

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



November 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

September 25

The president of Heart Land Ferry, a Hokkaido-based company, confirmed that it would get out of the liner service between Wakkanai and Sakhalin by the end of March, 2016 as planned. The president said that it is hard for the company to maintain the service to Sakhalin, operating only four months in summer. He also added that the company will sell off an old ferry boat used for the Sakhalin route in order to build a new one for the remote island route to Rishiri and Rebun Islands off Wakkanai.

September 26

The 60th memorial service for more than 1,400 victims of one of the worst maritime perils in Japan took place in Hokuto City next to Hakodate. Five ferries connecting Hakodate and Aomori were sunk by a destructive typhoon on September 26th, 1954. The ferries were operated by the old "Japanese National Railways" as part of its network of railways back then.

September 28

"Japanese-German Association Asahikawa" announced that a German brass band from Bernhardswald in Bayern will participate in "Hokkaido Marching Band Festival" held in Asahikawa every year in June. 17 members of the association asked the band to join the festival, and the both readily agreed while the delegation visited Bayern along with Vienna, Austria and Prague, Czech. This is the second time for the brass band to take part in the event since 2001.

October 7

According to Ski Association of Japan, Fédération Internationale de Ski gave the approval to Asahikawa City to host the Snowboard World Cup 2015 at "Santa Present Park" at a conference in Zurich, Switzerland. Parallel giant slalom is scheduled on February 28th and parallel slalom on March 1st. This is the third time for Asahikawa City to host the Snowboard World Cup.

October 16

Kushiro Branch Office of Hokkaido Government started research on whale watching off Kushiro to make use of tourism resources. Staff of the branch office will join a research team of marine life experts to find out how often people can see whales and dolphins there, and how long it takes to get to a whale-watching area. Tourists and local residents have few opportunities to watch humpback whales, killer whales, and Pacific white-sided dolphins coming over near Kushiro, since there is no sightseeing boat service.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

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

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, 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

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cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

A Body of Sensation**感じるからだ**

Many artists find the human body as an abundant source of inspiration. At this special exhibition, viewers will be able to see the final products in which the artists explore the use of their hands, wrists, and even fingertips. One of the purposes of these artworks is to appreciate and be conscious of our bodies. This exhibition is full of unusual and interesting artworks that were inspired by the human body and its movements.

Date: now to March 8th (Sunday), except on Mondays, 11/25, 12/29-01/03, and 01/13

Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

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

Admission: General—¥510, High School Students—¥300, Senior Citizens (65+) and Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)

**A Day To Befriend Ainu Culture****アイヌ文化に親しむ日**

Celebrating Culture Day, Asahikawa City Museum is providing a great opportunity for public to learn more about Ainu culture and gain a greater awareness of Ainu history. There are various programs available all day where you can taste Ainu herb tea, listen to Ainu epic songs, *yukar*, sample Ainu cuisine, learn how to do traditional Ainu dance, and even make a *tamasai*, a bead necklace worn by Ainu women. Some events require prior sign-ups, so be sure to check in advance.

Date: November 3rd (Monday, national holiday)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 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

**CoCoDe Autumn Festival****秋のCoCoDeまつり**

CoCoDe is Civic Activities and Exchange Center for Asahikawa City residents. They often have informative and interesting activities going on, so be sure to check out their website (<http://asahikawa.genki365.net/>) for more. On **November 3rd**, for instance, Autumn Festival will take place. There will be various stage performances throughout the day, including magic shows, dance stages, band and flute recitals, and so on. Interesting exhibitions are also waiting for you: flower displays, handcrafted goods, to name a few.

Date: November 3rd (Monday, national holiday)

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: Civic Activities and Exchange Center *CoCoDe* (Miyamae-dori Higashi)

Admission: Free

**Recruiting Musicians for Winter Concert****ウィンターコンサート出演者募集**

Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall is looking for Asahikawa City residents who would like to perform at the upcoming annual winter concert. You can join in the fun regardless of what instrument you play.

How To Apply: Download & fill out the application form at <http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/bunkashinko/crystalhall/>

Where To Apply: E-mail the completed form to crystallhall@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp or mail it to: 〒070-8003

旭川市神楽3条7丁目 旭川市大雪クリスタルホール

You can also fax the form to 0166-69-2001

Recruiting Period: November 3rd (Mon) to December 12th (Fri)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2000



2014 Asahikawa Vienna International Violin Seminar

2014旭川・ウィーン国際ヴァイオリンセミナー

Domestically and internationally acclaimed musicians and students will perform at various concerts and offer master-class lessons. Those who showed outstanding performances during the 2013 seminar will be playing at a concert taking place on **Nov 14th at 6:30 pm**. Some of the musicians for this seminar include M. Frischenschlager, the Honorary President of Vienna National College of Music.

