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For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZALEZ Gabriel)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Tourism, Sports and International/City
Affairs Dept.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

Email: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

Hokkaido News Top 5

May - June 2023, compiled by the AIC

Mongolian Sumo Wrestling Match Held in Hokkaido, (5/30)

Around 150 visitors from all over came to attend the Kanayama Lakeside Campgrounds in Higashishikagoe to watch live Mongolian sumo wrestling. The cultural event was held at the same time Sukhbaatar Monkhat, a wrestling master who has won at the traditional Mongolian festival Naadam, and four of his apprentices were staying to train in the area. A ger, a type of Mongolian mobile home, was set up at the venue alongside stands for khuushuur, Mongolian-style pirozhkis.

Tanner Crab Infestation at Hidaka Shoreline, (5/31)

Large numbers of tanner crabs have been appearing along the shoreline between Urakawa and Samani. Coming at the middle of the fishing season for fluke, the crabs have damaged and become entangled with the gill nets used by fishermen. They are smaller in comparison to their average size, causing them to have little to no product value in the market. To combat this, Hokkaido has prepared to hand out crab fishing licenses to counterbalance the sudden influx.

Demand for Regulation of Use of Ainu Patterns (6/4)

No regulations have currently been put in place to manage the appropriate use of traditional Ainu culture, particular Ainu patterns. Arguments are being made that this could lead to the misconstruing of Ainu culture. Cases of this include the use of an Ainu-style logo on the tail of Air Self-Defense Force jets and the sale of kimono with free online Ainu patterns. The Citizens' Alliance for the Consideration of Ainu Policy has acted in part to petition for the removal of such misuse, stating "how Ainu patterns are used if for the Ainu themselves to decide."

Biei Welcomes Growth of New Resident Population into Town, (6/15)

For the first time in six years, Biei has finally seen more people moving into the town than moving out. The local population had dropped below 10,000 in 2019, pushing Biei to establish an Office of Domestic Migration and Resettlement to promote the image of their town as a place worth moving to. They have also created many opportunities to ease the process for new residents through cooking classes, in-person consultations, and exchange parties.

Sudden Increase in Bike Theft Surges through Hokkaido, (6/16)

The Hokkaido Police have confirmed a number of 1,117 cases of bike theft in the last five months alone this year. When compared against 2,000 cases in total for 2020-21, the numbers reveal a severe trend both regionally and nationwide. Some believe the laxing of COVID-19 restrictions and the Russian invasion of Ukraine to be underlying factors. With more people going out, there is now a larger demand for bicycles, but the lack of aluminum and iron due to the war has only further serves to push bike prices higher, leading to people steal bikes in desperation.

Read the latest issue of Asahikawa Info and get to know the AIC on our website:

<http://asahikawaaic.jp/en/>

Scenic Concert

景色の見える音楽会

Enjoy an afternoon surrounded by the sounds of nature as you listen to this peaceful piano concert performed by Moritoki Tatsumi.

Date: 7/1 (Saturday)

Time: (Opens) 16:30, (Starts) 17:00

Place: Kagura Community Center, Kirarin Hall (Asahikawa, Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Admission: Adult ¥4,500, Child ¥2,000

Ticket Office: Okada Kosetsutei (0166-22-5570), Junkudo Asahikawa (0166-26-1120), Kodomo Fukido (0166-25-3169)

For more information, contact: keshiki@decibel.jp (Decibel LLC)



WATCHMAN presents Atmospheric[∞]: 11

Experience the "ultimate rhythm session" as Watchman performs several pieces consisting of a percussion, piano, and DJ ensemble.

Date: 7/2 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 16:00, (Starts) 16:30

Place: Livehouse MOSQUITO (Asahikawa, 3-jo-dori 9-chome, Kotani Bldg. B1F)

Admission: (Pre-sale) ¥2,500, (Day-of) ¥3,000

Ticket Office: See contact information below

For more information, contact: asahikawamosquito@gmail.com



Off the Dosanko Goes.

道産子が行く。

This exhibit explores the romanticism found in the work of Migishi Kotaro, a true blue dosanko (someone from Hokkaido) who depicted his love for Hokkaido in every paint stroke.

Date: Until 7/5 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku, Kita 2-jo Nishi 15-chome)

Admission: General ¥510(*¥420), High school and university student ¥250(*¥170), Middle school student and under FREE, 65 and older FREE (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 011-644-8901 (Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art)



Jump Out! Picture Books

とびだせ えほん

Rediscover the wonder of picture books with your child as this theatre troupe transports you right into the story and brings the characters to life!

