



By Krystal Sato

国際交流員コーナー

CIR's Corner

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Hello everyone! "CIR's Corner" is my monthly article about international exchange and cultures around the world. I will introduce a variety of interesting international topics.

This Month's Topic: About My Job

One year has passed since I became the Ebetsu City Coordinator for International Relations (CIR). In this past year, I've worked hard on various projects to boost internationalization in the city. Do you know what kind of work CIRs do? This month, I'm going to tell you a bit about my job.



The locations of Gresham and Oregon State

First, the Ebetsu CIR is in charge of exchange with our sister city: Gresham, Oregon, USA. Sister city exchange mainly consists of yearly student exchange as well as delegation visits every five years. The student exchange gives middle school and high school students the opportunity to learn about life and culture through a homestay and school experience. As for the delegations, these are typically led by the mayors of each city and involve ceremonies and exchanging gifts. We haven't been able to conduct exchange activities for the past three years due to COVID-19, but we plan to restart them this year.

I also work on local exchange activities. I cooperate with the Ebetsu International Center and teach English conversation classes for citizens, as well as take part in international exchange events. I teach two English classes on Tuesdays and two on Wednesdays, for beginner and intermediate students. I also hold a free monthly Talk Salon that anyone can join, even if they aren't enrolled in my class. I help with the *Ebetsu World Fest* and the *Winter Fest* held by the Ebetsu International Center every year. The *Ebetsu World Fest* is in October, so festivalgoers can experience Halloween activities and a real Haunted House. The *Winter Fest* has snow sculptures created by international students, and exciting performances such as a Chinese Lion Dance. Why don't you join us in 2023?



English Conversation Class

My English conversation classes are for adults, but I also contribute to English education in Ebetsu by teaching children. I have two events called *Let's Play in English!*: one is held monthly at the Ebetsu



International Center, and one will be held five times this year at the child-rearing space, *Poco a Poco*. At this event, we sing songs, play games, and have fun learning English. The target age is roughly preschoolers to early elementary school-aged children.



Let's Play in English! at the Ebetsu International Center

While teaching English to citizens is very important work, I believe that by teaching about culture, we can strengthen international exchange and understanding even more. Ebetsu City offers *Demae Kōza*, which are easy-to-understand presentations by city staff members about various topics. As the Ebetsu CIR, I present three topics: "About International Exchange in Ebetsu," "About Ebetsu's Sister City," and "About American Life and Culture." I give my presentations at the applicant's location. Presentations are generally in Japanese, so one does not need any English ability to understand. In addition, I write *CIR's Corner* every month with the hope that the people of Ebetsu will read them and gain a deeper understanding of international cultures. Thank you to everyone who reads my articles!



Haunted House Prep



Demae Kōza Presentation

Finally, I offer support to foreign residents of Ebetsu. There are currently over 800 foreign residents here. I can help them with things such as procedures at city hall and problems in daily life, completely free of charge. However, I can only speak English and Japanese, so if they speak another language, we have to use a telephone interpretation service.

So, that was a summary of what I do. There is a lot of variety, so there is never a dull day. I feel like I have a purpose here, so I would like to continue working in Ebetsu in the future. ★

＼大好きな日本で自分に合った仕事を！



江別市役所 国際交流員
佐藤 クリスタルさん

↑ From the Ebetsu City Regional Revitalization Team's

Instagram @chiikishinko.ebetsu



I update the city website!
Search for "International Exchange"



Ebetsu ALT Introductions

There are ten Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) working in Ebetsu. The new ALT this year, Selena, has written her self-introduction. Also, six veteran ALTs have submitted a short profile.

New: Mio Selena Jevons



My name is Mio Selena Jevons. Mio is my first name, and Selena is my middle name, but I often use Selena as an ALT or English teacher.

I'm from England, the U.K.

My hometown is Wolverhampton, which is in an area called the West Midlands, because it basically is in the west part of the middle of the country. I actually lived in a small village for most of my life. To be honest, Wolverhampton isn't really famous for anything! We have a football (soccer) team called Wolves and a football stadium, a university, a 500-year old-ish church, and an art museum, but we don't have anything we're particularly known for. Perhaps the most famous thing we have is a statue of Prince Albert, who was Queen Victoria's husband, in the town square. Apparently, it was erected in 1866 and Queen Victoria herself unveiled it after he passed away. It is known to the locals as "the Man on the Horse," and is often a spot where people meet up. The village I lived in, called Tettenhall, is an old, sweet little village with a big park and lots of greenery.

