

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



September 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

August 1

The Ministry of the Environment made a "Daisetsuzan Grade" public to reduce climbing accidents in Daisetsuzan National Park for 80 routes of the climb. "Daisetsuzan Grade" shows climbers how challenging each route is at five different levels. For example, the most challenging route is color-coded in red on information signs and guide maps in the park. "Daisetsuzan Grade" is posted on Website (<http://www.daisetsuzan.or.jp/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/map-daisetsuzan-grade.pdf>).

August 1

"Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden" next to JR Asahikawa Station has completely opened on July 31. The "Large Pond," "Garden Center" and "Agriculture Garden" in the eastern area of the garden have become available to citizens and tourists in addition to the western area previously opened in 2013. An event to create quasi-Northern Lights by laser light beams was held above the "Large Pond" at night on July 31.

August 2

Okhotsk Ryu-hyo museum in Abashiri City is open again after rebuilding it on August 1. The museum displays a lot of "ryu-hyo," 20 lumps of thick drift ice on Okhotsk Sea which weigh almost 100 tons altogether, in a room where temperature is kept at 15 degrees below zero. On the top of Tenzoan, where the museum is located, visitors can see stunning view of the Okhotsk Sea, Shiretoko Mountain Range and Lake Abashiri.

August 11

The president of JR Hokkaido put mayors of both Rumoi City and Mashike Town on notice that the railroad company is planning to stop operation of a part of Rumoi Line between Rumoi and Mashike in the middle of 2016. The president explained that the line costed 160 million yen to operate but the revenue was only 7 million yen in 2013. "Furthermore, the company needs to spend several billion yen to maintain the tracks safe in the years to come," he added.

August 14

The Hokkaido Branch Office of East Nippon Expressway, a freeway management company in eastern part of Japan, publishes "Hokkaido Drive Guide," a brochure in English featuring the Dos and Don'ts of driving on freeways in Hokkaido. The company issues the brochures for the first time to prevent tourists from getting into traffic accidents and provide them with information on sightseeing. The drive guide carries articles such as how to pay toll at tollgate, what various signs along the freeway mean, and how dangerous freeways become in winter. The brochure is also available online (<http://en.driveplaza.com/area/hokkaido/>).



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Croquette 35th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL CONCERT

コロケ芸能生活35周年記念コンサート

“A laughing face brings fortune!”

Hiroshi Takigawa AKA “Croquette” - Famous comedian, impersonator and singer. After he made his debut on “Birth of a star comedian!” he starred in “Fight for the Impersonation King’s Throne” and gained massive popularity overnight, becoming a regular TV personality.

Date: September 2nd (Wednesday)**Time:** Afternoon 2:30pm, Evening 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** All Tickets ¥5,500**Ticket Office:** Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)**For further information contact:** 001-261-9991 (TRUST)<http://www.trust.jp.com>

15th Crystal Trio Concert ~Singing Mendelssohn~

第15回クリスタル・トリオ コンサート ~メンデルゾーンを歌う~

Compared to the instrumental trio that is Mendelssohn’s 1st, we’ve chosen the less performed Mendelssohn’s 2nd as the main event, accompanied with a number of instrumentals to make this program filled with Mendelssohn’s poetic sentiment.

It’s a must see for fans of Mendelssohn as well as a good time for everyone else.

Date: September 4th (Friday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥1,000**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Crystal Hall, Coach and Four (Music corner)**For further information contact:** 37-5420 (Yamaguchi)

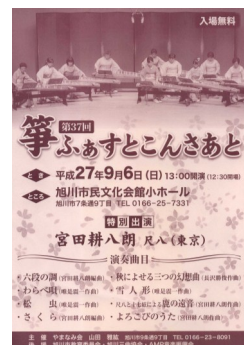
62-7173 (Shinmachi)



37th Japanese Harp First-Concert

第37回箏ふあすとこんさあと

Enjoy traditional Japanese string music featuring 8 pieces, 4 of which were written and/or edited by special guest: composer and *Shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) player Miyada Kohachiro! Her works include “Rokudan no shirabe,” “Quick sound of the deer,” “Cherry Blossom,” and “Song of Rejoicing.”

Date: September 6th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** FREE**For further information contact:** 23-8091 (Yamada)Hayashi Hikoichi Solo Performance (*Rakugo*: Comedic Storytelling)

林家彦一 独演会

There is said to be about 700 Rakugo performers in the whole country and there are even less that can properly tell both new and classic works. Hayashi Hikoichi is one of these few. So rare is Hikoichi that he even is able to write his own works. He’ll make you chuckle, he’ll make you laugh out loud, he’ll have you laughing in all kinds of ways.

Featuring guests Shama Reirei and Yasumi Katou.