Date: 7/8 (Saturday)

Time: (1) 11:00, (2) 15:00

Place: Machinaka Bunkagoya (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 7-chome Migi 10)

Admission: Elementary school student and up ¥500, Kindergarten and under FREE

Ticket Office: Machinaka Bunkagoya, Kodomo Fukido, shiberiakichi@gmail.com (Please include name, event time, type/number of ticket(s), and contact information)

For more information, contact: shiberiakichi@gmail.com (Theatre Troupe Siberia Kichi)



Hikashu 45th Anniversary! Live Tour 2023 in ASAHIKAWA!!

ヒカシュー 結成45周年！ライブツアー2023 in ASAHIKAWA!!

Join Hikashu as they celebrate their 45th year as a free genre musical group, using a mix of traditional and non-traditional instrumentation to perform their music.

Date: 7/9 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 18:30, (Starts) 19:00

Place: Livehouse MOSQUITO (Asahikawa, 3-jo-dori 9-chome, Kotani Bldg. B1F)

Admission: (Pre-sale) ¥4,500, (Day-of) ¥5,000 (includes 1 drink/attendee)

Ticket Office: See contact information below

For more information, contact: 0166-24-8899 or email asahikawamosquito@gmail.com

(Onishi)



Summer Concert Vol. 2 ~The World of Song and Piano~

サマーコンサートVol.2 ~歌とピアノの世界~

Take the time to partake in this classical concert with a program consisting of Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Delibes, and more!

Date: 7/9 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 13:30, (Starts) 14:00

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

Admission: ¥2,000

Ticket Office: Crystall Hall Museum Shop, Kawai Instruments Asahikawa, Kodomo Fukido

For more information, contact: 090-9085-9026 (Obara)



Nissho Kanda: Resurrecting Tokachi Fine Arts

NISSHO KANDA よみがえる全十勝美術展

This exhibit explores the work of Nissho Kanda as a member of a Tokachi art group, expressing the beauty and solitude of the local nature and town through their pieces.

Date: Until 8/6 (Sunday)

Time: 10:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (except holidays), 7/18 (Tuesday)

Place: Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art (Kato-gun, Shikaoi-cho Higashi-cho, 3-chome 2)

Admission: General ¥530(*¥470), High school student ¥320(*¥260), Middle and elementary school student ¥210(*¥150) (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 0156-66-1555 (Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art)



Cameras Reveal the Truth of Animals!

カメラは見た！ 動物たちの素顔

Find out how animals actually act in this photo exhibit! Dive into the secret lives of the creatures that call Hokkaido home and learn something you never knew before!

Date: Until 10/22 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays, day following national holiday (except Saturdays-Sundays)

Place: Bihoro Town Museum (Bihoro-cho, Azamidori 253-4)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0152-72-2160 (Bihoro Town Museum)



Asahikawa Events in July

Life in Asahikawa

O-MATSURI

by Tadao Kitamura

July is the month of young people.

Young people all are looking forward to the beginning of their summer vacation. In the early days of July, their main topic of discussion is their plans of what to do during their summer holidays. Should I go to the seaside? Or to mountains? Or go on a trip?

Their hearts are full of joyful expectations.

However, students preparing for examinations plan instead to attain higher achievements at summer school.

In any case, Hokkaido is a young person's paradise during this vacation season.

This island might be the most popular among the youth.

There are as many as six wonderful national parks on the island: Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu, Shiretoko, Akan, Kushiro Swamp, Daisetsuzan, and Shikotsu-Dohya.

The climate in this area is very comfortable compared to the rest of the country.

Blessed with crisp air, and a rather small amount of precipitation. The sky is clear. The fields and meadows are green. The mountains are peaked with snowtops. Hokkaido is calling out to young people to visit her great outdoors.

Both airports and important railway stations are filled with joyful commotion of young people. Elderly town residents also are eager to welcome their grandchildren.

Our Asahikawa is the most bustling town during this season. Because it is situated in the center of Hokkaido. So that serves as a very convenient access point to popular resort areas such as Shiretoko, Akan, Rishiri-Rebun, Kushiro, Daisetsuzan, and even to mountains and seas.

Asahikawa itself also a very attractive city.

Flower gardens in surrounding towns are currently in full bloom. The mountain view over the beautiful green hills is unparalleled in the world, and that is not an overstatement.

