

Good-bye Geraldo (さよならジェラウド)

March has arrived which means it's time to say good-bye to staff who are leaving. This year Coordinator for International Relations, Geraldo Takashi Kodaira, will be leaving us to return to his home country of Brazil. We asked him a few questions about his time here in Obihiro and what he will be doing once he returns home.

What was your favorite thing about Obihiro?

The food, "Jingisukan" and "Butadon" are my favorite dishes. Sweets are special as well, "Ryugetsu" is my favorite. However, Obihiro is not only foods and sweets, it is the beautiful nature. My favorite activity was cycling during the summer and autumn enjoying the greenery and the autumn leaves.

What did you learn from working in Japan?

It seems obvious, but I learnt more the spoken Japanese language. I think the most valuable and rewarding experience has been the good relationship in the workplace.

What will you do once you return home?

When returning to Brazil, at first, I'm returning to my previous job at Sabesp (Basic Sanitation Company of the State of São Paulo) working as translator and interpreter in meetings and presentations. I think the experience I've gotten here will be very useful. Then, I would like to work for a Japanese organization to keep the contact with Japanese language in a workplace situation.

Do you have any parting words for our readers?

I've been very glad to be in Obihiro for this period of time enjoying the four seasons. I remember that when I had just arrived here everything seems new to me. However, as I started walking around the city, I knew the shops, karaokes and supermarkets. I felt that the quality of life is better here than a big city, for example, São Paulo, the city I came from.

I'd like to thank all the people whom I met during my stay here. I've met many people from all over the world. This is an opportunity that I probably wouldn't have in my country. Soon, I'm leaving Obihiro, but I hope to see you all again in some part of the world to say "hello" and have a coffee while bringing back memories of the time enjoyed in Obihiro.

We wish Geraldo the best of luck in his future and thank him for all his hard work while in Obihiro. Geraldo will be leaving Obihiro on 4/14 so stop by the TIRC and say goodbye before he leaves!

今年、ブラジル出身の国際交流員、ジェラウド・タカシ・コダイラさんが帰国します。1年間、お疲れ様でした。また会いましょう。



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Events (pg 2)



Chef Hector
(pg 3)

Anyone for Tenipon? (テニポンしてみませんか?)

Have you ever heard of "Tenipon"? Tenipon is a sport for all ages that originated in the town of Samani in Hokkaido. It is like a cross between tennis and ping-pong (table tennis), hence the name. Players use custom wooden rackets and a sponge ball, and it is played on a badminton court with a low net (75 cm high). Rules are similar to table tennis, with servers alternating every 5 points, and games played up to 21 points with a difference of at least 2. Like tennis and ping-pong, it can be played by 2 players for singles, or 4 players for doubles. Ball speed is slow and rallies are usually long, so it's also good for exercise.



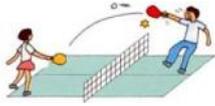
Want to try out tenipon for yourself? Come join us at the International Tenipon Trial Lesson, to be held on Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 AM at the Tokachi International Relations Center. This event is organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City, with support from the Hokkaido Tenipon Association. We will have some lessons from some tenipon experts, then play actual tenipon matches. You can meet lots of new friends too! Participation is free. If you are interested, please contact TIRC at tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp. Please bring sports clothes and shoes.

3月9日(土) 朝9:30から、森の交流館・十勝で「国際テニポン交流会」が開催されます。在住外国人の皆さんと一緒にテニポンというスポーツを体験しながら交流できます。参加したい方は、運動着と上靴をお持ちください。参加は無料で、申し込みは森の交流館・十勝にご連絡ください。



Movies (pg 4)

Events in Tokachi and Obihiro



3/9
(Sat)
9:30-12:00

International Tenipon Trial Lesson (国際テニポン交流会):
Come and learn to play tenipon, a hybrid sport between tennis and pingpong that originated in Hokkaido.

森の交流館・十勝
Tokachi International Relations Center
0155-34-0122
tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp



3/10
(Sun)
10:00-11:40

Kids Play Time (キッズ・プレイタイム):
Come with your children to play various sports and games. You can also come as a volunteer.

森の交流館・十勝
Tokachi International Relations Center
0155-34-0122
tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp



3/13
(Wed)
19:00-21:00

International Mini-Volleyball Night (国際ミニバレーナイト):
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
0155-34-0122
tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp



3/16
(Sat)
10:00-11:30

Kids Playground (キッズプレイグラウンド):
Come with your children and meet local families while learning about the different cultures of the world. You can also join as a volunteer.

森の交流館・十勝
Tokachi International Relations Center
0155-34-0122
tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp



3/20
(Wed)
19:00-21:00

Tokachi Amigos Mini-Volleyball (とかちア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
080-3295-4875



3/23
(Sat)
19:00-21:00

36th International Talk (第36回国際ナショナル・トーク):
This month's talk will be about the ongoing Syrian Civil War.
Please register by phone or email.