Date: November 9th (Sunday) to November 15th (Saturday)

Time and programs: Vary each day. Please contact Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall committee for more information at 0166-69-2000.

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



119 Autumn Fair 2014: Fire Department Band's Disaster Drill Concert

119オータムフェア2014 消防音楽隊避難訓練コンサート

Asahikawa City Fire Department has its own band founded in 1952. They often participate in city parades and many other events. Taisetsu cheerleading team, Snow Bell, will also be performing as a special guest. Other various exhibits will be available at the lobby of Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Date: November 9th (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: Free, but an entrance ticket is needed to get in

Entrance Tickets Available At: Yamaha Music Retailing, Kawai Asahikawa Music Shop, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Office, Asahikawa City Fire Stations

For Further Information Contact: 25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)



Yoshida Brothers' 15th Anniversary Concert: The World of Pure Shamisen

吉田兄弟 15周年記念コンサート ~三味線だけの世界~

The two brothers have attracted an international audience for shamisen, a three-stringed traditional Japanese musical instrument, since they debuted in 1999. They are actually from Noboribetsu, Hokkaido. This concert will be part of their celebration of the 15th anniversary since the Yoshida Brothers debuted.

Date: November 14th (Friday)

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Admission: All Seats—¥5,500

Ticket Offices: Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner, Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven, Lawson Tickets

Online Purchase: www.trustjpn.com/pc/concert.files/141114.files/141114.html

For Further Information Contact: 011-261-9991 (Trust Project Create, M-F 9:30-18:00)



Making A Rice Flour Pancake

米粉のパンケーキづくり

Pancakes are one of those breakfast staples that everyone seems to love, young and old. And you don't need wheat based ingredients to have a delicious and mouth-watering pancake! This would be a great opportunity for you and your child (up to 6th grade) to make gluten-free pancakes using rice flour. There are limited spots, so be sure to sign up in advance if you would like to participate.

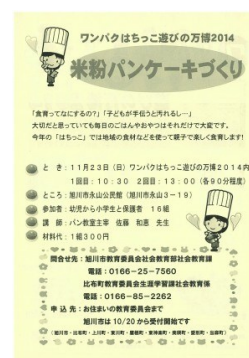
Date: November 23rd (Sunday)

Time: 1st session—10:30 am, 2nd session—1:30 pm. Each session will last for about 90 min.

Venue: Nagayama Community Center (Nagayama 3-jo 19-chome)

Fee: ¥300 per each child + parent

For More Information / To Sign Up: call the nearest Board of Education from your house. (0166-25-7560 for Asahikawa residents)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR NOVEMBER

Life in Asahikawa

Volcano By KITAMURA Tadao

It was extremely shocking when Mount Ontake volcano suddenly erupted on September 27th. Dozens of climbers were killed or severely injured by falling rocks, poisonous gas, and volcanic ash. The mountain is located on the border of Gifu and Nagano prefectures and has been a very popular destination for people since very long ago for its scenic beauty and loftiness. The number of casualties was especially high due to the fact that many people climb Mt. Ontake to enjoy the foliage's rich autumn colors around this time of the year.

Some voiced their opinions that offices handling emergency measures should have issued a warning to restrict entry to the volcano, as soon as the first volcanic tremor was detected.

You, a resident or a visitor to Japan might have been scared to hear such news. Your relatives and friends back home might even warn you not to go near any volcanic mountains. It is no exaggeration to say that Japan consists of volcanic mountains; ten percent of active volcanic mountains in the world is located in this country: one hundred and ten active volcanoes. So your relatives' concern is not outlandish but rather reasonable, I think.

Ironically enough, volcanoes accompany beautiful sceneries and wonderful spas, both of which do not stop attracting countless visitors throughout seasons. Hokkaido also has volcanoes as many as twenty one: Mt. Daisetsuzan range, Tokachidake, Meakandake, Oakandake, Sharidake, Rausudake, Rishirizan, Tarumaezan, Usuzan, Youteizan, Niseko, Komagatake, Esan and others. All of them have good reputations for their breathtaking sceneries and wonderful sporting spots.

