

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

February 2012 VOL. 183

Also visit us at: [www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kokusaikouryu/english/index.html](http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kokusaikouryu/english/index.html)



## Hokkaido News Top 5



February 2012

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

- **January 3**  
The traffic death toll in Hokkaido for 2011 was under 200 for the first time in 62 years, and also 25 less than the previous year. Around 51% were 65 years old or over. The number of traffic accidents causing injury or death was 16,395, which was also 1,693 less than the previous year.
- **January 7**  
The number of New Year's greeting cards per capita sent out this year was 26. It is the third in line to the number of New Year's cards per capita, according to the Japan Post Service's Hokkaido branch. Tokyo Metropolitan area had the highest number of cards per person, with the Hokuriku region recording the second highest number.
- **January 14**  
Sara TAKANASHI, a 15-year-old girl from Kamikawa Junior High School, won a gold medal in the female ski jump contest in the 2012 Youth Winter Olympic Games held in Innsbruck, Austria. She had already won a silver medal in the World Cup Female Ski Jump in Hinterzalten, Germany. Female ski jumping has become an official sport for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.
- **January 17**  
Over 30 food stalls carrying various local foods are going to open along the riverside adjacent to Asahibashi Bridge, as part of the 2012 Asahikawa Winter Festival in February. They will offer "Asahikawa Ramen," "Asahikawa Steamed Bun," "Asahikawa Yakisoba Noodles," "Ezo Shika venison kebabs," and "Hokkaido-style Fried Chicken," which was the most popular food item during the "Tabé Marche" food fair last September.
- **January 21**  
Yu Darvish, the former Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters pitcher, now with the Texas Rangers, held a press conference at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. He said he has no worries about his new life in the U.S. and looks forward to playing in a different environment. Darvish and the Rangers agreed to a \$60 million six-year contract. The Boston Red Sox signed a \$52 million six-year contract with Daisuke MATSUZAKA in 2006.



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

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)

**Location:**

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services 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

### THE 53rd ASAHIKAWA WINTER FESTIVAL 第53回旭川冬まつり

Say "Asahikawa Winter Festival" and the first thing to come to mind is the awe-inspiring giant snow sculptures. Made entirely with snow and without any framework at all, you can go up to the terraces four stories high and view amazing works of art up close while also enjoying a breathtaking view of the festival grounds. Kids also love the huge snow slides. At four stories high and 80 meters long, you won't find slides like these in any other park. Every year the world's best ice sculptors come to the Asahikawa Winter Festival to showcase their talent and compete for the top spot. They work non-stop day and night along Kaimonkoen Shopping Street to create exquisite ice sculptures that look completely different from day to night.

**Date:** February 8th (Wednesday) ~ 12th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00am to 9:00pm (8:00pm on the closing day)

**Venue:** Asahibashi Bridge Ishikari River Riverine, and various other locations

**For further information visit:** <http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kanko/awf/>



### “HUMAN SECURITY - WORLD'S JOYS AND SORROWS” ASAHIKAWA EXHIBITION 地球ひろば旭川展「人間の安全保障—世界の幸せと悲しみ」

Come and visit this important exhibition which highlights the various challenges facing the developing world, especially its children. Statistics on global levels of consumption and waste are presented in an easy to understand way where even kids can understand the plight of the world's poor. Learn what you can do to help alleviate the material inequalities in today's world while also learning something new.

**Date:** Now to February 15th (Wednesday)

**Time:** Every day from 10:00pm to 7:30pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa International Center (1-jo dori 8-chome "Feeeal" Asahikawa 7F)

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 25-7491 (Asahikawa International Center)



### FREE CONSULTATION DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS 外国人のための無料相談会

The Asahikawa International Committee will host a free consultation service day for foreigners living in Asahikawa and neighboring municipalities. Advice will be offered pertaining to matters such as visa related issues and residence status, international marriage, naturalization, health insurance, the pension system, employment, work injuries, etc.

