

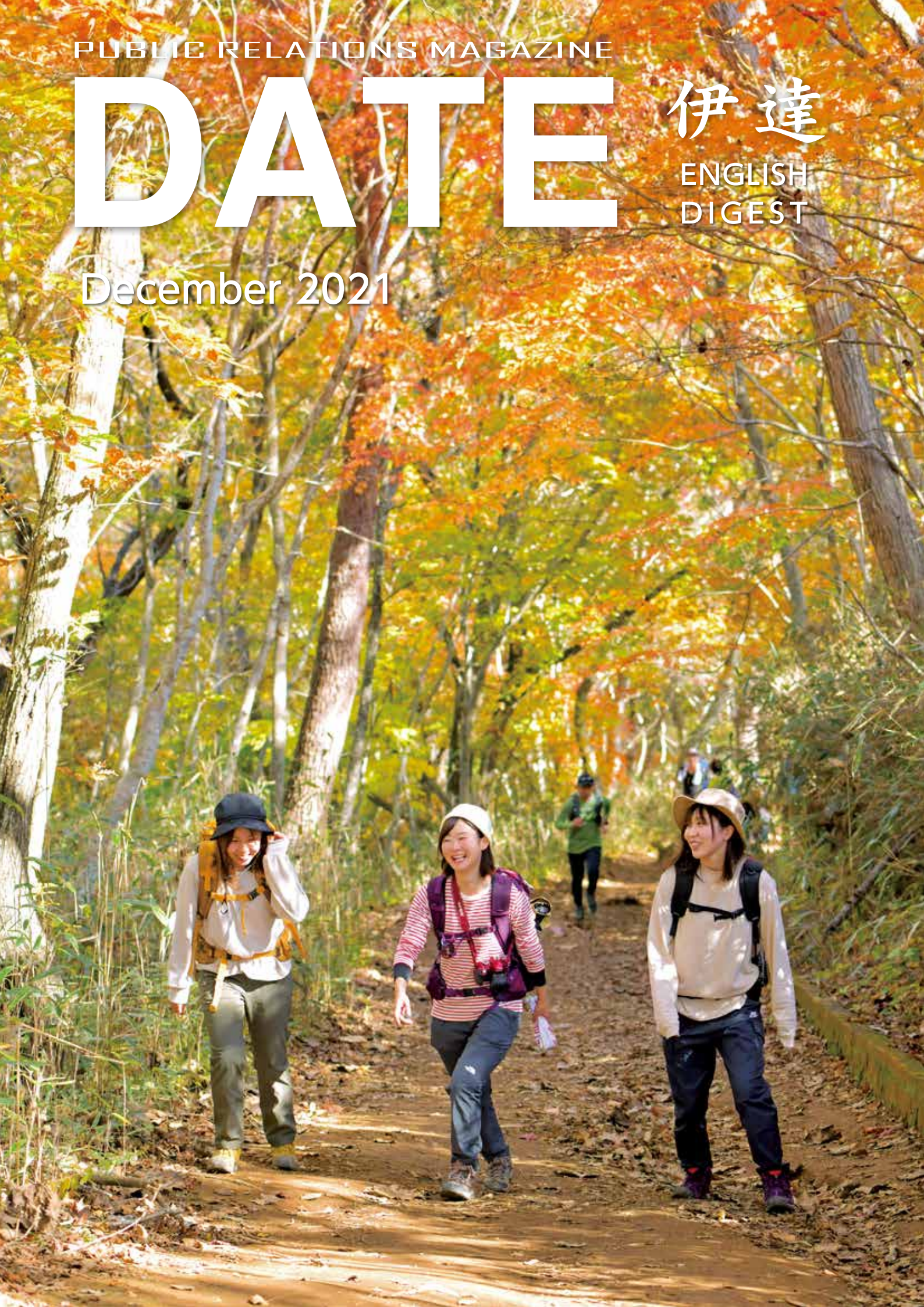
PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

DATE

伊達

ENGLISH
DIGEST

December 2021



The following are translations of news articles found in the Japanese edition.

Lara Appointed as Coordinator for International Relations

Lara Jean Justice, born in the United States of America, has been appointed as a new Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) for Date City.

From now on, Lara will be working closely with the other CIR, Tony, on a variety of tasks to create an environment in which city residents can familiarize themselves with English, such as creating hands-on English lessons for children, and holding English courses for adults.

