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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,
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Hokkaido News Top 5

March - April 2023, compiled by the AIC

Karafuto Ainu Language Dictionary Translated into Japanese, (3/19)

An Ainu-Russian dictionary compiled over 150 years ago in Karafuto by army medic Mikhail Dobrovolsky was recently translated by Yoshitaka Terada, an professor at Hokkai-Gakuen University. This was the first time the text has ever been published in Japanese, with many academics excited for new discoveries into not just the language, but food and medicinal practices of the Karafuto Ainu. It contains over 11,000 entries of both common and specialized vocabulary.

Foreigner-Led Businesses Grow in Hokkaido, (3/21)

Both Hokkaido and the City of Sapporo are focusing their effort on supporting foreigner-led businesses in the prefecture with a system that allows for the issuance of a start-up visa with a 1-year residency status to complete the necessary preparations to establish a business. Six were issued in 2022, with ten more business plan applications currently under review. A variety of business ventures have now set up shop in Hokkaido, and the prefecture hopes this will in turn urge Hokkaido start-ups to dive into the global market.

First Cherry Blossoms in Hokkaido Bloom in Matsumae, (4/12)

It was announced that the Somei-yoshino cherry trees in Matsumae Park in Matsumae-cho began to blossom on 4/11. Cherry blossom season in Hokkaido has arrived 10 days earlier than last year, and 16 days earlier than the average year. The town has seen continuously warm days since March, reaching a peak temperature of 14.1° on 4/11, 3.8° higher than in previous years. The annual Matsumae Sakura Festival was held in celebration of the new season on 4/22.

Asahikawa Girls' Hardball Baseball Team Shoots For Nationals, (4/12)

The girls' hardball baseball team of Asahikawa Meisei High, the first of such a team in the Dohoku region, began practices on 4/8. Team members cheered each other on as they trained for four hours towards their public games starting in May. Twenty-three of the team members are first year students and all hail from all over Hokkaido: Asahikawa, Furano, Sapporo, Kushiro, etc. To focus on figuring out each player's strengths and weaknesses they practice catching, batting, and alternating positions. They hope to appear in the Hokkaido League and ultimately the National High School Baseball Championship in July.

Geese Make Their Way Into Hokkaido Wetlands, (4/15)

Considered a nationally protected species, more than 30,000 greater white-fronted geese have migrated to the Miyajima Wetlands. Many birdwatchers visited the area for a chance to see the waterfowl make their nests. The area is protected under the Ramsar Convention and is one of the Japan's most popular stopovers for migratory birds. They make the stop on their way to eastern Russia to glean grain in the surrounding rice paddy fields and conserve energy for the long-distance move.

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

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

Hokkaido's Ammonites: Coniacians

北海道のアンモナイト コニアシアン編

Take a step back in time and come face to face with the prehistoric era in this exhibition showing off samples of Hokkaido's many fossilized ammonite shells.

Date: Until 5/7 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (The following day if Monday is a holiday)

Place: Mikasa City Museum (Mikasa, Ikushunbetsunishiki-cho 1-212-1)

Admission: General ¥450(*¥360), Elementary and middle school student ¥150(*¥120) (*Groups of 20+)

For more information, contact: 01267-6-7545 (Mikasa City Museum)



Akanto Un Kotan: Regions, The Ainu Culture of Lake Akan

アカント ウン コタン ～阿寒湖畔のアイヌ文化～

Learn about the history of Ainu culture near Lake Akan and how the region has borne a new culture in its attempts to balance tradition with modern-day tourism.

Date: Until 5/14 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00, Closed: Mondays (The following day if Monday is a holiday)

Place: National Ainu Museum (Shiraoi, Wakakusa-cho, 2-chome 3-1)

Admission: Adult ¥1,200(*¥960), High school student ¥600(*¥480), Middle school student and under FREE (*Groups of 20+)

For more information, contact: <https://nam.go.jp/> (National Ainu Museum)



The Literary Monuments of Yasushi Inoue - What They Tell Us -

井上靖の文学碑 一碑が語ること

Learn about the over 50 different monuments found throughout Japan, dedicated to the work of Asahikawa-born author Yasushi Inoue and what they can tell us of his life.

