

**Listening dialog between a woman and a man.**

Rachael: Hi David! Over here!

David: Oh, hi Rachael. How's it going?

Rachel: Good. I just got off the train. What're you doing here?

David: I'm waiting for some friends. I think their train comes in about 5 minutes.

Rachael: Friends from school?

David: Yeah. We're planning to go watch the Yosakoi-Soran Festival. Our school has a team in the competition this year.

Rachael: That's great! Are they any good?

David: I think so. They hired a dance teacher and a voice coach this year.

Rachael: When did they start practicing?

David: Umm, at the beginning of April.

Rachael: How often did they practice?

David: They practiced 4 nights a week for about 2 hours and 4 hours every Sunday.

Rachael: Sounds like they should be pretty good. How about their costumes?

David: They look amazing. And they change their costumes twice during their performance. It's really cool. It's like magic. Their singers are fantastic, too. Have you ever seen the festival?

Rachael: Only on TV. I've always wanted to watch it in person, but I always seem to be working or out of town.

David: Why don't you come with us? I'm sure my friends would love to meet you. They're all really friendly.

Rachael: I would love to join you. I don't have any plans tonight, either. Do you think it would be ok?

David: Absolutely. Here they come now.

**Choose the right answer for the questions.**

Question No. 1      Where are David and Rachael?

Question No. 2      Who is David waiting for?

Question 3      Why is David going to watch the Yosakoi-Soran Festival?

Question 4      When did the team start practicing?

Question 5      What is Rachael going to do tonight?

## 2023 年度リスニング問題第 2 部スクリプト

New data shows that an increasing number of companies in the Tokyo area are moving their main offices to Japan's northernmost island. Many businesses think that having their main offices in Hokkaido is a good way to protect themselves from risk if there is an emergency.

It is also less important for companies to stay in the Tokyo area, because of the increase in teleworking. The Hokkaido government and Sapporo city are encouraging businesses to move there by offering money and other forms of support.

Lupicia Co., which has 150 stores in and outside of Japan that sell tea products from all over the world, moved its headquarters to Hokkaido from the Tokyo region. Hiroki Mizuguchi, the president of Lupicia, believes that large populations in urban areas are at risk from natural disasters and diseases like the coronavirus.

Lupicia moved to Hokkaido's Niseko from Daikanyama in Tokyo in 2020. The company's factory, restaurant and resort for employees have already been set up in Niseko. About 20 staff members have now moved there from Tokyo. Once the houses for the staff and the new office are finished in February 2023, about 100 people will be working for Lupicia in Niseko.

Lupicia made its highest profits in the financial year ending in June 2021, thanks to excellent online sales during the pandemic. The advanced information technology used during the coronavirus has shown that companies can do most of their work remotely at low cost and low risk. Mr. Mizuguchi believes that companies that move to local areas will gradually become more common.

In 2021, 33 businesses arrived in Hokkaido from the Tokyo area. Hokkaido's natural surroundings have wide appeal. Situating a company in nature is often said to improve workers' health.

In addition to this advantage, the dangers of having main offices in and around Tokyo became clear to many people during the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

For example, Axa Life Insurance Co. set up its Sapporo main office in 2014. The international insurance company looked at areas in Japan that rarely have earthquakes and considered 65 cities throughout the country before choosing Sapporo for its headquarters.

Despite all this, however, many companies still believe that having main offices in the Tokyo region offers many business advantages, such as in hiring new employees and maintaining links with clients. It may be that the growing number of companies moving to Hokkaido is just a temporary boom.