



## Tohoku University Main Library 13<sup>th</sup> Global Session "ViVi Sendai!"

On April 3rd we held the 13th Global Session: "ViVi Sendai! - Let's enjoy your life in Sendai", which served as an orientation for new students. In this event four members of the Concierge Service shared their experiences about living in Sendai.



First, Sara Azar, from Iran, talked about touristic spots in Sendai, like the temples that were once connected to the Date clan. To the new students, she presented the temples that are about a 10 minute walk from the Sanjo dormitories. One of such places was Rinnouji-Temple, which has beautiful gardens, as well as, meditation sessions. Sara also shared her experience about the difficulties of finding Halal food in the city.

The second presenter, Liu Chuxin from China, shared with the audience her knowledge about good restaurants in Sendai. Her recommendations included a variety of different cuisines like Japanese, Korean and Chinese. It was a great chance to learn about new places to eat. Since Sendai has many different places to eat, her advice was very useful even for people who have been in Sendai for a long time. She also pointed out some places to get free coffee or buy Chinese and international food products. The floor was open to discussion and Marina, a library concierge member from Brazil, talked about a good Brazilian restaurant where it is also possible to get Halal food.

After that, Andi Ramdani from Indonesia, talked about an interesting part of Japanese culture, the point and members' card. You can

find these cards in almost every store. These cards make it possible to get discounts, prizes or free goods from the store. He also talked about the SUICA and ICSCA cards, which are useful for students in order to get around the city either by bus and/or subway. Andi pointed out that one needs to be careful not to accumulate too many cards, otherwise, one might need a bag just to carry them!



The final presentation was done by Kiya Okhlopkova from Russia, who talked about how to adjust to the new life in Sendai. In her talk she shared her own experiences of when she was a new student at Tohoku, four years ago. Learning from her past mistakes, Kiya told students who are live in the Sanjo dorms that walking to Kawauchi campus is an alternative to public transportation. The walk takes between 20 to 30 minutes so it's a feasible and healthy alternative. She also explained how to find a part-time job, how to meet new people through the student associations, how to practice Japanese, and how to be involved in different events in Sendai. For those who like to part in or be very involved, Sendai seems to have a lot of options!

Sendai has festivals every season, like the Aoba Festival in spring, the Tanabata Festival in summer, the Jazz Festival in autumn, and the Pageant of Starlight in winter.

In the wonderful city of Sendai enjoy your study abroad life joyfully and safely!

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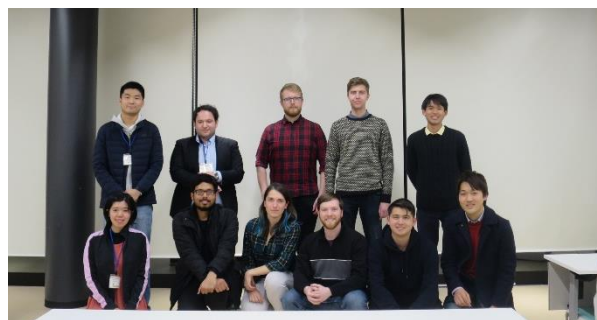
## Tohoku University Main Library 14th Global Session "ViVi Sendai!" in Aobayama.

The Tohoku University Main Library held the 14th Global session on April 10th, 2019. Unlike previous times, the venue was at the new university house in Aobayama. For those who start a new phase in a foreign country, the task could seem daunting or even worrisome. Taking this into consideration, Tohoku University has various outlets to provide the required information to the newcomers. The Tohoku University Main Library is one such place that strives to help students with their daily life. The ViVi Sendai sessions are one example of events conducted by the Library. The event is regularly held in every new semester (April and October) in order to welcome the new group of students.

The purpose of "ViVi Sendai – Let's Enjoy your life in Sendai" was to welcome new students and share information on how to cope with things in Sendai. Normally the library concierge members cover a range of topics such as medical access and procedures, campus life, travel spots, law and order, emergency contact numbers, or shopping and entertainment. The presentations are done by active and cheerful members of the international student concierge. As stated earlier, this time the session was held at the new Aobayama dormitory. The event started at 6pm and lasted for an hour and a half. For this particular presentation there were three students who shared their different experiences and advice for life in Japan.

The first speaker was Ahmed from Bangladesh. He began the presentation with the idea of travel spots around Sendai. He introduced each place with its location, scenery shots, points of access, and activities to enjoy there. It was all carefully and meticulously researched! It was obvious that he had visited all the places he was talking about because he provided additional tips and recommendations. One of the travel spots covered was Matsushima, which is one of the most famous places in Japan. He also covered two, perhaps lesser known, places: Michinoku Park and Kamafusako dam. These are places might not be as popular but they are certainly worth visiting. The photos from each place looked amazing!

