

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



November 2013

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

September 28

The number of visitors to “Unkai (a sea of clouds) Terrace” in Tomamu Village of this season reached 100,000 for the first time on September 28. “Unkai Terrace” is a tourist spot located close to the summit of Mt. Tomamu with a fantastic view of clouds. The popular spot opened in 2006 and has attracted 279,740 visitors up to last year.

October 2

The City of Yubari, the only municipality under financial rehabilitation in Japan, announced that its population has dropped below 10,000 by the end of September. The population of the city has decreased by about 90 percent this year since it peaked at 116,908 in 1960. The rapid decrease in number during the 1960’s and 70’s can be attributed to decline of coal industry on which Yubari City’s economy used to be based.

October 5

The Town of Higashikawa opened a foreign liaison office in Taipei, Taiwan to attract more students and tourists. A professional school in Higashikawa is going to open a Japanese language department in this coming January to accept students from abroad who can stay for a year to a year and a half. The office is also expected to function as a tourist information center to circulate sightseeing brochure of Daisetsuzan National Park.

October 6

Quite a few people in Hokkaido watched “Prix de l’ Arc Triomphe,” one of the most prestigious horse races in Europe, on live TV at night. They rooted for Orfevre and Kizuna, two racehorses from Japan, but both failed to win by a narrow margin. The two fine racehorses that have won in many high-stake races in Japan were born and raised in ranches of Hokkaido.

October 13

Dan ITO, a 37-year-old professional soccer athlete from Sapporo, flew back home after contributing a winning match to his team at Mongolian league championship. The former J-League player declined an offer to extend a contract with the team because he prefers to follow his rule of “playing at a country for a year” to know unknown lands of Asia. He has played in 16 countries and regions so far, including Singapore, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Brunei and Myanmar.



For further information or to register for events contact:

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

Location:
International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

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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

Children's Play Exhibition by Asahikawa Literary Museum

旭川文学資料館・企画展 子供の遊び展

Annual children's play exhibition is happening again this autumn. Kagura elementary school's 5th and 6th graders are displaying their works this time. Additionally, there will be two special events coming up; on October 5th (Saturday) participating children can make cool paper airplanes and fly them; October 19th (Saturday) will be a play date with various activities, including cat's cradle, origami, card games and more.

Date: Now to November 8th (Friday), closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays.

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa Literary Museum, Exhibition Room 2 (located inside Asahikawa City Tokiwa Park Tokiwakan)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-22-3310 (Asahikawa Literary Museum)



Forest of Primorye "Russian Maritime Province" Dersu Uzala Illustrated Story Exhibition

プリモリエ<ロシア沿海州>の森 デルス・ウザラ絵物語展

Dersu Uzala is a memoir written by a Russian explorer, Vladimir Arsenyev, about his exploration of the Russian Far East in the early 20th century. This exhibition will introduce 28 pieces of artwork created in 2006, based on the original works of the time.

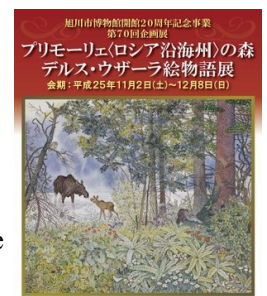
Date: November 2nd (Saturday) to December 8th (Sunday),

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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

Admission: General—¥300, High School Students—¥200, Elementary and Middle School Students—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-22-3310 (Asahikawa Literary Museum)



Swing Messengers Orchestra 2013 Charity Concert

スウィング・メッセンジャーズ・オーケストラ 2013チャリティーコンサート

Swing Messengers Orchestra (S.M.O) was formed in September 2011 by Asahikawa residents who are passionate about jazz. Money raised for this concert will be used for a good cause of social welfare activities, so if you have time, please check it out. S.M.O is also looking for new members, especially trumpet and trombone players. If you are interested in joining, contact information is listed below.

Date: November 3rd (Sunday)

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

Venue: Loisir Hotel, 3F Ballroom (7-jo 6-chome)

Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music, Kawai Asahikawa Showroom, Café Gallery Mai Friend, FM Riviere, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa (5F), Jazz Soba Hosai, Fukido, Coach&Four

Admission: Advanced Booking—¥1,500 (a drink included), At Door—¥1,700

Elementary School Students and Under—Free

For Further Information Contact: 090-2053-5582 (Swing Messengers Orchestra)

Official Website: <http://music.geocities.jp/swingmessengers/>



A DAY TO BEFRIEND AINU CULTURE

アイヌ文化に親しむ日

Asahikawa City Museum is providing a great opportunity for public to learn more about Ainu culture and gain a greater awareness of Ainu history for free. Some of the programs include "Ainu herb tea experience," "Ainu picture book reading," "Ainu cooking sampling," and "Ainu dancing."

