

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

May 24

“Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters,” a Sapporo-based professional baseball team, has been considering a plan to build a new ballpark and is going to change its home fields from the “Sapporo Dome” to a new stadium to make more profits according to an anonymous source. Potential locations for a new ballpark are Hokkaido University campus in Sapporo, the “Makomanai Area” in the southern part of Sapporo, and a “Sports Park” that Kitahiroshima city next to Sapporo plans to build. The Fighters will choose the location by next March and open the new stadium in 2023.

May 25

A pair of “Yubari Melons,” the highest quality melons in Japan, was sold for three million yen in the first melon auction at Sapporo Central Wholesale Market. A fruit and vegetable shop in Amagasaki, Hyogo near Osaka bought them to sell on an online auction. The shop owner said that he wanted to show his gratitude to Yubari which supplies a lot of tasty melons every year. Japanese wholesale markets have a habit of putting an extremely high price on agricultural products when celebrating the first auction of the year.

June 3

A seven-year-old boy missing in the woods near Hakodate for six days was found alive in some barracks at the Self-Defense Forces’ Mt. Komagatake training site at 7:50am. Yamato TANOOKA, the boy, was in relatively good shape, but was taken by helicopter to the hospital, where he was reunited with his parents. The boy told police that he was able to drink water outside the barracks and slept between two mattresses for soldiers inside the building at night. He was left in the woods by his parents as a brief punishment for throwing rocks at cars.

June 3

‘The 84th Hokkaido Grand Music Parade’ that was supposed to be held in Asahikawa on June 4 was canceled due to rainfall and cold weather by the executive committee. The weather forecast for June 4 given by a local meteorological observatory said that there were high odds for rainfall in the downtown area. It was also reported that the highest temperature for the day would be 16 degrees Celsius, much lower than usual, and that there would be thunder and lightning in the afternoon. The event was canceled for the first time because of bad weather.

June 8

Asahikawa City International Fund may run out of money in the next five years due to low interest rates, said the city’s Regional Development Director at the questions and answers session of the city assembly. The fund has 100 million yen now, but it needs to spend about 20 million yen a year in international exchange programs such as sending off people to the sister cities in the U.S., South Korea, and the friendship cities in Russia and China. The fund was started in 1989, based on 100 million yen from the central government’s “Hometown Creation Project” and another 100 million yen from the city, and once reached 327 million yen in 2003 thanks to many donations.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (KAMIMAE Ayumi, 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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Background of Yasushi INOUE's *Ryūsa* ~Illustrations by Yasutake FUNAKOSHI~ 井上靖「流沙」の背景 一船越保武の挿絵原画一

Ryūsa was long novel serialized from 1977 to 1979 in *Mainichi Shimbun* (the daily news) over 515 iterations. The illustrations were done by sculptor Yasutake FUNAKOSHI as he tried to express the love of the two characters of the novel: an archeologist living in Bonn, Germany and a pianist living in Paris, France.

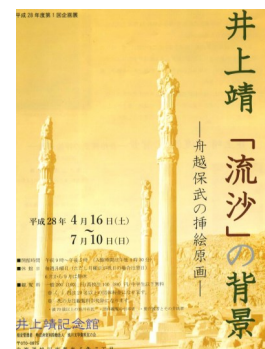
Date: Now to July 10th (Sunday)

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



Modern French Art: From the Hiroshima Museum of Art Collection

ひろしま美術館所蔵 フランス近代美術をめぐる旅

The Hokkaido Museum of art wants to take you on a journey to the first half of the 19th century. From the exotic portraits of Delacroix, to seeing the calming scenes of farmers in their fields through the eyes of Millet. See the Paris cityscape overflowing with light captured by the impressionist painters of the time as well as the scenery painted using the innovative techniques of Cézanne.

Date: Now to August 17th (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,200; High School ¥500; Junior High ¥400; Elementary FREE

Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, Fukido Asahikawa, Lawson Ticket (L-code 16310), Seven Eleven (7-code 043-094), Sunkus/Ticket Pia (P-code 767-310)

***Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm. **Closed on Mondays except for 7/18. Closed on 7/19**



Kyoku-Fest: Attack on Asahikawa

旭フェス 進撃の旭川

The first Saturday of July is looking to be an exciting one! Get ready for Kyoku-Fest! "Kyoku" is taken from a different reading of the "Asahi" from Asahikawa. The event will last all day and will have live DJs, fashion shows, a dance party, cheerleading, performances from local music groups and more! Participating costs nothing unless you want to grab a bite from the locally operated food stands. Invite all your friends!