**Date:** February 18th (Saturday)

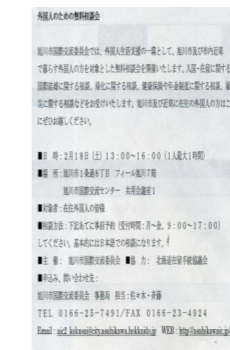
**Time:** From 1:00pm to 4:00pm (consultations may last to an hour and are conducted in Japanese)

**Venue:** Asahikawa International Center (1-jo dori 8-chome "Feeeal" Asahikawa 7F)

**Admission:** Free (call the AIC beforehand to book)

**Persons Eligible:** All foreign residents living in Asahikawa and surrounding municipalities

**For further information contact:** 25-7491 (Asahikawa International Center)



### “HISTORY OF MOTOWN” TOUR OF JAPAN 2012 ヒストリー・オブ・モータウン

A rare chance to see some of the legends of Motown right here in Asahikawa. From its humble beginnings in the late fifties Detroit, Motown (derived from Motor Town) had grown into one of the most influential record label and music genres of the 20th Century. It spawned such greats as The Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, The Temptations, and many more. Richard Street, lead singer of temptations is joined by the The Ladeez & TFO for this one and only Asahikawa show.

**Date:** March 8th (Thursday)

**Time:** Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** S-Seats ¥6,500, A-Tickets ¥6,000

**Ticket Office:** Lawson Ticket, Ticket Pia, Gyokkodo,

**For further information contact:** 69-2000 (TRUST Kikaku Create)



## “A POLYHEDRON WORLD” EXHIBITION OF SUNAZAWA BIKKY’S WORKS 砂澤ビッキ「ポリヘドロンの世界」

SUNAZAWA, a native of Asahikawa, was one of Hokkaido’s foremost wood sculptors. An Ainu descendant himself, his unique works are characterized by Ainu themes and motifs. This exhibition marks the 80th anniversary of his birth (he passed away in 1989) and includes his most representative works taken from various collections across Hokkaido,

**Date:** Now to February 12th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays.

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General ¥600(\* for groups of over 10 people ¥500) High School Students & Under, Pensioners, Disabled, & Persons with special needs Free.

**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**For further information contact:** 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## “GENERATING NEW BUSINESS IN ASAHIKAWA” SEMINAR 新ビジネス創出セミナー

The seminar is aimed at businesses of all sizes or those that are interested in starting a business in the Asahikawa area. Top experts and researchers on regional business promotion and research will share their knowledge and ideas on the newest innovations and trends. Speakers will include the Asahikawa City Economy & Tourism Department’s Manufacturing Promotion Director, ITAYA Kazuhiro (introduction,) Professor FUJIMORI Osamu of Tokai University, Chief Researcher of Hokkaido Research Center, ISHIKAWA Yuhei, and others.

**Date:** February 16th (Thursday)

**Time:** 2:00pm to 4:45pm

**Venue:** “Loisir Hotel Asahikawa” 3 Floor, Hall Room 2 (7-jo 6-chome)

**Admission:** Free (limit of 100 people)

**Seat Reservations:** E-mail: arc-net@arc-net.or.jp Fax: 68-2828 (reservations must be made before the February 14th deadline)

**For further information contact:** 68-2820 (Asahikawa Research Center)



## DISASTER AREA RECONSTRUCTION RELIEF “LOVE & PEACE CONCERT 2012” 東日本大震災復興支援「LOVE & PEACE コンサート2012」

The concert organized by the “Love & Peace” Committee is titled “A Gift of Music to Ishimaki.” The line-up includes six chorus choirs, solo performances on flute, piano, Morin Khurr (Mongolian horse-head cello), a Ballet performance, and more. All the proceeds from the concert will go to assisting the reconstruction effort in the disaster-hit Tohoku region.

**Date:** February 25th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000, High School Students & Under ¥500

**For further information and tickets contact:** 52-8494 (Love & Peace committee)



## 32nd VASALOPPET JAPAN 第32回パーサーロペット・ジャパン

This year’s Vasaloppet Japan Ski-walk events will be held for the first time at the brand new Kitasaito Course. Be part of this city’s biggest international sporting event!