Date: November 3rd (Sunday)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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

Admission: Free

For Further Information: 0166-69-2004 or hakubutsukagaku@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Website: <http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/hakubutsukagaku/museum/index.html>



KAMUI CREATIVE MEETING FINAL CONCERT

カムイクリエイティブミーティングファイナルコンサート

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of its opening, Taisetsu Crystal Hall will be hosting this Kamui Creative Meeting, where young musicians will play Ainu's unique festive songs for nature. This will be the last concert of the meeting, which started in April of this year.

Date: November 16th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥2,500, Senior Citizens (65 and older) and disabled ¥2,000, Students ¥1,000 [¥500 extra charge, if tickets are purchased on the day of the concert.]

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2004 (Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



ALL CHOPIN PROGRAM BY PIOTR NOWAK

オール・ショパン・プログラム

Piotr Nowak was born in 1993 in Poland and started playing the piano at the age of six. He has won numerous international prizes for piano contests, including the Golden Plaque for the 8th International Competition of Chopin Golden Ring. Nowak will be playing some of his best Chopin pieces in Asahikawa, so if you are a classical-music lover, don't miss it.

Date: November 18th (Monday)

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

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

Admission: All Seats ¥3,000

Ticket Offices: Japanese Music Cultural Exchange Association, Asahikawa (090-9758-5619), Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa (9166-27-0620)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



TENDOU YOSHIMI CONCERT

天童よしみコンサート

TENDOU Yoshimi is a popular enka singer from Osaka. She has even been nominated for Kohaku-Utagassen, the stage all pop-song singers in Japan yearn for. Mascot doll made after her became a million seller among young girls a while ago. At this concert, TENDOU will be singing her best hits to the latest songs.

Date: November 20th (Thursday)

Time: First performance—2:00 pm, Second performance—6:30 pm

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

Admission: SS-Seats ¥6,500, S-Seats ¥5,000, A-Seats ¥3,500

Ticket Offices: Lawson Ticket, Ticket Topia at 7-Eleven, Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa(5F) (0166-26-6181), Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner (0166-76-4002)

For Further Information Contact: 011-261-9991 (Trust Planning Create)

Please call between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.



KOSETSU MINAMI CONCERT TOUR 2013

南こうせつ コンサートツアー2013

Kosetsu MINAMI formed a band called "Kaguyahime" in 1970, which had a distinctive vitality of Japan's nascent folk music. It released million-seller songs until it disbanded in 1975. MINAMI continued to produce big hits, such as "Natsu no Shoujo" and "Yume Hitoyo" by himself. This concert will include some of the best collections that would be considered a crystallization of his music work for 30+ years.

Date: November 22nd (Friday)

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Admission: All seats ¥6,000 (members ¥4,800)

Ticket Offices: Gyokkodo Asahikawa

For Further Information Contact: 0166-57-0244 (MIN-ON)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR NOVEMBER



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Puthut Prehantoro
Hometown: Ngawi, East Java, Indonesia
Interviewed: October 24th, 2013 by AIC

AIC: *Where are you from? What is it like there?*

Putnut: I am from a very small city called Ngawi, East Java of Indonesia. It is a small town far from the ocean with a tropical climate. The city is not well-known, but people are very friendly and love to talk to strangers on the bus and in public spaces. In my head, I have this image that they resemble Osaka people.

AIC: *(laugh) Indeed, I see the resemblance, too. So, weather in Asahikawa must have been surprising for you.*

Putnut: To say the least. The winter here can be very tough for people from Indonesia, but I was excited at the same time. When I was little, I used to dream about going in and out of an igloo in Canada. Well, Hokkaido is not Canada but still my dream came true in a way.

AIC: *So, what brought you to Japan, well, especially to Asahikawa?*

Putnut: I came to Japan through a teacher-training program in October last year, sponsored by MEXT. First, I studied Japanese at Hokudai for a semester, and then moved to Asahikawa last March. Since it is a very prestigious program, only 14 out of about 500 teachers were selected from all around Indonesia. I am actually in the most northern part among the group members. Since Japan is considered to have a higher level of education system, I thought it would be a good chance to learn about Japan firsthand, and then share my experience with my students when I return to my country next year.

AIC: *Sounds like a great opportunity for you as a teacher.*

Putnut: Yes. Prior to coming to Japan, I was an English teacher for a public high school in my town. Since I came to Japan, I have seen big differences in education system between Japan and Indonesia. First of all, teachers in Japan are selected through a long process with so many stages. Then, they are shifted to different schools periodically, which I imagine is challenging. Also, public school facilities here are well ahead in comparison to my country.