Additionally, they will be undertaking initiatives aimed at multicultural coexistence, such as holding Japanese language courses for foreign residents, and providing municipal government information in multiple languages.

Lara's Message to City Residents:

I have never been to Fukushima, much less Date City, so I am eager to learn about the abundant history and culture. More than anything though, I hope to learn more about everyone living here so if you see me out and about, please feel free to say hello! I am looking forward to creating wonderful memories with everyone!

[Contact] Collaborative Community Development Department's Collaboration Promotion Section ☎ 575-1177



- Name : Lara Jean Justice
- Hometown : Tennessee, USA
- Favorite Japanese Food : I love ramen!
- What to call me : Please feel free to call me by my first name, "Lara!"

Check it Out! ➡

CIR Facebook Page



Acquisition of a Digital Vaccination Certificate with a My Number Card

The issuance of electronic "Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Inoculation Certificates" for smartphones, making use of *My Number* cards, is being considered.

Those who do not yet have a card, are asked to use this opportunity to think about acquiring one. As it takes from one to two months until

a card is issued, please apply early on. Please inquire with the Resident Services Department (☎ 575-0205) regarding the application process.

[Contact] Novel Coronavirus Countermeasure Department's Vaccine Inoculation Management Section ☎ 572-6456

Temporary Closure of the Municipal Library for the Year End/New Year

The municipal library, as well as the libraries inside the Hobara, Yanagawa, Ryōzen, and Tsukidate Central Exchange Halls, will be closed per the below schedule. As returning books via book drops will not be possible, please return books on or after January 5th. The Electronic Library will be available for use through the Year End/New Year holidays.

[Closure Period] Monday, December 27th ~ Tuesday, January 4th

[Contact] Date Municipal Library ☎ 551-2132



Electronic Library

Japanese Course for Foreign Residents

A course focused on learning everyday words in Japanese and other useful information will be held at City Hall. Around the beginning of December, flyers in English, Chinese, and Japanese with details will be posted in each of the branch offices and exchange halls. Please invite your friends and come join the course!

[Target Demographic] Foreign residents living or working inside of the city, who speak English or Chinese.

[Date and Time] Monday, January 17th, 2021 6:15-7:30 PM

[Place] City Hall's Silk Hall located on the 1st Floor

[Class Limit] 10 People

[Fee] Free

[Application Deadline] Please email, FAX, or bring the completed application (located at the bottom of the flyers) to the Collaborative Community Development Department, or use the following QR code to apply online by Tuesday, December 28th.

[Contact] Collaborative Community Development Department's Collaboration Promotion Section

☎ 575-1177 FAX 575-2570



Online Application!

Christmas Trees

As we approach Christmas, beautifully decorated Christmas tree can be found most everywhere, even here in Japan. Yet they arguably have their roots in Germany, where tree worship was widespread prior to the arrival of Christianity. After the Christian missionary St. Boniface famously felled a particularly venerated oak tree before a crowd of native Hessians, it is said that he pointed to a young fir tree growing from between the roots of the massive oak. As the fir tree pointed straight upwards towards the heavens, and maintained its green foliage no matter the season, he taught that it was more suitable for veneration as a Christian symbol; and even to this day, fir trees are the most popular Christmas trees worldwide.

In America, Christmas trees are an inseparable part of winter holiday celebrations, and have provided me with many fond childhood memories. Growing up, an important task for my family during the Christmas season was selecting and buying a tree, whether directly from the long, forested rows of a Christmas tree farm; or less adventurously, from

cut trees arranged for sale in the parking lot of a local supermarket. Decorating the tree in the living room of our home, and then basking in the illumination of the pulsating Christmas lights, has become my quintessential memory of spending the Christmas holidays with my family. During one such Christmas season, we bought and used a live tree, and mindlessly planted it close behind our house. Now it is more than ten meters tall, and every autumn kindly showers our cars with a layer of old pine needles.

I want to continue the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree, even while living here in Japan; yet I have no interest in artificial trees, and have yet to see cut trees lined up outside a supermarket, much less lined up in rows at a Christmas tree farm. So I have decided that I must raise my own. Growing trees in pots, akin to *bonsai*, seems to be a fitting way to combine Western Christmas traditions with Japanese culture, as well as a way to ensure that the trees always fit inside a Japanese home. Growing my own trees, of course, takes much more time than buying one – so I should get started soon!