

hokkaido *Life*

KEEPING IN TOUCH ONLINE

The links in these documents contain information to make your life in Hokkaido easier and more enjoyable. Access each link and add it to your favourites list.

The internet not only gives us information, but also several ways to communicate with each other.

Here I will share common ways to do so outside of normal e-mail. Just make sure whoever you want to talk to has the same application installed.

MESSENGERS

These allow you to text chat, voice chat and video conference over the internet for free. There are more, but these are the most popular cross platform ones.

Windows Live Messenger - Microsoft

- [<http://get.live.com/messenger/overview>]

Windows PC Version

[<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=d78f2ff1-79ea-4066-8ba0-ddbed94864fc&DisplayLang=en>]

Apple OSX Version

[http://www.microsoft.com/mac/downloads.aspx?pid=Mactopia_Messenger&fid=20726b11-2ae8-4828-8b66-2964e277166d_viewer]

Yahoo Messenger

- [<http://messenger.yahoo.com/>]

Windows PC Version

[\[http://messenger.yahoo.com/\]](http://messenger.yahoo.com/)

Apple OSX Version

[\[http://messenger.yahoo.com/mac/\]](http://messenger.yahoo.com/mac/)

VOIVE OVER IP (VOIP)

These allow you to talk over the internet (video with some) for free. They also offer cheap PC to land/cell rates. There are also hardware versions.

Skype

- [\[http://www.skype.com/\]](http://www.skype.com/)

Windows PC Version

[\[http://www.skype.com/download/\]](http://www.skype.com/download/)

Apple OSX Version

[\[http://www.skype.com/download/skype/macosex/\]](http://www.skype.com/download/skype/macosex/)

Vonage (VoIP Only)

- [\[http://www.vonage.com/\]](http://www.vonage.com/)

BLOGGING

Sometimes you want to write down your thoughts and share them with your friends, family and even the world. Here is some ways to get started. Keep in mind that you shouldn't share pictures of your students, and what you say can be used against you.

WordPress

- [\[http://www.wordpress.org/\]](http://www.wordpress.org/)

It takes a little more knowledge to use, but it's more professional looking. There are plenty of themes to choose from, too. You can either pay for hosting or use free hosting on [\[http://www.wordpress.com/\]](http://www.wordpress.com/).

MySpace

- [<http://www.myspace.com>]

Yeah, don't forget the glitter text I guess!

Facebook

- [<http://www.facebook.com>]

Like MySpace, but with 10% less teenagers!

Flickr

- [<http://www.flickr.com>]

Share your photos with everyone!

FORUMS

When you want to ask stuff or argue about things, there's nothing like an internet forum.

The Hokkaido JET Forum

- [<http://www.hokkaidojets.org>]

If you are an ALT in Hokkaido, then you should already have an account by now.

IThinkImLost

- [<http://www.ithinkimlost.com>]

This is a forum for JETs (and JET hopefuls).

Something Awful.com

- [<http://www.somethingawful.com>]

The Internet makes you stupid. This is a comedy website and also one of the best online communities, in my opinion. There is a \$10 fee to register to filter out the worst people. Lurk and read the rules before posting.

As always, the official [hajat/forum](#) is where you will find all the answers to any questions you may have regarding life in Hokkaido.

HAJET kindly asks you to use paper wisely and only print this document if you really, really must. LOVE HOKKAIDO, LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

USEFUL RESOURCES

HAJET | Forum
Go Japan
JNTO
Japan Visitor

www.hokkaidojets.org
www.gojapan.about.com
www.jnto.go.jp
www.japanvisitor.com

Hokkaido Association of Japan Exchange and Teaching
www.hajet.org

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