Date: Until 5/21 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays, Tuesday if Monday is a holiday

Place: Inoue Yasushi Memorial Hall (Asahikawa, Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300(*¥240), High school student ¥150(*¥120), Middle school and under FREE, Ages 70+ ¥150 (*Groups of 20+)

For more information, contact: 0166-51-1188 (Inoue Yasushi Memorial Hall)



Shoko Yomogizawa: Gathering

艾沢祥子 集積する時間

This exhibition will be based around the work of Shoko Yomogizawa, a Hokkaido-born artist that deals with the theme of life and the ethereal nature of our sensations and impressions through multi-media.

Date: Until 6/11 (Sunday)

Time: 9:45-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)

Place: Sapporo Art Museum (Sapporo Art Park, 2-chome 75-banchi)

Admission: General ¥1,100(*¥900), High school and university student ¥800(*¥660), Elementary and middle school student ¥500(*¥420), Kindergartner and under FREE, those 65 and over ¥900(*¥740) (*Groups of 20+)

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide, Daimaru Fujii Central, Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center

For more information, contact: 011-591-0090 (Sapporo Art Museum)



Trick × Illusion!

トリック×イリュージョン!

Don't let your eyes play tricks on you in this exhibit introducing a more humorous side of art: illusion! Artists from a wide array of mediums and historical backgrounds will be on display.

Date: Until 6/11 (Sunday)

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

Place: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo 17-chome)

Admission: General ¥1,700(*¥1,500), High school and university student ¥1,000(*¥800), Middle school student ¥700(*¥500), Elementary school student and under FREE (*Groups of 10+)

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide Online Store, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11823), 7-ticket (7-code: 098-948), Ticket Pia (P-code: 686-343), Seico Mart (Secoma-code: D23042202)

For more information, contact: 011-210-5731 (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art)



Fascinating Modern Western Paintings: From Monet to Renoir to Picasso and Matisse

魅惑の西洋近代絵画 ～モネ、ルノワールからピカソ、マティスまで～

Take the plunge into the world of the Impressionists, Post-Impressionists, Fauvists and more in this exhibit that explores the world's neverending fascination with modern Western painting.

Date: Until 6/25 (Sunday)

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

Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥1,200(*¥1,000), High school and university student ¥700(*¥500), Middle school student ¥400(*¥300), Elementary school student and under FREE [*Groups of 10+ or pre-sale (ends 4/14)]

Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, Asahikawa Fukido, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12372), 7-ticket (7-code: 098-953), Ticket Pia (P-code: 686-342), Seico Mart (Secoma-code: D23041502), Sapporo Doshin Playguide, Doshin Playguide Online Store

Admission: Contact theater for membership fee

For more information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



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)



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)



Life in Asahikawa



The Eighty-eighth Night

by Tadao Kitamura

*Summer is nearing,
The eighty-eighth Night.
In either fields or hills,
Fresh leaves are grown.
What is seen over there?
Aren't they maiden tea-pickers?
With red tucking and a sedge hat on...*

The second day of May is the *hachijuu-hachi ya*, or the eighty-eighth day from the beginning of spring. From that day on, nature transforms into a cheerful setting. Farmers begin their work in good earnest. The folk song above imagines a scene in which girls are picking fresh leaves off the tea shrubs, in indigo-dyed kimonos, sleeves tucked up with a red string, and a sedge hat on. However, nowadays that sort of scenery is no longer common, only on occasion for events or tourism purposes. Today, most farm homes use well-devised machinery to harvest fresh tea shrub leaves, without the need of human hands. The tea leaves harvested on the 'eighty-eighth night' are especially prized and called '*shin-cha*,' (new tea) that sell for a high price. There are several famous tea producing counties: Shizuoka, Uji in Kyoto, Yame in Fukuoka, Sayama in Tokyo, and several others.

On the day of the eighty-eighth night these places are filled with an atmosphere of feasts and rejoicing stemming from the pleasant season. Every living being, human or other gets lots of vigor during this wonderful season.

Haiku is a kind of very short, seventeen-syllabled verse which was born from commoner culture in the Edo Era. One is judged on briefness and clarity.

