

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



February 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

December 20

AIR DO, a Hokkaido-based airline, celebrated the 15th anniversary of its inaugural flight from New Chitose Airport to Haneda Airport (Tokyo.) The president and some airline staff members gave out cards and cookies to the passengers on flight No. 16 to Tokyo. AIR DO is a pioneer in budget carrier business in Japan, which had once been declared bankrupt but has returned to normal by support from ANA.

January 6

Hokkaido University Hospital announced that it had carried out heart transplant operations in Hokkaido for the first time in 45 years. In 1968, a team at Sapporo Medical University Hospital performed the first cardiac transplant operation in Japan. Some people filed a criminal complaint against a surgeon who played a leading role in the operation on suspicion of killing a donor and a recipient, although he was exempted from prosecution due to lack of evidence.

January 7

The City of Kushiro announced to have set up an organization that arranges an interpreter who will help foreign travelers see a doctor when they get hurt or sick. As of now, interpreters of eight different languages (English, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Malay and Indonesian) are available. In Kushiro City, the number of foreign visitors has been increasing rapidly, thanks to direct flights from Taiwan and frequent cruise ships from abroad.

January 8

A research team at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine developed a method to judge whether a puppy is likely to be qualified as a guide dog based on a gene analysis. Guide dogs need to be quiet and have great concentration and memory. The group of researchers has found the difference between SNP (single-nucleotide polymorphism) of dogs that pass the test for guide dogs and of those that don't.

January 10

Caroline Bouvier Kennedy, the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, had a ski vacation in the Niseko district with her family for the first time from January 6 to 8. The ambassador posted a picture of her skiing with a comment, "Loving Hokkaido powder." on her Twitter on the evening of the 8th. According to the U.S. Embassy, any details on her place of stay or schedule of the ski resort cannot be given, since this is her informal visit to Hokkaido.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

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

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Community Services Dept.

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Special Exhibition for the 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Masaki YAMAGUCHI 生誕110年 山口正城展

Masaki YAMAGUCHI (1903-1959) was an abstract painter and a modern design educationalist from Asahikawa. He was deeply inspired by the theory of Bauhaus School in Germany, which combined crafts and the fine arts. YAMAGUCHI's paintings reflect such fresh and abstract impressions. Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art is hosting this exhibition for 7 weeks in commemoration of YAMAGUCHI and his artistic creations.

Date: now to February 11th (Tuesday) 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—¥ 500, High School Students—¥ 300, Seniors and Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577

Or Visit: <http://www.dokyoj.pref.hokkaido.jp/hk-asamu/>



Special Exhibition of Yasushi INOUE's Modern Civilization Criticism 企画展 井上靖現代文明批判

Yasushi INOUE was a famous writer originally from Asahikawa, known for his serious historical fiction of ancient Japan and the Asian continent. His work also included semi-autobiographical novels and short fiction, which depicted Japan of the early mid 20th century in revealing perspective. This special exhibition will focus on three of his novels, in attempt to convey INOUE's thoughts on modern civilization at the time.

Date: now to February 16th (Sunday), except on Mondays and holidays

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

Venue: INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome 5-41)

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

For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-1188



Atsuko TEMMA's Violin Recital Dedicated to Mugonkan 無言館に捧げる天満敦子ヴァイオリン・リサイタル

Atsuko TEMMA started playing the violin at six when she happened to be on an NHK music program. Soon her talent was recognized by many and TEMMA started her journey of a professional musician. She won various prizes including the first prize at the Music Competition of Japan, a special silver prize at the International Competition of Marguerite Long Jacques Thibaud, and others. TEMMA was also the one who introduced "Balada" by Porumbescu to Japan in 1993. The piece by an unfortunate genius composer has been a huge hit since then. Not only her flawless performance of music, her way of telling with a strong personality on the stage is often talked about among critics.

Date: February 14th (Friday)

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

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

Admission: ¥ 3,000 (¥ 2,500, when purchased in advance)



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 the 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: February 16th (Sunday) 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.dokyoj.pref.hokkaido.jp/hk-asamu/>



Grecos Tango Orquesta's Dramatic Tango: The Eternal Melody

ドラマチック・タンゴ グレコス・タンゴ・オルケスタ「永遠の旋律」

Renowned Argentine tango dancers, singers and orchestra are coming to Asahikawa for the annual Min-On tango series, which has featured many tango maestros over the years. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the tango series, as well as Min-On project's 50th anniversary. The stage will be centered around famous tango music, such as "Quejas de bandoneón" and "La Cumparsita."