Tokachidake, Meakandake, Usuzan, Tarumaezan, and Komagatake have a relatively recent history of eruption. Therefore their volcanic tremor and changes are being kept precisely and constantly by many seismographs and GPS systems. About the rest, you can get warning information online (www.jma.go.jp/jp/volcano) issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency. Prohibiting the access to the mountains of which volcanic tremor is detected is occasionally issued and updated.

The pleasant season of winter sports is about to start around Mt. Daisetsu range, Tokachidake, and Niseko. For those of you who are not aware of the risks, it might be a good idea to ask a Japanese friend for information before you head out to the resorts.





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Maria Semenova
Hometown: Saint Petersburg, Russia
Interviewed: October 23rd, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *Thanks for agreeing to do this interview, Maria. How long have you been in Asahikawa and what do you do here?*

Maria: I have been in Asahikawa for about three months now. I am working in the City as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR,) in the Economic Exchange Division. Most of my duties involve translations to and from Russian. I also like to have fun with my friends.

AIC: *I see. Could you please describe your hometown, Saint Petersburg, for us? What is it like there?*

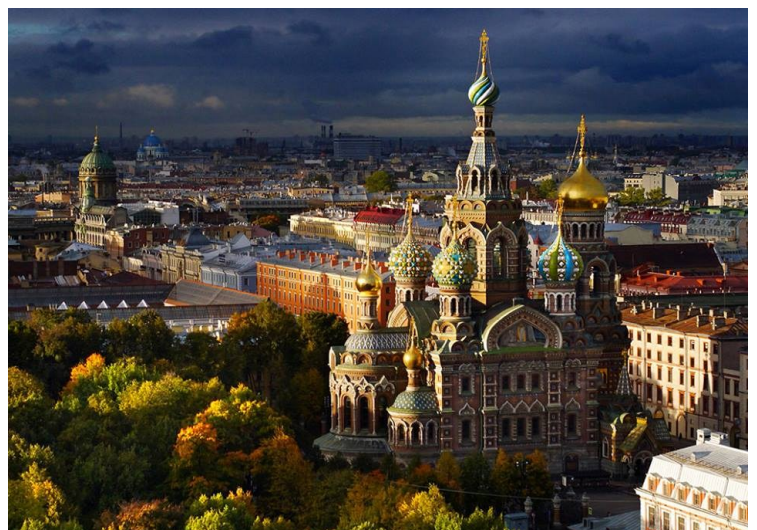
Maria: Saint Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia, after Moscow. It is a very romantic city, as some people refer to it as the “Second Venice” or the “Venice of the North.” It is a really beautiful place. I personally recommend visiting the city in summer or autumn.

AIC: *Yes, I was in Saint Petersburg a few years ago and loved it. When did you become interested in Japan, by the way?*

Maria: It all started when I was a second-year student at my university. Japanese became my minor. The more I learned about Japanese culture and language, the more I became fascinated with the country. Then I studied abroad in the Kansai region, (Hirakata, Osaka) which fueled my interest even more.

AIC: *I am assuming that working environment in Japan must be very different from Russia. Did you work in Russia before coming to Japan, and what got you interested in this specific position as a CIR?*

Maria: This is actually my first full-time job. I realized that I wanted to return and work in Japan. I was trying to find ways to do it. Then I heard about this CIR position, applied, then got the job. I was extremely happy. I chose this position because I wanted to spread my culture around the world. I would love to have Japanese people know better about Russia and Russian people. And my job as a CIR enables me to become a small bridge between the two countries, which I believe will make the relations even stronger. That was the reason that I decided to apply for this job as a CIR.



“A land of timeless and awe-inspiring beauty.
Welcome to Saint Petersburg!”



Maria Semenova Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 5

AIC: *You said you used to study abroad in the Kansai region in college, so was this your first time to Hokkaido?*

Maria: Actually, no. I came to Hokkaido when I was studying in Hirakata. My friends and I flew to Sapporo during the Snow Festival, but it was a very short journey of only three days. We really enjoyed our time nevertheless.

AIC: *Then this must have been your first time to Asahikawa. What was your initial impression of the City?*

Maria: I was so surprised to see that the nature is so similar to Russia. Well, not only the nature but wide roads and lots of freeways reminded me of Saint Petersburg.

