

Wine Party 2016

Join us for a night of fun, prizes, and new friends! The Committee for International Friendship will be holding its annual 「Wine Party」 event on **December 10th (Saturday)**. Tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

There will be food, various drinks, and a lottery for prizes. Many JICA participants and “Chikudai”

international students will also be attending, making for an “multicultural” experience!

Please see the box below for more information regarding the party. We hope to see you there!



What: 42nd Annual Wine Party
Where: Tokachi Noukyouren Building
5th Floor
(Obihiro City, West 3, South 7-14)
When: December 10th from 6 PM
Admission Fees:
•Adults **2500 Yen**
•University Students **1500 Yen**
•Grade School Students **500 Yen**
•Children under 6 **Free**
•JICA Participants &

Chikudai International Students **Free**

Contact:

•Tokachi International Relations Center
TEL: 0155-34-0122
•International and Domestic Relations
Section
(Obihiro City Hall)
TEL:0155-65-4133

Year-End Holiday 年末休み

Instead of the wild parties and loud fireworks most westerners may be used to, Japan’s year end is very quiet by comparison. The last few days of the year are often spent at home with family, doing various rituals to welcome the new year. Many businesses and all government entities/facilities **will be closed from December 29th (Thursday) until January 3rd (Tuesday)**.

Please be aware that these

holidays may affect your bank’s ATM hours as well! Be sure to withdrawal any cash you may need during the long holiday.

Please enjoy the rest of 2016!
We hope to have your continued support into 2017!

良いお年を!
Yoi otoshi wo!
Have a great new year!

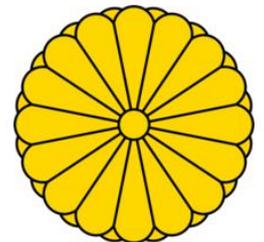


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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
12/3 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from around the world . This time you can enjoy a night of curry and try both Sri Lankan and Thai curry. Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring a dish or drink to share.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
12/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport.	
12/10 (Sat) 18:00-20:00	42nd Evening of International Friendship: Wine Party 2016 Mingle with local and international residents while enjoying an evening of wine and stage performances. There will also be a raffle where you can win fabulous prizes. Nokyoren Bldg 5F (Obihiro West 3 South 7) Fee: Adults 2500 yen / University Students 1500 yen Elem./Junior/Senior High School Students 500 yen Ticket Sales: Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro City Hall 3F International Section *Tickets may also be purchased at the Wine Party on the 10th.	
12/4 (Sun) 10:00-11:00	Fish Day 魚の日 Every 4th Sunday is "fish day." To celebrate, fish and other ingredients taken from the sea are used to make healthy dishes native to the north. A variety of products are on sale for the event.	Hiroo Town Fisheries Cooperative Food Division 広尾漁協食品部(広尾郡広尾町会 所前2丁目79番地先) 0155-82-3202
12/4 (Sun) 10:00-13:00	The 13th Otsu Harbor Big Catch Festival 第13回大津港大漁まつり Fresh seafood from the Otsu waters will be on sale! There will be a musical performance, bingo game, food and drinks!	Otsu Fishing Association 大津漁業協同組合(豊頃町大津港 町35) 015-575-2311
12/11 (Sun) 9:00-14:00	47th Hiroo Crab Festival 第47回広尾毛がにまつり Enjoy the fresh seafood of Hiroo Town. There will be a hairy crab eating contest, a prize raffle, and more.	Seaside Park Hiroo シーサイドパーク広尾 01558-2-0177 (Mon~Fri) 01558-2-2111 (Sat・Sun・Holiday)
12/11 (Sun) 10:00-11:30	Urahoro Produce Fair うらほろ物産フェア Local produce and other products will be on sale.	Urahoro Chuo Kouminkan 浦幌町中央公民館 015-576-2181
12/11 (Sun) 14:00-14:30	Obihiro City Library Children's Movie Viewing 「Snowman & Snowdog」 帯広市図書館 こども映画会「スノーマンとスノードッグ」 Come and watch an animated short about Billy's first snow experience. Billy makes a snowdog which comes to life in the middle of the night! Enjoy watching this magical short with your family. Fee: Free!	Obihiro City Library Multi-purpose Room (1st Fl) 帯広市図書館 1階 多目的視聴 覚室 帯広市西2条南14丁目3番 地

Culture: The World's Only Emperor

For most westerners, December 24th and 25th is a time to spend Christmas with your loved ones. Often, these days are considered national holidays in their home country. Although the Christmas decorations have been up since the end of Halloween, Christmas Day is a regular working day (note: this year's Christmas Eve/Day happen to fall on a weekend). Japan happens to have a holiday around the same timeframe, which may give ex-pats in Japan a hint of that winter holiday that they are used to. That holiday is the Emperor's Birthday 天皇誕生日 *tennou tanjoubi*. Emperor Akihito has recently been in the news for his wish to retire and pass on the throne to his son.



public at special Japan Rail events.

2. No Last Name

Although the Emperor may be called "Emperor Heiwa," after their reigning period, he and the imperial family do not have a last name. Female members of the imperial family who marry an "outsider" will renounce their formal title and take their husband's last name. For example, the current emperor's only daughter "Princess Sayako" married a Tokyo government official in 2005. According to law, she had to give up her title of princess and leave the imperial family. Now she lives a quiet life as Sayako Kuroda, and occasionally attends events of the imperial family.

3. New Emperor, New Period

New comers to Japan might have noticed that the expiration dates on the food are often marked "28年" rather than "2016" or "16." Most official documents in Japan are dated according to their own period system, rather than the globally used Gregorian dating system. We are currently in the 28th year of 平成 *Heisei*, which refers to the 28th year that Akihito has been the emperor. The period preceding *Heisei* was 昭和 *Showa*. The last day of the Showa period was on the date of Emperor Showa's death. The Heisei period started the next day on January 8th 1989.

As the Emperor and his family becomes more and more relevant, we hope that you have been able to learn a bit more about the world's only Emperor and his family.



Let's take this opportunity to learn more about Japan's Imperial Court.

1. The Imperial Train

Unlike Hokkaido, Tokyo residents often use trains as transportation. The Emperor and his family are no exception. Although they may not use it everyday, there is a train specifically for the Imperial family, special staff and invited guest. The train is a sleek black and brands the chrysanthemum crest of the Imperial family, as well as Japan's flags

It is said that Tokyo's trains are always on time because they can not interfere with the Imperial train! The train is not in use everyday, as transportation by car is more convenient. The Train can be seen by the

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
Inferno	English	Until 15th
Death Note: Light up the NEW World	Japanese	Until 15th
Jack Reacher: Never Go Back	English	Until 23rd
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	English and Japanese	All Month
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story	3D Japanese 2D English	From 16th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
12/17-18 (Sat-Sun) 10:00-16:00	森の宝箱(冬のクラフト編) "The Forest's Treasure Box (Mori no Takarabako)" Try making a piece of Christmas art from around the world! A member of Ecology Park will be instructing. Please make a reservation before the event. Fee: 500 Yen	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
12/23 (Fri)	『短い日を楽しもう』 Enjoy the Short Day Come and join the various activities held on this holiday: Kadomatsu Making 10:00-12:00 Make traditional Japanese bamboo decorations for the New Year. Up to 20 Parent-child pairs may participate. Fee: 1000 Yen Mochi (Rice cake) Pounding 11:00-12:00 Try your hand at pounding new year's mochi! Enjoy eating fresh pounded mochi with everyone. Fee: Free! Candle Night Concert 16:00-17:00 Listen to beautiful music as you enjoy your time at Ecology Park. Fee: Free!	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp

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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