AIC: *Those are really interesting points from a foreign educator's standpoint. I assume that you have a lot of things in mind as to what you would like to do upon returning to Indonesia.*

Putnut: This might sound like an ambitious plan, but I would love to apply some of Japanese educational policies practices to my own community. For instance, I have attended many school festivals since coming to Japan and I believe such school events can be a good way to encourage students to work as a team and learn valuable lessons outside of class. I also hope that someday, Asahikawa will have an established exchange student program with Indonesia so that my students can learn more about Japan.

AIC: *You have been living in Asahikawa for quite a while now. What are some ups and downs in your life here in Japan?*

Putnut: Well, my second son was only two weeks old when I left Indonesia. Being away from my family is probably the most challenging thing for me. With Japan's high-speed Internet, I can still stay connected easily, but whenever something good happens to me here I wish my families were with me. Like when I went to Otaru, watching the beautiful canal with a full moon was not so romantic without my wife, and the cute dolphin I saw at the aquarium made me feel joy and bitterness at the same time because my son was missing out. Still, I really am enjoying my time in Asahikawa. People are so welcoming and I love visiting various museums and eating good sushi and yakiniku. Hopefully I will be able to come back to Asahikawa someday with my family and share this wonderful experience together.

AIC: *Wish you all the best. I appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedule.*

Putnut: Thank you. It was my pleasure.

Life in Asahikawa

Winter is Near

By: KITAMURA Tadao

November is probably the most unpopular month of the year for many. Days grow short and it gets rainy and damp here in Asahikawa. The sun sets as early as a few minutes past four in the afternoon starting this month and it gets dark as the month progresses. Weather is never stable in November and you will see the first snowfall around halfway through this month.

It will be hard to find any pretty colors in fields except for remaining chrysanthemums. You are likely to be soaked in sentimentalism of an Irish Air, “The Last Rose of Summer.” Walking along the street you might even be put into the world of a French song, “*Les Feuilles Mortes*.” (literally “The Dead Leaves”)

People get busy this time of the year, preparing for coming winter. Changing car tires is a must, which would effectively prevent vehicles from slipping on snowy or icy roads. Many also set makeshift shelters in their gardens using thin bamboo poles, straw-mats and ropes to protect their plants from pressure of snow and cold winds; however, most of these materials are made of chemicals nowadays.

A very strong wind will blow for a day during daytime or at night of this month, taking all the leaves from trees. In Japanese the wind is called *kogarashi*, a nipping winter wind. After such a windy night you will find gardeners sweeping and gathering scattered leaves everywhere in the town, on streets, in parks and in house gardens.

No need to fret though — there will be a few beautiful sunny days in an interlude of such grey-colored days. This is called *koharu-biyori*, meaning, “a little spring weather” (or you might call it “an Indian summer” or “St. Luke’s summer.”) On this occasion, I recommend that you stroll through a park or precincts of shrines and temples. This will allow you to discover another quality of Japanese serenity.

November 15th, *shichi-go-san*, is a very special day for kids of seven (girls), five (boys and girls), and three (boys) year olds. They are dressed in fancy clothes and brought to the front of guardian gods or saints by their parents in order to give prayers of gratitude for the children’s growth. This is a joyous time for many, as this is one of the few chances of the season to put on pretty *kimonos* before it gets too cold.

The 2014 winter sports season sets out from the outskirts of Asahikawa this month. Top-rated Nordic ski athletes, including candidates for the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games, will gather together around Asahidake spa by the foot of Daisetsuzan, where there will be enough fresh powder snow already.



Hello November

Enjoying Nabe in Cold Autumn and Winter By: SAKURABA Satoshi

It is getting colder in November. Around this time of the year you will often see “nabe (鍋)” at Japanese dinner tables. Nabe does not refer to a specific dish; rather it is a generic name of boiled dish of various vegetable, meat, etc... In Japan, people sit around nabe with family and friends and enjoy the warmth. Nabe is probably one of the most popular Japanese dishes in winter.

Taste of nabe varies depending on which types of soup and ingredients are used. These days, you can even get delicious pre-made soup at supermarkets, so that you may easily cook and enjoy nabe. Besides, all you need to do is cut up vegetable and meat then drop them into nabe. In Hokkaido, you can get delicious and fresh ingredients of seafood, vegetable and meat for nabe. You will be able to enjoy better-tasting nabe when suiting ingredients are used.