Date: February 17th (Monday)

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Admission: ¥5,800 (¥4,800 for members)

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven (P-code: 214-595), Gyokkodo Asahikawa

For Further Information Contact: 011-57-0244 (Min-On Asahikawa)



Animal and Human: A Familiar Tale of Nature

どうぶつと人と～身近な自然のものがたり～

NHK broadcasting office in Asahikawa marks the 80th anniversary of its opening this year. In celebration, NHK decided to take the initiative in hosting an environmental campaign, which will provide an opportunity for citizens to ponder on the relationship with animal and nature. The event will take place for two days; the first day is dedicated to children and includes a picture story show, a short clip and quizzes on Hokkaido wolf. The second day is open to general public and consists of discussions during the second half.

Date: February 22nd (Saturday) and 23rd (Sunday)

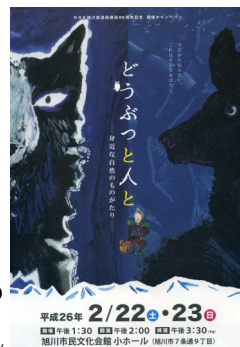
Time: Doors 1:30 pm, Show 2:00 pm

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

Admission: Free, but a numbered entrance ticket is required which will allow admission of up to four people.

To Apply for Tickets: Fill out a postcard as listed on <http://pid.nhk.or.jp/event/PPG0233101/index.html> and send it to 〒070-8680 NHK Asahikawa Kankyo Campaign Kakari

For Further Information Contact: 0166-24-8805 (Mon-Fri 10:00 am to 6:00 pm)



Asahikawa City Taisetsu Crystal Hall's Independent Cultural Project: Winter Concert

旭川市大雪クリスタルホール自主文化事業 ウィンターコンサート

This winter concert is part of Taisetsu Crystal Hall's project to promote amateur music. Performers are mostly composed of passionate musicians who live within or nearby the city. This year's concert will include a piano solo and an instrumental ensemble among others.

Date: February 22nd (Saturday)

Time: Doors 1:30 pm, Show 2:00 pm

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

Admission: Free, but a numbered entrance ticket is needed.

*Tickets can be acquired at: KAWAI Asahikawa Shop, Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Yamaha Music Retailing, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall and Taisetsu Crystal Hall for free.



Exhibition of Shoichi IDA's Works: "Between" - The Between-World

井田照一作品展「間」-あいだの世界

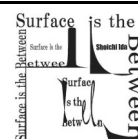
What does the word, "between," really mean; a gap between two things, or is it more correct to see it as a relationship formed by two matters? Shoichi IDA's paper-works and sculptures speculate the above questions and may even create the "between-world" for you. If you haven't heard of him before, this 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

観覧： 冬(10月) 月 高(100) 月

1) 休館日 休館日
65歳以上、中学卒業以下の生徒料、土曜日は高校生無料、その他の特典について、詳しくは問い合わせてください。

主催： 北海道立旭川美術館

Japan and the Olympics

Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics By Kim Lacey



The 22nd Olympic Winter Games will be held in Sochi, Russia from February 7-23. Japanese athletes have won countless medals, not only in Summer but also in Winter Games. The best rank for Japan in Winter Olympics was the 7th overall, which was attained in 1998 in Nagano. Can we expect a new record this year?

The 2014 Winter Olympics are taking place this month in Sochi, Russia. This Olympic Games hold a significant meaning to Russia because it will be the first Olympics in the Russian Federation since the collapse of the USSR. The longest torch relay in Olympic history began on September 29, 2013 in Ancient Olympia, initiating a 7-day journey across Greece and on to Russia. Then the torch relay resumed in Moscow on October 7, 2013 and is currently passing through 83 Russian cities. It will arrive at Sochi on the day of the opening ceremony.

Ninety-eight events in fifteen winter sports will be held overall. 136 athletes from Japan will be competing in all fifteen sports. Japan, along with South Korea and China, is one of the few nations in Asia that consistently rank in top 20 in Winter Olympic Games. At the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, for instance, Japan earned five medals, including three silver and two bronze. Japanese athletes showed exceptional strength in speed skating and figure skating. Also at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, Japan finished with the 18th in overall rank, even though the country earned only one gold medal, won by Shizuka ARAKAWA in women's figure skating.



