

Introducing Obihiro City's New CIR

Editor's foreword:

Personnel changes accompany the transition into a new fiscal year in Japan. In this issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we introduce Obihiro City's new Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), Ning Wen Yan.

OP: Ms. Ning, welcome to Obihiro! This may be your first time in Obihiro, but it is definitely not your first time in Japan. Please share with us your previous experiences in Japan and why you chose to work in Japan.

Ning: Thank you, OP. My name is Ning Wen Yan (宁文颜). The Chinese characters in my name represent knowledge (文) and color (颜) respectively. My parents gave me the name hoping that I will become a knowledgeable person who lives a life full of variety.

I graduated from a Chinese university in July 2014, studied in a Japanese language school in Tokyo for 15 months and then furthered my studies at the Joetsu University of Education. Upon graduation, I started working as Obihiro City's CIR.

OP: Sounds like you've spent a long time in Japan so far! As a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), you will not only be able to learn more about Japan, but also be able to share more about your country. Speaking of which, we heard that you come from Liaoning Province in China, where Obihiro's friendship city, Chaoyang city is located. Do tell us more about your hometown.

Ning: My hometown is Shenyang City, located in Liaoning Province of northeastern China. Shenyang City is home to the Shenyang Palace Museum, one of China's 3 imperial palaces and is known for its delicious stewed food.



OP: That was really informative. Thank you for sharing. Now that you are starting a fresh chapter in life in Obihiro City, what things would you like to try out while living in Hokkaido?

Ning: I would love to continue skiing now that I live in Hokkaido.

Although I am from Northeastern China, where it gets relatively cold, I rarely skied. However, while living in Niigata, I started to try skiing again.

Since I come from a place with cold winters, I am looking forward to experiencing winter in Obihiro.

OP: That sounds great! One last question, what do you hope to achieve as Obihiro City's newly minted CIR?

Ning: I would like to put forward my best efforts and contribute to the improvement of the friendship-city relationship between China's Chaoyang City and Obihiro City. In addition, I hope to do my best in projects such as school visits.

We would like to thank Ms. Ning for the splendid interview. Best wishes for her new life in Hokkaido!

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Japanese Tea Ceremony, Calligraphy and Proverb Trivia (pg 2)



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Spring Tea Ceremony 2018



Come and experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea.

This event is free for the first 50 foreign residents who register and is available at a small fee for Japanese citizens (10 slots only).

12th May (Sat) 10:00-14:30

@TIRC Tea Room "Sei-Fu-An"

Sessions 1-4: Tea Ceremony

10:00/10:30/11:00/11:30

Sessions 5-6 : Tea Serving Etiquette

13:00/13:50

Registration period:

24th April (Tues) to 11th May (Fri)

9:00-17:00

Slots are limited!

Contact TIRC to reserve your spot!

Japanese Calligraphy Experience



Try your hand at Japanese calligraphy!

This event is free for the first 30 foreign residents who register with TIRC. Please come in clothes that you do not mind getting dirty.

13th May (Sun) 10:00-13:45

@TIRC Library

Sessions 1-3 (up to 10 people per session):

10:00 – 10:45

11:00 – 11:45

13:00 – 13:45

Registration period:

Until 8th May (Tues)

9:00-17:00

Slots are limited!

Contact TIRC to reserve your spot!

Interesting Japanese Idioms Related to Japanese Tea Ceremony and Calligraphy

あさはらにちやつけ
朝腹に茶漬け

Literal translation: Fill one's belly in the morning with tea on rice.

Meaning: Being unable to be completely satisfied.

おちゃをにごす
お茶を濁す

Literal translation: To make (the appearance of) tea cloudy.

Meaning: To dodge the subject, to avoid the main issue.

おやのあまちゃがどくとなる
親の甘茶が毒となる

Literal translation: The sweet tea that parents give (to their child) can turn poisonous.

Meaning: Spoiling one's children can have an adverse effect on their growth.

こうぼうにもふでのあやまり
弘法にも筆の誤り

Literal translation: Even Kōbō (the founder of Shingon Buddhism, who was famous for calligraphy) makes mistakes in his strokes.

Meaning: All humans make mistakes, to err is human.

Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
5/9 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night 国際ミニバレー・ナイト Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multipurpose Hall Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
5/12 (Sat) 10:00-14:30	Spring Tea Ceremony 森の茶会～春～ Come and experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea. This event is free for the first 50 foreign residents who register and is available at a small fee for Japanese citizens (10 slots only). TIRC Tea Room “Sei-Fu-An” Registration period: 24th April (Tues) to 11th May (Fri) 9:00-17:00 Organized by the City of Obihiro	
5/12, 5/26 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 日本語講座 Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	
5/13 (Sun) 10:00-13:45	Japanese Calligraphy Experience 書道体験 Try your hand at Japanese calligraphy! This event is free for the first 30 foreign residents who register with TIRC. Please come in clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. TIRC Library	
5/19 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	47th Kids Playground (Uganda) 第47回 キッズ・プレイグラウンド(ウガンダ) Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. This month you can enjoy Ugandan crafts, storytelling and much more! TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) For children 0-6 years old and their parents/guardians. Organized by the City of Obihiro	
5/19 (Sat) 18:30-20:00	67th International Talk (Paraguay) (The Complex of People of Japanese Decent) 第67回 インターナショナル・トーク (パラグアイ): 日系人のコンプレックス Learn more about the countries of the world. Our guest, an exchange student from Paraguay, will introduce his country and share the difficulties he faced in Japan as a person of Japanese descent who is unfamiliar with Japanese culture. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) For junior high school students and older. Organized by the City of Obihiro	

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
Rampage	Jpn Sub	From 18th
The 15:17 to Paris	Jpn Sub	From 12th
Pacific Rim: Uprising	Eng Sub	Until 24th
Ready Player 1	3D Jpn Dub/ 2D Eng Sub	All month
Avengers: Infinity War	2D Jpn Dub or 2D Jpn Sub	All month

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
5/6 10:00-14:00	68th Mountain Cherry Blossom Festival @ Shintoku Shrine 新得神社山桜まつり Barbeque while enjoying the view of Shintoku Town's mountain cherry blossom. Various activities, as well as street-side stalls, will be available!	Shintoku Town Hokkaido Tourist Association 新得町観光協会 0156-64-0522 http://www.shintoku-town.net/
Mid May	Cherry Blossom Illumination @ Shintoku Shrine 新得神社山桜ライトアップ Enjoy cherry blossom viewing together with the illuminations at Shintoku town's famous cherry blossom viewing spots.	
5/26 9:30-15:00	39th Hiroo Azalea Festival 第39回 広尾つつじまつり Catch 12,000 <i>rhododendron kaempferi</i> (tsutsuji) Azalea in the peak of their bloom! Get a chance to taste popular food that encapsulates Hiroo, including <i>senin nabe</i> , <i>sharokke</i> burger etc. There will be activities and live performances held throughout the festival.	Hiroo Fisheries, Commerce and Tourism Division 広尾町水産商工観光課 01558-2-0177 (Mon-Fri) 01558-2-2111(Weekends, P.H.) http://www.town.hiroo.hokkaido.jp
Late May	Sarabetsu Plum Festival さらべつすももの里まつり Sarabetsu Plum Festival is held during the period when white plum flowers bloom. The 1,000 plum trees is a sight to behold. Furthermore, get to try out activities, as well as purchase special souvenirs and food at the festival.	Sarabetsu Village Tourism Association 更別村観光協会事務局 0155-52-2211 http://www.sarabetsu.jp/sightseeing/event/sumomo/

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.