

Welcome Liu (リュウさん、ようこそ)

Early last month the newest member of the International and Domestic Relations Section arrived in Obihiro. Ms. Liu Yan from China is the newest Coordinator for International Relations at Obihiro City. We asked her a few questions about herself and what she wants to do while in Obihiro.



Please tell us a little bit about yourself (country, hobbies, what you prefer to be called, etc)

I am from the city of Tianjin in China. Tianjin is a port city with a strong manufacturing industry located near Beijing the capital of China (editor note: it's the 4th largest city by population in China). Tianjin is host to Toyota's factory which is the largest in Northern China, and host to a large variety of other Japanese manufacturers.

My hobbies include traveling, watching movies, reading books, studying languages, and a variety of other things.

My friends call me Yan (彦). The character Yan (彦) in Japan is primarily used for males, but in China it means a "person with both intelligence and virtue", and my parents had those hopes for me when they gave me the name. I also strive to be such a person.

Why did you want to come to Japan?

This is actually my second time in Japan. I lived in Nagoya for a year as an exchange student when I was in college. After I graduated from college I returned to my Tianjin to work for a Japanese company (Toyota Tsusho Co) and worked there for 3 years, but I wanted to know more about Japan, and felt the need to engage in international relations so I applied to the JET Program and was accepted and am now in Hokkaido.

What do you want to do while in Obihiro?

I hope to teach the people of Obihiro more about China, and also to promote the charms of Hokkaido to the people of China.

I also hope to be able to explore as much of Hokkaido as I can outside of work. When I was in China I watched the anime Silver Spoon, so to start things off I want to go see the Banei Horse Racing, as well as visit shrines with horse paintings. I hope to do a lot of sightseeing, and make many new friends.

You've been here for about a month now, how is Obihiro?

When I graduated from college I visited Hokkaido, but this is my first time in Obihiro. While walking around the city I get to enjoy the view of the snowcapped mountains and can breath in the fresh air; it really is a pretty city.

Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers?

I think that I have a great opportunity to be here that many other people in my generation in China are not able to have. I hope to meet with a lot of other foreigners in Obihiro, join in as many area events and activities as I can, and take full advantage of this great opportunity. Anyone with an interest in China or that would like to chat with me, please feel free to visit me at the International and Domestic Relations Section at Obihiro City Hall.

Please welcome Liu to Obihiro if you meet her out and about, and look forward to seeing her at our upcoming events.

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
5/11 (Sat) 9:30-13:30	Japanese Sandals "Zori" Workshop (布ぞうり作りワークショップ): Learn how to make sandals called "zori" using old clothes. Participation is free. Bring 2-3 old adult-size T-shirts. Sign-up required, please contact TIRC.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
5/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volley Night (国際ミニバレーナイト): Meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
5/24 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	Kids Playground (キッズプレイグラウンド): Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. This month, you can experience Spanish through games and songs from Paraguay.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
5/28 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	Tenipon Meetup (テニポン交流会): Let's play tenipon, a hybrid sport between tennis and pingpong that originated in Hokkaido. Organized by Dandelion.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
5/31 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	43rd International Talk (第43回国際ナショナル・トーク): Learn more about the world and exchange ideas with other participants. This month's talk will be about the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
6/1 (Sun) 10:00/10:30/ 11:00/11:30/ 13:00/13:50	Spring Tea Ceremony (森の茶会～春～): Experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea. Sessions 1-4 is for tea ceremony, sessions 5-6 is for tea-serving etiquette. Register by phone or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
5/5 (Mon) 10:00-	Rekifune River Carp Streamers (歴舟川清流鯉のぼりミニイベント): A special event to celebrate Children's Day. There will be roasted pork and other food stands.	Taiki Bridge (along Route 236) 国道236号線沿い 大樹橋上流河川敷 01558-6-2114
5/11 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	55th Honbetsu Sankei Tsutsuji Festival (第56回本別山溪つつじまつり): See over 16,000 rhododendrons and 2000 yamazakura flowers while enjoying nabe, various games, and stage shows.	Honbetsu Yoshitsune no Sato Park 義経の里 本別公園 0156-22-2141
5/11 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	29th Obihiro Sakura Festival (第29回おびひろ桜まつり): Watch live performances and join a prize raffle while enjoying the cherry blossoms at Midorigaoka Park.	Obihiro Midorigaoka Park 帯広市緑ヶ丘公園 0155-22-3906
Mid to Late May	Shintoku Shrine Yamazakura Light-up (新得神社山桜ライトアップ): Enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms of the Shintoku Shrine in both day and night.	Shintoku Shrine 新得神社境内 0156-64-0522
5/17-5/18 (Sat-Sun) 9:00-15:00	Shikaoi Flower Market (しかおい花市): Flowers, grass, planters, soil, and other gardening materials will be on sale.	Michi no Eki Shikaoi 道の駅しかおい 0156-66-4033



Culture & Cuisine Corner (カルチャー&キューズコーナー)

Welcome to another edition of the Culture and Cuisine Corner. Unless you're a hermit or a so-called hikikomori, you've most probably seen and felt all around you that spring has well and truly arrived in Obihiro. The first few weeks of May will see the famous cherry blossom trees bloom all over the region, and we're quite sure that many of you are planning to do barbecues or picnics under those pretty pink petals.

