

## Spring Tea Ceremony (森の茶会～春～)

Come and experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea in an authentic Japanese tea room at the Tokachi International Relations Center on 5/23. 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. Time schedule is as follows:

### Tea Ceremony Sessions:

- 1st Ceremony—10:00-10:20
- 2nd Ceremony—10:30-10:50
- 3rd Ceremony—11:00-11:20
- 4th Ceremony—11:30-11:50

### Tea Serving Etiquette Sessions:

- 1st Session—13:00-13:40
- 2nd Session—13:50-14:30



Maximum number of participants is 10 per session. Registration is **required**. Please register by 5/22 5:00pm. Please contact Ms. Izumi at [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) or 0155-34-0122 if you have questions or to sign up.

今年第一回目の「森の茶会」は、森の交流館・十勝茶室「青風庵」にて開催します。作法など心得の無い方でも気軽に楽しめるものです。JICA研修員や留学生などの外国人も参加し国際色豊かなイベントになっております。

開催日時: 5月23日(土) 10:00-14:30

開催場所: 森の交流館・十勝 茶室「青風庵」

帯広市西20条南6丁目1番地

午前: お茶会体験会 午後: お手前体験会

参加費: 無料

定員: 先着 午前: 40名、午後: 20名(事前申込をお願いします)

問合せ先: 森の交流館・十勝 9:00-17:00

申込締切: 5月22日(金)17:00まで

電話番号: 0155-34-0122

## International Talk (インターナショナル・トーク)

Come listen to Obihiro CIR Josh Neta (me) talk about his 5 years in Obihiro. You can come harass him at the TIRC on 5/30 from 19:00-21:00. If you have any questions please direct them to 0155-34-0122 or [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).

5月30(土)日19時~21時、森の交流館・十勝で「第49回インターナショナル・トーク」が開催されます。今回は、国際交流員ニタさんが森の交流館・十勝にて、5年間の帯広滞在について語ります。是非ご参加ください。問合せは0155-34-0122又は [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) へ。

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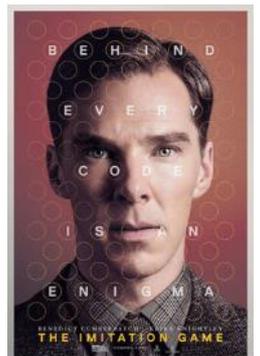
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# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
5/9 and 5/23 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Japanese volunteers will be there to help you. Free of charge, no registration required.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/13 (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! Free of charge, no registration required.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/16 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	29th Kids Playground 第29回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 learn more about Myanmar. Free of charge, no registration required.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/23 (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. Free of charge.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/27 (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. Fee is ¥200 per person.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/30 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	49th International Talk 第49回インターナショナル・トーク Learn more about the world and exchange ideas with other participants. This month, outgoing CIR Josh Neta will talk about his 5 years in Obihiro. Free of charge, registration is required.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 TEL 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
4/17 (Fri) – 5/6 (Wed)	25th Rekifune River Carp Streamers 第25回歴舟川清流鯉のぼり 236 carp streamers will fly above the Rekifune river in Taiki Town.	Taiki Bridge (along Route 236) 国道236号線沿大樹橋 0155-86-2114
5/10 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	57th Honbetsu Sankei Tsutsuji Festival 第57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
5/10 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	30th Obihiro Sakura Festival 第30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
5/17 (Sun)	2015 Karikachi Trail Running 2015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 狩勝高原エコトラック急新内前駅 0156-64-4948 www.karikachi.org
5/17 (Sun)	Off-road Battle 2015 オフロードバトル2015 Watch an intense off-road race with homemade buggies and ATVs.	Rikubetsu Circuit 陸別サーキット 0156-27-2141
5/17 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	11th Ai no Kuni Sakura Festival 第11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
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
5/31 (Sun)	34th Ashoro Hometown Flower Festival 第34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

## Culture & Cuisine Corner (カルチャー&キューイジーヌコーナー)

One thing that many newcomers to Obihiro and Tokachi notice is that due to the scarcity of public transportation, it is often hard to get by without a car, especially in winter. Here we offer you important information regarding an issue many foreigners face when they first arrive here: how to get a Japanese driver's license.