Date: September 9th (Wednesday)**Time:** Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** Pre-bought ¥1,500, Day of ¥2,000**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Takasago Brewery, Fukido kids, Dokushaku Sanshirou, Juncobo, ULU Salon**Reservations & for further information contact:** 080-5428-0157 (Matsuda)harukam223@yahoo.co.jp

NAOTO & Shinya Kiyotsuka Acoustic Duo NAOTO&清塚信也 アコースティック・デュオ

“A marvelous duo formed from this era’s top artists.”

NAOTO- Graduate of Tokyo University of the arts who took 3rd place twice and 2nd place once in different years of the Western Japan competition. A recipient of the Kirishima International Music Festival Scholarship.

Shinya Kiyotsuka- From the age of 5, Shinya took classical piano lessons for gifted children. Graduating top of his class in the music department in high school, he went on to study abroad in Moscow as well as win numerous 1st place awards at numerous competitions.

Date: September 10th (Thursday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥3,500 Seniors・Disabled ¥3,000 Student ¥1,500

There is a 500 surcharge for purchasing the day of. 10% discount for “Hallmates”

Other: Senior (65+) and disabled guests are asked to show identification for the discount.

Free parking available. Show your ticket at the restaurant for a free soft drink

Those in need of a wheelchair or assistance are asked to contact ahead of time

For ticket reservations and further information contact: 69-2000 (Crystal Hall)



Sizzle Ohtaka Concert “The taste of reminiscence is...”

おおたか清流コンサート 思い出の味は。。。

Sizzle Ohtaka: No nationality, no genre singer and voice actor able to freely control the pitch of her voice. Released 22 original albums to date. Through collaborations of dance, song, art, etc., she is always developing music that goes beyond genre and national boundaries.

Haruhiko Saga: An artist who easily transitions between traditional and progressive musical styles through collaborations between different fields, on the spot sessions, as well as performing with unique musical groups such as Ohtaka’s “ASIAN WINGS.”

Date: September 18th (Friday)

Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

Venue: Kagura Public Hall (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Admission: Advanced Sale ¥2,500 Day of ¥2,800 Middle School and under ¥1,400

Ticket Office: Gallery purupuru, Fukido kids, ULU Salon, MOKERA MOKERA, Yamaha Music store

Tickets & further information contact: 73-8289 (Gallery purupuru)



2015 Asahikawa Vienna International Violin Seminar

2015旭川・ウィーン 国際ヴァイオリンセミナー

International music seminar that seeks to deepen the intimacy between students at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna and those taking the seminar.

Main Concert: “Blown away by Vienna winds”

A performance by University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna and National Taiwan Normal University, featuring up-and-coming pianist Veronika Trisko.

Date: September 20th (Sun) ~ 26th (Sat)

Time:

Main concert:	25th (Fri)	6:30pm ~
Master Class General Lecture Attendance,	21st~25th,	9:00am ~5:00pm
Concert and Classic Lesson	23rd and 24th	
Outreach Concert	24th	1:45pm~
Announcement of results	26th	2:00pm ~

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

Outreach Concert Kitasaito Hospital 6th Floor Hall

Admission: FREE

Ticket Office: Tickets for the main event will be distributed by the Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 69-2000 (Crystal Hall)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR SEPTEMBER



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Christopher King
Hometown: Townsville, Australia
Interviewed: August 23rd, By AIC

AIC: *So what brings you to Japan and/or Asahikawa?*

Chris: Well I actually lived in Hokkaido for four years on the JET program in Engaru. The first time I didn't know much about Japan and I signed up for JET and got in. I even got my preference: "Rural Hokkaido." It's about an hour and a half away by car but I lived out in the country so I was even closer. I visited Asahikawa a lot. I really like the town.

AIC: *Oh wow so you are already familiar with the place. What do you like about it?*

Chris: I really like the people. They seem really laid back and they're very nice. I like that about Hokkaido in general. I really love Japan but especially Hokkaido. There's so much to do outdoors. It's a beautiful place.

AIC: *So do you like to do kind of the more outdoor stuff then?*

Chris: Yea I like to hike. I've actually climbed all the bigger mountains across Japan aside from Mt. Fuji. I've done a good chunk of the *Taisetsu* traverse as well as some day hikes and three day hikes.

AIC: *What about winter sports? Do you ski?*

Chris: I don't ski but I like to snowboard. I'm from Australia so being in Hokkaido was my first time seeing snow. I've also been snowshoeing. It's really difficult. You have to push down the snow to make yourself a path. It's like hiking but even short distances will leave you exhausted.

AIC: *Oh wow. It must be really different from where you are from. What is your hometown like?*

Chris: My hometown is extremely hot in summer and very nice in "winter." We usually have sunny days with blue skies, to the point where it's actually quite exciting when it rains. It NEVER snows. The average low/high in July (the coldest month of the year) is 13-25 degrees Celsius. We're right on the coast and sometimes you can see dugongs swimming at the beach, and the odd saltwater croc.

