



Tohoku University Main Library 11th Global Session "Vivi Sendai!: Let's Enjoy Your Life in Sendai!"

We humans, are social beings who often worry about adapting and communicating in a new environments. The new foreign students who entered Tohoku University this fall, also faced this anxiety. In order to help with the transition to a new place, the members of the International Concierge at the Main Library in Tohoku University held a Global Session. The aim of this session, was to provide the new foreign students with valuable information about Sendai so their feelings of uneasiness and culture shock could be minimized. Therefore, on October 24th the 11th Global Session, "Vivi Sendai!: Let's Enjoy your Life in Sendai" was held.

The session was divided into two segments: one in Japanese and the other in English. This event is not only, targeted new foreign students, but also, Japanese students and staff who wanted to listen to what the presenters thought about their life in Sendai.



MC : Kiya & Andi



The Japanese language session started with a presentation by Taiwanese student, Lin I-Chia; a student at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies.

Lin shared tips on how to enjoy the many interesting museums and facilities in Sendai City. In her presentation, Lin succeeded in describing the museum as a fun place, rather than a boring place.

The following presentation was done by Maturin, a graduate student from Thailand. Her presentation mainly talked about how to use the health insurance and the difference of medical treatment in Thailand versus Japan. Maturin's presentation also gave useful information about the advantages of the Japanese health insurance and how to use it.

The third presentation was done by Yu Jing, a graduate student from China. In her presentation, Yu Jing talked about her excitement for traveling and exploring. She shared various touristic points in Sendai and the Tohoku region. Many of the beautiful places that Yu Jing mentioned were unknown to the audience.



Maturin Limhassanaikul

The last presentation done in Japanese was by Andi, a graduate student from Indonesia. His presentation focused on how to use membership cards in Japan. Japanese transportation, restaurants, convenience stores, cinemas, karaoke etc. have membership cards and point card for their customers. Andi shared his thoughts about how to use many different cards and how to get points from every transaction. While the membership cards are beneficial, he did complain about all the different cards on his wallet.

The Global Session continued to the segment in English.

The first presenter was Ernei from Brazil. Ernei is a student at Graduate School of International Cultures Studies. His presentation about his daily life in Sendai and food (like the tuna mayo onigiri), caused a lot of laughter among the audience.

The next two presentations were done by some of the newest members to join the Tohoku University Concierge team.

Sara Ebrahimi Azar is an Iranian student who studies in the Graduate School of Medicine. She has been living in Sendai since the spring of 2018. Throughout her presentation she talked about her experience (both positive and negative) about living in Sendai as a Muslim. Additionally, she shared one of her hobbies: visiting temples and shrines in Sendai.



Sara Ebrahimi Azar

The next presentation was done by Thiri Soe, a graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Myanmar. The main topic of her presentation was supermarkets and groceries in Sendai. She informed the audience about where to get halal food and how to buy groceries for the cheapest price.

Next, was Trishit Banerjee's presentation which focused on cheap prices! Trishit is a student from India and has been part of the International Concierge team for some time. He talked about the places where students can eat, shop, and more for a very reasonable price. He also gave his impressions about Sendai, which can be summarized as a city that has a lot to explore.

To wrap of the session, the final presentation was done by Kiya Okhlopko, a graduate student of Arts and Letters from Russia. Since coping with loneliness when living abroad is a common problem among foreign students, Kiya's presentation gave advice on how to enjoy life and avoid being lonely. Her

presentation was full of photos that showcased how she was involved in various social and exchange activities.


Most of the time, studying and living in a foreign country is a life changing experience. Being a foreign student in Japan opens the door for exciting educational and cultural experiences. Having said that, the educational and lifestyle difference may prove challenging to some students; leading to feelings of frustration or homesickness.

However, as the Global Session illustrated, there are many ways to make the best of this situation. As new students learn to adapt to the new surroundings, it will become easier to understand the differences and appreciate them as enriching elements in the life in Japan!



Reported by **Andi Holik Ramdani**

Self-introduction of our new staff!!

LIU CHUXIN(劉楚心) 

Hello guys!

I am glad to be here and introduce myself. My name is Liu Chuxin, I was born in Fujian province in China. My major is Japanese Linguistics. In my spare time, I like to play badminton because I am good at it. Also, I like music, especially KPOP music. My favorite singer is called IU. If you are interested in badminton, music, or the singer IU, please feel free to talk to me.



