

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### July 1

Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center is offering information on how to prepare for natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunami, blizzards, and snowstorms, in English, Chinese, Korean, and Russian on its website. The center aims to give information on how to respond to those disasters both to residents and visitors from abroad, because few of them may have experienced such in the past. The URL (site address) to the website is <http://www.hiecc.or.jp/archive.html>.

### July 3

A farmer in Tsukigata Town near Iwamizawa City is busy making shipments of his "pyramid watermelons." The watermelons are squeezed into four-sided pyramid casing during growth. They are grown for decorative purpose but are edible, too.

### July 5

"Asahiyama Miura Garden," a place famous for its water lilies, is open to the public again for the first time in three years. Visitors to the garden can enjoy watching water lilies bloom in the garden pond. The City of Asahikawa bought the garden in 2011 after its owner passed away, and then built a summerhouse, walking trails, and a path that connects to Asahiyama Zoo.

### July 10

Retail price of a Pacific saury caught for the first time in this season rose close to 1,000 yen at a fish shop in Kushiro. Whole sale price is 40 percent higher than that of the previous year, because the number of fish caught on the first day of the season was mere one seventh of that of last year. Pacific saury is common fish consumed in Japanese households.

### July 12

The Pacific Music Festival Organizing Committee carried out an unveiling ceremony of a statue of Leonard Bernstein, an advocate of the music festival, in Nakajima Park in Sapporo. The committee put up the statue in commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PMF. The mayor of Sapporo City, and the chairperson of board of directors, said in his speech that the statue was set up with a feeling of gratitude and respect for Maestro Bernstein.



### For further information or to register for events contact:

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

#### Location:

International/City Affairs Division,  
Comprehensive Policy Dept.

#### Address:

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

**The 72nd Special Exhibition: A Trip to Find the Roots of Baidarka****第72回企画展 北の海の記憶 バイダルカのルーツを探る旅**

The Baidarka was the watercraft created by the native people of the Aleutian Islands. Due to the geography and climate of the Islands, trees and wood were in scarce supply and the people relied primarily on driftwood to create the framework, which was covered with the skins of sea mammals. This exhibition features the work of a photographer, SATO Masahito, who traveled from Soya to Rishiri and Reibun Islands on baidarka himself and recorded the journey on his camera. SATO will be visiting Asahikawa City Museum on August 2nd (Sat) to give a special presentation on his experience from 2-4 pm. If you are interested in hearing more about baidarka, this would be a good day to go. There are limited number of seats available, so you might want to call ahead and sign-up for the presentation.



**Date:** now to August 17th (Sunday)

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

**Venue:** Asahikawa City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome, inside Taisetsu Crystal Hall)

**Admission:** General—¥300, High School Students—¥200, Elementary and Middle School Students—Free

**To Sign-Up for the Presentation Contact:** 0166-69-2004

**Original Illustrations for Picture Books: From the Kembuchi Town Picture Book Museum Collection****つたえる はぐむ えほんのえ！—剣淵町絵本の館コレクションから—**

Every one of us has read a picture book while growing up, even before we could read, because illustrations inside the book would take us away to an imaginary land. This exhibition is a chance for you to reminisce your childhood. It will be fun to see the similarities in picture books between Japan and your country.



**Date:** now to August 20th (Wednesday)

**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—¥820, High School Students—¥510, Middle School and Elementary School Students—¥300

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577

**Family Concert “Present of the Music”****ファミリーコンサート 音楽のおくりもの**

This interactive concert can be enjoyed by the whole family, from children to their grandparents. If you are worried that your kids won't be able to sit still for an hour, rest assured. There will be fun activities where everybody can sing along a Japanese traditional nursery song, “The Raccoon of Mt. Genkotsu (げんこつやまのためきさん),” or “Hometown (ふるさと),” take part in a quiz session, and listen to the famous Disney Classics song medley. There are two programs to choose from; the Waiwai Concert and the Afternoon Concert. The Waiwai Concert, which starts at 11 am, welcomes infants of three years and younger to enjoy classical music for free. There will be a nursing room available as well for your convenience. The Afternoon Concert (at 2 pm), however, only allows children who are four years or older. If you have been missing out on concerts because of your baby, this is a good chance for you to go enjoy classical music and relax with your whole family.



