

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



April 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

March 3

Tomoka TAKEUCHI, a silver medalist in women's Alpine snowboarding at Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, visited Asahikawa City Hall to talk with the Mayor while returning to her home. The silver medalist told the Mayor that she would be glad if her winning the silver medal would encourage people in Asahikawa to participate in winter sports more, such as snowboarding. She asked the Mayor if Asahikawa City would sponsor a Snowboard World Cup like the City had done back in 2001.

March 4

The ratio of households with *kotatsu* in Hokkaido is lower than that in Okinawa, and also the lowest in Japan, according to a survey by Weathernews Inc., a weather service company. *Kotatsu* is a small table with an electronic heater underneath, covered with a quilt to retain the heat. The company explained that 30 percent of households in Okinawa have the table with a heater, while 23 percent of those in Hokkaido do, because the entire house is warmed by heating installation in Hokkaido.

March 4

Hokkaido Prefectural Police Headquarters announced that based on the result of fatal traffic crash analysis in 2013, nine out of ten road fatalities in the rear seat of vehicles would have a chance of being alive if the passengers were strapped into their seats. According to research by Japan Automobile Federation, percentage of people wearing seat belts in Hokkaido last year was 40.6 in rear seats, 93.2 in passenger's seats and 96.8 in driver's seats.

March 5

NHK announced to have chosen an American actor, Charlotte Kate Fox, as Rita, a leading role in "Massan," a morning TV drama series to be aired from September 2014 to March 2015. It is the first time for NHK to cast a non-Japanese actor as a lead of a serial drama with high ratings. The story set in Yoichi town near Otaru depicts the life of Massan, a founder of Nikka Whisky Distilling, and his wife Rita. They met in Scotland and struggled to make whisky in Japan around the beginning of the twentieth century.

March 6

Occi Gabi Winery in Yoichi Town is offering a course on viticulture, wine brewing and restaurant business to encourage wine industry in the district. The winery is accepting five students for the course, who are 20 years or older, living in or willing to move to Yoichi, and can afford 1.8 million yen tuition. The class starts in April 2014 and ends in September 2015.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

Address:

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Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Expressions of Life: Works of Art Students Who Died During War 戦没画学生〈生命の絵〉展

"I want to survive, return home and paint once again!" This was a desperate desire of many young art students who fought for their country and passed away during World War II. This exhibition includes 150 pieces of work from about forty five students whose paintings have been preserved by the Mugonkan Museum of Art.

Date: now to April 6th (Sunday) except on Mondays and holidays
Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)
Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)
Admission: General—¥800, High School Students and Under—Free
For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577
Website: <http://www.dokyoji.pref.hokkaido.jp/hk-asamu/>



Exhibition of Shoichi IDA's Works: "Between" - The Between-World 井田照一作品展「間」—あいだの世界

What does the word, "between," really mean; a gap between two things, or is it more correct to see it as a relationship formed by two matters? Shoichi IDA's paper-works and sculptures speculate the above questions and may even create the "between-world" for you. If you haven't heard of him before, this is a good place to start. IDA was one of the best known paper artists and printmakers in Japan whose work is held in collections around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Date: Now to April 6th (Sunday) except on Mondays and holidays
Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)
Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park) the 2nd exhibition room
Admission: General—¥170, High School Students—¥100, Seniors and Children—Free



—あいだの世界—
新収蔵 井田照一作品展

2013.11.16 Sat ▶ 2014.4.6 Sun
北海道立旭川美術館 第2展示室
観料: 一般170(100)円 高校生100(50)円
(1)内は団体料金。
16歳以上、中学生以下の団体料、土曜日は高校生無料。
その他の割引については、0166-25-2577までお問い合わせ。
主催: 北海道立旭川美術館

Shiko KATSURA's Rakugo Performance 桂枝光独演会

KATSURA is an Osaka-born rakugo performer who has been one of the leading proponents of reviving popularity of rakugo in Hokkaido. He now resides in Sapporo and even founded a new theater that specializes in Japanese traditional comic performances. If you are looking to experience traditional Japanese comedy and story-telling, here is your chance.