For those of you new to this region, welcome to Tokachi, the Kingdom of Sweets! While you're trying to find your way around your neighborhood, you'll probably come across plenty of bakeries and confectionery stores. Here we offer you an easy and inexpensive way to try out those sweets and find your new favorite: the "Sweets Meguri Ken" or Sweets Tour Ticket. Created by the Obihiro Tourism Convention Bureau, this is a ticket worth 500 yen with 5 coupons that allows you to get 5 different sweets from any of the 32 participating stores (see list below).



The tickets are sold at the Tourist Information Center in Obihiro Station, most hotels in the city, and any of the participating stores, so it shouldn't be hard to find one. After buying a ticket, go to the store of your choice and show your ticket to exchange one coupon with their designated delicacy.

Note that you can only use one coupon for each store, and you can only exchange it for the sweet they have specified. The latest edition of the ticket runs until September 30 this year. If you finish all the 5 coupons in your ticket, you can use it to enter the Obihiro Horse Race Track for free!

For more information on the Sweets Tour Ticket and the participating stores, you can check out <http://www.obikan.jp/new/sweets09/> (Japanese only).

1 Cream Terrace ESTA store  Milk jam waffle or soft cream	2 Tran Tran Masuya  Peanut cream loaf	3 Utelberg ESTA store  Madeleine cake & cookie set	4 Kobayashi ESTA store  Soft waffle	5 Cranberry ESTA store  Financier cake	6 Tokachi Bussan Center  Soft cream
7 Shichiku Garden Café  Scone	8 Papalagi Kids  Mini Gelato	9 Cranberry main store  Potato pie	10 Cranberry East 1 store  Potato pie	11 Ryugetsu Odori main store  Maman Granché	12 Ryugetsu West 2 Store  Tokachi Konomi cake
13 Imparfait  Almond cookie or mini-cup soft cream	14 Café Snowpia  Coffee jelly	15 Taiyaki Kobo main store  Taiyaki monthly flavor	16 Masuya Pan main store  Butter fresh bread	17 Shichiku Garden Yuka  Scone	18 Cookie House Budo no Ki  Original cookie
19 Hanadora Shugetsu  Dorayaki	20 Takeya Seika main store  Mametaro or Obihiro Monogatari, etc.	21 Doughnuts Lab  Tokachi milk doughnuts	22 Tokachi Bagel  Plain bagel	23 Okashi no Yakata no Akutsu  Rhubarb and apple galette	24 Tokachi Toteppo Kobo  3 type fromage cheese-cake
25 Cranberry Yayoi-dori store  Soft cream	26 Cranberry Shirakaba-dori store  Soft cream	27 Taiyaki Kobo West store  Taiyaki monthly flavor	28 Ryugetsu Toskachina  Toskachina Tokacho cake	29 Bonheur Masuya  Cornet	30 Patisserie de Bourbon  Yumeuguisu or cream cheese cake
31 Utelberg main store  Madeleine cake & cookie set	32 Hirose Farm Uemon's Heart  Bottled milk				

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
Captian America: The Winter Soldier	2D English	Ends 23rd
The Amazing Spider-Man 2	2D English	All Month
X-Men: Days of Future Past	Undecided	Starts 30th
Thermae Romae 2	Japanese	All Month



Spring Tea Ceremony (春の茶会)

Come and experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea in an authentic Japanese tea room at the Tokachi International Relations Center on 6/1. There will be 4 sessions for the tea ceremony, and 2 sessions for tea-serving etiquette where you can learn how to make green tea on your own. Maximum number of participants is 10 per session. Registration is required. Contact tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp or 0155-34-0122 to sign up. Time schedule can be found on page 2.

Events (Continued)



When	What	Where/Contact
5/18 (Sun) 9:30-	2014 Karikachi Trail Running (2014狩勝トレイルランニング): Join a run with a course that follows the old Karikachi rail line through the forest.	Karikachi Kougen Eco-truck 狩勝高原エコトロッコ急新内前駅 0156-64-4948 www.karikachi.org
5/18 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	10th Ai no Kuni Sakura Festival (第10回愛の国さくらまつり): There will be character shows, a music festival, and many food stands.	Kita-Aikoku Community Square 北愛国交流広場 0155-67-5571
5/25 (Sun)	2nd Sarabetsu Plum Festival (第2回さらべつすももの里まつり): Enjoy the sight and smell of plum flowers in full bloom.	Sarabetsu Sumomo no Sato Hiroba 更別村すももの里広場 0155-52-2115
5/25 (Sun)	33rd Ashoro Hometown Flower Festival (第33回足寄ふるさと花まつり): Enjoy cherry blossoms, pink moss, and azaleas, with a barbecue and other events.	Ashoro Satomigaoka Park 足寄町里見が丘公園 0156-25-2141
6/1 (Sun) 16:30	You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Bilingual Musical) (きみはいい人チャーリー・ブラウン): Enjoy a fun musical based upon the famous Peanuts comic created by Charles Shultz. Tickets: Adults-1000 yen / Elementary school students-500 yen Tickets will be available at the door from 09:00 on June 1st.	Tokachi Plaza とかちプラザ hokkaidoplayers2013@googlemail.com



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

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