

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2017

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

November 22

A new "Le Guide Michelin Hokkaido Restaurants & Hotels" is scheduled to be published in the coming summer. The guide book will be updated for the first time since its first edition was published in 2012. Bernard Delmas, president of Michelin Japan, said that they have decided to revise the guide to cover the latest information on restaurants in Hokkaido because new places have opened, old ones have closed and some chefs quit after the old version was issued five years ago.

November 27

The definition of "neyuki" (continuous snow cover) is that snow cover lasts for over 30 days. *Neyuki* in Asahikawa was confirmed to have started on October 29th. It was two days earlier than the existing record. The earliest record of *neyuki* observed in Hokkaido since 1961 was October 31st in Kutchan near Otaru in 2002.

November 28

Asahikawa Commercial High School's Mercantile Research Club, despite only having two members, won the highest award in an all Japan high school commercial research contest in Miyazaki Prefecture on November 17th and 18th. The two high school girls from Asahikawa presented research on how to sell small wood crafts such as small sake cups in vending machines at a pilot shop in Tokyo. Their unprecedented idea was highly evaluated by judges.

December 3

The Asahikawa Public Bathhouse Association has started accepting foods for food banks at five 'sento' (public bathhouses) in cooperation with NPO Association: Pieces. The association and NPO expect that more and more people and organizations will take part in this goodwill activity at those five relief areas. The Japan Public Bathhouse Association in Tokyo says that this is a new activity for public bathhouse associations across Japan.

December 5

JR Hokkaido has put an end to a 95 year-long train operation on the section between Rumoi and Mashike after the last train left from Mashike Station at 8:10 pm. The last train for Fukagawa having about 300 passengers on board left Mashike 22 minutes behind schedule because the station was crowded with local residents and railroad fans who wanted to see the train off. It arrived at Fukagawa 40 minutes later than planned after the train hit a deer in the suburb of Rumoi. The railroad company had to spend 4,161 yen to yield a 100-yen revenue on that section.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Yasushi INOUE and Journey to the Western Regions 2 ~Dunhuang ~ 井上靖と西域紀行II ~敦煌~

Yasushi INOUE was a famous Asahikawa born novelist. When he brought a new light to the story of China's Western Regions and Silk Road when we wrote his novel "Dunhuang" named after Chinese city. The exhibit includes a variety of the other pictures, notes and more that the author took on the city.

Date: Now until January 15th (Sunday)

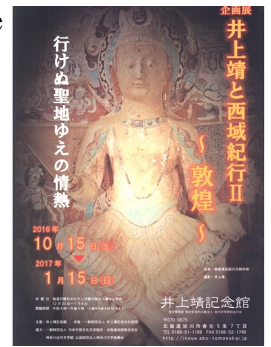
Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥200; High School ¥100; Junior High and under FREE

For further information contact: 0166-52-1740

Notes: On break December 30th to January 4th



20 Years of Asahikawa Theatre *Kawa* and *Kawahara-kan*

旭川・劇団@「河」と「河原館」の20年

Kawa is a famous Asahikawa Theatre group that received rave reviews nationwide through the 70's and 80's and premiered the creative works of SHIMIZU Kunio in Japan. How you can relive the plays through stage photography, posters and scripts on full display.

Date: Now until January 28th (Saturday)

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Literature Archive, Exhibition Room #2 (In Tokiwa Park)

Admission: FREE

For further information contact: 0166-52-1740

Notes: Closed on Mondays. On break December 30th to January 4th



Harmony Between Color and Form in Two-Dimensional Art

色と形のポリフォニー 平面の魅力

In the same way that music is about the harmony of sounds, the artists whose art is displayed in this exhibit tried to strike a harmony between the colors and shapes in these works and showcase the charms of two-dimensional art.

Date: January 17th (Tuesday) to April 9th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

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

Admission: General ¥510; High School ¥300; Junior High and under FREE

For further information contact: 0166-25-2577

***Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.



New Year Charity Concert

NEW YEAR チャリティーコンサート

A number of high school bands are getting together for a new years concert. Participating schools include Jitsugyo High school, Ryukoku High School, and Higashi High School.

Date: January 21st (Saturday)

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

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall, (In Tokiwa Park)

Admission: Adult ¥1,000; High School ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

Junkudo Book Store; Fukido Kids

For further information contact: 0166-25-2143



OPERA KAGUYA-HIME: PRINCESS FROM THE MOON

OPERA かぐや姫

Princess Kaguya is a character from The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter. Kaguya is discovered an infant inside a shining talk of bamboo. The bamboo cutter raises her until she must return to the Moon. The Opera adaptation has played in a number of cities including Salzburg, Prague, Canberra, and Los Angeles since its premier in Tokyo (2003). A number of Anime have taken used story elements from the tale, namely Sailor Moon, Inuyasha and Naruto.