AIC: *You said you lived in Hokkaido before. How does this time compare to last?*

Chris: It's hard to say since I've only been here a little over 3 weeks but living in the city is different. The first time I was in Japan it took 20 minutes *by car* to get to a convenience store.

AIC: *Did you buy a car last time or receive one from your predecessor?*

Chris: The town actually gave me a car, which was great because I couldn't rely on the trains too much to get around.

Continued from Page 4

AIC: *So what are your hobbies?*

Chris: I like to play the guitar. At first I was into classical guitar, but now I write my own stuff.

AIC: *Did you ever feel like having these skills/hobbies helped you relate to people? For instance, being in a band or playing with Japanese friends?*

Chris: I haven't been in a band or anything like that, but sometimes I would play the guitar for my classes. I would write these little songs using perfect grammar structures and they would sing along as I played it. Sometime I would walk down the hallway humming the tune and the kids would sing it. I think it was easier for the melody to stick in their heads. There were times where I would play with the other teachers at town festivals or community events.



AIC: *So you were teaching younger students then?*

Chris: Yea the first time I was teaching primary and junior high students but I'm teaching high school students this time around.

AIC: *When did you first get into JET?*

Chris: I signed up for JET in 2008. So I was in Hokkaido for 2008-2012.

AIC: *So it's been about 3 years since then. What brought you back?*

Chris: Well like I said before, I love japan and I felt like I still had more to contribute beyond what I did the first time.

AIC: *Would you say you have any goals while you're in Asahikawa?*

Chris: I'd say my goal would be to be the best teacher I can be. I have experience with primary school and junior high school, but this is my first time teaching at high schools, so that is a new challenge I'm looking forward to. The other goal is learning Japanese. I didn't learn any kanji until

recently, so that is something I'm getting into at the moment.

AIC: *How do you like the food?*

Chris: I love the food. I'm not a fussy eater. I'm a big fan of *nabe*. Sushi is hard to go past. And I LOVE soup curry. I honestly do like almost every Japanese food I've tried, even *natto*! I cook, although there's so many good restaurants in Asahikawa it's often tempting to eat out. That said, usually I try to eat pretty healthy during the week and steam some vegetables for dinner. I can make great spaghetti! I also make *okonomiyaki* and a few other things.

AIC: *Well, thanks for letting me interview you.*

Chris: No, my pleasure.

Life in Asahikawa

“Disaster Prevention Day” Bosai-no-hi (防災の日)

By KITAMURA Tadao

We, local Asahikawa people, on many occasions talk each other, appreciating our good fortune; that we are happy for having relatively little or no natural disasters such as typhoons, tornados, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes or fires, when compared to people living in other regions of the archipelago. In truth, we have been enjoying relatively peaceful natural conditions up until now, bar the low temperature and heavy snow in winter.

But, as a whole, the Japanese archipelago is very different; it has more than one hundred volcanos and it is situated in the midst of the busiest route for typhoons. Almost every day, some place in Japan feels some magnitude of earthquake, be it big or small. Most local places have suffered natural disasters in their long history. People here are very conscious of natural disasters.

September 1st is a national memorial day for Disaster Prevention. It might be very puzzling for you that a nation would designate a national memorial day on account of disaster prevention. September the 1st is the date of the 1923 Kanto Great Earthquake. On this date Tokyo, Yokohama, and nearby districts suffered a magnitude 7.4 earthquake that resulted in 105 thousand lives lost and people displaced, as well as 370 thousand houses/buildings burned or destroyed. Unfortunately, at the same time a typhoon destroyed Tokyo turning it into an inferno that claimed the lives of 3,400 people.



A sign showing a refuge spot; no English or any other words are added.

**Disaster Prevention Day
Continued from Page 6**

September 1st is the date of the 210th day counted from the beginning of spring (February 4th). This date has been taught to generation after generation as the day people should be on the lookout for typhoons. *Nihyaku-to-ka* in Japanese, along with *Nihyaku-hatsuka*, both are dates with many typhoons. Because these days are in the midst of most important season for rice cropping, farmers are very sensitive around these dates.

For our Hokkaido, there was a great disaster known as the *Toyamaru* Typhoon in 1954, September 26th. *Toyamaru*, a ferry ship weighing 4,337 tons, was capsized in Hakodate Harbor. 1,361 lives were lost and 400 went missing.

Around *Bosai-no-hi*, varieties of events take place; memorial services for disaster victims, evacuation drills, rescue exercises, displays of various kinds of machines, disaster prevention campaigns, etc.

All municipalities are doing their best to protect their people from any natural disasters. Our Municipal Office of Asahikawa has prepared a 'Hazard Map' showing and warning people of natural hazards, spot by spot in this city. The map shows the estimated depth of water when a flood occurs slopes at risk for land-slides, about 130 refuge spots, risk points on escape routes, and so on.

