the people partying underneath them. (actually I heard that the sakura don't bloom until May here in Hokkaido, but) April is when students begin the new school year, so they may be entering high school or the university for the first time. It is also the month when there is much shuffling of positions within companies. Many new workers start in April, and other workers can be "moved" to other branches. Obihiro City Hall also has a highly potent case of "personnel change" coming up this April. Last year, the two heads of the International Relations Section were switched out, so now we have completely new leadership. This year, on top of losing Carlos (see last month's WHIO) and any other people who want to quit, we may also have other experienced workers shuffled out of our department to be replaced by greenhorns. We may be getting a new replacement for Carlos from Peru though, so stay tuned for next month's issue of WHIO.

The International Relations Section will no longer exist starting this April, as well. Don't worry though, we are just getting a name change. Our new name is going to be the "Shinzen Kouryuu" Section. I translated this as the "International and Domestic Relations Section", but you can see the true meaning below in the Japanese Corner. We will also be getting a new member added to the team to take care of the "domestic relations" part of our section.

Obihiro City Hall (starting April 2007)



The International and Domestic Relations Section is going to be in a different location as well! We will be moving to the 3rd floor of Obihiro City Hall. As mentioned at left, there is going to be one more person joining the team, to take care of domestic exchange programs, and there is going to be a new "reading corner" where anyone can come and read about Japan, Obihiro, and all the things we do here in the new IDR Section, so feel free to stop by anytime for advice, help, or just to learn and have a good time.

The Japanese Corner (vocab found in or related to this month's issue)

親善交流課 (しんぜんこうりゅうか): "Friendship Exchange Section" The direct translation of the new name of our section. Quite meaningless and slightly embarrassing, so the actual English name is going to be the "International and Domestic Relations Section".

人事異動 (じんじいどう): "personnel change" Many companies shuffle their workers around to new positions or branch locations (mainly in April). Obihiro City Hall also shuffles every worker about every 3 years or so.

不都合な真実 (ふつごうなしんじつ): "an inconvenient truth/reality" This is the Japanese translation of the title of Al Gore's new movie about global warming.

動物園 (どうぶつえん): "zoo" or literally "animal park"

先輩 (せんぱい): "one's senior" someone older/more experienced than you who (traditionally) will give you advice and take care of you as long as you are respectful in return.