**Date:** Cross-country March 10th (Saturday,) Ski-walk & Team Sprint March 11th (Sunday)

**Time:** Cross-country from 9:30pm, Ski-walk & Sprint from 10:00pm

**Venue:** Tomisawa Course & Kitasaito Course

**Admission: Tomisawa Course Cross-Country** - General ¥3,000, 70 Years-old & over ¥2,500, High School Students ¥2,000, Junior High School Students ¥1,500, Elementary School Students ¥700

**Team Sprint** - General (including High School Students) ¥3,000, Junior High & Elementary School Students ¥1,000

**Kitasaito Course Ski Walk** - General ¥2,500, 70 Years-old & over ¥1,500, High School Students ¥1,000, Junior High School Students ¥1,500, Elementary School Students & Infants Free

**For further information and to register contact:** 55-7783 (Asahikawa Amateur Sports Association,) or 23-1944 (Asahikawa City Sports Division)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR FEBRUARY





# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Yeoh Shern Li  
**Hometown:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Interviewed:** 23rd January, 2012  
**By** AIC

**AIC:** *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

**Shern Li:** I'm an exchange student from Malaysia on the AFS Japan student exchange program. I'm attending Asahikawa Kita High School as a second year student.

**AIC:** *Why did you decide to do your exchange program in Japan?*

**Shern Li:** I'd been studying Japanese for four years before coming to Japan. However, the way I was taught Japanese and the way it's actually spoken here is somewhat different, so in order to perfect my accent and sound more natural I had to study it in Japan. I was also really interested in Japanese culture, and I wanted to experience it first hand.

**AIC:** *Why did you choose to pick Asahikawa?*

**Shern Li:** Well, I didn't have a choice, I was placed here. I'm actually very glad that I was placed in Asahikawa.

**AIC:** *What were your first impressions of Asahikawa and Hokkaido?*

**Shern Li:** It seemed like a really peaceful place, slow-paced and family oriented. People are quite close and everyone seems to know each other. So, I felt that there is a strong community feel to Asahikawa.

**AIC:** *Do you live with a host family?*

**Shern Li:** Yes. I've stayed with one host family during my stay here. I can say I've been very lucky in that respect as I get along very well with them and I've fit in perfectly. I have a sister back home in Malaysia, but here I live with only my host mum and dad. I actually have a host brother but he lives in a different place. They have two dogs, which is really different to my home in Malaysia as we don't keep dogs. Most of the time it's just my mum and me at home, which is great because we get to talk a lot about different things. We get along really well, in fact she's my best friend in Japan.

**AIC:** *How do you spend your free time here?*

**Shern Li:** Most of my time is spent at school. I also have after school activities. At present I'm a member of the school's Shorinji Kempo Karate club. On the weekends I like to go traveling with my school friends, other foreign exchange students, or my host family. I like hanging out with friends and I really enjoy meeting new people. I love traveling on the train, even if it's only to Furano or Biei. There's so much splendid scenery along the way. We don't really have winter in Malaysia, so the winter atmosphere here is something new to me. It's really beautiful.

*Continued from Page 4*

**AIC:** *Which places in Japan have you visited?*

**Shern Li:** So far, Tokyo, Sapporo, Biei, Furano, and some other places close to Asahikawa. I really want to visit Otaru and Kyoto. But as I'm leaving Japan next week that would be kind of impossible. I've seen pictures of Otaru and it looks so interesting. I'd love to see the canals and the old town in real life. That's something that you can't see in Malaysia. However, I'm more than content with what I've seen in my time in Japan.

**AIC:** *Can you describe your experience at Kita High School?*

**Sher Li:** Well, there's always a good and a bad to every experience. However, it's difficult to describe my experience in Kita High School because the school is so good. Everyone is so friendly and they've helped me so much in so many ways. I really didn't expect such hospitality. Teachers would stop in the hallway to greet me and ask if everything's ok. I truly love my school and I'll never forget this wonderful experience.