The second speaker was Thiri Soe from Myanmar. She talked about the dinning places and opening hours of the cafeterias in Kawau-chi campus. She emphasized the fact that some shops have different opening hours and days. Additionally, Thiri recommended good places for grocery shopping and highlighted what you can buy at each place. She even provided a list of all the cheap places! For the conclusion of her talk, she talked about the concern some non-Japanese speakers might have when it comes to health. She said there is a Sendai medical information guide, which offers information on hospital and clinics in foreign languages.



The last talk of the night was done by Jonathan from USA. His topic covered useful information on how to adapt to the student/lab life. Since he has lived in Japan for quite some time, his presentation was filled with useful tips for the new incoming students. Some of the advice that he shared with the audience were developing management skills, making new friends and being sociable, and ensuring the students that it is okay to make mistakes from time to time. One of the statements that stood out from his talk was the gentle reminder that "sometimes, it is not the culture, it is the personality."

Overall, it was a very successful event! The International Concierge members, from the Tohoku University Library, extend their greatest thanks and appreciation to the audience for coming to the event. Personally, I want to take the tie to thank the MC Jun'ichi Enomoto, our friend John from Korea, the Aobayama dormitory staff, and lastly the library staff for all their valuable help in putting this event together. Thank you all. Have a great semester!

*As reported by **Thiri Soe***

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## New Members!

### Marina Nascimento

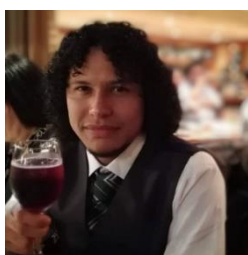
Hello! I am Marina from Brazil. I come from Sao Paulo which is the largest city in the Southern Hemisphere; so I am used to big and crowded cities more than calm places like Sendai. I am a graduate student at the Innovative Japanese Studies of Graduate School of Arts and Letters and my research focuses on modern Japanese feminism. The things I like the most about Japan is the sense of security and the ability to see the seasons throughout the year. In Brazil it is not secure nor is it possible to appreciate the change of season since there is only the rainy season or the dry season.



My research keeps me very busy, but in my spare moments, I like to read manga/novels, watch anime/movies, and draw. If there is a Japanese comic that you like please let me know!

### Julio Nascimento

Hello everyone! I am Julio and come from Brazil. I was born in Guarulhos, the second largest city in the state of Sao Paulo, but I used to live in Sao Paulo, the largest city in the Southern Hemisphere. I am a graduate student at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies and my research is the modernization of Japanese Buddhism. Six years ago, I lived in Nagoya to study Japanese language and literature.



At that time, I had to adapt to living in a smaller city, so now I really enjoy living in Sendai. Sendai is a very calm and silent city, so it is a good place to live for studies. Also, it is easy to get cheap bus tickets from Sendai to Tokyo, for whenever I need.

I enjoy studying languages, reading, listening to different styles of music, playing the piano, and watching anime and series. If we meet someday, please do not hesitate to give me your recommendations on what to watch!

### Yan Zhou

Hello! I am Yan Zhou from China. I completed my undergraduate degree in Shipping Management in Shanghai -- the world's largest port. Currently, I am a graduate student in Economics. I also have a keen interest in AI and I believe it will be the trend in the future. I enjoy the convenience and environment in Sendai. The air, particularly, is so clean and the sky is so blue! In my downtime I like to run on campus. Additionally, I am a music lover. I like any genre of music, but especially like R&B and Jazz. Since I like music, I also like karaoke and I attend live performances on a monthly basis. The reason that I came to Japan was because of talented musicians. I am a big fan of Sheena Ringo and Tokyo Incidents. If you share similar interest with me, please let me know!



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## Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

*This section introduces a new book 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 enjoy!*

*Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* is written by Yuval Harari, renowned author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. Harari is a professor in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has been studying the relationship between history and biology. *Sapiens* focuses on the evolution of the different human species thousands of years ago to today. Having already traced all of human history, *Homo Deus*, focuses on the future of humanity. In *Sapiens*, Harari draws his conclusions from biological, historical, and paleontological facts. On the other hand *Homo Deus* relies more on the author's thoughts and opinions. *Homo Deus* talks about how the future will change due to biotechnology and information technology. With all the innovation that is expected to take place can humans live eternally? What kind of influence will artificial intelligence have on humankind? If these types of questions interest you, then I recommend reading this book.

