

## Good luck Jun! さようならタンさん！

*In this special 100<sup>th</sup> issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we will be interviewing Junjie Tan (Jun), a coordinator for international relations from Singapore. Jun will be wrapping up his 2 years in Obihiro at the end of July (interviewed in mid-July).*



Jun (on the far right, bottom) enjoying a Hokkaido yakiniku with some friends!

**Obihiro Pioneer:** Jun, thank you for allowing us to interview you during such a busy time. 2 years have already passed since you came to Obihiro. Can you tell us some of your first impressions and/or assumptions of Obihiro/Hokkaido and if they have changed over the last couple of years?

**Jun:** Well, some of my first impressions of Obihiro/Hokkaido have changed since I first started living here. I have to clarify first though, that my first impressions of Obihiro/Hokkaido were mostly based on my personal circumstances.

I work at Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC), which is a separate facility from the Obihiro City Hall. At TIRC, we organize many events and I have had the opportunity to

interact with the local Japanese people. Through these events, I found that people from Obihiro/Hokkaido to be welcoming and friendly. 2 years on, I still feel the same way.

In addition, coming from a metropolitan city, I used to think that there was not much to explore or see in Obihiro/Hokkaido besides the tourist attractions, which was not my cup of tea anyway. I have always liked exploring new, non-touristy places but public transportation was prohibitive in terms of cost, schedule and places I could get to. Honestly speaking, I went to a few places when I first got here, but gave up exploring more until I purchased a car recently.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Contents:

Good Luck Jun!	1, 3
Events	2, 4
Movie Schedule	4



Good Luck Jun!  
(pg 1, 3)



Events (pg 2, 4)



Movies  
(pg 4)

# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
8/14 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volleyball Night</b> 国際ミニバレー・ナイト Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
8/ 10, 8/24 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	<b>Japanese Conversation and Learning Table</b> 日本語教室 Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment.  TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	
8/24 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Potluck Night (Welcome Barbecue)</b> インターナショナル・ポットラック・ナイト (ウィルカム・バーベキュー) Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from around the world. This time, join Obihiro City's new Coordinator for International Relations, Gavin, for a round of Thai barbecue and Thai curry. TIRC Kitchen Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring either ingredients suitable for barbecuing or a dish and drinks to share. Organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City	
8/1 (Thu) 10:00-14:00	<b>2019 Animal Research Center Open Day</b> 2019畜産試験場公開デー Open only once a year to the public, the Hokkaido Animal Research Center will hold a mini seminar and livestock product tasting and even a veterinarian experience for elementary students.	Hokkaido Animal Research Center 道総研畜産試験場 新得町字新得西5線39 畜産試験場総務課 0156-64-0616
8/3 (Sat) 12:00-21:00 (Fireworks: 19:30)	<b>64th Tokachi Harbor Festival/31st Tokachi Harbor Fireworks Show</b> 第64回十勝港まつり/ 第31回十勝港海上花火大会 Come and enjoy a summer festival and fireworks show at Tokachi's only harbor. There will be various events including a stage show and a portside bazaar.	Tokachi Harbor Pier 4 十勝港第4埠頭 広尾町会所前6丁目 広尾町水産商工観光課 01558-2-0177(月～金) / 01558-2-2111(土日祝)
8/3 (Sat) 15:00-20:30	<b>Otofuke Chamber of Commerce Cool Summer Festival and Fireworks Show</b> 音更町商工会 夏まつり納涼花火大会 Keep cool this summer at the with the Otofuke Chamber of Commerce. A beer garden, stage show, and, of course, a firework show will be held. Enjoy the fireworks up close as nearly 1000 rounds of fireworks fill the night sky!	音更町新通会館特設会場 音更町商工会 0155-42-2246

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### *Continued from Page 1*

After owning a car here, I now have a better appreciation for the region and what it has to offer. Recently, on my days off, I like to go for a drive and explore new places.



**OP:** Sounds like you had an eventful 2 years! Coming from Singapore, where it is always hot, have you gotten used to the Tokachi winters?