**AIC:** *Besides Karate, which other school-club activities were you involved in?*

**Shern Li:** Before I joined Shorinji Kempo I tried out various different clubs. I joined *Sado* (traditional Japanese tea ceremony,) *Kado* (flower arranging,) *Kendo* ("Way of the Sword" a modern Japanese martial art which uses a bamboo sword instead of a *Katana*,) Badminton, Volleyball, and some others. In the end I've found Shorinji Kempo Karate the most interesting and suitable to me. It's my first time trying it, and when I get back to Malaysia I hope to be still able to practice some of the moves during my free time. I'm not sure if I can continue to seriously practice it, as I don't think there are any clubs in Malaysia.

**AIC:** *Tell us a little about your hometown?*

**Shern Li:** I'm from Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia and most populous city. The greater metropolitan area of Kuala Lumpur has a population of over 7 million. So, basically I'm a city girl. Malaysia is a multicultural country, and Kuala Lumpur is symbolic of that exciting diversity. The main ethnic groups are the indigenous Malays, the Chinese, and Indian. Malaysia is a unique blend of all these cultures living together. Unlike here in Asahikawa, the weather in Kuala Lumpur is hot all year long, but not unlike Asahikawa, the people are really friendly. One thing you must know about Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysia as a whole, is the sensational food. Some of my favourite dishes are *Char Kuey Teow* (a stir-fried noodle dish,) *Nasi Lemak* (rice in banana leaves) and *Chee Cheong Fun* (steamed rice noodle roll). Malaysian food can be rather spicy, and I love spicy food. I also like to go mountain climbing and hiking; in fact there's a mountain right in the city where you can view the sunrise.

**AIC:** *Which countries have you visited?*

**Shern Li:** I've been to Australia, Thailand, China, Singapore, and Indonesia. They were all family holidays. I have to say that, other than Japan, I liked Australia the most.

**AIC:** *What are your plans for the future?*

**Shern Li:** I've already graduated from high school in Malaysia, so when I get back I'll be starting college. I'm planning to do a course called Cambridge A-levels, which is a one and a half year preparatory course to get into a modern language course in a college in the UK. After completing this course I would like to become a translator/interpreter for English and Japanese. This is my passion and I really want to achieve this dream. I would also like to get married and have children.

**AIC:** *Well, thank you very much for your time, Shern Li.*

**Shern Li:** You're welcome.

# Life In Japan

## Saint Valentine's Day in Japan

By SEO Ayumi

St. Valentine was a physician and a Christian pastor in Rome around the 3rd century. In those days the Roman emperor, Claudius Jr., forbade the soldiers from marrying, so that their morale wouldn't be affected by missing their families. Valentine felt sorry for these young people and let them marry in secret. Upon hearing of this, the emperor executed him on February 14.

In 1936, the first advertisement for Valentine's Day in Japan was by Morozoff, a confectionery and cake company headquartered in Kobe. An American journalist friend of the owner introduced to him the Western custom of Valentine's Day. Although some Japanese department stores advertised the new custom, it didn't take off at the time.

The reemergence of Japanese Valentine's Day came in 1958. "Mary Chocolate Co., Ltd.," which was also a confectionery company, conducted a campaign in a department store called "Ladies, let's give a Valentine's Day chocolate to the gentlemen." This campaign was the origin of Japan's unique Valentine's Day chocolate giving by women to men. According to the Mary's, the reason "from women" was that women predominantly shop at department stores.

Also, in Japan around 1958, many women's magazines were launched under the influence of women's liberation movement in the U.S. There was an atmosphere of "Women should express their opinions more. Take the initiative in love." Thereafter, Chocolate & Cocoa Association of Japan established February 14 "Day of Chocolate," and therefore distribution business circles began to have chocolate sales campaigns in a big way.

St. Valentine's Day had become a ritual in Japan from the late 1970s to the present day. Even though 50 years have passed since the end of the war, can we really say that democracy has become firmly established in Japan?

More unique features of Japanese Valentine's Day are '*Giri Choco*,' chocolates that are

given out as a social obligation on Valentine's Day; and 'White Day' on March 14, a day of giving a gift in return for a gift given on the Valentine's Day. In addition, 'Black Day,' on April 14 has also recently come into fashion. The idea comes from Korea, which is for those who did not give or receive gifts on Valentine's Day or White Day. They get together and eat *jajangmyeon*, white Korean noodles with black bean sauce, to celebrate their singledom.

