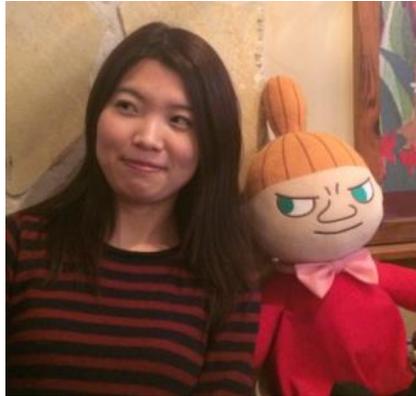


See You Later Yan Liu 劉さん、お疲れ様でした

After 2 years, Yan Liu, coordinator for international relations from China, will be leaving the International and Domestic Relations Section in April. Ms. Liu has graciously allowed us to interview her as she begins her preparations to leave.



L: This past summer I went with 2 Obihiro high school students for the first time to our Chinese friendship city Choyang City in the Liaoning Province.

Because I was visiting as a representative of Obihiro City, the students and I were treated extremely well, almost as if we were

Obihiro Pioneer: Thank you for your 2 years of hard work. How was your time in Obihiro/Hokkaido?

Liu: I had a great time. Of course there are things that I wish I did or tried, but in the end, I'm very happy with the overall experience I had while living Obihiro.

OP: Have you been to Hokkaido before coming to Obihiro to work as a CIR?

L: Yes. I visited Sapporo, Hakodate and Furano during the summer when I was a study-abroad student in college. At the time, I thought it would be nice to try and live in Hokkaido.

diplomats. Being Chinese and younger than most of the officials we met, it was definitely a strange experience for me. I was very nervous to be put into such a position, but it ended up becoming a good experience for me and I think the students also had a good time.

OP: Any advice for your replacement?

L: I don't know what kind of person will take my place after I leave, but I'm sure if they're coming directly from China they will be self-conscious about their Japanese. It's natural to little embarrassed to make a mistakes in a foreign language. Be positive and, if possible, outgoing. You will soon have new experiences and make new friends.

OP: Any parting words for the citizens of Obihiro?

L: I've enjoyed the 2 years that I've spent here in Obihiro and am sure I will be back to visit again.

We wish Ms. Liu all the best as she continues on her journey, wherever it may take her. Please come and listen to Ms. Liu talk about her experiences in Obihiro/Hokkaido this month at the Tokachi International Relations Center.

Liu's Farewell Talk

劉さん 帯広の思い出を語る

When: March, 19th Sat 19:00-21:00

Where: Tokachi International Relations Center (West 20, South 6)

No fee, participants 12 years and older
Contact Tel: 0155-34-0122



OP: What do you plan on doing from here on out?

L: As of this interview (mid-Feb) I'm still thinking, but I would like to try a job related to tourism or international trading. This will unfortunately likely lead me out of Obihiro, so I am preparing to move. Moving back to China is also a possibility, but for now I would like to stay in Japan if I can find a suitable job.

OP: Can you tell us a particularly funny or interesting memory from your time here?

Contents:

See You Later Yan Liu	1
Events	2
Hinamatsuri	3
Movie Schedule Living Tokachi: Spring Cleaning	4



Events (pg 2 & 4)



Hinamatsuri: Girls' Day (pg 3)



International Recipe: Thai Green Curry (pg 3)



Movies (pg 4)

Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
3/9 (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!	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
3/12 (Sat) & 3/26 (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.	
3/12 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	54th International Talk 第54回インタナショナルトーク Learn more about the countries of the world and exchange ideas with other participants. This month's guest is a veterinarian from Nigeria, and a current Obihiro University international student. He will introduce Nigeria and talk about its agriculture and livestock.	
3/19 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	34th Kids Playground 第34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 enjoy Easter themed hand games, games and stories with teachers from an English conversation school.	
3/19 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	Liu's Farewell Talk 劉さん帯広の思い出を語る Ms. Liu, CIR from China, is leaving Obihiro City Hall in April 2016. She will talk about her impression of living in Obihiro and her work experiences during these 2 years as a CIR.	
11/1-3/31 (Sun-Thu)	Winter Fest in Ecopark ウインタフェスinエコパ Enjoy snowshoe walking, snow raft tours, a foot spa, and other fun winter activities.	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
1/28(Thu)- 3/21(Mon)	35th Lake Shikaribetsu Kotan (Village) 35th しかりべつ湖コタン Experience an outdoor hot spring on ice, ice theatre, ice chapel, try ice glass making, cross-country skiing and more!	Shikaoi Town Lake Shikaribetsu 鹿追町 然別湖 然別湖コタン実行委員会 0156-69-8181 http://www.nature-center.jp/kotan
1/28(Thu)- 3/21(Mon)	2016 Lake Shikaribetsu Kotan (Village) Winter Forest Concert しかりべつ湖コタン冬の森コンサート Come and enjoy harmony of sound and ice inside of the Ice Hall. Please wear warm clothes (free admission). Schedule and contents will be determined at a later time.	Shikaoi Town Lake Shikaribetsu 鹿追町 然別湖 然別湖コタン実行委員会 0156-69-8181 http://www.nature-center.jp/kotan
3/6 (Sun)	2016 Tokachi Daiheigen Cross-Country Ski Tournament 2016十勝大平原クロスカントリースキー大会 This cross-country ski tournament will take place on the foot of the magnificent Hidaka mountain range.	TBK Tokachi Testing Grounds TBK 十勝試験場帯広市教育委員会 生涯学習部 スポーツ振興室 0155-65-4210
3/27 (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 (広尾郡広尾町会前2丁目79番地先)

Hinamatsuri: Girls' Day 雛祭り



Hinamatsuri (Hina Festival), commonly called "Girls' Day."