ARAKAWA at 2006 Olympics

Naturally, the main attraction of this Olympic for Japanese people is most likely to be figure skating. Japan's former world figure skating champions and Olympic medalists, Daisuke TAKAHASHI and Mao ASADA are hopeful for medals this time. ASADA is a two-time (2008 and 2010) World Champion, and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics silver medalist. TAKAHASHI is notable as the 2010 Olympic bronze medalist and the 2010 World Champion.

Japan also has a great prospect for a medal in ski jump this time: Sara TAKANASHI. She is a rising star in women's ski jump, who has already won her eighth World Cup event of the season last month. TAKANASHI was actually born and grew up not too far from Asahikawa, in Kamikawa. The 17-year-old athlete might just bring a big surprise for Japan's Olympic team.



TAKANASHI competing at 2014 World Cup ski jump

No one can predict how the outcomes are going to be at the Olympics. But whatever happens, we know that Japanese athletes will have done their very best. Good luck to all of them!



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: David Ossorio
Hometown: Miami, Florida, U.S.A.
Interviewed: January 18th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *Could you tell us a little about yourself?*

David: Well, my name is David Alejandro Ossorio and I am an American student who just finished high school in Colombia, because my parents are originally from Colombia. After graduation, my dad said that since I've done really well in school, I should do whatever I want before going to college. I thought it would be nice to come back and visit my host family in Japan. So, I am visiting my host family at the moment and applying to universities. That's pretty much where I am right now.

AIC: *I understand that you were in Asahikawa City two years ago as an exchange student. How was your life after Asahikawa?*

David: Hmm, after the exchange program in Asahikawa was over, I moved to Colombia and started two years of high school, the 11th and 12th grade. Like I already mentioned, I just recently graduated and will be in college a few months from now.

AIC: *So, how does it feel to be back in Asahikawa? What did you miss the most about Japan when you were in Colombia?*

David: The thing I missed the most from Japan, I'd have to say, is karaoke. Karaoke is something that you just can't do in the States the same way. Besides that, I've missed my host family a lot. They are really sweet people. I also missed my friends, but I got to see a couple of them. Pretty much everyone has gone to their own ways after graduation here, so it is kind of hard to meet them. It feels awesome to be back, though. Things really haven't changed that much. There might be a couple of changes in the City, like a few new buildings, but it is nice to see that Asahikawa is the same cozy community that it was before.

AIC: *From your experience, would you recommend studying abroad while still in high school? What were some ups and downs for you?*

David: Let's see... Being an exchange student, the language barrier in the beginning was very rough for me. Not being able to communicate the way you do back in your home country can be quite tough. Sometimes you cause misunderstandings but that is bound to come. Once you get over it and start being able to communicate, things become fine. I actually think that high school is a good time in your life when you are a young adult. Essentially, going on an exchange student program can have you grow up in a sense and take more responsibilities away from home. It allows you to see things in a different way in one country, and then go back to your home country and compare, you know.



David Ossorio Interview (Part Two) Continued from Page 5

- AIC:** *Those are all excellent points. So is Asahikawa how you were expecting it to be in your head?*
- David:** I was actually kind of hoping to come in a warmer season. Two years ago I left just around January and I came back in January again this time. But it's still very fine.
- AIC:** *There are so many foreigners who have never heard of Asahikawa City or even of Hokkaido. How do you usually describe and share your experience to your friends and families back home?*
- David:** Umm, back home, Hokkaido means nothing to them because when they think of Japan, they immediately associate it with more famous, bigger cities, like Tokyo and Nagoya. However, I describe Asahikawa as "a little town up north, very small and communal. A nice little neighborhood!" That is how Asahikawa is to me.
- AIC:** *What were some good ways of not losing the language ability that you gained? Were there specific things that you did to keep up with your Japanese skills?*
- David:** That is the thing, though. My Japanese was a lot better back then. But I tried as much as I could to communicate and Skype with my host mom, just keep thinking and talking in Japanese as much I could. Manga and anime also help you a lot. Essentially that way, I kind of made a practice of Skyping with my Japanese friends.
- AIC:** *Definitely takes some dedication and time! Is there anything that you are looking forward to doing during this visit to Japan?*
- David:** Anything that I am looking forward to doing? Hmm, I don't know. I am pretty much already doing it. Just being here is a blessing... Just being here is amazing. But if there is one thing, I just want to get my university stuff over with, especially here in Japan.
- AIC:** *Do you mind sharing us your future plans? What do you want to study in college?*
- David:** Alright, so I'm a little indecisive at the moment, trying to choose between America and Japan for my university. But essentially, I would like to follow my dad's footsteps and go through the business route. I want to learn more about financial management. Like father, like son!
- AIC:** *(Laugh) Did you find the Japanese and American college application process to be much different from each other?*
- David:** Different in a sense that Japan requires a couple more things here and there, because I am a foreigner, while in the States they don't ask for that much since I am just another ordinary American.
- AIC:** *David, it was really nice talking to you today. Hope you enjoy the rest of your stay in Asahikawa!*
- David:** No problem. Thanks for having me.