Jeon Jinhwi (전진휘)



Hello! My name is Jeon Jinhwi. I'm from Cheongju in South Korea. Nice to meet you all. My major is CFD(Computational Fluid Dynamics). I am a master's student at the Graduate School of

Information Sciences. My research mainly uses computers to simulate fluids near various shapes. In my free time I usually read novels. Also, I like to assemble and disassemble electronic devices like computers or smartphones. Recently, I've been trying to study information security. I started working at the International Concierge Service on October 2018. I don't know much about the library yet. However, I have been living Sendai for 5 years, so if you want to know about life in Sendai, feel free to ask. I'll be waiting for you!

LYU SHENGNAN (吕勝男)

Hello everyone, nice to meet you all. My name is Lyu Shengnan, I'm from Heilongjiang Province, in the northern most area in China. It is an extremely cold place since it is near to Russia. Currently, I'm a first year graduate student at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, majoring in Discourse Analysis. I love all things related to fashion, and I like to paint and do some sewing jobs (although I'm not so good at these). I would be very glad if you could share with me with your interests and experiences. Since I'm working as International Concierge in the library, I will try my best to provide the best possible service to all of you!



You Jie(由婕)



Hello everyone! My name is You Jie. I'm a graduate student of Applied Japanese Linguistics. I come from a coastal city in Shandong Province in the north of

China. If you often drink beer, you may have heard the name Tsingtao Beer, which is a beer produced in Shandong which can also be found in Japan. We have a beer festival in Tsingtao every summer and you are welcome

to enjoy with us. It has been a year since I came to Sendai, and I can always find something that reminds me of my hometown, like the smell of sea water or the yellow leaves in autumn. Hope you have a good time here and enjoy every small piece of this lovely city.

Sara Ebrahimi Azar (سارا ابراهیمی آذر)



Hello everyone!

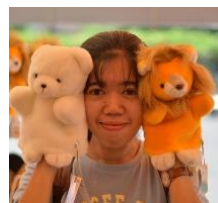
My name is Sara and I come from Iran. I lived in Tehran, the busy capital of Iran, before moving to Sendai in April 2018 as a MEXT scholar. I managed to get

into the master's course for Medical Sciences in October 2018 and my research focus is on Pharmacology. I'm also a member of MSA (MEXT Scholars Association) in the Tohoku area. In my free time, I like to read and wander around books, engage in international exchanges, and do mobile photography. I also like to discover, be it people or places! Recently, I started out as a concierge member in the library. Please come and say hi if you see me!

Thiri Soe

Hello everyone! My name is Thiri. I am now a master's student in the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. My research focuses on applied linguistics in language science program. I am from Yangon in Myanmar. Yangon happens to be the largest city in the country so life is busy and crowded. Here in Sendai, I am always thankful for choosing the right environment to study. People are gentle and quiet and the surroundings are cool and calm. Nature is very attractive. Food is healthy. Life is safe. Honestly, before I came here in 2017, I barely had any knowledge about Japan and its culture. Now, Japan occupies a special place in my heart.

A very experience been the students and each other university. I have found



positive for me, has support that staff give in the Living here, a lifestyle

that has brought me a great amount of satisfaction. The notion of loving and being loved, caring and being cared for, helping and being helped, is the great essence of civilization on Earth. I will forever treasure my wonderful memories of my stay in Sendai. Hi friends, let's be there for each other!

LU HAILAN (魯海蘭)



Hello, my name is Hailan Lu and I come from China. I am a graduate student of Tohoku University, studying Japanese-language education as my academic major. In my free time



I like reading novels and watching Variety Shows. I especially like a Japanese Talk show called "Syabekuri 007", because I think Aritateppe (a Japanese comedian) is really funny. If you want to im-

prove your Japanese or feel happy, I recommend it for you.

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a new book each month from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and read!

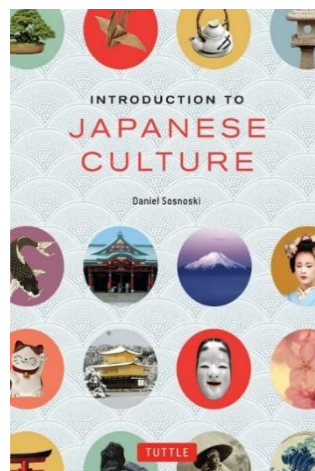
While walking along Japanese streets, have you ever seen the fish shaped cloth banners, and wondered why they are hung in a particular season, or have you ever noticed a round doll in red with a bearded man's face and wondered its symbolism? Perhaps you are going about your day and suddenly you see a group of men in traditional clothing carrying a miniature golden shrine attached to long wooden poles, have you wondered what these people are doing? Maybe when you have been doing your shopping at the supermarket you have noticed the widespread variety of miso paste and wondered if there is some significance to the paste other than for its culinary purpose.