Date: January 21st (Saturday)

Time: Doors 2:00pm, Show 3:00pm

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

Admission: S Seat ¥4,000; 65+ 3,500; Student 2,500

A Seat ¥3,000; 65+ 2,500; Student 1,500

B Seat ¥2,000; 65+ 1,500; Student 500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Potato Service Center, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

Tickets & further information contact: 0166-69-2000 (Taisetsu Crustal Hall)



The Brioso Brass 12th Concert 2017

The Brioso Brass 第12回定期演奏会

Started in Kitami, "The Brioso Brass" is a British style brass band that seeks show the difference between "Brass" and "Wind" in Japan where brass bands suddenly go by the wayside in junior high schools and up.

Date: January 28th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm

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

Admission: ¥5,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 050-1095-6556



SHIMIZU Masahiko Tenor Recital "For the kids"

清水雅彦テノールリサイタル"子どもたちへ"

SHIMIZU Masahiko is a talented tenor with his fair share f awards but he doesn't stop there. He is involved as a critic, a helping hand in making music magazines and textbooks, mock classes, being a vocalist director and educator.

Date: January 29th (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 090-7055-1029 (Executive Committee Office)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY

Life In Hokkaido

“Akemasnite Omedetou Gozaimasu”

By KITAMURA Tadao

Happy New Year to all of you!

I sincerely wish that all the people in the world have a happy year in 2017. Nowadays the world is involved in so many difficulties; atrocities caused by extremists, international dissonance, refugee problems, imbalances in the national economy, political instabilities, epidemics, environmental disruption, natural disasters, and so on.

We, the Japanese people, since very olden times, tend to think or hope the New Year renews everything from the previous year into something better. For our perspective everything in the morning on the 1st of January is quite different from that of other mornings.

Akemashite (明けまして) means ‘opened (the door of the New Year)’.

Omedetou (おめでとう) means ‘very happy for all of us’.

Gozaimas (ございます) means ‘really it is.’ (a polite form).

People exchange these words each other on this special morning. You might think the Japanese are not very pious or devout, and I would agree. However, you might be surprised to see multitudes of people on New Year Days going to Shinto shrines or Buddhism temples all over this country. I am not very superstitious. But when I stand in front of a shrine on this special day, I feel a different emotion, a sign maybe; that the New Year might bring us something good.

January 1st was originally celebrated to welcome the gods of harvest who bring an abundance of natural riches to the people. People have personified the New Year’s Day as the divine, “*o-shogatsu-sama*.” And to welcome him, people, even if they are not majority today, prepare *kadomatsu* (gate pines) and *shimekazari* (sacred rope) on the door-ways of their houses. And *kagamimochi* (two pieces of round rice cake, one on top of the other) are displayed in the proper place in their homes.

On the morning of New Year’s Day, the whole family gathers to celebrate the coming of the new year by sipping a special kind of sweet *sake* called *o-toso*, made with a special herb that is said to promote longevity. And they eat a special dish called *o-zoni*, which contains *mochi* (rice cakes) in a vegetable soup. Dishes that are prepared for the New Year’s holidays are collectively called *o-sechi*.

In the twelve classic horary signs, 2017 is the year of *tori*, (Rooster/Hen). Even though there is no reasonable ground, it is said that this year is good for starting a business; presumably because a Rooster sees something new earliest in the morning.





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Sri Adiyanti
Home Country: Jakarta Indonesia
Interviewed: December 18th, By AIC

AIC: So Sri, where are you from?

Sri: I am from Jakarta, Indonesia. Jakarta is the capital city so it is a crowded city, lots of traffic jams in rush hour, many tall buildings and so on. It's really different from Asahikawa. Indonesia is located on the equator so it only has 2 seasons: dry (April to September) and rainy (October to March). The temperature is around 20-30 Celsius. In some places near mountains, the temperature can be as low as 16-18 Celsius. Indonesia is famously known for having the largest number of tribes in any country in the world and has many different cultures and heritages.

Actually I was bit worried before coming here how to survive the winter because I got many warnings from my colleagues that it is very cold during the winter in Hokkaido. When I was in London the temperature would get down as low as 4 Celsius but here it may reach minus 16 Celsius! I was trying to prepare myself the best as I could, including packaging many winter outfits and getting vaccinated for influenza before coming here. Anyway, this is an opportunity and new experience. Take it as an adventure.