AIC: *How is your work? What is the difficult part of living in Japan?*

Maria: The first challenge I faced here in Japan was paying taxes and various bills. Because everything is in Japanese and I had never done it before, it was a bit confusing in the beginning. But now I've gotten used to it. At my job, I translate various documents and official forms. Since I have never had such experience prior to my current job, I often have to do some research online. I feel like it is getting a bit easier as time goes by, though.

AIC: *What do you like to do in your free time?*

Maria: Well, it really depends on my mood. I like reading books and watching movies. I've been doing a lot of cycling since I have come to Japan. I also enjoy walking around and shopping.

AIC: *I ask this question to everyone that I interview, but what is your favorite Japanese food?*

Maria: Everything! (laughs) Umm, if I have to name a few—anything matcha-related. I call myself a “matcha-addict.” Also, sushi and seafood in general.

AIC: *Seafood, huh? Hokkaido must be the perfect place for you then! Is there anything that you would like to do before you leave Japan?*

Maria: I want to visit different places in Japan. I'd like to go to Okinawa and travel around Hokkaido. I've only been to Asahikawa and Sapporo so far, but I hear that there are many beautiful places in Hokkaido.

AIC: *Last question—where do you see yourself after this job? What do you want to do in the future?*

Maria: I am actually thinking about studying economics or politics. I am currently doing many translations related to those fields, so it would be great to pursue such areas in my further studies. I am considering studying in Japan, but also considering other countries or Russia. I have some thoughts, but at the moment I do not exactly know what I would like to do. Now I am just enjoying my time in Japan and doing my best at work.

AIC: *Thank you for talking to us today. Hope you enjoy your time in Asahikawa.*

Maria: You are welcome. Thanks for having me.

★ Movies ~ November ★

*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.

*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 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 Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Hercules (English)
- Dracula Untold (English)
- Mahoro Ekimae Kyosokyoku (Japanese)
- Fushigi na Misaki no Monogatari (Japanese)
- Happiness Charge Precure (Japanese/Animation)
- Budo no Namida (Japanese)
- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese)
- Out of the Furnace (English/PG12)
- About Time (English)
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- Maiko wa Lady (Japanese)
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation)
- Expendable3 (English)
- Clover (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Yves Saint Laurent (English/PG12) 11/8
- Twilight Sasarasaya (Japanese) 11/8
- Kami no Tsuki (Japanese) 11/15
- Kamisama no Iutori (Japanese) 11/15
- Interstellar (English) 11/22
- Miracle Debikurokun no Koi to Maho (Japanese) 11/22
- Omoinkoshi (Japanese) 11/22
- Sukuitai (Japanese) 11/22
- Fury (English) 11/28
- Kiseiju (Japanese) 11/29
- Gone Girl (English/R-15) 12/2
- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (English) 12/13

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

Now Showing

- Onodera no Ototo, Onodera no Ane (Japanese)
- The Equalizer (English)
- Hercules (English)
- Grace of Monaco (English)
- Shanti Days 365 (Japanese)
- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese)
- Getaway (English)
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese)
- Dracula Untold (English)
- Expendable3 (English)
- Clover (Japanese)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- Ogawacho Serenade (Japanese)
- Fushigi na Misaki no Monogatari (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- 25 NIJYU-GO (Japanese) 11/8
- Twilight Sasarasaya (Japanese) 11/8
- Kami no Tsuki (Japanese) 11/15
- Kamisama no Iutori (Japanese) 11/15
- Interstellar (English) 11/22
- Fury (English) 11/28
- Kiseiju (Japanese) 11/29

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

Machikuru Bus

Thinking about going shopping or eating out in the center of Asahikawa this weekend? Perhaps you should consider using Machikuru Bus (まちなかバス). 50 yen will get you on the bus, which goes around downtown Asahikawa with bus stops at seven different locations.

Period of Operation: Until November 16th (Sunday), Friday to Sunday and on national holidays.
Operating Hours & Frequencies: 11:40 am to 7:20 pm, runs every 20 minutes.
Fare: ¥50/ride

For more information, call 0166-23-3355 (Asahikawa Denikido)



Japanese Lessons

“Asahikawa Nihongo no Kai” is available to help foreigners near Asahikawa area with their Japanese studies. The lessons are provided weekly for anyone who wants to learn Japanese for an hour to an hour and a half.

Textbook: You will need to provide your own.
Location: Varies
Charge: ¥300/lesson

For more information or registration:
 Call Asahikawa International Committee at 0166-25-7491 or stop by Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F)

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: November 14th&28th, December 12th&26th
 *Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday
Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm
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.



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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.****