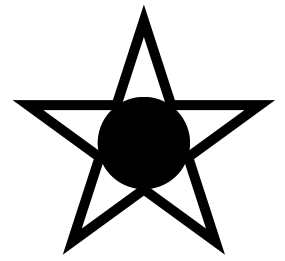


ASAHIKAWA INFO



August 2024, Volume 333

Hokkaido News Top 5

July 2024, compiled by the AIC from Hokkaido News

Roadside Land Prices Increases Are Slowing Down (7/2)

In January 1, 2024, Japan's National Tax Agency had announced 5.2% roadside land price increase affecting 14,000 areas, which is lower compared to 6.8% last year. The price increase has continued for 9 years, however as of recent, the price increase have been slowing down putting Hokkaido at 4th place for roadside land price increase nationwide. Despite the economical developments, many cities in the region are seeing a fall in land price.

Admission Tax Under Consideration for Biei's Blue Pond (7/10)

Biei is considering an admission tax for their widely popular tourist destination "Blue Pond" (Aoi Ike). They hope that adding an admission tax would curb the overtourism taking place in the area. Currently the site charges 500 yen per parked car at the park, however with the increasing number of tourists, they hope that it would be a source of funds. They hope to implement this in 2026 and if implemented would be the first of its kind in Hokkaido.

Beer Gardens Brimming with Individuality (7/17)

Since the beginning of July, many beer gardens have open downtown from Art Hotel to Asahikawa Station. Many stores are offering more than 33 kinds of Nihonshu in addition to beer and wine. Furthermore, to attract non-drinkers, many beer gardens also offer non-alcoholic sparkling beverages for everyone to enjoy. The opening of several beer gardens for the summer season as well as promotion of local sake have led to an increase of foot traffic in the city both domestic and abroad.

Amending Summer Break for Schools in Hokkaido (7/23)

With the rising temperatures in Hokkaido, many parents are concerned on its impacts to school children with worries of heat stroke during commute, as well as school due to lack of air conditioning. As a result, different municipalities and local governments have opted to amend their summer breaks by prolonging summer vacation. Ultimately many Hokkaido schools seem to increase their overall summer and winter breaks, going from 50 days from the 2023 fiscal year to 56 days for 2024.

Students from Korea Visit the National Institute of Technology, Asahikawa College (7/27)

Students from Suwon Hi-Tech High School, Korea has visited the National Institute of Technology, Asahikawa College as well as visited city hall. Since the agreement for scholastic exchange between both schools in 2009, there have been students mutually sent to both schools in the last 10 years. In addition to attending classes, the students were able to check out various local sights such as the Asahiyama Zoo and Kitasaito Garden.

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For more information,
please scan the QR code to
access our website



For further information or to register for events, contact:

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John)

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Fax: (0166) 23-4924

Email: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp



Upcoming Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and around Hokkaido



Ginza Tanabata Festival

銀座七夕まつり

Experience the iconic Tanabata Festival at Ginza-Dori where the street will be full of festivities, entertainment, and decorations !

Date: 8/7(Wednesday)-8/12 (Monday)

Time: All day until local shops close

Location: Ginza-Dori, Between 1-Jodori and 4-Jodori 14 & 15 Chome

For Queries: 0166-23-1210

Thomas the Tank Engine Family Musical

きかんしゃトーマスファミリーミュージカル

Enjoy song and dance of the Thomas the Tank Engine Family musical!

Date: 8/9 (Friday)

Time: 11:30 (2nd run; open doors at 11:00), 14:00 (2nd run; open doors at 13:30)

Location: Civic Culture Hall (Large Hall) (7-Jodori 9-Chome)

Admission: ¥3,000 (Adults), ¥2,000 (Children) (Tickets on sale at the Civic Culture Hall. Tickets bought on the day off will cost an additional ¥500)



The 9th Ororon Summer Festa

第9回オロロンサマーフェスタ

Enjoy the summer festival at Rumoi! There will be raffles, a kids dance, snack scatter (okashi-maki), and many more.

Later, 5,500 fireworks will be launched from the sea!

Date: 8/11 (Sunday)

Time: 13:00-20:30

Location: Akemoto-Cho 2-Chome, Rumoi

Admission: FREE

56th Higashi Asahikawa Bon Odori Festival

第56回東旭川盆踊り大会

Dance the night away at the Bon Odori Festival with the locals of Asahikawa!

Event Details

Date 8/17 (Saturday)

Time: 17:30 - 21:00 (may change)

Location: Tonden Park, Higashi Asahikawa

For Queries: 0166-48-1651



Upcoming Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and around Hokkaido

The 48th Shibetsu Teshiogawa Festival 第48回士別天塩川まつり

There will be wonderful performances by the Shibetsu Elementary Wind Symphony, delicious food such as Suffolk lamb, and a must-see fireworks show!

Date: 8/17 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00-20:30

Location: Higashi 7-Jo 9-Chome area, Shibetsu

Admission: FREE



Japanese Conversation with Locals

旭川市民との日本語会話

Practice your Japanese and get some learning tips from native speakers!

Event Details

Date: 8/24, 8/31, 9/7 (Saturday)**

Time: 14:00- 15:00 (arrive 15 min before start)

Location: Asahikawa International Center Feeeal 7F
1-Jodori 8-Chome, Asahikawa

For Queries: 0166-25-7491



Summer-Exclusive Seasonal Flights!

Referenced from Asahikawa Airport website

Asahikawa⇄Osaka

Operating Dates: 8/1~8/31

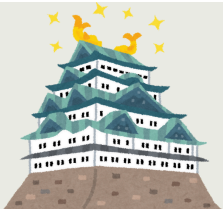
Location: Asahikawa Airport & Itami Airport



Asahikawa⇄Nagoya

Operating Dates: 7/21~8/31, 9/13~9/27

Location: Asahikawa Airport & Chubu Centrair International Airport



Asahikawa⇄South Korea

Operating Dates: 8/13~8/31

Location: Asahikawa Airport & Incheon International Airport

*1 This is only available on TUE and SAT.

(Aug. 13th - Aug. 31st)



AIC BULLETIN BOARD



Need Assistance?

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at **011-200-9595** or go to: www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan



Interesting activities such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handicrafts and much more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax and relate on Fun Fridays!

Dates: August 9th & 23rd, September 13th & 27th

Times: 13:00pm-14:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
18:30-20:30pm ~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.

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

Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. 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/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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 AIC or the City of Asahikawa.****