AIC: What brings you to Japan?

Sri: Well, Japan is quite popular in Indonesia so I used to watch anime and read manga in my childhood/teenage years. I've been interested in Japan since a long time ago. In the 1990s Japanese drama series were also popular on Indonesia TV even though nowadays Korea is more popular with K-wave, K-pop and so on. I think the most interesting about Japan is how tradition meets technology. Even they live so modernly, they still practice their traditions and maintain their heritage. Their culture/customs also very clean, polite, and well arranged. We can learn many positive things from Japan life. I came to Japan for a 6 month fellowship program, some kind of research training project in Asahikawa Medical University/Hospital.

AIC: Is it your first time? What about other places?

Sri: It is not my first time, but it is the first time being away for as long as 6 months. In 2007 I came to Japan for a Seminar/Symposium in Kyoto. That time I also went to Nara and Tokyo. It was spring so I could see the *hanami* Sakura blooming. Previously I went to London, UK and Cascais, Portugal for a short term seminar/course. 20 years ago I also went to Europe on vacation with family.

AIC: Do you speak Japanese?

Sri: Yes I speak Japanese but not so well. Just basic level and quite enough to survive here. I can read hiragana, katakana and some easy kanji. I like to learn languages. I have also studied English, French, and Arabic at school but I have forgotten almost all of my French now since the pronunciation and grammar are so difficult. The most interesting thing about Japanese language is that the pronunciations are the same as Indonesian languages.

AIC: When did you get here? How is Asahikawa?

Sri: I came there on August 2016 and will go back in February 2017. I like Asahikawa. It's a quiet city and not too crowded like Tokyo. The view is also beautiful in the many tourism spots such as the Biei blue pond, Furano and so on, even now in the winter when it is very cold. I was lucky that when I came in August I still could see the beautiful flowers garden at Biei, as well as the Ueno and Tomita farms. I like animals, especially cats, and Asahiyama zoo is quite famous and near here, so I like it very much. I never saw penguins before except just on TV, so when I saw them I got really excited. I intend to go there again this winter to see the penguin parade. I also saw a red panda, Japanese crane, and polar bear for the first time. It is said that we can also see some wild foxes around here, but I only saw one once when I was at Kaguraoka Park, but I couldn't see clearly because the fox was running so fast. Actually I am also interested in several cat islands in Japan, but there is nothing near Hokkaido, I just found a cat café near the station: quite an interesting place.

Continued on page 6...

Hello Asahikawa!

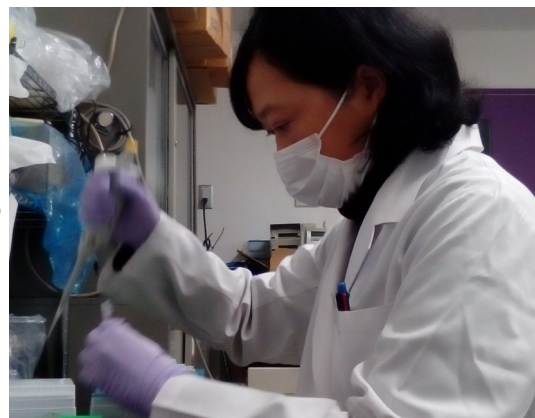
Continued from page 5

AIC: Have you been able to experience anything cool/new since coming to Asahikawa?

Sri: I already experienced spring, summer and winter previously, but not autumn. So when I came here I experienced autumn for the first time watching the leaves became yellow and red. It was so beautiful, but autumn stayed just for quite short time in Hokkaido this year as the winter came earlier so I also tried taking as many autumn pictures as I could. I have ones of the as a park near a hospital, Kaguraoka Park, Mt. Asahidake and the most beautiful one I think was at Gokoku Jinja Park. I also experienced seeing snow fall for the first time. Although I experienced winter previously in London, there was no snow at that time.

AIC: What are your hobbies? Are you into winter sports? What about karaoke?

Sri: My hobbies are reading books, magazines, websites, and watching movies. I used to like to play the piano but not anymore. Nowadays I like travelling and doing new things such as being here to get out of my comfort zone. As you know, Indonesia is a tropical country so it is interesting living in country with 4 seasons even if it's only temporary. I am not much into sport, I prefer to walk, but I would like to try some easy winter sports. Karaoke is so-so. I don't go much but I have no problem going when my friends ask me.