森の交流館・十勝
Tokachi International Relations Center
0155-34-0122
tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

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

The traditional Japanese name for the month of March is *Yayoi* (弥生), which means "to grow more and more". It is the month to expect the flowers of the spring to start flourishing more and more, and that is indeed the case in the warmer parts of Japan. Here in Hokkaido however, we can probably expect another month or so of chilly winter weather.

One thing that is always in abundance here in Tokachi regardless of the season is sweets, and a fun way to enjoy them is by using the *Sweets Meguri Ken* or "Sweets Tour Ticket". This is a ticket worth 500 yen that includes 5 coupons which you can

exchange for sweets at any participating store. The 10th and current edition of this ticket runs from January 3 to June 30, and features 34 confectionery stores around Obihiro.

You can buy the ticket at the Tourist Information Center in Obihiro Station, many hotels in the city, and any of the participating stores. After buying a ticket, go to the confectionery store of your choice and show your ticket to exchange one of the five coupons for their promotional sweet. Note that you can only use one coupon for each store, and you can only exchange it for the sweet they have specified (see list below).



Oh please come early this year spring!

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Cream Terrace ESTA store  Waffle or soft cream | Tran Tran Masuya  Cheese Danish | Uteliberg ESTA store  Tokachibare Madeleine | Kobayashi ESTA store  Soft waffle | Cranberry ESTA store  Financier cake | Tokachi Produce Center  Soft cream | Shichiku Garden Cafe  Scone |
| Kizuna  Haskap sherbet | Maru  Kushi Dango | Takeya Seika Fujimaru store  Mametarou pie | Papalagi Kids  Mini Gelato | Cranberry main store  Tart Potato | Cranberry East 1 store  Tart Potato | Ryugetsu Odori main store  Tsukifuwari cake |
| Ryugetsu West 2 Store  Bonne cake | Café Porte  Blanc manger | Taiyaki Kobo main store  Taiyaki | Masuya Pan main store  Sweets bread | Shichiku Garden Yuka  Scone | Cookie House Budo no Ki  Original cookies | Hanadora Shugetsu  Dorayaki |
| Tokachi Bagel  Plain bagel | Doughnuts Lab  Tokachi milk doughnuts | Takeya Seika main store  Kitakomachi or beef pie | Akutsu  Rhubarb and apple galette | Tokachi Toteppo Kobo  Cheesecake | Cranberry Yayoi-dori store  Potato pie | Cranberry Shirakaba-dori  Potato pie |
| Taiyaki Kobo Nishi store  Taiyaki | Ryugetsu Toskachina  Toskachina Tokacho | Bonheur Masuya  Red bean doughnut | Patisserie de Bourbon  Yumeuguisu or cream cheese | Uteliberg main store  Tokachibare Madeleine | Uemon's Heart  Bottled milk | |

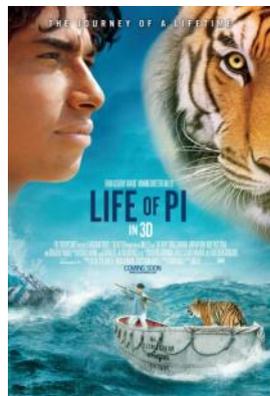
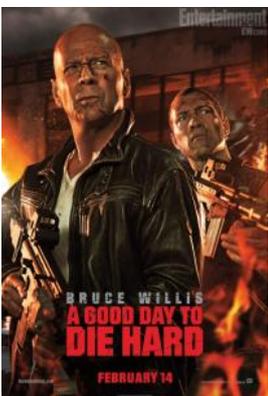
For more information on the Sweets Tour Ticket and the location of the participating stores, please visit <http://www.obikan.jp/new/sweets09/index.html> (Japanese).

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 |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Tokyo Kazoku | Japanese | Ends 15th |
| Life of Pi | Japanese 3D English 2D | Ends 15th |
| Strawberry Night | Japanese | Ends 29th |
| Evangelion Shin Gekijoban: Q | Japanese | Ends 7th |
| One Piece Z | Japanese | Ends 15th |
| Jack Reacher (Outlaw) | English | Ends 29th |
| Nou Otoko | Japanese | All Month |
| A Good Day to Die Hard | Japanese English | All Month |
| Ted | Japanese English | Ends 15th |
| Blue Exorcist (Ao no Ekusoshisuto) | Japanese | Ends 8th |
| Flight | English | All Month |
| Oz the Great and Powerful | Japanese 3D English 2D | Starts 8th |
| Doraemon: Nobita no Himitsu Dogu Hakubutsukan | Japanese | Starts 9th |
| Tokumei Sentai Go-Busters vs. Kaizoku Sentai Gokaiger | Japanese | 9th-17th |
| Platina Data | Japanese | Starts 16th |
| Jack the Giant Slayer | Japanese 2D English 2D | Starts 22nd |
| Wreck-It Ralph (Sugar Rush) | Japanese 3D | Starts 23rd |
| Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods | Japanese | Starts 30th |



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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")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations 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 International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.