**Date:** August 16th (Saturday)

**Time:** Waiwai Concert—Doors 10:30 am, Show 11:00 am,

Afternoon Concert—Doors 1:30 pm, Show 2:00 pm

**Venue:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome), Music Room

**Admission:** Adults (high school students and up) —¥1,500, Children (4+ years)—¥500

**Ticket Offices:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Yamaha Music Retailing, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Taisetsu Crystal Hall)

## The North Japan Philharmonic Orchestra's 26th Concert 北日本フィルハーモニー管弦楽団 第26回定期演奏会

This regular annual concert will include masterpieces of Schubert (Symphony No. 5 in B flat, D. 485 1. Allegro) and of Mozart (Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550.) The program is also featuring YAMAKAWA Tsugumi on clarinet as a special performer for Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622.

**Date:** August 18th (Monday)

**Time:** Doors 6:00 pm, Show 6:30 pm

**Venue:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** ¥2,000 (¥1,500, when purchased in advance)

**Ticket Offices:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall Sales Office, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Sales Office, Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Yamaha Music Retailing, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner, Shimada Music School

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-22-2078 (Shimada Music School)



## Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters' 2014 Asahikawa Opening (against Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles) 北海道日本ハムファイターズ2014旭川開催(対戦相手:東北楽天ゴールデンイーグルズ)

Japanese baseball culture is quite unique, and it will be worth going to at least one game while you are in Japan, even if you are not a big baseball fan. It can provide insight into a culture that you just can't get in a museum, castle or religious shrine. And if you are a fan, the experience will be just more enjoyable. There were two games in Asahikawa last month, which means that this will be the last chance of the year to see the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters' game in Asahikawa. Special events will take place, prior to and during the games. Make sure to buy your ticket well in advance if you are thinking of going to the game.

**Date:** August 19th (Tuesday) and 20th (Wednesday)

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Starukhin Baseball Stadium (Hanasakicho 2-chome)

**Admission:** Online Reserved Seats ¥4,700 (¥5,000), Infield Reserved S-Seat ¥4,700 (¥5,000), Infield Reserved A-Seat ¥3,600 (¥4,000), Outfield Unreserved Seat—Adults ¥1,600 (¥1,800), Outfield Unreserved Seat—Elementary School Students ¥600 (¥800)  
\*prices shown in parenthesis are for tickets purchased at the door.

**Ticket Offices:** Asahikawa Development and Promotion Corporation Ltd., MEGA Don Quijote Asahikawa (Service Counter on 1F), Doshin Play Guide, Ticket Pia (P-code: 826-276), Lawson Ticket (L-Code for August 19th: 10819, for August 20th: 10820), 7-Eleven, JR Hokkaido Ticket Window (*midori-no-madoguchi*), JTB Ticket Desk

**Purchasing Online:** Fighters' Baseball Team Website: <http://www.fighters.co.jp>

Fighters' Official Smartphone Website: <http://sp.fighters.co.jp>

JTB Ticket: <http://www.jtb.co.jp/ticket>

**For Further Information Contact:** 011-241-3871 (Doshin Play Guide in Sapporo)



## Masterpieces of Japanese Paintings from the collection of Mizuho Museum of Art 水野美術館所蔵 日本画の巨匠たち — 横山大観から平山郁夫まで—

Paintings of major figures in the Japanese painting technique of "Nihonga," a method of drawing that departed from the traditional line drawing, will be in display for this exhibition. You will see that these paintings concentrate on soft, blurred polychromes. The featured works are by the most influential painters of the modern Japan, including HASHIMOTO Gaho, YOKOYAMA Taikan, KAYAMA Matazo, and HIRAYAMA Ikuo.