Date: April 8th (Tuesday)
Time: Doors 6:10 pm, Show 6:30 pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Japanese Room (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: ¥1,000
Ticket Offices: Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Children's Fukido, Takasago Brewery
For Further Information Contact: 080-7000-6403

桂枝光独演会
3月2日(日) 開演13:00 開演13:30
4月8日(火) 開演18:10 開演18:30
旭川市民文化会館 3月第二会議室
(旭川市7条9丁目) 4月和室
水戸銭:1,000円 主催: 志志堂旭川店 高砂酒店
協賛: 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団、旭川市文化センター、旭川市観光協会
後援: 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団、旭川市文化センター、旭川市観光協会、旭川市観光協会、旭川市観光協会
電話: 旭川市観光協会 旭川市文化センター 旭川市観光協会 080-7000-6403

The 47th Concert of Asahikawa City Youth Wind Orchestra 第47回定期演奏会 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団

Asahikawa Youth Wind Orchestra is having its 47th regular concert this month. The concert will be divided into two parts, including a special guest performance by Ms. FUJIKAGE. The Wind Orchestra is also looking for new members, so if you are interested in joining please contact the number below.

Date: April 13th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 2:00 pm, Show 2:30 pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: General—¥800, High School and Under —¥500
Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Taisetsu Crystal Hall
For Further Information Contact: 080-2873-7000 (HATAKEYAMA)
Website: www9.ocn.ne.jp/~blueboys/ (Japanese)

旭川市青少年吹奏楽団
2014.4.13 (日)
開演2:00PM 開演2:30PM
旭川市民文化会館 3月第二会議室
旭川市7条9丁目
水戸銭:800円 主催: 志志堂旭川店 高砂酒店
協賛: 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団、旭川市文化センター、旭川市観光協会
後援: 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団、旭川市文化センター、旭川市観光協会、旭川市観光協会
電話: 旭川市観光協会 旭川市文化センター 旭川市観光協会 080-7000-6403

The Guiana Highlands Exhibition

ギアナ高地展

“Guiana” means “the land of water.” In 2013, Hiroshi ABE and Takaki TERASAWA visited South America to take pictures and sketch one of the oldest geological formations, the Guiana Shield. The higher elevations on the shield are called the Guiana Highlands, which are where the table-like mountains called tepuis are found. They are overlain by the largest expanse of undisturbed tropical rain forest in the world and also the source of some of the world’s most spectacular waterfalls, such as Angel Falls and Kaieteur Falls. This exhibition is to share mysterious wonders of nature.

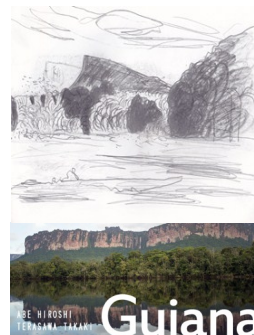
Date: now to April 20th (Sunday), except on Mondays and Tuesdays

Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Venue: Gallery PuruPuru of Kawauso Club Office (7-jo 8-chome)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-73-8289 or email purupuru@snow.plala.or.jp



The Fourth Exhibition: “Yasushi INOUE And Calamity”

第4回企画展「井上靖と天災地変」

A few months ago I have written about Yasushi INOUE and the memorial hall dedicated for him. Well, this time there is a special exhibition to convey what kind of a message INOUE was trying to convey to his readers through the uses of natural disasters as a motif in some novels, such as Kanagawa and Isewan Typhoons, and the volcano eruption of Mt. Bandai.

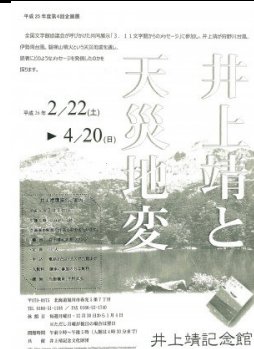
Date: now to April 20th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General—¥200, High School Students—¥100, Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-1188



Ikuzo YOSHI's Concert

吉幾三コンサート

Ikuzo YOSHI is a famous Japanese enka singer-song writer who is considered one of the only major enka singers who writes his own songs. His stage name is a pun for “Yoshi, Ikuzo! (よし、いくぞー! Alright, let’s go!)” YOSHI has released several popular albums, including famous hits like “Yuki Guni (1986),” “Sake-yo (1988),” and “Suika (1990).” He has quite a few “upbeat” enka songs, as well as slower ballads. If you are an enka fan, you might not want to miss this concert.