These are just some of the most common questions that foreigners grapple with soon after arriving in Japan. Not everyone who visits a foreign country has enough time to prepare and get to know all the cultural nuances. Consciously or unconsciously, foreign students are constantly experiencing the Japanese life style, some of which originated a long time ago.

The book *Introduction to Japanese Culture* by Daniel Sosnoski can definitely help foreigners, like us, reach a deep and meaningful understanding of Japanese culture. Being a

foreigner with little knowledge about the place where one is can trigger questions about his or her surroundings. Naturally, picking up a heavy encyclopedia and reading through it in one sitting, could be a daunting task. So why not start with a light reading that includes comprehensive explanations? This book presents the opportunity to unlock certain mysteries with colorful illustrations and photographs.

The book offers elaborative information ranging from holidays to daily life, ways of living, beliefs, art, and food. Personally, I found it fascinating and informative to know about the seasonal festivals. Like in any other country, the way that holidays are celebrated reveal a lot about the place. That is why, the seasonal holidays in Japan can reveal various meaningful occasions. For example, after reading about SETSUBUN, I understood why people threw beans around in the ceremony. After reading about HINA MATSURI, I now know the name of my favorite Japanese doll that I have had for some time ... it is called yamato-ningyo.



Book: *Introduction to Japanese Culture*

Author: Daniel Sosnoski

Publisher: TUTTLE Publishing

Barcode No. : 00140336921

Call No. : GB 641/37

Location : Main Library (Global Learning Room)

Reviewed by **Thiri Soe**

My hometown: Cheongju(淸州市)

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you glimpse into the culture and the best things to do!

Hello, readers! My name is Jeon. I'm from South Korea and today I'd like to introduce my hometown "Cheongju" to you. Cheongju is located in center of South Korea and it is by mountains. Korea is made up of 8 provinces (name...do) and Cheongju is the biggest city in Chungcheongbuk-do. It has a population of about 850,000, and residences and schools occupy most of the city.



Next, let's talk about food. There are a lot of famous food in Cheongju. Recently, Seomun Market Samgyeopsal (Pork Belly) Street has become the most famous place for food. Samgyeopsal is a kind of grilled pork with salt. Back in the day, people in Cheongju would broil pork belly on a gridiron on a coal fire with salt or soy sauce. Nowadays, Samgyeopsal is served with spring onions and a variety of side dishes not found in other regions.



"Samgyeopsal" Grilled Pork Belly Barbecue

Cheongnamdae and Suamgol are recommended tourist attractions. Cheongnamdae was the former presidential villa, and since 2003 it has been open to the public and used as a tourist attraction. Surrounded by mountains and lakes, Cheongnamdae is a place where you can enjoy the nature of Cheongju. Conversely, Suamgol is located in the center of the city; where you can have a panoramic view of Cheongju City from the observatory. Suamgol is also famous for the making of dramas. It is beautiful place where you can enjoy wall paintings and delicious coffee.



Cheongnamdae

Additionally, there are many museums and art galleries in Cheongju. The oldest metal type printing, Jikji, is printed at Cheongju and related cultural relics are exhibited in the Early Printing Museum.



"Jikji" is world first metal type printing

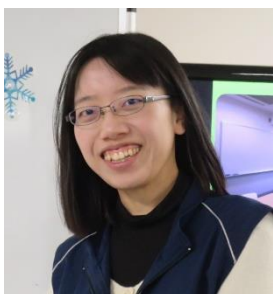
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<http://foodkoreaguide.com/>

<http://tour.cheongju.go.kr/etour/index.do#n>

As expressed by **JinHwi Jeon**

Editors



Lin, I-Chia (林宜佳)

A graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Taiwan, she loves listening to music and reading children's literature which full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

Cristy Garciamendez

She is a graduate student of law and philosophy from Mexico. She loves to travel, dance, and read. Her personal motto is: "The more you explore, the more you learn and grow."



Yang Yan (楊妍)

Yang, from China, loves to write comic strips! A graduate student of international cultural studies, she believes that none of us should ever forget our first resolution. Interested in her work? Check out the next issue for her manga!

Andi Holik Ramdani [Editor-in-Chief]

Salam Kenal!

A student of religious study and come from a country with thousands island and rich with diversity--Indonesia. Andi love to watch a movie, traveling, and art-design. Active in Tohoku tsunami disaster reconstruction social and mutual activities between Indonesia and Japan, also supporting mutual coexistence program (Tabunka Kyosei) in Sendai through interreligious dialogue.



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