**Date:** August 30th (Saturday) to October 19th (Sunday)

**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—¥1,100, High School Students—¥600, Middle School Students—¥300, Elementary School Students and under—Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST

## Words of Wisdom Around the World

Compiled by KAWAI Tatsuo



Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. (Winston Churchill)

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. (Thomas Edison)

Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. (Abraham Lincoln)

Harmony is to be valued. (Prince Shotoku)

Hunger is the best sauce in the world. (Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra)

I am dying with the help of too many physicians. (Alexander the Great)

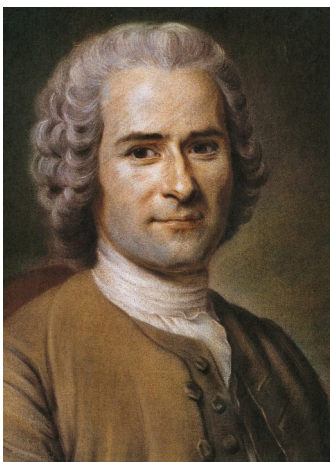


Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.  
(Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

O wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind? (Percy Bysshe Shelly)

Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people. (Karl Marx)

Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.  
(Albert Einstein)



The best of doctors are destined for Hell. (Talmud)

But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.  
(Benjamin Franklin)

Let bygones be bygones. (Homer)

The best road to progress is freedom's road. (John F. Kennedy)



# Life in Asahikawa

## Sunflower Maze (ひまわり迷路)

By SAKURABA Satoshi

It can be said that sunflower is one of the most famous summer flowers in Japan. You can see gently sloping fields of sunflowers in some towns nearby Asahikawa, for example, Hokuryu Town (北竜町 : ほくりゅうちょう) and Pippu Town (比布町 : ぴっぷちょう). Hokuryu Town is located about an hour west of Asahikawa by car, while Pippu Town is located about thirty minutes north of Asahikawa, also by car.

Sunflower maze appears in those towns every summer. The common objective for all challengers is to head for the goal of the maze. However, you cannot enjoy the maze fully if you merely aim for the exit. Actually, in the sunflower maze, there are various “check points,” and the challengers need to get a stamp at each location for their stamp cards. The mazes are designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, and it isn't too difficult to reach the goal.

The sunflower maze in Hokuryu Town is very large, and you can walk around in rows and rows of sunflowers. Actually there is so much more than just a sunflower maze in the Town. You can even feed ostriches and enjoy cool sunflower ice cream. The picture on the left is the sunflower maze in Hokuryu



from about three years ago. You can enjoy this kind of scenery as long as you pick a sunny day.

If you happen to go on a bad day, and it starts to pour, be prepared. Your shoes are likely to be covered in mud. I recommend that you check the weather in advance and visit the sunflower maze on a nice day.

# This Month In History

## August By Kim LACEY

- Aug 01, 1914: WWI is declared in Europe, which would cause unprecedented destruction of life.
- Aug 02, 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait around 2 am.
- Aug 03, 1861: Last instalment of *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is published in England.
- Aug 04, 1944: The Nazi Gestapo captures 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family.
- Aug 05, 1914: The world's first electric traffic signal is installed in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Aug 06, 1945: American B-29 bomber drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- Aug 07, 1947: Wood raft *Kon-Tiki*, captained by a Norwegian anthropologist, makes 4,300-mile voyage.
- Aug 08, 1974: Richard Nixon becomes the first president in American history to resign.
- Aug 09, 1936: At the Berlin Olympics, African American track star Jesse Owens wins the 4th gold medal.
- Aug 10, 1793: After more than two centuries as a royal palace, the Louvre opens as a public museum.
- Aug 11, 1973: Hip Hop is born at a birthday party in the west Bronx, NY, by DJ Kool Herc.
- Aug 12, 1990: Part of the largest-ever skeleton of *Tyrannosaurus rex* is discovered.
- Aug 13, 1961: Berlin is divided shortly after midnight on this day between East and West Germany.
- Aug 14, 2003: A major outage knocks out power across the northeastern United States and Canada.
- Aug 15, 1947: India and Pakistan win independence after 200 years of British rule.
- Aug 16, 1896: Gold is discovered in Canada's Yukon Territory, which sparks the last great gold rush.
- Aug 17, 1969: The grooviest event in music history, the Woodstock Music Festival, concludes.
- Aug 18, 1991: Soviet hard-liners launch coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.
- Aug 19, 1909: The first race is held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- Aug 20, 1911: The first around-the-world telegram is sent by the New York Times office.
- Aug 21, 1959: Hawaii becomes 50th state of the United States of America
- Aug 22, 1864: The International Red Cross is founded to provide humanitarian aid to victims of wars.
- Aug 24, 79: Mount Vesuvius erupts in Southern Italy, devastating prosperous Roman cities of Pompeii.
- Aug 25, 1939: *The Wizard of Oz*, which will become one of the best-loved movies in history, debuts.
- Aug 27, 1883: The most powerful volcanic eruption in recorded history occurs in Krakatau.
- Aug 28, 1941: Mass slaughter of Hungarian Jews takes place in occupied Ukraine.
- Aug 29, 2005: Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster in the U.S. history slams into the Gulf Coast.
- Aug 30, 30 B.C.: Cleopatra, queen of Egypt and lover of Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony, commits suicide.
- Aug 31, 1980: Representatives of the communist government of Poland signs accord with Gdansk workers.