Here are a few examples of food that go well with nabe: chicken, beef, Chinese cabbages, spring onions, scallops and cod. Furthermore, soybean curds and minced fish (すり身) also taste great in nabe. My personal favorite ingredients for nabe are enoki mushroom (エノキダケ), hen-of-the-woods mushroom (マイタケ), cod and Sakhalin surf clam (ホッキ貝.)

For nabe soup base, there are quite a few kinds using miso (味噌), soy sauce, kimchi (might turn out slightly spicy) to name a few. A good combination of soup and ingredients is important to make delicious nabe. For instance, I think that kimchi soup base with seafood is a good combination. Basically you can customize the soup and ingredients and create your original nabe recipe.



Lastly, you can enjoy nabe even after you eat up the food inside. In fact, many Japanese use the soup part for udon or rice. I also like this way of eating afterwards and add an egg and rice to nabe to make *zousui* (雑炊), rice gruel.

Now, you can make your own original nabe and enjoy with your friends this winter!



Movies ~ November



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

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for men.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- SPEC ~Close~ Zen no Hen (Japanese)
- Percy Jackson~Sea of Monsters~ (English)
- Hakuoki the Movie (Japanes/Animation) PG12
- Hidamari no Kanojo (Japanese)
- Oshin (Japanese)
- Diana (English)
- Jinrui Shikin (Japanese)
- Kyoaku (Japanese) R-15
- Kiyoku Yawaku (Japanese)
- Precure the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Maho Shojo Madoka Magika (Japanese/Animation)
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation)
- Shazai no Osama (Japanese)
- Soshite Chichi ni Naru (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Carrie (English) 11/8
- The Cuncelor (English) 11/15
- Pekorusu no Haha ni Ainiiku 11/16
- Subete ha Kimi ni Aetakara 11/22
- Kiyosu Kaigi (Japanese) 11/19
- Kaguyahime no Monogatari 11/23
- SPEC ~Close~ Ko no Hen (Japanese) 11/29
- Captain Phillips (English) 11/29
- Red 2 (English) 11/30

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

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- 42 (English)
- Hidamari no Kanojo (Japanese)
- Shazai no Osama (Japanese)
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation)
- Kitakitsune Monogatari (Japanese)
- Anohi Mita Hana no Namae wo Bokutachi ha Mada Shiranai (Japanese)
- Code Geass ~The Wyvern Divided~ (Japanese/Animation)
- Jinrui Shikin (Japanese)
- Now you see me(English)
- R.I.P.D. (English)
- Unforgiven (Japanese)
- Ataru the first love & the last kill (Japanese)
- Funny face(English)

Coming Soon

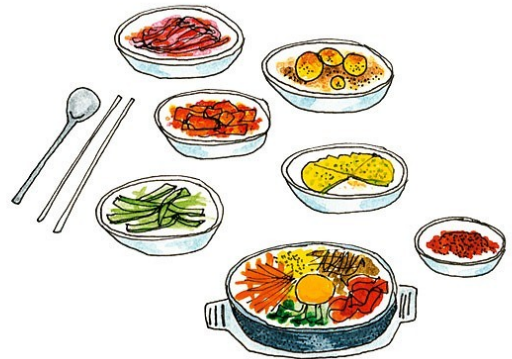
- Carrie (English) 11/8
- Kiyosu Kaigi (Japanese) 11/9
- Roommate (Japanese) 11/9
- The Cuncelor (English) 11/15
- The Family (English) 11/15
- Kujikenaide (Japanese) 11/16
- Subete ha Kimi ni Aetakara 11/22
- Kaguyahime no Monogatari 11/23
- SPEC ~Close~ Ko no Hen (Japanese) 11/29
- Captain Phillips (English) 11/29
- Asahiruban(Japanese) 11/29
- Red 2 (English) 11/30

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

Korean Cooking Class

Are you interested in learning how to cook Korean food (and eat it, too?) If so, make sure to sign up for this month's cooking class to make delicious Korean dishes, including **Kalbi-jjim** (beef short ribs), **Dduk-gook** (traditional rice cake soup) and **Geojeori** (Korean kimch salad.)

Date: November 16th (Saturday)
Venue: Asahikawa Tokiwa Civic Hall
Charge: ¥1,500 (free for members)
For Further Information or to Sign Up, Call: 25-7491



Fun Fridays

Games, discussions, songs, quizzes and many more exciting activities are held at monthly Fun Fridays! Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English. For this and next month, Thanksgiving and Christmas related fun activities are coming up!

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 section.



To donate, contact AIC.
 Tel: 25-7491



Dates: November 8, December 13 (2nd Friday of the month)
Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:50 ~ 8:50pm
Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
 Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jodori 8-chome
Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months
 (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties.

Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.

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

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



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****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****