I've lived in Japan for almost 14 years. I first lived in Biei for 2 years, then Iwamizawa for 2 years, and I currently live in Sapporo, which is where I've lived the longest. My mum is Japanese, and ever since I was a child, I had always wanted to live in Japan. My mum is from Tokyo so I would often visit Japan to see my relatives and I always loved it, therefore I wanted to experience living here. As Japanese is my second language I wanted to improve my Japanese language skills too, and I thought living in the country was the best way to learn.

I have a lot of interests and hobbies but I'm generally a very "indoor person." I love spending time

relaxing at home with my cat, watching films (movies), TV shows, and gameplays, though I've started to play a little myself these days.

Music is a big part of my life and I love to sing, therefore I enjoy going to gigs to see professional or amateur musicians and bands, and I sometimes sing in a band myself.

I am a caffeine addict and I often go to cafes, plus I like to go to an onsen once in a while.

I am into beauty and fashion, but since I've become a lot more ethically conscious over the years I try to buy fewer clothes and I really think about what cosmetics I buy, as I want to be as cruelty free as possible. Something I would like to do more of is volunteer work with animals such as helping at animal shelters, or doing work to save animals in wildlife as they are things I really care about.

As a film lover, I often go to the cinema too. I like to travel when I can, and I adore Tokyo Disneyland and USJ! I am also really into festivals and events, especially Halloween, particularly because I love dressing up!

I currently work at two elementary schools; it's been great working here this past month. The teachers and students are all very friendly, and the school lunches are very good! Due to me having to commute to Ebetsu from Sapporo, unfortunately, I don't know the city or area very well, but I'm looking forward to taking part in International Events in the city, such as the Halloween event! As someone who enjoys culture, festivals, and history and traditions, I hope I can learn more about the cultures and traditions of the schools, and Ebetsu where I can, and I hope to share my British culture with not only the students, but the teachers and adults of the area, too.



The flags of the UK and England



Rob



Oregon, USA

How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu? Around 17 years

What do you like about Ebetsu?

I like the relaxing and peaceful environment. There are also lots of parks and nature trails. The proximity to Sapporo, the ocean, and mountains is a big plus. The students are also the best! And of course, Ebe-chun is just the greatest mascot. A great city mascot was really important to me!



Julius



Klaipėda,
Lithuania

How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu? 12 years (since April 2011)

What do you like about Ebetsu?

Parks, balance between city and nature, clean air, wide streets, friendly and kind people.



Kurt



East Lansing,
Michigan, USA



How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu? Over 1/4th of my life

What do you like about Ebetsu?

It takes about 25 minutes for me to walk from Ebetsu Station to my "main" school, but I love walking (especially in winter) and have spent the past 12 years exploring every possible route to get to/from that school.



Ross



Aberdeen,
Scotland, UK

How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu?

Since November 2014

What do you like about Ebetsu?

I like Ebetsu, especially the big open parks around here. There are a lot of good shops to visit and Ebetsu is just the right size.



Kirby



Seattle,
Washington, USA

How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu? 5 years

What do you like about Ebetsu?

I like the atmosphere. There is no big city rush and the people here are more friendly. It really hits that sweet spot.



Anthony



Brisbane,
Queensland,
Australia



How long have you been teaching in Ebetsu? 1 year

What do you like about Ebetsu?

I have lived in 3 cities and 2 prefectures in Japan. I like how Ebetsu has a variety of shopping centers and supermarkets. Being close to a massive forest park (Shinrinkoen) is also a great adventure. Close to where I live in Oasa are many parks, so it is very family friendly. Compared to other cities, it is nice to see a lot more families and young people here. I like seeing people ride bicycles everywhere too. It's very nice to go for a walk on the weekends and on warm afternoons.

Contact Information

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Let's have a great year!

Pictures: Wikimedia Commons, irasutoya.com, Krystal Sato, Kurt Hatanaka, Ross Sutherland, Anthony Tartan