In many department stores you may see very extravagant doll sets being sold for hundreds of

It's finally March and in most of Japan this is the beginning of cherry blossom season.

Unfortunately it is still a couple of months early to be playing outside, but across the country March 3rd is

celebrate femininity. These dolls are often kept within a family for many generations. While they are very beautiful to look at, many families quickly dismantle the display before March 4th. It is said that in the families that leave the *hina-ningyou*, the daughter will marry late.

Hinamatsuri is often celebrated privately amongst family members. Pre-schools and kindergartens may also have small events where children make paper-dolls and dance. Families celebrating may buy or make special diamond-shaped pink (or red), white, and green colored rice cakes called *hishi-mochi*. Each color signifies a different meaning such as health, fertility, and longevity. There is also *hina-arare*, a sweet rice-puff snack which is also specially colored for the occasion.



thousands of yen. These are *Hina-ningyou*, or Hina dolls made especially for the event. They are modeled after the imperial court from the Heian Period. These sets are often gifted from grandparents or parents to young girls in the family. The *hina-ningyou* are believed to take on bad spirits, keeping humans nearby safe as well as

Although *Hinamatsuri* is primarily a female-oriented holiday, it is mainly aimed at young children. Boys will get their day on May 5th, which was originally a day to celebrate boys and men, but has been changed in the 1940's to Children's Day or *Kodomo no Hi*.



Thai Green Curry タイグリーンカレー

Even in March, there is still snow and ice outside here in Tokachi. This month, let's get warm with some hot Green Curry from Thailand!

Ingredients:

- 2 Tbs Green Curry Paste
- 1-2 Cups Coconut Milk
- 300g Chicken Meat
- 2-3 Eggplants
- Shimeji Mushrooms
- 1 Tbs Nampura (Thai fish sauce)
- 1-2 Tsp Sugar
- 1 Tbs Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 tsp Ajinomoto Seasoning
- 1/2–1 Cup of Water/Chicken Broth

Optional

- 1 Red Chili Pepper to taste and for presentation
- Basil leaves
- 3-4 Kaffir Lime leaves

Directions

1. Heat the green curry paste in a fry pan until it becomes aromatic.



2. Add chicken meat and cook for approx. 1 min.

3. Add 1/2 cup of coconut milk, heat until chicken is cooked (3-5 mins).

4. Add sugar and nampura. Cut eggplant and shimeji mushrooms into bite-

sized pieces then add to the pan.

5. Add remaining coconut milk, water (or chicken broth) and cook until the eggplant is soft.

6. If using kaffir lime leaves and/or basil leaves, turn off heat if it begins to boil.

7. When done, garnish with chili peppers or basil leaves.

8. Serve curry in a bowl and eat with warm rice.

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
The Martian (<i>Odyssey</i>)	2D Eng/3D JP	Until 18th
Last Knights	English PG12	Until 11th
Paddington	English	Until 11th
Point Break (<i>X-Mission</i>)	English	All Month
The Blizzard	3D English	All Month
The Big Short (<i>Money Short</i>)	English	From 4th
The Good Dinosaur (<i>Aro to Shonen</i>)	English	From 12th
Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice	2D English	From 25th

Living Tokachi: (Almost) Spring Cleaning

The Japanese fiscal and academic year ends in March. Although the snow is still around here in Tokachi, it is considered to be spring in most of the country. April is when most people will start a new job/position and/or move homes. Whether or not you will be one of those people, it would be nice to start a new “year” fresh, starting with your living space.

For many non-Japanese, trash-sorting can be a daunting and stressful task. Improper sorting could lead to your landlord or neighbors knocking on your door. Learn how to properly dispose of your waste in your area. Basically, it is sorted by 燃える *moeru* burnable, 燃えない *moenai* unburnable, and リサイクル *recyclable* waste. Scan the QR code to access the English Obihiro City trash page for more information.



Still have usable clothes that you just don't wear anymore? Don't waste your time and money trying to figure out how to throw it away. Donate it! Chain clothing stores such as Uniqlo and GU often have donation bins available at the front of their stores. Some items may be sent to

those in need or the fabric will be reused and sometimes remade into clothing.

Not quite as convenient or well-known, but very helpful, is donating your clothes to those in need abroad. Cleaning company Kurokawa has partnered up with NPO Terra Renaissance to run

フクサポ *Fuku-sapo*, a project where you pack the clothes that you no longer need or want then apply online for a delivery company to pick it up from your



home. The clothes will be taken to their processing plant to be sorted and sent out to other countries where your clothes will be worn by those in need. The website is in Japanese, but all you need it to enter in basic information about yourself and you're ready to help someone in need! Visit <https://fukusapo.com/> for more information.

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”)

“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.