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We, HIECC (Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center) offer interesting and helpful information of Hokkaido for HIECC International Student Supporters and its alumni.

This is a three-time news letter a year, which is issued in Japanese, easy Japanese and English. We hope you enjoy!

◆ Red Brick Bulletin

Red Brick Bulletin is written by 3 CIRs (Coordinator for International Relations) who work for the Government of Hokkaido.

▼ 3 CIRs' introductions.

- T.J. Wissick from U.S.A

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/CIRjikoshoukaiTJ.pdf> (Japanese)

- Jiseon from Korea

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/munjiseon.pdf> (Japanese)

- Ei from China

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/jikosyukai\\_shinei.pdf](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/jikosyukai_shinei.pdf) (Japanese)

They introduce Hokkaido in various topics from different point of views. Check it out!

\*It's a non-scheduled issue.

▼ Latest issues

【Chinese】

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/hokkaido\\_akarenga\\_ch.htm](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/hokkaido_akarenga_ch.htm)

【Korean】

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/hokkaido\\_akarenga\\_kr.htm](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/hokkaido_akarenga_kr.htm)

【English】

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/akarenga\\_eng.htm](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ss/tsk/akarenga_eng.htm)

◆Hokkaido Website by the Government of Hokkaido

This website contains helpful and various information such as tourism, disaster prevention, business, industry, etc. for foreign residents in Hokkaido.

- Welcome to Hokkaido

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/english.htm>

- 歡迎來到北海道

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/chinese\\_t.htm](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/chinese_t.htm)

- 欢迎来到北海道

[http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/chinese\\_s.htm](http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/chinese_s.htm)

- 홋카이도에 오신 것을 환영합니다.

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/korean.htm>

- Добро пожаловать на Хоккайдо

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/foreign/russian.htm>

◆From HIECC

We introduce some interesting articles to you from our magazine.

▼"HOPPOKEN" Latest issue

Last year marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of HIECC.

<HIECC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary-pictures of the footsteps of the decade>

<http://www.hiecc.or.jp/hpimage/0184/027-030.pdf> (Japanese)

<A chronological table of HIECC history from 2008 to 2018>

<http://www.hiecc.or.jp/hpimage/0184/031-032.pdf> (Japanese)

Thank you for your continuous support.

◆Direct Information from municipalities in Hokkaido

In this segment, we deliver some information that is directly offered from cities in Hokkaido. Maybe you will discover a new side of Hokkaido.

If you'd like to see beautiful canola fields, we have some good information.

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Takikawa Nanohana Festival

Takikawa is one of the largest planted nanohana (=canola) areas in Japan and its beautiful sight attracts a number of tourists from in and out of Japan.

Lands of Takikawa turn brilliant yellow from the middle of May to the end of the month every year. Temporary tourist information center will be open for about a week during "Nanohana-week". You can ride on "Nanohana-taxi" and travel from one end of Nanohana fields to the other during the week. Canola fields need crop rotation; therefore, you can survey a different and great view of the flowers every year. Temporary tourist information center will offer foreign language assistance. You can get city information as well.

Canola blooms for 7 to 10 days and only once per year. Please visit to see the beautiful "Nanohana-fields" which Takikawa city boasts to the world.

□Information about Takikawa Nanohana Festival

City of Takikawa HP⇒

<http://www.city.takikawa.hokkaido.jp/230keizai/03kankourenkei/10menu/nanohanamatsuri.html> (Japanese, English and Chinese)

Takikawa Tourist Association HP ⇒ <https://www.takikawa-nanohana.com/> ( Japanese, English)

Translated by HIECC

◆Employment Information for international students

<"Job Kita Shokai">

"Job Kita Shokai" supports international students who wish to work in Hokkaido.

For more information⇒<https://www.jobkita.jp/hrs/ryugakusei/?rtp=sem>

<"Job Kita Shokai Shukatsu Seminar" Workshop: How to make an effective self-promotion in Japanese job hunting>

■Seminar Contents

1. Prospective employee (Japanese students) interview
2. Workshop: How to make an effective self-promotion

■Date

18 : 00~20 : 00 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March (OPEN 17 : 40)

■Target persons

International students who have advanced Japanese skill such as N1 or N2 (Grade unquestioned)

■Capacity

20 (Reservation needed)

■Application deadline

By 12:00 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

■Venue

Job Kita Plaza

Job Kita building, 20-1 Minami1, Nishi6 Chuo-ku, Sapporo ( Reception : 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

Details and Application⇒[https://secure.haj.co.jp/enquete/jjs\\_r1903sem/](https://secure.haj.co.jp/enquete/jjs_r1903sem/) (Japanese)

<Job Hunting Guide for International Students by JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization)>

“Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2020” has been issued.

It's a must read if you wish to work in Japan.

URL⇒[https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study\\_j/job/guide.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study_j/job/guide.html)

(Japanese, English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Korean )

【Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2020 book (PDF)】

[https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study\\_j/job/\\_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/02/20/guide2020\\_al.pdf](https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/study_j/job/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2019/02/20/guide2020_al.pdf) (Japanese)

\* English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Korean of 2020 version are also available.

◆Other Information

<Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) > organized by Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and The Japan Foundation

JLPT can be taken at various locations in 80 countries around the world.

For more information → <http://www.jlpt.jp/index.html> (Japanese, English, Chinese)

■First test : Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

• Application Period : Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

■Second test : Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019

• Application Period : Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August - Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September

\* Application via internet closes at 5:00pm.

<Business Japanese Proficiency Test> organized by The Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

This is a proficiency test measuring the examinee's current communicative proficiency in business in Japanese language.

You can select a date and time of the test that is convenient for you since 2017.

For more information → <http://www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/> (Japanese, English)

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From editor

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Long winter in Hokkaido is finally ending, and spring is just around the corner. Japanese fiscal year ends in March and new one starts from April. Now is the season of “Hikkoshi (move)”, since a lot of people will face some changes in living environment, due to get a job, go to a new school, to be relocated, and so on.

Here is a trivia about “Hikkoshi.” In Japan, we have a custom to eat Hikkoshi Soba (buckwheat noodle) after moving in. However, this is NOT correct. Originally, it used to be a custom to give out soba to new neighbors as a greeting, but it gradually has changed and now a person who moves in eats soba by him/herself. This wrong “Hikkoshi Soba” custom is widely known nowadays. Nobody knows the reason why this change happened though...

Why don't you eat Hikkoshi Soba after moving in if you move to a new place?

Cold days will continue for a little more while so please take care of yourself and enjoy the sprig!

See you in next issue.

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留学生サポーター便りのバックナンバー / Back Issues

[http://study-hokkaido.com/supporter\\_letter.html](http://study-hokkaido.com/supporter_letter.html)

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