AIC: Well, thank you for letting me interview you?

Sri: You're welcome, it was my pleasure.

★ *Movies ~ January* ★

*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

- Pete's Dragon (English)
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (English 2D, 3D/PG12)
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Museum (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie: The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/Anime)
- Your Name (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English/Japanese)
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English/Japanese)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations: Dr. Pac-Man vs. Ex-Aid & Ghost with Legend Rider (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Assassination Classroom the Movie: 365 Days (Japanese/Anime) 1/7~1/20
- Bokura no Gohan wa Ashita de Matteru (Japanese) 1/7
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese) 1/14
- Silence (English) 1/21
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese) 1/21
- The Magnificent Seven (English) 1/27
- Doctor Strange (English) 1/27
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese) 1/28
- A Loving Husband (Japanese) 1/28
- Kiseki: Sobito of That Day (Japanese) 1/28
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English) 2/3
- Kimi to 100 Kaime no Koi (Japanese) 2/4

★ *Movies ~January* ★

*<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.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (Japanese 2D/ English 4DX 3D/PG12)
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie:The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/ Anime)
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English 2D/Japanese 2D 4DX3D)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations: Dr. Pac-Man vs. Ex-Aid & Ghost with Legend Rider (Japanese)
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Najima Miyuki Concert Theater Ver. 2015-2016: Ichie (Japanese) 1/7
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese) 1/14
- Silence (English) 1/21
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese) 1/21
- The Magnificent Seven (English) 1/27
- Doctor Strange (English 4DX) 1/27
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese) 1/28
- A Loving Husband (Japanese) 1/28
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese) 2/11
- One Week Friends (Japanese) 2/18

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

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (English/PG12)
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Pop in Q (Japanese/Anime)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie:The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/ Anime)
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English)
- Don't Breathe (English)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Monster Strike the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Kamen Rider Heisei Generations: Dr. Pac-Man vs. Ex-Aid & Ghost with Legend Rider (Japanese)
- Ranmaru: The Man with the God Tongue (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English)
- Museum (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime) 1/7
- Miss You Already (English) 1/7~1/20
- Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger vs. Ninninger: Message from the Future Super Sentai (Japanese) 1/14
- Her Love Boils Bathwater (Japanese) 1/14
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese) 1/21
- Silence (English) 1/21
- The Magnificent Seven (English) 1/27
- Doctor Strange (English 4DX) 1/27
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese) 1/28
- A Loving Husband (Japanese) 1/28
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English) 2/3
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese) 2/11
- Survival Family (Japanese) 2/11
- One Week Friends (Japanese) 2/18
- Sword Art Online the Movie: Ordinal Scale (Japanese/Anime) 2/18

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

Winter Attractions Selected Wood Works II

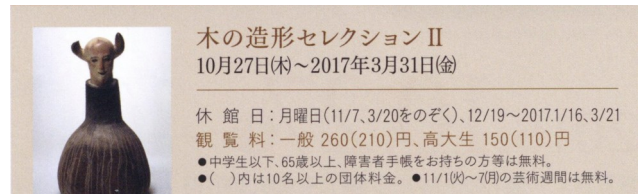


Officially the Asahikawa Winter Festival starts in February but a number of Attractions will be available before then

Asahiyama Yuki no Mura Snow Villiage right outside the east gate of Asahiyama Zoo where you can try out snow rafting, banana boats, and tubing is already open!

There will be a rink outside of the station starting mid-January where you can skate for FREE.

For more events and an overview of the Asahikawa Winter Festivals and related events come pick up the flyer in the International Center (7F Feeeal Shopping Mall) or other places among town. There will be more information on other events in the February Issue!



木の造形セレクション II
10月27日(木)~2017年3月31日(金)

休館日：月曜日(11/7、3/20をのぞく)、12/19~2017.1/16、3/21
観覧料：一般 260(210)円、高大生 150(110)円
●中学生以下、65歳以上、障害者手帳をお持ちの方等は無料。
●()内は10名以上の団体料金。●11/1(火)~7月の芸術週間は無料。

Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art will be bringing out the second part of their award winning wood carvings and crafts out from its collection in the latter part of this month.

Date: Now to March 31st (Friday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm)No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥260; High school/University ¥150
FREE for junior high and under, seniors, and disabled
FREE for everyone November 1st though the 7th

Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

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: January 13th&27th, February 10th&24th, March 10th&24th

Times: 1:00-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 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)

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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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.****