Basically, there are two ways to get a Japanese driver's license. The first one is doing it from scratch, i.e. you do not possess a valid driver's license from your country. In this case, you have to go through extensive driving lessons and exams that will take at least a month and set you back around 300,000 yen – we won't discuss this case here.

The other way is the so-called "gaimen kirikae", which basically means changing your foreign driver's license to a Japanese one. One condition for this process is that you must have been residing in the foreign country for at least 3 months after acquiring your driver's license there, with the assumption that you have been driving during that time.

Incidentally, if you have an International Driving Permit, you are allowed to drive in Japan for one year from the date of your entry to Japan, or until the validity period of your foreign driver's license, whichever comes earlier.

To change your driver's license to a Japanese one, the first thing you need to do is prepare the required documents:

- Your valid foreign driver's license. It should have a date of issue on it, otherwise you will need some document that proves when it was issued.
- A Japanese translation of your license (you can get this from your embassy or your nearest Japan Automobile Federation branch. JAF Obihiro is located at Nishi 8-jo Kita 1-chome 14-1, along Highway 38.)
- Your passport
- Your residence card or alien registration card
- A residence certificate or "juuminhyou" (you can get this at your city or town hall)
- Two 2.4×3.0 cm photos (you can take these at the Driver's License Center)
- Your hanko/inkan/rubber seal

After gathering your documents, you need to go to the Driver's License Center in Obihiro, located at Nishi 19-jo Kita 2-chome 1. If you cannot speak Japanese, you should bring an interpreter with you. Submit your documents to the reception desk and ask to do a "gaimen kirikae". They will make copies of your documents and ask for a contact number where they will call you after a few days to say if you can proceed.

At this point, the country of your foreign driver's license will determine whether you take the easy or hard route to your Japanese license. If your license is from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, or the UK, then you're one of the lucky ones. You only

need to fill out forms and pay some fees to get your Japanese license.

If you're not included in the list above, then you also have to take a written and practical test to get your Japanese license. For this, we strongly recommend that you do a practice course with one of the driving schools in Obihiro. Though this will set you back around 6,000 yen for a 1-hour session, you will be able to drive the actual course several times in a similar car used for the practical test, with the instructor hopefully pointing out where you need to be careful.

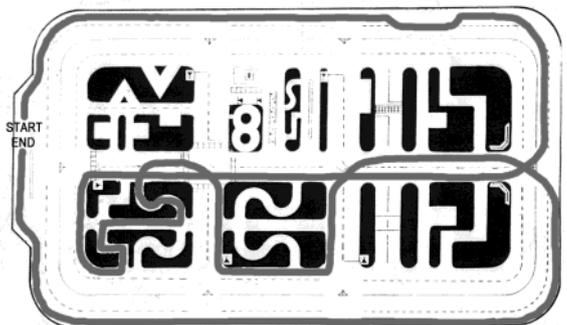
When the Driver's License Center calls you back and there are no problems, they will set a schedule for you to do the written and practical tests. Normally this will be on a weekday morning. On the day of your test, go to the Driver's License Center early (again, with an interpreter as necessary). They will ask you to fill out some forms and pay the test fee. You will then take an eye test, where you will peek inside a machine and say which direction the letter C is facing, plus a simple color blindness test.

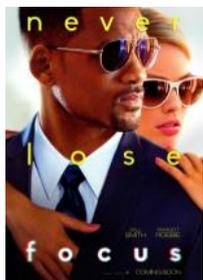
After passing the eye test, you will do the written test, where you have to answer ten true-or-false questions about road safety and regulations. The questions are written in both English and Japanese, and are fairly straightforward. You need to answer at least 7 questions correctly to pass. If you fail, then you have to do it all over again on another day.

Once you pass the written test, you proceed to the practical test, which involves driving the test car properly around a designated route in the track (see diagram below). If you did the practice run, then you should already be quite familiar with it. For the actual test, the examiner will first drive around the course with you in the passenger seat. You then switch places and you have to drive the same course on your own. Afterwards, the examiner will tell you whether you passed or failed. If you failed, you have to schedule another day to take the test. Note that you have to pay a fee every time you take it.

If you passed the practical test, congratulations! You are just one step away from your Japanese license. After taking your photo, paying the issuance fee, and waiting a few more minutes, they'll give you your brand new Japanese driver's license. They'll also tell you if you are required to put a "novice mark" on any car you drive for one year from the day you got your license.