Looking at this trend, St. Valentine's Day seems no longer just for lovers, but an event for everyone. Though it may seem ridiculous that there are so many commercial celebrations in Japan manipulating you into shopping, you might sometimes just want to surrender to the trend. Anyway, I can't imagine that eating *jajangmyeon* with single friends would be so bad, no matter your relationship status.





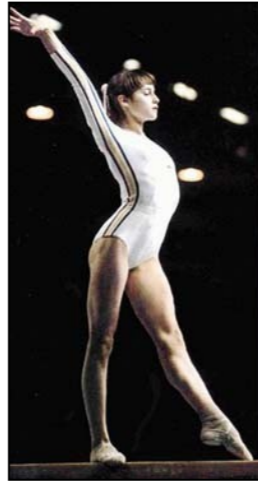
# Teddy World Corner

## ROMANIA

By Teodor Blidaru

Good morning, or afternoon, or whatever it is at the time you are reading this article.

First of all, I want to introduce myself. I suppose my full name is somewhere above the article so it's no need to write it again, anyway, you can call me Teddy. I am a 16 years old Rotary Exchange Student in the beautiful (and cold) city of Asahikawa. My home country is Romania. You can find many more details about me in the last number of this issue.



My purpose for writing here is that I hope I can give you something interesting to read in the next few months. Keep in touch! Today, as you probably don't know that much about Romania, I'd like to make a short introduction of it.

Like a general introduction, Romania is located in the south-eastern part of Europe, bordering Black Sea. With an area of around 240,000 square kilometers, the population is about 21 million people.

So, usually when I say Romania people think of Dracula and Nadia Comaneci eventually. It's true, these are real facts. In Montreal, 1976, now even the computer was able to display the first perfect 10 in the history of gymnastics Nadia Comaneci got. Also, Dracula, you may think he is a legend but I assure you he was real ... He may have not been a vampire, he was just a Romanian ruler during the Middle Ages, who had the bad luck of becoming the bloodthirsty demon of modern times.

I think there are some more things you should know, let's see....

Talking about nature, Romania has a quite outstanding variety. The Carpathian Mountains are extremely beautiful, with breathtaking landscapes, traditional villages preserved since the medieval times and amazing mountain roads.

Transfagarasan Road was named by BBC *Top Gear* "The best road in the World." Also, if you are a nature lover, this is the perfect place to breathe the fresh air in one of our mountain resorts or to see brown bears in their natural environment.

A once in a while visit to a Spa is not only a recommendation, but nowadays it's a necessity. Take advantage of the natural resources that Romania has to offer. Many spa resorts were developed near thermal springs, offering relaxation at very small costs compared to the normal western prices.

Also, the second largest delta in Europe and the best preserved is to be found in the southern part of Romania, bordering the Black Sea. The Danube Delta is a 2,100 sq miles wildlife reserve, home to 160 kinds of fish and 300 species of birds. Dress accordingly, with waterproof clothes, a cap equipped with a water can, mosquito repellent, sun lotion and a first-aid kit, and you are ready to go. There are many places from where you can rent a boat for fishing or just observing the wonderful nature. From the 160 species of fish, the most common are pike, pike perch, carp and the cat fish, which is also the biggest fish in the Danube Delta. The biggest cat fish ever caught was 400 kilograms.



*Continued on Page 8*



The capital and the biggest city of Romania is Bucharest. It's a city for all the tastes, from crowded new shopping squares to old, delightful neighborhoods or quiet gardens. Right in the very center of Bucharest lies the Palace of Parliament, the second largest building in the world. You can admire it from the outside or you can also visit it.

