

Welcome Gavin! 新しい仲間が来た！マネリ国際交流員の紹介

In this month's issue of Obihiro Pioneer, we are happy to welcome the newest member of the Obihiro CIR (coordinator for international relations) family, Gavin Munnelly ギャビン・マネリ! Gavin hails from the little country of Ireland in Europe. We had the opportunity to interview him as he begins to settle down here in Obihiro:

Obihiro Pioneer: Thank you Gavin for allowing us to interview you. It must be a busy time for you, especially after moving all the way here from Ireland. How has these first couple of weeks been for you so far?

Gavin: Thank you for having me! These first few weeks certainly have been quite busy, but it's been an amazing experience so far. Although I've only been here a month I've already gone ice skating (in summer!!), seen fireworks and participated in the Bon festival dance. Jun, the CIR before me, had forewarned me that I was arriving right in the middle of the TIRC's busiest period but I really had no idea exactly how busy it can get. However, I'm really enjoying how varied the work is and how I can interact with the citizens of Obihiro on an everyday basis. I was a little unsure of what to expect before coming to Obihiro, but everyone has been so kind I feel right at home (even despite how poor my Japanese is!).



Gan (left) and Gavin (right) getting ready to bon dance at last month's Heigen Festival!

It's still a little difficult getting around Obihiro without a car but I can't wait to see what more there is to the city and the Tokachi area in the future! I still have a lot of things waiting for me to discover.

OP: We're glad to hear that you're enjoying things so far! Since this is your introductory interview, could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

G: Of course! I come from the town of Midleton in County Cork, which is in the south of Ireland. It's a medium-sized town (by Irish standards) about 20 minutes away from Cork City, surrounded by rolling green hills and is close to the sea. It doesn't have much claim to fame, but it does have a large distillery for Jameson Whiskey! Perhaps you've heard of Jameson? It's a very popular whiskey back home!

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
9/11 (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 Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge 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
9/ 14, 9/28 (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	
9/21 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	75th International Talk (Ireland) 75回目インターナショナル・トーク(アイルランド) Learn more about the countries of the world. Our guest, Obihiro's new Coordinator for International Relations, will introduce his country and share more about life on the Emerald Isle, Ireland. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) For junior high school students and older. Organized by the City of Obihiro	
9/28 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	55th Kids Playground (Halloween) 55回目キッズ・プレイグラウンド(ハローウィン) Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. Teachers from Learn-a-Lot, a local English language school, will introduce Halloween to the children through games and storytelling! 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	
9/8 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	Tokachi Obihiro Airport 「Sky Day」 Event とかち帯広空港「空の日」記念事業航空まつり Learn about our local airport and see for yourself the ins and outs of running an airport! Along with the classic festival affairs such as food and fun, there are many opportunities to see the vehicles and areas unique to an airport. Note: This year's event will take place in the terminal building area.	Tokachi Obihiro Airport とかち帯広空港 0155-64-5320

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Originally I became interested in Japanese culture through manga, anime and video games, (Pokemon being my earliest influence), but while I was in secondary school I learned of a government programme that was offering free Japanese language lessons as part of the school curriculum. I went to give it a try and enjoyed learning the language and all about Japanese culture so much that I continued it in university. Then I finally got a chance to live in Japan for a year as an exchange student of Sophia University in Tokyo in 2016.



Gavin (left) during this Sophia days hiking Mt. Takao!

I graduated from Dublin City University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Applied Language and Translation Studies (French and Japanese translation). In the future, once my Japanese and French skills are high enough, I would like to try to work as part of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan.

I love discovering new places and things, learning new things about other countries' cultures, and experimenting with cooking by combining ingredients from different countries' cuisines (it doesn't work out well very often though!). I also enjoy games of all types, video, board and card games. Above all I really love stories and animation! I'll happily watch any animated film or read any book or comic regardless of target audience.

OP: We understand that it isn't your first time to Japan, but it is your first time living in Hokkaido. What

challenges do you expect to face while here in the wild north? Also, is there anything in particular that you're looking forward to?

G: The first thing that comes to mind is the Hokkaido winter. Ireland doesn't tend to get much snow, and whenever it does snow heavily, the entire country tends to shut down! I think learning how to deal with -20°C weather will be my first major challenge, but honestly I'm looking forward to it because I think I might enjoy the challenge. Maybe it's a little naïve of me, but I'm more worried about learning the office paperwork system at the moment!

As for anything that I'm looking forward to, I can't wait to go snowboarding in the winter. I've only gone snowboarding once before but I'm just itching to try it again. Then next summer I'd be really excited if I could do a few motorcycle trips around Hokkaido and a bit of camping. In short, I want to experience a bit of that wildness of the wild north! But above all I'm looking forward to being able to introduce a little bit of Irish culture to everyone and learn about Japanese and other countries' cultures in return.

OP: How adventurous! We bet our readers are just dying to meet you! Where and when can they meet you?

G: Well actually, I will be the guest speaker for this month's International Talk at the TIRC. I'll be introducing some Irish culture, so if you'd like to know a bit about the Emerald Isle, or even if you would just like to say hi please come by! The event will start at 18:30 on the 21st. It might be a little bit cold, so please come prepared with warm clothes!

We at Obihiro Pioneer wish Gavin all the best as he continues his new journey here in Obihiro, Hokkaido.

頑張ってください！

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
Toy Story 4	Jpn Dub	Until 19th
Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw (<i>wairudo supiiido suupaa combo</i>)	Jpn Sub/Dub	All month
Lion King	Jpn Sub/Dub	All month
Ad Astra	TBD	From 20th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
9/8 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	20th Tokachi Shimizu Meat•Rice Bowl Festival 第二回十勝清水肉・井まつり Come to the birthplace of Hokkaido's and Japan's best "donburi" rice bowl dishes. Try a variety of toppings and combinations at this rice bowl festival.	Ariake Park 有明公園 十勝清水肉・井まつり実行委員会 0156-62-1156
9/14 (Sat) 10:00-15:00	Yotsuba Milk Festa 2019 Open Factory Day よつ葉ミルクフェスタ2019十勝主管工場開放DAY Tour the butter and milk factory at this once a year event. Local specialty dairy products and other foods will be for sale in addition to samples from the factory. Enjoy stage events, a lottery and other dairy themed activities.	Yotsuba Tokachi Factory Event Space よつ葉乳業(株)十勝主管工場イベント会場 0155-42-2121
9/15 (Sun) 9:00-14:30	2019「Land and Sea」Toyokoro Industry Festival 2019「海と大地の祭典」とよこ産業まつり This is an event to bring together the flavors of the fall season. Attractions include "aki aji" (salmon) catching, singing show and more. Bring the whole family for a fun filled fall day!	JA Toyokoro Multi-purpose Space JAとよこ 多目的広場 とよこ産業まつり 実行委員会事務局 豊頃町役場商工観光課内 015-578-7202
9/15 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	3rd Shihoro Potato Festival 第3回しほろじゃがいもまつり Celebrate the fall harvest with Hokkaido's major crop, the potato! Taste the fruits of labor in the newly harvested potatoes and in a variety of dishes being sold. There will be performances by local groups as well as games for all to win prizes.	Michi no Eki Pia 21 Shihoro 道の駅ピア21しほろ 01564-5-3940

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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