One of Edo haiku goes:

*Green leaves for eyes. (to see)
Mountain cuckoo, (for ears to hear)
Earliest bonito. (to taste)*

Expressing people's joy to see the wonderful season of summer, very briefly and clearly. In the cobalt-blue sky, you may see a family of carp streamer, black, red or blue, and big, medium or small; all swimming in the soft and fragrant breeze.

I hope for the same peaceful wind to flow in Europe also.

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

Matt: My name is Matthew and I am from Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Matt: I first became interested in Japan after trying out the ramen and Japanese cuisine in Vancouver and then after visiting Japan with friends for the first time, I knew I wanted to stay for more than a couple weeks!

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

Matt: This is my fourth time in Japan and have been living here for over a year now. Time flies when you're having fun!

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Matt: I usually come to Asahikawa on weekends, usually to eat sushi. Hokkaido sushi will make you look down upon Tokyo sushi. The other weekend I went to a wonderful magic bar called Welcome Bar,



Name: Matthew D.

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2023/4/23

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!

the bartender put a cigarette out in the palm of my hand... Just the best of service!

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Matt: I am an ALT or assistant language teacher in the mountainous Kamikawa. Come for the views, stay for a hot dog.

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

Matt: I enjoy going to hobby shops in my free time and exploring what Asahikawa has to offer. Usually come to the cineplex and sit down for a 4DX showing and let it rock my world.

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Matt: I do enjoy ramen and gyoza. Asahikawa has some fantastic ramen such as Aoba near Asahikawa Station. Little old grandparents wearing French berets run it and take real good care of you!

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

Matt: Asahikawa has an excellent burger and buffalo chicken wing place called HAP Café. It is delicious and serves American taste buds quite well, if it's not sold out!

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

Matt: Asahikawa has a lot to discover under the surface and there is surprisingly a lot more than meets the eye. The people are very down to earth and welcoming. It is much like my own city with its breathtaking mountain views and small town-like hospitality. Come check out Asahikawa, the ice festival is great here! Also, the 4DX will rock your socks!

Matt's Adventures in Japan





Staying Connected

by Samuel Culver

When I came to Japan in 2022, I had to say “See you soon!” to all of my family and friends. There were several difficult “see you later’s” but the one that made me the most emotional was saying it to my local theatre family.

The Children’s Performing Theatre is a community theatre group that allowed children from ages 5-15 to experience performing a stage play. For about two months the program would be hard at work to build sets, have rehearsals, and find costumes to put on shows that would often come close to selling out the rather small auditorium. Adults were responsible for the roles of director and stage hands, but all the acting roles were filled by children and teenagers. We would average anywhere from 50-80 children at auditions and would almost always guarantee a role of some kind as we never wanted to discourage children from the performing arts.

I have been part of the program since I was 5 years old. I watched my sister perform on stage and became rather jealous of the attention she was receiving. So once I was 5 years old, I memorized a very short monologue and steam-rolled my way through the audition. Over the course of 10 years I did every single show I could! Eventually, I aged out of the program but found myself wanting to still volunteer alongside my mother and father, to continue to support the program. From age 15 until 22 I volunteered at some point during the performance, even getting to direct my own show and improv class just before my journey to Japan.



Sam spotted keeping in touch with his troupe!



I made several friends with the other volunteers, but what I hadn't realized was the connection I had made with some of the kids I had mentored! My mom told me that many of the children asked me if I would be able to facetime them before their first show. I was rather surprised that some of them remembered me enough to ask for a phone call! So, my wife and I woke up extra early on a Saturday morning and got dressed for our phone call. My mother walked around the stage with her phone facing out for the children to see me as she walked around. I was surprised to see so many faces excited to say hello!

She brought over a few of the teenagers who had specifically asked to call me and I gave them a few words of encouragement before their show. They were all very eager to tell me about the show, but they only had a few minutes before curtain call, so we didn't get to talk for very long.

We have now done this for three performances! I have found that making phone calls to friends and family every few months really helps keep me from getting homesick.