Date: July 2nd (Saturday)

Time: 11am~9pm

Venue: JR Asahikawa Station Northern Plaza

Admission: FREE

For further information contact: 0166-32-7266



Misaho ODA Dinner Show

織田みさ穂ディナーショー

Born in Fukushima Prefecture, Misaho ODA was bullied from a young age because of her stammer. Singing allowed her to overcome her stammer and has gone on to even do enka performances.

Date: July 3rd (Sunday)

Time: Show 1:00pm

Venue: Art Hotel Asahikawa 3rd Floor (7-jo-dori 6-chome)

Admission: ¥10,000 (Includes Food and Drink)

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

For further information contact: 0166-33-6936



Masashi SADA Concert Tour 2016 2016年 さだまさし コンサートツアー

Masashi SADA is a singer-songwriter, TV personality and novelist. He also has worked on the musical end of movies since 1980! At one point he even owned his own restaurant. Come see a truly talented individual take the stage!

Date: July 3rd (Sunday)
Show Times: Doors 4:30pm Show 5:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall
Admission: General ¥8,640
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Coach and Four (Music Corner), Lawson Ticket (L-code 12041), Ticket Pia (P-code 291-120), Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)
For further information contact: 011-232-1373

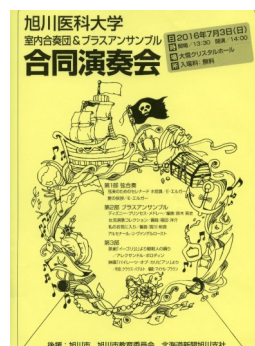


Asahikawa Medical University Joint Concert Chamber Orchestra and Brass Ensemble 旭川医科大学 合同演奏会 室内合奏団&プラスアンサンブル

Asahikawa Medical University's Chamber Orchestra does a variety of shows, sometimes even playing in hospital lobbies! Come and see some future medical professionals play. Program includes:

- Act 1: Works of Sir Edward William Edger
- Act 2: Works of various Japanese artists
- Act 3: Songs from Pirates of the Caribbean

Date: July 3rd (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall
Admission: FREE



Asahikawa Eiryō Wind Ensemble Summer Concert 2016 旭川永嶺高校吹奏楽部サマーコンサート2016

You may not have heard of Eiryō High School before, but you may have heard it by its former name: Ryouin High School. The school's name was changed April of this year after integrating Toei High School. Now not only does it have all the musical prowess of before but now it has an even bigger talent pool to draw from.

Date: July 27th (Wednesday)
Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Coach and Four (Music Corner)
For further information contact: 080-5837-4708



Trio Animus Concert トリオ アニマス コンサート

The Goldberg Variations is a work by Johann Sebastian Bach for the harpsicord and named after its first performer, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg. Now these 3 performers plan to bring it to you through violin, viola and cello.

Date: July 27th (Wednesday)
Time: Show 7:00pm
Venue: Kagura Public Hall "Kirarin" (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)
Admission: ¥3,000
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store
For further information contact: 090-6442-4053



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY



Hello

Name: Cătălin EPURE

Hometown: Romania

Interviewed: June 19th, By AIC

AIC: **Let's start off from where you are from, shall we?**

Cătălin: I am from Romania, Europe. Pretty rare, right? You don't get to meet many Romanians here, or anywhere in Japan.

AIC: **And how does that compare to being in Asahikawa?**

Cătălin: It's totally different. There are so many points of view here. We all know Japan is a really civilized and advanced country, so we can't even make a comparison. Asahikawa is much more safe and peaceful, but I would still choose my city back home. I don't know why but, maybe the nature, freedom to do almost anything you like make me choose it. Japan is just such a safe country!

AIC: **How long will you be here?**

Cătălin: Unfortunately, I have about one month left here in the beautiful city of Asahikawa, specifically, the 25th July. I am really, really sad about going back, but I am already staying longer than any other exchange students do, so I'll just have to go back. I wish I could stay here more, but I also want to meet all of my friends and family back home. It's kind of a weird feeling. A year abroad is awesome, but at the end it is pretty sad. You give your best one whole year, making new friends, going to as many places as you can, try to live most of your life here, learning a totally different language (in my case), and after you do all this things, and get to actually have fun here with the friends you have made, you are sent back home. Having to return to the life you had just forgotten. I am really sad now, knowing I have just one month left, but I do my best to live it in the big way. Many people say an exchange is a year in a life, but it actually is a life in a year.

AIC: **I agree. What brought you here by the way?**

Cătălin: Believe it or not, I didn't even want to go on an exchange at first. I am really lucky to be here now, taking this interview. Last year, I think it was late March; I received a call from a Rotary member, the organization I came here with, asking me if I want to go on exchange in Japan for one year.



Asahikawa!