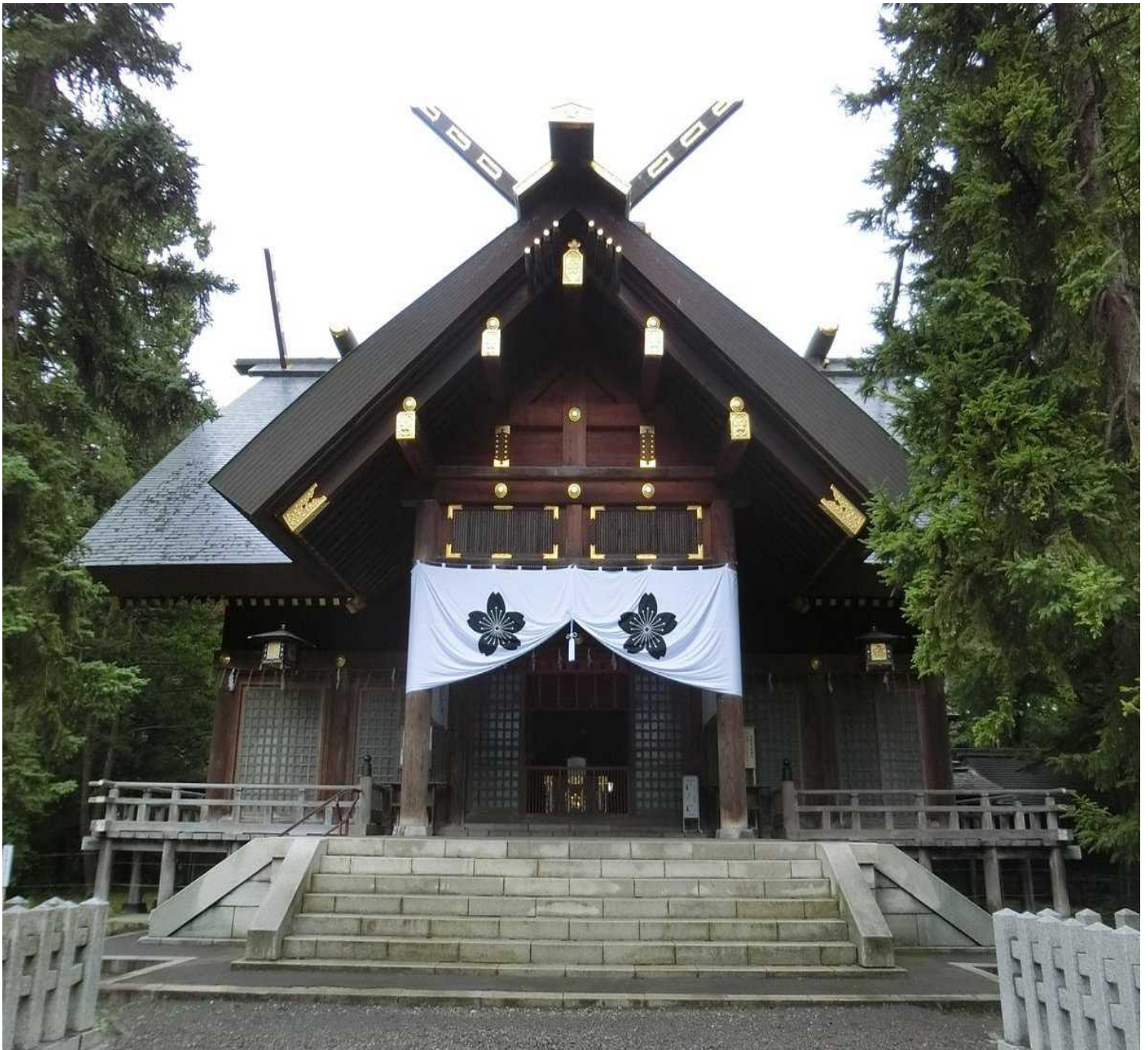
In the beginning of this month, you'll eventually see huge oblong flags that are hoisted at the important spots on roadsides. These are the celebratory flags for the Kamikawa Jinja, a Shinto shrine. On the flag written is the words celebrating the festival for the shrine.

The time between the 20th to 22nd of July is the festival days for the Kamikawa Jinja. This Shinto shrine is characterized as the Guardian of the Kamikawa District that

includes Asahikawa. Unlike most Shinto shrines in Japan, it has a very long history going back two thousand years, at a mystic age. When the Kamikawa Jinja was established in 1893, prominent government officials in the pioneer age of Hokkaido were enshrined along with mythical gods.

However, watching the proceeding of a shrine festival (O-MATSURI), you might learn something about traditional culture of this country. The building of the shrine was constructed according with the same method of wooden architecture from about two thousand years ago.