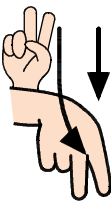

My goal while in Japan is to see a few live performances, but some theatres are still waiting for COVID restrictions to ease up before they open their doors. I was able to visit Asahi Sunrise Hall to watch a school festival and see a short performance by my students. The principal told me that in years past many famous actors would perform plays there as well! I am hoping that the hall opens again soon and has performances. I may not be able to fully understand the show, but a good performance can move you with just the tone and body movements of the actors.



日本手話で話そう! Let's Use JSL!



By Gabriel Gonzalez

						
A	I	U	E	O	WA	WO
						
KA	KI	KU	KE	KO	N	
						
SA	SHI	SU	SE	SO		
						
TA	CHI	TSU	TE	TO		
						
NA	NI	NU	NE	NO		
						
HA	HI	FU	HE	HO		
						
MA	MI	MU	ME	MO		
						
YA	RI	YU	RU	RE	YO	
						
RA						

This time for our JSL lesson, let's learn about 指文字, or **fingerspelling!** To spell things out in JSL (like your name, of course!), the most common system used is based on the kana syllabary in written Japanese. This means you'll want to convert your name into a more Japanese pronunciation first, like so:

Gabriel → **GA-BU-RI-E-RU!**

Notice, however that I have GA and BU in my name! For these, take KA and FU and move them to the side, away from the body! This is the same as adding dakuten in Japanese:

か→が、ふ→ぶ、し→じ etc.

For PA, PI, PU, PE, or PO, take the equivalent H-sign and raise it up!

For the little TSU (っ) or little YA, YU or YO (as in ちゃ・ちゅ・ちよ), take the original sign and move in backwards, towards the body!

CAREFUL: All these signs are depicted as if seen by the "listener"!

Movies - May

**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

- Tokyo MER (Japanese)
- Knights of the Zodiac (English)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)
- Missing (English/PG12)
- Touken Ranbu 2 (Japanese)
- Nemesis: Mystery of Golden Spiral (Japanese)
- Gridman Universe (Japanese)
- My Happy Marriage (Japanese)
- Shin Kamen Rider (Japanese/PG12)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Sky Utopia (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3 (English 4DX) 5/3
- Father of the Milky Way Railroad (Japanese) 5/5
- Tár (English) 5/12
- Otonanajimi (Japanese) 5/12
- Memory (English/R15+) 5/12
- Saigo Made Iku (Japanese) 5/19
- Fast X (English) 5/19
- I Am What I Am (Chinese) 5/26
- Creed III (English) 5/26
- Rohan at the Louvre (Japanese) 5/26
- Monster (Japanese) 6/2
- Spring in Between (Japanese) 6/2
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 1 (Japanese/Anime) 6/9
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese) 6/9
- Kikajima (Japanese/PG12) 6/16
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese) 6/23
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 2 (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- Osomatsu-san: Tamashii no Takoyaki Party to Densetsu no Otomari-kai (Japanese/Anime) 7/21

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

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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 MER (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (English)
- Knights of the Zodiac (English)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- GenePro 7 (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Nemesis: The Mystery of Golden Spiral (Japanese)
- Touken Ranbu 2 (Japanese)
- Shin Kamen Rider (Japanese/PG12)
- My Happy Marriage (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Sky Utopia (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3 (English 4DX) 5/3
- Father of the Milky Way Railroad (Japanese) 5/5
- Psycho-Pass Providence (Japanese 4DX/Anime/R15+) 5/12
- Let It Be 2 (Japanese) 5/12
- Shina Pushu the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 5/19
- Saigo Made Iku (Japanese) 5/19
- Fast X (English) 5/19
- Creed III (English) 5/26
- Princess Principal: Crown Handler Chapter 3 (Japanese/Anime) 6/2
- Monster (Japanese) 6/2
- The Little Mermaid (English 4DX) 6/9
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese) 6/9
- Black Clover: Sword of the Wizard King (Japanese/Anime) 6/16
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (English) 6/16
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese) 6/23
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Sister Venturing Out (Japanese/Anime) 6/23
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12) 6/30
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English) 7/21
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese) 7/28

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

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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HÃY HỎI CHÚNG TÔI NHÉ!

OPEN MON~FRI 9:00-17:00
CLOSED WEEKDAYS 12:00 - 13:00
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: May 12th & 26th, June 9th & 23th, July 14th and 28th
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,
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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.