I think I had the biggest shock in my whole life. I didn't know how to react, because I had never thought about an exchange until that time, but I started laughing and jumping around. I also had to give the answer the same day, which was pretty frustrating. Finally, after long talks, me and my family agreed to say yes, and here I am now, talking to you after 10 months spent in Asahikawa. Pretty funny, right? Before that I had never come to Japan and had no special connection with it. However, everything has changed now.

Even though I had no connection with Japan before, I can say that I like Japan very much now.

Starting from the cars, people, and even the 100 yen shops which are the best place you could enter for the first time. It is unbelievable what you can find there. I love how you are treated in restaurants, or everywhere you go actually. Speaking of restaurants, I am also in love with the Japanese food.



AIC: *(laughs)* That's awesome. You seemed to embrace the language too. I would imagine you are used to speaking multiple languages.

Cătălin: Hmm. Yes, I think I am able to say that now. Since I have been living here since August I can speak Japanese a bit I think, I don't know if my Japanese is good or bad, but I don't have any more problems while talking to my friends. Besides Japanese, I speak Romanian, English, and French. Well, I studied French in school but after I came here I forgot most of it.

AIC: **Where else have you been besides Japan?**

Cătălin: Since my parents love traveling I have also been to Spain, France, Germany, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Austria, and Hungary. I also love traveling; I am also a Boy Scout back home so I often get to go on trips and camping. In the future, I really want to go to America, it's been my dream since I was a child.

Hello Asahikawa!

Cătălin Interview
Continued from page 5

AIC: How did you find Karaoke while you were over here?

Cătălin: To be honest, I have a bad voice, but when the mic is in my hand, I can't stop singing. At first I didn't like it that much, but now it's so much fun. Here's my advice. If you feel that your friends are not having fun, just sing Whitney Houston's *My Heart Will Go On* and everybody will go crazy afterwards.

AIC: I'll add that to my list of Karaoke strategies. What about sports? Winter or otherwise.

Cătălin: I love doing almost any sport. I am a really active person, so I like moving. I have done Karate, soccer, basketball, and now I am doing Judo at Ryukoku High School. It just makes me feel good. I also used to volunteer a lot and go camping as a boy scout. I like watching movies, but I am not that much into reading. Yeah, I also love winter sports! I used to ski back home, but I also started snowboarding here! Snowboarding is the best. I didn't get to do it that much but I'm totally into it!

AIC: Thanks for letting me interview you.

Cătălin: It was a pleasure! I'm actually a big fan of the interviews and I was really hoping that I would be chosen sometime. I also thank you very much!



Life In Asahikawa

Flower People Road (花人街道)

By KITAMURA Tadao

July is the very month for you young people. You'll have lots of fun during this joyful season. School vacation normally begins on the latter part of this month and continues until the end of August. Students of all ages are equally looking forward to this big vacation. Many businesses around Japan also recommend employees to use their vacation time to preserve their health during this lovely season. The most popular pastime for these people is tourism, and the most popular travel destination in this country is Hokkaido, where you are staying now.

You'll have lots of fun staying here in Hokkaido during this pleasant season. The weather becomes much more comfortable. Many people from all over the country, as well as abroad, gather in Asahikawa and the surrounding areas.

If you have a sensitive nose, you may pick up a certain fragrance coming with a southern breeze. This is the smell of the grand stretch of flower gardens located in the vast area of Biei and Furano districts, which are 25km and 60km south-east of Asahikawa respectively.

Both districts are very popular leisure spots for this season. There are many flower farms in these districts that compete amongst each other with their attractive displays of various flowers. The whole area is filled with a sweet fragrance throughout the season. A road running through these districts from Asahikawa is the Route No. 273 and specially named Hanahito-Kaido (花人街道), or "Flower People Road"; presumably, the name means the road where people and flowers meet.

Taking a train will bring you to these districts. JR Furano line connects Asahikawa and Furano through 15 stations and around 20 trains are running a day, so you have some flexibility deciding how and when to get there.



Life In Asahikawa

Flower People Road (花人街道)
By KITAMURA Tadao
Continued from page 7

Some of well-known flower gardens are; Zerubu-no Oka (between Kita-Biei and Biei), Kanno Farm and Shikisai-no-Oka (near Bibaushi), Flower Land and Hinode Lavender Garden (near Kamifurano), and Farm Tomita and Nakafurano Lavender Garden (between Nakafurano and Nishinaka)

Both routes run through gently sloping hills on the outskirts of Tokachi Mountain Range, and the view of the landscape from your window is perfect. Sceneries in this area are particularly appreciated by either amateur or professional photographers and some photographs taken at these locations have even received authentic appraisal.

JR Rail offers a special slow-running train service to serve people who want to take in these wonderful sceneries at a more leisurely pace. The nickname of the train is “Norokko-go,” (the Slow Mover).