Good luck and drive safely!





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](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Furious 7	English/Japanese	Ends 22nd
Focus	English	All Month
The Imitation Game	English	16th-29th
Case Closed: Sunflowers of Inferno	Japanese	All Month
Crayon Shin-chan: My Moving Story!	Japanese	Ends 24th
Dragon Ball Z: Resurrection 'F'	Japanese	Ends 29th
Cinderella	Japanese	All Month
Poison Berry in My Brain	Japanese	Starts 9th

## Chinese Corner (中国語コーナー)

前不久看到一则新闻，说兵马俑一号坑的发掘工作有新收获，发现了最完整的一件弓弩，据历史文件称，该弓弩最大射程有800米，可能是当时力量最大的武器之一，从这把弓不难想象出距今2200多年的秦王朝军事力量之强大。兵马俑是秦始皇的陪葬品，位于秦陵的东面1.5公里处，1974当地农民杨老汉在打井时意外发现，随着此后考古研究的进行，吸引了海内外各界的关注。而存放着秦始皇遗体的秦陵，即使在今天也未能被进一步地发掘。

秦始皇的一生在中国历史上留下了浓重的一笔，关于其死后的皇陵也有很多传说，有说楚霸王项羽曾带兵抢过秦陵，也有很多朝代的盗墓贼都曾觊觎过其中的财宝，但是究竟有没有人进去过，里面究竟是一副什么样的场景都无确切考据。但是从被挖出的部分陪葬品兵马俑，我们就可以推断秦陵的规模只可能更宏大，设施更完备。据史料记载，秦始皇陵墓内建筑有各式宫殿，陈列着各式的奇珍异宝，墓室穹顶上饰有宝石明珠，象征着天体星辰；下面是百川、五岳和九州的地理形势，用机械灌输了水银，象征着江河大海川流不息，还装置有许多弓弩，以便射杀入墓的人。这也是它至今未被打开的原因之一——秦陵附近的土壤确实被观测出汞含量严重超标。据推测秦陵中的水银大概有几十甚至上百吨，而水银易挥发，吸入过多的水银会导致汞中毒。也许在不久的将来，先进的科学技术可以帮助我们解开围绕着秦陵的种种疑团。对历史有兴趣的朋友，不妨可以到西安的兵马俑看一看，相信它一定可以给你不一样的震撼。

According to the latest news, there was a new discovery—a complete crossbow found by archaeologists during the excavation of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses. According to the historical documents, the maximum range of the crossbow is about 800 meters, believed to be the strongest weapon at that time. You can image how powerful the military might of the Qin Dynasty is, which existed about 2,200 years ago. The Terracotta Warriors and Horses are made as funeral objects for Qin Shi Huang. They are located 1.5 kilometers east of the Qin Shi Huang Mausoleum, discovered by a local farmer named Yang when digging a well in 1974. Along with archaeological research after that, more and more people, both domestic and overseas, pay close attention to the area. But the Qin Shi Huang Mausoleum was still a secret until now.

Qin Shi Huang's whole life had a great effect on Chinese history. There are many stories about his mausoleum, it is thought to have been plundered at least once, by a rebel general called Xiang Yu in 206 BC, but no excavations have yet been done. Nobody knows what is like inside exactly, but we can infer that it will be more spectacular than the Terracotta Warriors and Horses. According to the Shiji, Palaces, scenic towers for a hundred officials were constructed, and the tomb was filled with rare artifacts and wonderful treasure. Craftsmen were ordered to make crossbows and arrows primed to shoot at anyone who enters the tomb. Mercury was used to simulate the hundred rivers, the Yangtze and Yellow River, and the great sea, and set to flow mechanically. Above were representations of the heavenly constellations, below, the features of the land. Candles were made from fat of "man-fish", which was made to burn and not extinguish for a long time. Anomalously high levels of mercury in the area of the tomb mound were found. It is inferred that there are dozens, or even more than one hundred tons of mercury in the mausoleum, the mercury will quickly volatilize and excessive inhalation of mercury can cause poisoning. Along with the development of science and technology, the mystery will be solved in the near future. I would like to recommend the Terracotta Warriors and Horses to any who are interested in history, I'm sure you will be deeply moved by it.

**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](http://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](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).