Another bit of information is that Kaguraoka, where the shrine stands, was where about 140 years ago the detached palace of the Imperial House was once planned to be built by an opposing power.



AIC: Please tell us about yourself and where you are from.

Maya: Hello! My name is Hermya Brock, I am from Portland, Oregon, USA. In Japan, I go by my nickname Maya, because it's easier to write in Japanese. My state, Oregon, is known for its forest, lumber and outdoorsy lifestyle. Portland is best known for its "hipster" reputation, but it means a lot more than that to me because I have lived there my whole life! Oregon is also the home of Nike Headquarters, and my alma mater, University of Oregon. My university is famous for its football team, the Oregon Ducks. One thing I miss most about Oregon is attending their football games!

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Maya: I was first interested in Japan when it was offered as a language at my high school. As a freshman, students could choose to study two years of either Spanish, French or Japanese. My friends decided to choose Japanese, so I chose it as



Name: Hermya Brock

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2023/6/15

If you live in Asahikawa, or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello, Asahikawa!", email us at:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Hello, Asahikawa!

well so that we could be in the same class. What started out as a required course turned into something much more meaningful to me. My first year studying Japanese, I encountered many of the challenges associated with learning a new language, such as adjusting to new grammar structures and the three Japanese writing systems. But at the same time I also realized I was learning more in my Japanese class than any of my other more familiar courses, because the subject was so new to me. I struggled with the class at first, constantly having to retake tests to maintain an A grade. The way this class pushed me to try my best inspired me to work even harder at it, and I decided to try to study abroad in Japan as a Long-Term Rotary International Exchange Student.

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long have you been in Japan?

Maya: My first time in Japan was as a high schooler, where I attended an agricultural high school for one year. The experience allowed me to improve my Japanese and make many lifelong friendships. Due to COVID, I couldn't return to visit my host families as soon as I would have liked, but finally this May I reunited with them after 5 years. With this additional year on JET, this is my second year in Japan! And while life in a foreign country isn't always easy, it's most definitely worth the experience. Ever since my own exchange, I have wished that every student would have the chance to study abroad, because it meant so much to me.

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Maya: I was initially hesitant to be placed in Hokkaido, as I'm not a huge fan of colder weather. In that

Asahikawa Info

respect, Asahikawa certainly lived up to its reputation as the coldest city in Japan. I speculate that the reason I was placed in Hokkaido was due to the fact that despite my aversion to the cold, I love to ski. I was excited to try out the slopes in Hokkaido, having heard that the powder snow here is the best, and it's true! I got to ski at Rusutsu this winter, and it did not disappoint! The snow and the facility itself was lovely, and we had a great time.

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Maya: I was excited to live in Japan with the JET program after college as my first full time job. From here, I think I want to go after a career that I can use my Japanese in, and possibly that involves study abroad and equitable access to it, as that is something I am passionate about! I'm planning to continue my education when I get back from JET. I worked with my school this year to set up an exchange program with the high school I attend in Oregon. Many of the students at my school in Japan expressed an interest in studying abroad, so we looked into setting one up. I am hopeful for the future of this program, as I think it is a good fit for both schools, and the students will benefit from being able to practice their English skills at an American high school!

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

Maya: Some of my hobbies are jogging, doing yoga, skiing, and playing sports. I also love to read, you can find me reading ebooks on my iPad during any free time at school. I also enjoy studying Japanese!

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Maya: My all time favorite is Omuraisu. It was one of the first Japanese foods I liked when I was in Japan for school, and I asked my host mom to make it for me everyday. Since then, I've tried a variety of Japanese foods, but it remains my favorite. When not in Japan, I eat mostly vegetarian, so I had sushi for the first time in Japan. It wasn't something I liked right away, but I can eat some types of sushi now!

AIC: Any places you would recommend to others (restaurants, sight-seeing, etc.)?

Maya: Most of the year, Asahikawa is covered in a blanket of snow, and as such, I would recommend coming to Hokkaido to ski! There are slopes for every kind of skier, advanced or first-timers. The hotel accommodations here also tend to have

some English-speaking staff, so it is perfect for anyone, even if you don't speak Japanese. While you're at it, you have to try every kind of ramen, Asahikawa's specialty! My favorite flavor is spicy miso. I've never seen so many ramen shops in one place. Na-no-hana, inside Asahikawa Station, has a spicy miso ramen that I really like, and it's so cheap! Perfect for a lunch on the go, though I regularly go to the station solely to eat that ramen. Ramen is the perfect hot food for a cold Asahikawa day. Another one of my favorites here is the onsen. The onsen hotels in Noboribetsu were the most amazing I had ever seen! It has dozens of different temperature onsen and saunas, both indoor and outdoor. I recommend it for ultimate relaxation!

AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa so far and how does it compare to your hometown?

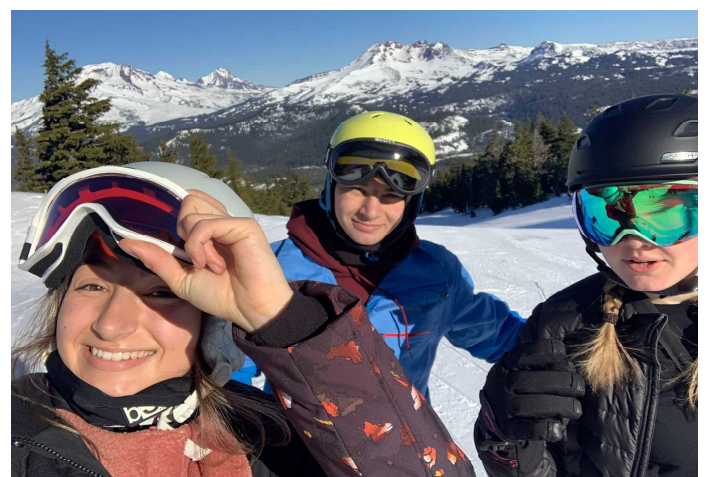
Maya: Asahikawa is a nice place, and the people have been very kind. In comparison to Oregon, the public transport here is amazing. This likely goes for all of Japan, but the detailed bus and train time tables have really helped me navigate the city. On a clear day, you can see the mountain peaks on all sides, which is beautiful, and reminds me of Oregon.

AIC: Do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to doing here in Japan?

Maya: I am looking forward to visiting Okinawa this August, and South Korea after that. Okinawa especially is rich in Japanese culture and beautiful beaches, so I am excited to head there with my family. Flights from Japan to Korea are relatively cheap, so I am looking forward to heading there for three days filled with shopping for skincare and trying Korean food!

AIC: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?

Maya: Thanks for reading!



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.

Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 2 (Japanese/Anime)
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime)
- My Beautiful Man: Eternal (Japanese)
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese)
- Confession (Korean)
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (English/Anime)
- Kikaijima (Japanese/PG12)
- The Flash (English)
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 1 (Japanese/Anime)
- The Little Mermaid (English)
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese)
- Monster (Japanese)
- Rohan at the Louvre (Japanese)
- Fast X (English)
- Tokyo MER (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- One Second Ahead of Him (Japanese) 7/7
- Shina Pushu the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 7/7
- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese) 7/7
- The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (Japanese/Anime) 7/7~7/20
- Gotobun no Hanayome ∞ (Japanese/Anime) 7/14
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime) 7/14
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English) 7/21
- Osomatsu-san: Tamashii no Takoyaki Party to Densetsu no Otomari-kai (Japanese/Anime) 7/21
- Re: STARS ~ Mirai he Tsunagu Futatsu no Kiraboshi (Japanese/Anime) 7/21
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese) 7/28
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese) 7/28
- Summer Wars (Japanese/Anime) 7/28~8/10
- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (English) 8/4
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Minna no Uta (Japanese) 8/11
- MEG 2: The Trench (English) 8/25
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15

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

Movies - July

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CinePlex 7 Asahikawa: Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama
0166-49-1000 / URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12)
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime)
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese)
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Sister Venturing Out (Japanese/Anime)
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (English/Anime)
- The Flash (English 4DX)
- Black Clover: Sword of the Wizard King (Japanese/Anime)
- The Little Mermaid (English 4DX)
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese)
- Monster (Japanese)
- Fast X (English 4DX)
- Saigo Made Iku (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (English)
- Tokyo MER (Japanese)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

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- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese) 7/7
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- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English) 7/21
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese) 7/28
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese) 7/28
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Elemental (English) 8/4
- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (English) 8/4
- Barbie (English) 8/11
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English) 8/25
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15

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AIC Bulletin Board

Need Help?

北海道 外国人 相談 センター
Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center
北海道外国人咨询中心 홋카이도 외국인 상담 센터
Trung tâm hỗ trợ người nước ngoài Hokkaido

ASK US ANYTHING!

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AND SAT, SUN, & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

CONTACT US!
011-200-9595
support@hiecc.or.jp
www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is here 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: July 14th and 28th, August 10th & 15th, September 8th & 22nd
Times: 1:00pm-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 an afternoon visit.



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.



Asahikawa International Committee
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

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.