★ *Movies ~ February* ★

*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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Thor: The Dark World (English)
- Boku ha Tomodachi ga Sukunai (Japanese/PG12)
- Escape Plan (English)
- Trick Last Stage (Japanese)
- Judge! (Japanese)
- Kuroshitsuji (Japanese)
- Ender's Game (English)
- Chisai Ouchi (Japanese)
- Eien no Zero (Japanese)
- Kanojo ha Uso wo Aishisugiteru (Japanese)
- Gravity (English)
- Lupin the Third VS Detective Conan (Japanese/Animation)
- Kaguyahime no Monogatari (Japanese/Animation)
- American Hustle (English)

Coming Soon

- Rush (English/PG12) 2/7
- Snowpiercer (English/PG12) 2/7
- Mogura no Uta Sennyusosakan REIJI (Japanese) 2/15
- Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (English) 2/15
- Lee Daniels' The Butler (English) 2/15
- Game Center CX The Movie 1986 (Japanese) 2/22
- Kick-Ass 2 (English/R-15) 2/22
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (English) 2/28

★ **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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

Now Showing

- Thor: The Dark World (English)
- Dakishimetai (Japanese)
- Escape Plan (English)
- Trick Last Stage (Japanese)
- Badboys J (Japanese)
- Judge! (Japanese)
- Kuroshitsuji (Japanese)
- Ender's Game (English)
- Genomehazard (Japanese/Korean)
- Chisai Ouchi (Japanese)
- The Wolf of Wall Street (English)
- Hunter×Hunter Lasu Mission (Japanese Animation)
- Eien no Zero (Japanese)
- Kanojo ha Uso wo Aishisugiteru (Japanese)
- Gravity (English)
- Lupin the Third VS Detective Conan (Japanese/Animation)
- SPEC ~Close~ Zen no Hen (Japanese)
- Kaguyahime no Monogatari (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- BUDDHA 2 (Japanese Animation) 2/7
- Rush (English/PG12) 2/7
- Mogura no Uta Sennyusosakan REIJI (Japanese) 2/15
- Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (English) 2/15
- Blingring (English/R-15) 2/15
- Moratorium Tamako (Japanese) 2/22
- Giovanni no Shima (Japanese Animation) 2/22
- Kamen Teacher The Movie (Japanese) 2/22
- Kick-Ass 2 (English/R-15) 2/22
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (English) 2/28

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

Go, Go! Winter Festival

The Asahikawa Winter Festival marks its 55th anniversary at last with continuous love from its citizens and tourists for years. Fireworks, ice sculptures, light shows will be featured. Don't miss one of the highlights of the Hokkaido during the winter season!

This year, in association with the 30th anniversary of the birth of the Transformers, a scene where a popular character, Optimus Prime, commands its Autobot friends to mobilize, will be reproduced in approximately 20m in height. As for a balcony snow sculpture, Asappi and his friends snow-rafting will be in display. This design was selected from among many public contributions and is the work of an Asahikawa resident, Ms. Kaori SUZUKI.

Dates: February 6th (Thursday) to February 11th (Tuesday)

Times: Events throughout the day and night

Charge: Free

Locations: Asahibashi Bridge, Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Tokiwa Park, Ishikari Riverine, etc.

International Communi-tea

The Asahikawa International Center is hosting International Communi-tea (茶ろん "Salon") event. There will be two sessions so come join us whenever is more convenient for you.

This is an excellent chance to have a nice conversation and meet people around Asahikawa and the world.

Date: February 28

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm
& 6:30-7:30 pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center Lounge, Feeeal Asahikawa 7F

Charge: Free



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

Dates: February 14th, March 14th

Time: 1:00-3:00pm & 6:50-8:50pm

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.



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****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.****