

From the Editor

Hello! My name is Emily Schuster. I am originally from a small town in northern California, in the United States. After graduating university in 2013, I moved to Chippubetsu-cho, Hokkaido, a town even smaller than my hometown. I spent 3 wonderful years teaching English at the junior high and elementary school in Chippubetsu as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in the JET Programme. With every passing year, I fell more and more in love with Hokkaido. When I knew my time as an ALT was coming to an end, I decided to stay on in Hokkaido in a different position.



In August 2016, I moved to Hokkaido's capital city, Sapporo, and began working as a Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) for the Hokkaido Government. In my job here I manage the 200 plus JETs in Hokkaido, handle translations, interpret when the official interpreter is out of town, teach English to the prefectural government employees, and, not least of all, I edit the Red Brick Bulletin.

The Red Brick Bulletin was created in 2008 by the Korean and Chinese CIRs working in the government office in order to inform readers about Hokkaido (history, daily life, etc.) and promote tourism. The English version of the Red Brick Bulletin was first published in November 2010, and is now beyond its 20th issue! The primary goal of the Red Brick Bulletin is to draw connections between Hokkaido and the English speaking world.

As editor, I hope to share the things I love about Hokkaido – the delicious food, the incredible natural beauty, the warm-hearted Hokkaido residents, the unique festivals, the list goes on and on. Each issue I will do a feature article focusing on a specific Hokkaido related topic.

In addition, I'd also like to shine a spotlight on the foreign residents who have come to call Hokkaido home. There are over 200 JET Programme participants living currently in Hokkaido. We come from all over the world, and we all have a unique experience with the island. Each of us has a story to tell, and I'd like to share some of those stories with you.

I have such a wonderful time creating the Red Brick Bulletin, and I hope you enjoy reading it! If you ever have any suggestions, comments, words of advice, please feel free to email me at emily.schuster@pref.hokkaido.lg.jp. Happy reading!

Emily Schuster