Date: April 23rd (Wednesday)

Time: Day Show: 14:00, Evening Show: 18:30

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

Admission: All Seats—¥6,500

Ticket Offices: Lawson, Ticket Pia (at 7-Eleven), Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Coach & Four Music Corner



Let's Go to the Temple Photo Contest

お寺に行こう フォトコンテスト

Asahikawa branch temple is one of the largest wooden architectures within Hokkaido Prefecture, surrounded by trees that are several hundred years old. The temple went through major repairs, including renewal of its main road. In order to show the renewed temple to many people, Otani sect of Shinshu Asahikawa branch temple is hosting a photo contest. The theme can be on anything that is relevant to the temple. You can submit as many pieces as you want on a 2L size photo paper, addressed to:

〒070-0030 Asahikawa City Miyashita-dori 2-chome 1463

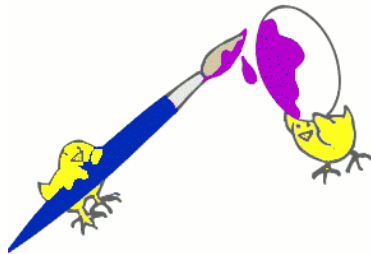
Date: now to May 31st (Saturday)

Prize: Grand Prize(1): ¥50,000 Second Place(2): ¥20,000 Honorable Mention (10): ¥5,000 in gift certificates. A small present will be given for all participants.



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR APRIL

Holidays Around the World (April)



This year, Easter falls on April 20th. In case you didn't know, Easter is one of the most holiest days in the Christian calendar, which celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. So what does this holiday have to do with Easter bunnies and painted eggs? Let us take a brief look at the history of Easter and how it changed over time.

Most of the Easter traditions have a strong relationship to a hundred generations of rituals and customs. According to the gospels of the New Testament, Jesus and his apostles entered Jerusalem to observe Passover, the Jewish holy season that celebrates the Hebrews' release from slavery. After the Passover supper, Jesus was arrested, and on what is now known as "Good Friday," he was crucified. Then two days later he rose from the dead. Those of Jewish origin were the first to celebrate the Resurrection, likely as a new facet of the Passover festival. In fact, the Easter celebration was called "pascha," which derived from the word "pesach." (the Jewish translation for Passover)

Originally Easter was celebrated two days after Passover, so it fell on any day of the week. But "Easter Wednesday," for instance, just didn't feel right. So in 325 A.D., Roman Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea ruled that Easter must fall only on a Sunday, the day when Christ rose. Easter Sunday would be the first Sunday to follow the full moon after the spring equinox. It could occur anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th.

Around the same time, Christians began one of the first recorded rituals of the modern Easter celebration: the lighting of the paschal candle. It was a reminder of Christ's resurrection, light out of darkness. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, different pagan customs blended into the holiday. In

fact, the actual word "Easter" might have come from "Eostre," the goddess of spring and fertility.

Then how did eggs become a symbol of Easter? Actually, eggs have been a mythological symbol of birth for thousands of years. Christians adopted the egg as an Easter custom sometime around the 13th century. The yolk inside a shell represented Christ's emergence from the tomb. Eggs were painted red to represent the blood Christ shed on the cross. The colorful Easter egg soon hatched its own traditions. A popular one was "egg rolling." In 1876, Congress prohibited kids from playing on the Capitol grounds. So President Rutherford B. Hayes opened the White House lawn to the little rollers. After that, the White House Easter Egg Roll became a tradition.