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** BAEK Eunsook  
**Hometown:** Hwaseong, South Korea  
**Interviewed:** July 22nd, 2014 by AIC

**AIC:** *What brought you to Asahikawa and what are you doing here?*

**Eunsook:** Asahikawa is a sister city of Suwon, South Korea, and the two cities are exchanging government officials who belong to the City Halls every year. The thought of being able to experience a new culture and work under a different environment in Japan was quite appealing to me, so I decided to apply for this position. Luckily, I was selected and dispatched in May. At the moment, I am focusing on improving my Japanese while helping out with simple translations, and working on exchange activities. I am also serving as what you might call a correspondent, since I write monthly reports back to Suwon City on what is new in Asahikawa. Starting in October, I will be going to different departments and divisions within Asahikawa City to observe and learn.

**AIC:** *How do you like to spend your free time?*

**Eunsook:** Well, since I've come to Japan, I like meeting up with Japanese government officials who have been dispatched to Suwon in the past. I also have made some new friends from various countries in Asahikawa since my arrival, so I like talking with them over a meal. On weekends, I enjoy going to some popular tourist spots nearby and traveling.

**AIC:** *So, you have been to Japan for almost two months. What is your impression of Hokkaido so far?*

**Eunsook:** I have been to bigger cities in Japan in the past, like Tokyo and Kyoto, but this is my first time in Hokkaido. The clean air here is very refreshing, and I am enjoying the cool Hokkaido weather, even though it is summer. I've noticed that most cities in Hokkaido are clean and quiet. People are also very friendly and nice.

**AIC:** *Yes, I agree. I personally consider Hokkaido as the hidden gem of Japan for many reasons. Since you are here as an exchange government official, I am curious to know how Asahikawa and Suwon differ from each other from your observations.*

**Eunsook:** Gyeonggi Provincial Government Building is located in Suwon City, which has the population of 1,500,000. If we only look at the size of the areas of Asahikawa and Suwon, though, Asahikawa is actually three times bigger, so you can say that Suwon is much more crowded in comparison to Asahikawa City. I also found it interesting that Asahikawa is laid out on a simple grid system in most cases, and that it is useful when trying to find out how far east/west and how far north/south you need to go. Lastly, I was surprised to see how many people here ride bicycles for getting to and from school, commuting to work, picking up kids, grocery shopping, and so on. People in Suwon mostly use their cars or public transportation to get from one place to another, and bicycles are mainly used for leisure or exercise.



**BAEK Eunsook Interview (Part 2)  
Continued from Page 7**

**AIC:** *Wow, I had no idea Suwon was that densely populated. It's more comparable to Sapporo, I guess. Okay, moving on to the next question! From my own experience, I've found that living abroad can improve many aspects of your life, but challenges also follow. Are you doing okay?*

**Eunsook:** Living in Japan is an exhilarating experience for me. Most days feel new and fun, but like you said, there are some difficulties. Since I am living by myself, away from my family, I get lonely at times. Also, because I live in the center of the City, it is not bad getting around the city center, but since I don't own a car, it can get quite pricey when I try to go somewhere. I find the public transportation in Japan to be very expensive, compared to South Korea. I think part of it has to do with a payment structure for public transits called "the transfer discount," which has long existed in Korea.