★ *Movies ~ July* ★

*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

- The Interest Please, My Lord (Japanese)
- Evergreen Love (Japanese)
- Too Young to Die (Japanese)
- Wolf Girl and Black Prince (Japanese)
- The Kodai Family (Japanese)
- Zootopia (Japanese 2D/Animation)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese/Animation)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- Sadako vs. Kayako (Japanese)
- Alice Through the Looking Glass (Japanese 2D,3D/English 2D)
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15)
- Deadpool (Japanese, English/R15+)
- Natsumi's Firefly (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Moriyamanaka Kyoushujo (Japanese) 7/9
- Independence Day: Resurgence (Japanese 3D/English 2D) 7/9
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese) 7/16
- Finding Dory (Japanese, English/Animation) 7/16
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation) 7/16
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese 2D, 3D/Animation) 7/23
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese) 7/29
- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons **AND** Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6
(Double Feature)

★ *Movies* ~ *July* ★

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

Now Showing

- Alice Through the Looking Glass (Japanese 2D,3D/English 2D)
- Kabuki Drop (Japanese)
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15)
- Creepy (Japanese)
- Sadako vs. Kayako (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)
- The Kodai Family (Japanese)
- Wolf Girl and Black Prince (Japanese)
- Naze Ikiru Rennyō Shōnin to Yosizaki Enjō (Japanese/Animation)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- Evergreen Love (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- Zootopia (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Let's Go Anpanman: Nanda and Runda of the Toy Star (Japanese/Animation) 7/2
- Independence Day: Resurgence (English) 7/9
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation) 7/16
- Finding Dory (Japanese, English/Animation) 7/16
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese) 7/16
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese/Animation) 7/23
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese) 7/29
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons **AND** Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6 **(Double Feature)**

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

Now Showing

- Alice Through the Looking Glass (English)
- Too Young to Die (Japanese)
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15)
- Zutto Mae Kara Suki Deshita (Japanese/Animation)
- Mars (Japanese)
- Creepy (Japanese)
- 10 Cloverfield Lane (English)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)
- Money Monster (English)
- The Kodai Family (Japanese)
- Evergreen Love (Japanese)
- Deadpool (English/R15+)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- Zootopia (English/Animation)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shin-chan:Fast Asleep! Dreaming World Big Assault! (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- When Animals Dream (Danish/R15+) 7/2~7/8
- Sonzai no Riyu Documentary of AKB48 (Japanese) 7/8
- Magical Girl (Spanish/ PG12) 7/9~7/15
- London Has Fallen (English/PG12) 7/9
- Independence Day: Resurgence (English) 7/9
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese) 7/16
- Finding Dory (Japanese, English/Animation) 7/16
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation) 7/16
- The Lazarus Effect (English) 7/23~7/28
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese/Animation) 7/23
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese) 7/29
- The Legend of Tarzan (English) 7/30
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons **AND** Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6 **(Double Feature)**

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

LUNCH PASSPORT 2016 Asahikawa Half Marathon

For ¥1,058, the Lunch Passport knocks one item from a variety of restaurants in Asahikawa down to an easy to pay ¥500. With discounts ranging from ¥200 to ¥878, it pays for itself. Get out and see what Asahikawa has to offer!

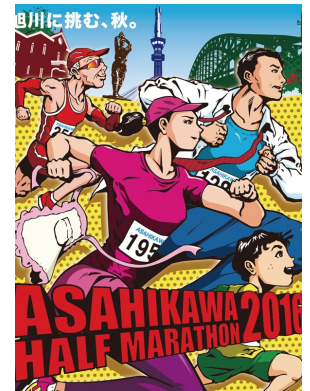
NEW: This time around, the Lunch Passport includes a dessert section. It has also expanded into Takasu, Toma and Higashikagura!

Date: Now until August 10th

Notes: Limit one per person. Limit 3 times per restaurant. Not usually usable alongside coupons. Some restaurants limit the number of orders per day. Other stipulations may apply depending on the restaurant. All restrictions are written in the book.



Although the event isn't until September 25th, registration ends soon. There are 10km and 5km courses as well as a special 3km course for elementary school students and family members (see flyer for details and prices). Remember, your application must be postmarked by July 19th!



Date: September 25th (Sun)

Registration: Now until July 19th (Tuesday)

Time: 9:00 (1st Race)

Venue: Hanasaki Sports Park - Gymnasium (Start)

Admission: **General** **High School**

Half Marathon ¥5,000 ¥3,500

10km ¥3,500 ¥2,000

Website: <http://www.asahikawa-half-marathon.jp>

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: July 8th&22nd, August 12nd&26th, September 9th&23rd

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)
(Feeal 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 (Feeal 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

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924

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.****