I would recommend you first read *Sapiens* and then continue to *Homo Deus*. The reason

is that *Homo Deus* builds on the work in *Sapiens*. If you read *Homo Deus*, and you really like it, then I have one additional recommendation. Last year, Harari published his latest work *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. His latest book does not look at the past (like in *Sapiens*) or the future (like *Homo Deus*), but rather the present. *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* takes a look at the issues that humanity is currently facing. These books give you an incredible insight into the past all the way to the future!

**Book:**

*Homo Deus: a brief history of tomorrow*  
ホモ・デウス: テクノロジーとサピエンスの未来

**Author:** Yuval N. Harari  
ユヴァル・ノア・ハラリ

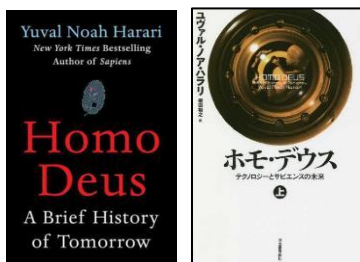
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*As reported by Jeon JinHwi*

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## My hometown: Mexico City

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

Hello everyone! My name is Cristy and I hail from the buzzing metropolis of Mexico City. It is the capital of Mexico and the most populous city in North America! The population of Greater Mexico City is of 21.3 million people, making it the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.



Mexico City is a place filled with history and culture. Mexico's capital is the oldest capital city in the Americas. The city was originally named Tenochtitlan and was founded by the Aztecs. There is a legend that says that the Aztecs one day came across a lake and found an eagle sitting on a prickly pear devouring a snake. To the Aztecs this signaled that it was here where they should found their city. Interestingly enough, the emblem in the middle of the Mexican flag is precisely that, an eagle perched on a cactus eating a snake.

Mexico City has many historical landmarks from every period since its foundation. Some of the most famous places to visit are the Centro Histórico, Xochimilco, and the Palacio de Bellas Artes. Some highlights also include the Zócalo and the Aztec temple ruins of Templo Mayor. The Zócalo is the third largest square in the world, right after Moscow's Red Square and Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Xochimilco is located in the southern part of Mexico City and is known for its "floating garden" or colorful gondola-style boats.

Xochimilco

<https://www.expedia.com/pictures/mexico/mexico-city.d178285>

When it comes to food, Mexico is notoriously famous for tacos, but there's a lot more to try. Mexico City is a paradise for foodies, you will find street food virtually at every corner and an endless amounts of restaurants serving Mexican food as well as international food. Some of the best things to try would be: tacos, quesadillas, pozole, elote, chilaquiles ....

Tacos

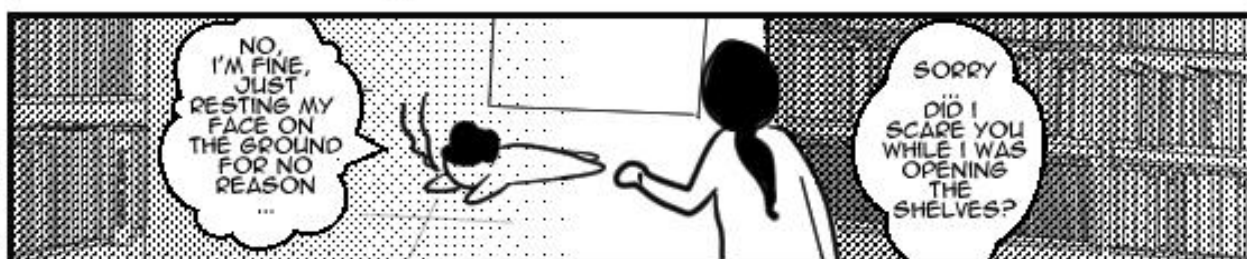
<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/mexico/articles/why-the-mexicans-can-thank-the-lebanese-for-tacos-al-pastor/>

*As expressed by Cristy Garciamendez*

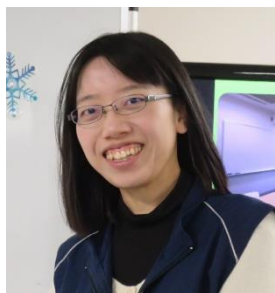
## Manga Corner

*This corner is about things that happen in the library, especially when you are a new student in Tohoku University.*

Hello! I am Marina from Brazil! I like drawing for fun, so I hope you have fun reading too!



## 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."



**Thiri Soe**

A language science student from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She is from Myanmar, a land of Golden Pagodas, in South East Asia. Thiri is studying applied linguistics, seeking knowledge to benefit in her teaching profession. Her hobby is cooking and writing. She believes in that things happen for a reason and the reason is to be good.

**Andi Holik Ramdani [Editor-in-Chief]**

Salam Kenal! A student of religious study and come from Indonesia, a country with thousands island and rich with diversity, 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 co-existence program (Tabunka Kyosei) in Sendai through interreligious dialogue.



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