**AIC:** *The transfer discount? Could you elaborate a little?*

**Eunsook:** Well, since many people commute using a combination of a bus and subway in Korea, if you use two forms of public transits or more within certain hours, you get discounts, so that you don't have to pay full amount separately. It can be very economical for students and commuters, and the system also encourages the greater use of public transportation.

**AIC:** *I see. That sounds like a reasonable system. I am not too familiar with how public transportation system works in Japan, but perhaps a similar payment structure exists in bigger cities. Before we close, could you tell us what you want to do during your stay in Asahikawa?*

**Eunsook:** This year is very meaningful for both Suwon and Asahikawa, because it marks the 25th anniversary since the two cities became sister cities. Many things have happened in the last 25 years. Suwon City learned great stuff from Asahikawa, and was inspired from this relationship. Countless people from both countries dedicated their time and efforts for this process. That is why I also wish to act as a small bridge between the two cities through active exchange activities, so that both Suwon and Asahikawa can learn from each other and overcome any problems that may arise. Furthermore, I might have some preconceptions about Japan that are not necessarily true. During my stay here, I hope to remove those, and start from zero with more objectivity.

**AIC:** *I applaud you for acknowledging that and trying to make a change. Hope you enjoy your stay in Asahikawa. Thanks for the your time today, Eunsook, and good luck with your work.*

**Eunsook:** It was my pleasure. Thanks for having me.



## ★ *Movies ~ August* ★

\*Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

\*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- Rurouni Kenshin ~Kyoto Taika Hen~ (Japanese)
- Eight Ranger 2 (Japanese)
- Planes: Fire & Rescue (English/Animation)
- GODZILLA (English)
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animation)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)
- Edge of Tomorrow (English)
- Maleficent (English)
- Sukitteiinayo (Japanese)
- Frozen (English)
- Transcendence (English)

### Coming Soon

- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English) 8/8
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation) 8/8
- Hotroad (Japanese) 8/16
- Lupin the Third (Japanese) 8/30

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

URL: [http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa\\_schedule.php?StoreID=5](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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

### Now Showing

- GODZILLA (English)
- Bakumatu Kokosei (Japanese)
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animation)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)
- Kamen Rider the Movie (Japanese)
- Planes: Fire & Rescue (English/Animation)
- Sukitteiinayo (Japanese)
- Edge of Tomorrow (English)
- Maleficent (English)
- Kawaki (Japanese/R-15)
- Transcendence (English)
- Juon (Japanese)
- Haru wo Seotte (Japanese)
- Frozen (English)

### Coming Soon

- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English) 8/8
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation) 8/8
- Uchukyodai #0 (Japanese/Animation) 8/9
- Hotroad (Japanese) 8/16
- Into the Storm (English) 8/22
- Kuime (Japanese/PG12) 8/23
- LUCY (English) 8/29
- Lupin the Third (Japanese) 8/30
- Non-Sto (English) 9/6

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

# Asahikawa Summer Festival

The largest festival of the year is finally here. Come out and enjoy all the fun! From fireworks over the river and the Citizen Dance Parade to the Yosakoi Soran Night and the Disco Night, you can be sure to have three days of nonstop fun and excitement. Oh, and don't forget to check out *mikoshi* (portable shrine procession.) Hope to see you there!

**Dates:** July 31st (Thursday) - August 2nd (Saturday)

**Time:** Various Events Throughout the Evening

**Locations:** Asahibashi Bridge & In and Around the 3-jo-dori 6-chome Area.

**Charge:** Free



# Takasu Nekka Festa

Join the fun of the annual summer festival in Takasu—Nekka Festa! This year marks its 20th anniversary, and is sure to be big, with food and drink stalls, Ampanman show, Australia tent, flea market, dance performances, and of course, fireworks. Don't miss this fun weekend festival in Takasu!

**Dates:** August 9th (Saturday) 4:00pm-9:00pm  
August 10th (Sunday): 11:00 am-8:30 pm

**Venue:** Takasu Town—Melody Hall carpark  
Minami 2-jo 4-chome (approximately 15 min. drive from Asahikawa)

**Charge:** Free

**For Further Information Contact:**  
kokusai@town.takasu.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!

## FUN FRIDAYS

**Dates:** August 8th&22nd, September 12th&19th

\*Fun Fridays are 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.\*\***