If you don't like the life of the city, I can recommend you something even more unique. In the heart of Transylvania, surrounded by mountains, The "Bran" Castle, known as The Dracula Castle is the place of gathering



for thousands of tourists from all around the world every year. You can visit the castle and follow the steps Vlad "Dracula" took about 500 years ago. Transylvania is not only known for this castle. The very beautiful cities in this area are perfect to visit anytime. One of them is the city of Sighisoara, a medieval fortress, perfectly preserved since hundreds of years ago. The fortress is among the most spectacular and mysterious medieval citadels in Transylvania and it is a true historic monument. Sighisoara is a true phenomenon of modern times, it seems to be insensitive to time and changes, keeping its quiet medieval town aura, refusing to accept the realities of the 21st century.

Another place you should not miss is the north-eastern region of Moldova, Bucovina. Bucovina is famous for the big number of beautifully painted Orthodox monasteries. These painted monasteries are covered by so rare and well preserved frescos that they have been added to UNESCO World Heritage in 1993. This area is not considered to have a high concentration of monasteries for nothing, right close to Bucovina is the mountainous region of Maramures, famous for the Wooden Churches which are unique in the world, because of the way they combine Gothic style and traditional wood construction. These are also part of UNESCO World Heritage. And if you think that just a couple of hours visit is not enough, many of the monasteries will be more than happy to offer you accommodation.



Also, if you are in Maramures, you can see the Romanians' way of dealing with death, the unique Merry Cemetery. It is a cemetery in the village of Săpânța, Maramureș, it is famous for its colourful tombstones with Naïve-style paintings describing, in an original and poetic manner, the persons that are buried there as well as scenes from their lives.

Oh, and do not forget to try the delicious Romanian cuisine or our traditional alcoholic drink made out of plums, "Tuica."



Until next time,  
Regards,  
Teddy





## Movies ~ February



\*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

### Now Showing

- Tempest (Japanese 3D)
- Shiawase no Pan (Japanese)
- Gokaiji Vs. Gavan - The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Kirin no Tsubasa (Japanese)
- Kimi wa Pet (Korean)
- Nihon Retto Ikimonotachi no Monogatari (Japanese)
- Mission Impossible 4 - Ghost Protocol (English)
- Isoroku (Japanese)
- Genji Monogatari (Japanese)
- Magic Tree House (Japanese)
- Robo-G (Japanese)
- Always 3 Chome no Yuhi (Japanese)
- My Way (Japanese)
- The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo (English)

### Coming Soon

- The Twilight Saga: Breaking Down (English)
- Hayabusa (Japanese)
- Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (English)
- In Time (English)
- Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (English)
- The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo (English)

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

### Now Showing

- K-On (Japanese/Animation)
- Johnny English Reborn (English)
- Isoroku (Japanese)
- Mission Impossible 4 - Ghost Protocol (English)
- Fright Night (English)
- Always 3 Chome no Yuhi (Japanese)
- My Way (Japanese)
- Robo-G (Japanese)
- Tower Heist (English)

### Coming Soon

- Gyakuten Saiban (Japanese)
- Ending Note (Japanese)
- War Horse (English)
- The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo (English)
- Hayabusa (Japanese)
- Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (English)
- In Time (English)

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

## 2012 AIC Snow Sculpting Day

The Asahikawa Winter Festival is just around the corner and the Asahikawa International Committee wants you to join the International Team, which will make five snow sculptures as part of the festival's sculpture contest. This year's theme for the international Team will be "Character Mascots of Hokkaido." If you're interested in being part of the fun, please contact the Asahikawa International Committee.

**Venue:** Ishikari Riverfront (meet at the Information Office Winter Festival site)

**Date:** February 4th (Saturday)

**Time:** 10:00am—1:00pm

**Participation Fee:** Free (snacks provided)

**Maximum number of participants:** 30 people

**Contact:** Asahikawa International Committee

Tel: 25-7491, Fax: 23-4924

E-mail: aic2\_kokusai.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp



## Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

**Dates:** *Winter Session:* January 13th, February 10th, March 9th

**Time:** 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

**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)

## AIC Book Collection

If you have unwanted new or second-hand books in languages other than Japanese, the AIC would love to place them in our AIC book corner.

**To donate contact AIC.**  
Tel: 25-7491

**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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.**

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

## 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.\*\***