**J:** I don't think I will ever 'get used to winter'. In fact, I hate winter. I have to clarify though, that I was really looking forward to snow when I first came here. However, it's not so much about the cold weather that bothers me, but the inconvenience I faced. I had to walk to work both winters, and anywhere else I went or tried to go, buses were delayed (which meant that I had to wait for prolonged periods out in the cold). If not for online shopping, I don't think I would have survived my first winter.

**OP:** We heard that you will be remaining in Japan after leaving Obihiro. Hopefully somewhere a little warmer!

*Can you tell us where you will be going and what you will be doing there?*

**J:** I will be moving to Tokyo to work as a software engineer, and I definitely am looking forward to less (no?) snow.

**OP:** We wish you the best of luck in Tokyo! The big city has so much to offer, but it doesn't have everything. Is there anything you'll miss from Obihiro/Hokkaido while in Tokyo?

**J:** Definitely! I will miss all the friends I made here, delicious Hokkaido food and my spot in Starbucks. (You read that right!)

**OP:** Last, but not least, any words of advice for the new CIR coming to fill your shoes?

**J:** Definitely! First, it will be really helpful to know what everyone is in charge of so you know where to go to for advice regarding work. Second, manage your expectations. You might be ambitious and want to suggest multiple new events. It takes time to communicate and get these events (and budget) approved. I absolutely recommend avoiding summer, the peak period at work, when trying to get approval for these events. Lastly, always remember that you are on the Japan Exchange and Teaching program. I believe that at the core of this program is the idea of bilateral cultural exchange, where you learn more about Japan and teach others about your own culture. It is a fantastic opportunity for you to interact with people from all walks of life, so make the best of it!

*We thank Jun for his 2 years of work here in Obihiro. Good luck in Tokyo and be sure come back from time to time!*

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



A scene from "Rocketman"

Title	Language	Dates
Toy Story 4	Jpn Dub	All month
The Secret Life of Pets 2	Jpn Dub	All month
Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw ( <i>uirudo supiiido suupaa combo</i> )	Jpn Sub/Dub	From 2nd
Lion King	TBD	From 9th
Rocketman	Jpn Sub	From 23rd

## Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
8/4 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	<b>Shimizu Park Festival</b> 清水公園FESTIVAL In a collaborative event, direct sale produce trucks and food trucks will come together at Shimizu. Spend the	Shimizu Park 清水公園 清水町役場商工観光課 0156-62-1156
8/11 (Sun)	<b>Tokachi Summer Festival/HKS Hyper Meeting</b> 十勝夏祭り & HKSハイパーミーティング Experience a summer festival at Hokkaido's largest circuit. Motorsports related events and activities will be available for all members of the family.	Tokachi Speedway 十勝スピードウェイ 0155-52-3910 <a href="http://tokachi.msf.ne.jp">http://tokachi.msf.ne.jp</a>
8/13-16 (Tue-Fri)	<b>72nd Obihiro Heigen Festival</b> 第72回おびひろ平原まつり Tokachi's biggest summer festival, the Obihiro Heigen Festival draws in huge crowds with festive performances such as "Yumefuruya," "Bon dance" and "Taiko" performances. This year, one of Obihiro's sister cities, Tokushima, will be showing their famous "Awa Odori" dance!	Obihiro Festival Promotion Committee 帯広のまつり推進委員会 広小路ほか 0155-22-8600 <a href="https://www.tonxton.com/heigenfes">https://www.tonxton.com/heigenfes</a>
8/18 (Sun)	<b>Bakkansai (Wheat Harvest Festival) 2019</b> 麦感祭(ばっかんさい) 2019 The "Bakkansai" is held at Otofuke, Japan's top wheat producing region (by production volume). Explore (and taste!) the food made with locally produced wheat!	Bakkansai Planning Committee (NPO Owls) 麦感祭実行委員会 音更町西中音更地区 0155-67-6305
8/30-9/1 (Fri-Sun)	<b>Tokachi Marche</b> とかちマルシェ Tokachi Marche is one of Tokachi's biggest food and music event, filled with stage performances and dozens of stores selling food produced locally.	Tokachi Marche Management Committee とかちマルシェ運営協議会 帯広駅周辺 0155-25-7121 0155-65-4169 <a href="https://www.tokachimarche.com/">https://www.tokachimarche.com/</a>

**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).