So when did the Easter bunny hop into the picture? The fertile rabbit had long been a symbol for new life in European pagan celebrations. Beginning around the 16th century parents told children that if they behaved, the Osterhase would come and lay colorful eggs on the eve of Easter. Children built nests in their homes to entice the rabbit to visit, and so began the customs of the Easter egg hunt and the Easter basket. To help fill up those baskets, 19th century European Chocolatiers began making egg-shaped chocolates. This sweet trend quickly spread throughout the world. Today billions of dollars are spent each year on Easter candy.

Easter—it's a joyful day when Christians celebrate the Resurrection. For 2,000 years customs have been added, some spiritual and some fun. But Easter is also the time for families to gather and welcome spring, when new life emerges after the dead of winter.

Source: <http://www.history.com>

Easter

By Kim LACEY



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Shingu Kang
Hometown: Suwon, South Korea
Interviewed: March 18th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *To start off, what are you doing in Asahikawa? What brought you here?*

Kang: I was dispatched to Asahikawa City for about a year by Suwon City, one of the two sister cities of Asahikawa. As an exchange government official, I currently work at Asahikawa International Center, which is part of Asahikawa City International Affairs Division.

AIC: *I see. Could you briefly tell us some of your duties in Asahikawa City?*

Kang: As an exchange government official, I study and observe different departments within Asahikawa City Hall and compare and contrast with Suwon City. It is my job to learn from good aspects of administration here and also introduce Suwon's system in order to promote both cities. In addition, I often meet with Asahikawa residents and students to introduce Korean culture, Suwon City's industry and tourism. Also, I sometimes participate in translating Korean to Japanese, and vice versa.

AIC: *What are some ups and downs of your work here?*

Kang: I do not mean to convey any negative connotation, but living abroad alone can be quite challenging. I don't own my own car here in Japan, so it takes a lot of time and money to travel or just to go somewhere not within walking distance. At the same time, I guess traveling by bus or train adds unique flavor to my trip in a certain way. As for perks of my job, it felt rewarding when I heard my recorded voice in Korean used for Asahikawa City's Festival advertisement in downtown area. It also felt awesome to interact with kids from Kamui Higashi Elementary School a few months ago. We talked together, played games and ate together. When I heard the children sing a song, I thought of my hometown and was deeply moved.

AIC: *Could you introduce Suwon City for the readers who might have never heard of the place?*

Kang: Sure. Suwon City was greatly renewed by King Jeongjo, who was the 22nd king of Joseon Dynasty of Korea. He built an impressive fortress and moved the people to Suwon. As a result, it soon grew into a flourishing industrial city. Since agriculture was the major focus in Korea back then, artificial reservoirs were built across Suwon.



Suwon City, centering around Hwaseong Fortress

Hello Asahikawa!

Shingu Kang Interview (Part Two) Continued from Page 5

Later on, national agricultural research centers began to establish themselves in the City as well. By the way, Suwon City is where the global corporation SK started business with its textile industry. Countless research institutes for leading corporations, such as Samsung Electronics, are also located in vibrant Suwon City. You can see the past, present and future coexist while staring at Hwaseong Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Suwon—one of the biggest and wealthiest cities in South Korea.

AIC: *Thanks for the great introduction. What are your hobbies?*

Kang: As a boy, I grew up playing many sports like soccer and baseball but in high school music started to fascinate me. I shortly took piano lessons but quit because of social stereotype associated with gender at the time in South Korea. But to this day I like to sing and participate in choral singing. I can't say that I am a great singer but rather try to enjoy it. In Japan I love riding on my bike while listening to music. I won't be able to forget the refreshing nature of Asahikawa when pedaling along the riverside.

AIC: *You've mentioned earlier that you love to travel. What place in Japan has left you the most impression so far?*



Tenshu of Inuyama Castle in spring.

Kang: Even before coming to Japan as an exchange government official, I had frequent opportunities to visit various cities in Japan for business trips. The city that still has a special place in my heart is a small city called Inuyama, near Nagoya. People were so friendly and the City was very peaceful. Inuyama Castle was really impressive, as it still retains the original form even after so many years, partly because the city residents put a lot of effort to preserve their city's historical roots. I could also feel their passion and enthusiasm to host more visitors from around the world for the city's renowned festival, which was very memorable.