Now, I wonder if our foreign visitors and residents are as prepared for disasters as our local residents. Those of you in the area ought to call the City Office and ask for a 'Hazard Map'!

IMPORTANT: Population Census (October, 2015) Information about conducting the Population Census

As of October 1st, 2015, the Japanese Government will be conducting a Population Census. The Population Census is a statistical survey which is conducted according to the law and covers everyone living in Japan, regardless of nationality. You are legally required to respond.

Your responses will not be used in any way for immigration control, police investigations, or other such purposes.

Starting in the middle of September, census workers will visit all households and distribute IDs to fill out the survey data via the Internet. We ask for your co-operation in answering the survey on-line. At the end of September, surveys slips will be distributed to those households that did not answer the survey on-line.

The data collected from the Population Census will be used as a baseline for city planning and other measures which benefit foreign residents as well as Japanese citizens.

Don't forget. You are a member of Japanese society.

Population Census Staff—City of Asahikawa

TEL: 24-5550

FAX: 24-7744

★ *Movies ~ August* ★

*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is “Happy Monday.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 – 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- HERO (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger The Movie(Japanese)
- Jurassic World (English)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Pokemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- Minions (English/Animation)
- S-Saigo no Keikan-Recovery of Our future (Japanese)
- Terminator: Genisys(English)

Coming Soon

Coming Soon

- Unfair the end (Japanese) 9/5
- Kaiketsu Zorori (Japanese/Animation) 9/12
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12) 9/19
- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3

★ *Movies ~ September* ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> 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.

★ **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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

Now Showing

- At Home (Japanese)
- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- Mission:Impossible -Rogue Nation- (English)
- Nihon no Ichiban Nagai Hi (Japanese)
- Jurassic World (English)
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger The Movie (Japanese)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Minions (English/Animation)
- Hero (Japanese)
- Pokemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- Terminator: Genisys(English)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)

Coming Soon

- Unfair the end (Japanese) 9/5
- Kingsman: The Secret Service (English/R15+) 9/11
- Tenku no Hachi (Japanese) 9/12
- San Andreas (English) 9/12
- Girls Step (Japanese) 9/12
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12) 9/19
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese) 9/19
- Ant-Man (English) 9/19
- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3
- Fantastic Four (English) 10/9

★ **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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

Now Showing

- Nihon no Ichiban Nagai Hi (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider & Shuriken Sentai Ninninger The Movie (Japanese)
- Mission:Impossible -Rogue Nation- (English)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Jurassic World (English)
- BORUTO -NARUTO The Movie-(Japanese/Animation)
- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- Minions (English/Animation)
- HERO (Japanese)
- Pokemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Inside Out (English/Animation)
- S-Saigo no Keikan-Recovery of Our future (Japanese)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (English/3D)
- Terminator: Genisys(English)

Coming Soon

- Piece of Cake (Japanese/PG12) 9/5
- Unfair the end (Japanese) 9/5
- Pixels (English) 9/12
- Tenku no Hachi (Japanese) 9/12
- San Andreas (English) 9/12
- Hokori to Genso (Japanese) 9/12
- Ant-Man (English) 9/19
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese) 9/19
- Kokoro ga sakebitagatteirunnda (Japanese/Animation) 9/19
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12) 9/19
- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3
- Fantastic Four (English) 10/9

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

Hokkaido Garden Show 2015

Daisetsuzan National Park boasts its beauty every season with various colorful gardens of alpine plant.

This Hokkaido Garden Show includes three beautiful gardens that are connected by the Daisetsuzan Mountain Range. It is sure to leave you with an unforgettable impression of Hokkaido and its nature.



Date: now to October 4th (Sunday)

Venue: Daisetsuzan National Park to Kamuimintara
Daisetsuzan Mori no Garden (kamikawa-cho)
Ueno Farm (Asahikawa City)

For Further Information Contact: 01658-2-4058
(Daisetsu Management Committee)

Official Website: hgs.co.jp/en (English page)

African Cooking!

Every year AIC is has a cooking class so that the citizens of Asahikawa can learn customs and culture through cuisine! This year, in joint sponsorship with the Burkina Faso baseball support event, an cooking class featuring African cuisine will be held by a native of Burkina Faso!

Dates: September 9th (Wed)

Time: 10am ~ 1pm

Venue: Tokiwa Civic Hall 3F (5-jo-dori 4-chome)
Cooking room

Cost: 500 yen

Things to bring: Apron, Tupperware container

Reservations: AIC (0166) 25-7491

Limit 30 people. First come, first serve

FUN FRIDAYS

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: September 11th&25th, October 9th&23

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

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.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by 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

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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.****