AIC: *Lastly, please share your plans in Japan before returning to Korea. Is there anything specific that you would like to do?*

Kang: Hmm... It's not a grand plan or anything but I would definitely like to try biking all the way to Kurodake. I've gone to Aibetsu last year so I would like to push myself a little harder. Also, since I couldn't climb to the top of Asahidake due to snow last time, I plan on trying again before returning home.

AIC: *Hope you enjoy the remaining time in Asahikawa. Thank you very much for agreeing to this interview.*

Kang: No problem. Thanks for having me.

★ *Movies* ~ *April* ★

*Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for men.

*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Kamisama no Karute 2 (Japanese)
- LIFE! (English)
- Precure Allstars (Japanese/Animation)
- RoboCop (English)
- Frozen (English)
- Riddick (English/R-15)
- Silver Spoon (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Majo no Takkyubin (Japanese)
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (English)
- Mogura no Uta Sennyusosakan REIJI (Japanese)
- Dakishimetai (Japanese)
- Eien no Zero (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Sanbun no ichi (Japanese/PG12) 4/1
- Sakurasaku (Japanese) 4/5
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12) 4/12
- Crayon Shin-chan the movie (Japanese/Animation) 4/19
- Detective Conan the movie (Japanese/Animation) 4/19
- Captain America:The Winter Soldier (English) 4/19
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English) 4/25
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese) 4/26
- Aibo the movie 3 (Japanese) 4/26
- Enchanted Kingdom (English) 5/2
- Akumu-chan the movie (Japanese) 5/3

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

Now Showing

- Lone Survivor (English/PG12) 3/21
- Kamisama no Karute 2 (Japanese) 3/21
- LEGO® Movie (English/Animation)3/21
- Saving Mr. Banks (English) 3/21
- LIFE! (English) 3/19
- Frozen (English) 3/14
- RoboCop (English) 3/14
- Doraemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 3/8
- Silver Spoon (Japanese) 3/7
- Idainaru Shurabobon (Japanese) 3/8
- Majo no Takkyubin (Japanese)
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (English)
- Kamen Teacher The Movie (Japanese)
- Mogura no Uta Sennyusosakan REIJI (Japanese)
- Dakishimetai (Japanese)
- Eien no Zero (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider the Movie ~Heisei Rider vs Showa Rider~ (Japanese)
- Shirayukihime Satsujin Jiken (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Los amantes pasajeros (Spanish/R-15) 4/5
- Grand Piano (English) 4/5
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12) 4/12
- Captain America: The Winter Soldier (English) 4/19
- Crayon Shin-chan the movie (Japanese/Animation) 4/19
- Detective Conan the movie (Japanese/Animation) 4/19
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English) 4/25
- Aibo the movie 3 (Japanese) 4/26
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese) 4/26
- Enchanted Kingdom (English) 5/2

Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.

Special Easter Event

Asahikawa International Center is hosting an Easter Event with Consul Theodore E. Diehl from Consulate General of the United States in Sapporo. He will give a short talk on Easter, which will be followed by dyeing of Easter eggs. Dyeing Easter eggs is a fun Easter family tradition in the U.S.

If you would like to learn about Easter from Consul Diehl and engage in this fun activity, feel free to come out with your family!

Date: April 19th (Saturday)

Time: 1:30-2:30pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center
(Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Charge: Free

For Further Information/Sign-Up Contact:
(0166) 25-7491



Feeeal de Nihongo

Starting in May, Asahikawa International Center will be hosting Japanese language sessions for foreigners or non-native Japanese speakers. Volunteers can answer your questions or help you work on the weak areas in Japanese. The lessons will be quite flexible without a strict curriculum or lesson plans. Please come out if you would like to improve your Japanese.

For more information on exact date and time of *Feeeal de Nihongo*, please call the Asahikawa International Committee to the number below or send an email to: aic1_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp



Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

Dates: April 11th&25th, May 9th&23rd, June 13th&27th

*starting this month, Fun Fridays will be held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
(Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties.

Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.

Center Computers: The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. Please feel free to come by and use them anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center.

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

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E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****