

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



April 2021
Compiled by AIC

School Lunch for Elementary and Junior High School Students in Nemuro to Become Free 2/23

The city of Nemuro has achieved great results from the Hometown Taxation Program, and plans to use the funds it accumulated through the program to provide elementary and junior high school students with free school lunches, a first for any of Hokkaido's 35 cities. The city will also give residents financial support of ¥10,000 per newborn baby. Around 1,600 students will receive free school lunches through this initiative.

Hokkaido Ski Resorts Survive Pandemic Thanks to Local Skiers 2/24

Due to the impact of the novel coronavirus, the number of inbound foreign skiers as well as skiers from outside of Hokkaido has fallen significantly. On the other hand, visitors that live in Hokkaido have been hitting the slopes more than ever. Since outdoor sports are considered low-risk for contagious spread, families that have refrained from going on outings are now visiting their local slopes. Ski resorts are thinking of ways to attract more visitors by offering special deals to those that live in Hokkaido.

Construction of Traditional Ainu Boat Complete 3/7

The construction of an "Itaomachipu," a type of wooden boat used by the Ainu people for voyages on the open ocean, has just been completed. An artisan of traditional Ainu works was commissioned to build the boat by the Ainu Culture Academic Research Association in the town of Bihoro, Okhotsk Subprefecture, as part of an effort to preserve Ainu culture. The Itaomachipu was used by the Ainu for fishing and commerce. It measures 12.3 meters in length, and 1.7 meters in width.

Foreign Exchange Students Graduate, Set to Become Caregivers 3/17

About 140 students from the Asahikawa Welfare Professional Training College were called up one by one to accept diplomas at their graduation ceremony, including 20 foreign exchange students. Some students wore suits, and others, the traditional clothes of their home countries. They will begin work at welfare facilities across Hokkaido this spring.

Teleworking Office Space Designed by Famous Architect to Open in Higashikawa 3/17

Architect KUMA Kengo, who was involved in designing the Japan National Stadium, will be renting one of four telework offices to be built by the town of Higashikawa, Kamikawa Subprefecture. KUMA has set up offices in four locations including Tokyo and Paris, and is working on projects both domestic and international. Kuma has stated that Higashikawa is an ideal place to live if you telework due to the area's many wonderful features, like its beautiful natural surroundings and pure groundwater.



For further information or to register for events contact:
Asahikawa International Committee
(KAMIMAE Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or SAITO Emmy)
Location:
International/City Affairs Division, Tourism, Sports and International/City Affairs Dept.
Address:
Asahikawa International Center Feeeel
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

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Coronavirus Vaccinations Begin Soon for Those 65 and Up

IMPORTANT NOTE: The distribution of the vaccine has been slightly delayed, so you may not be able to make an appointment immediately. The current estimated date for those who are 65 and up to receive the vaccine is April 12th. There may be further delays, so please check the *Asahibashi* newsletter, the local newspaper, or the city homepage for more information.

Translated from the March Edition of *Asahibashi*

Vaccinations for the novel coronavirus will be available nationwide starting this month (see above note). This vaccine has been confirmed to prevent symptoms like fever, coughing, etc., as well as prevent progression into serious illness.

By having as many people as possible get vaccinated, we hope to decrease the number of deaths, decrease the number of those inflicted with a serious bout of the illness, as well as reduce the burden on medical facilities. The next sections will help you understand more about the vaccine—including its characteristics and how you can get yourself vaccinated.

Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Consultation & Appointment Reservation Call Center

Phone Number: 0166-25-3501 Weekday Hours (M-F): 8:45-17:15

The Six Key Words:

1. **Sixty-five:** Those who are 65 years and older will be the first eligible group to get their shots. A vaccination card will be sent to your place of residence.
2. **Hospitals:** You can get the vaccine at city-wide hospitals and designated vaccination sites.
3. **Free:** The vaccine is free of charge.
4. **Vaccination Card:** Don't forget to bring the vaccination card that was sent to you when you come to receive your vaccine.
5. **Twice:** You will need to get a total of two shots, so please store your vaccination card in a safe place until you receive your second vaccination.
6. **Appointment:** You need to make an appointment in order to receive the vaccine.

How to Get the Vaccine

Step 1: Wait for your vaccine card to arrive

A vaccine card will arrive at your place of residence.

Step 2: Make an Appointment (Possible delays for appointment-making. See the above note)

Make an Appointment by Phone: Call the call center listed above and make an appointment. Be sure you to have your preferred vaccination site and preferred dates figured out beforehand.

Make an Appointment Online: Visit the Asahikawa City homepage, click on "reservation," and fill out the following information (May not be available yet. See above note):

- Asahikawa City Code: 012041
- Vaccination Card Number: The 10-digit number printed on your vaccination card

Visit the Asahikawa City Homepage for information on vaccination sites. A limit on the number of appointments or on the age of eligibility may be imposed depending on supply levels of the vaccine.

Step 3: Go to the Hospital/Vaccination Site

Go and get your shot at the hospital/vaccination site where you made your appointment. You will then receive a card that is proof that you have been vaccinated, and has a sticker on it that lists the name of the vaccine you received.

Step 4: Receive your Second Dose

You must also make an appointment in order to receive your second dose. Take into consideration the number of days you must leave in between your first and second dose before you choose reserve an appointment. When the date arrives, go and receive your second dose of the vaccination.

Vaccine Q&A

Q: What are possible side effects of the coronavirus vaccine?

A:

- **10% of those who take the vaccine**—> Swelling or pain in the spot on your arm where you got the shot, diarrhea, or fever (these symptoms will disappear in a few days for most people). If your symptoms are more severe, please see a doctor.

- **About 5 in 1 million who take the vaccine**—> In about 30 minutes of receiving the vaccine, these people will develop hives, become nauseous, or will experience clouding of consciousness.

※ For a period of 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine, staff will monitor your health. In the event that you have show any side effects, you will receive care accordingly.

Q: Do I have to keep wearing a mask even after I get the vaccine?

A: The extent to which vaccinated individuals can spread the coronavirus to others is currently unknown. This, it is important that you continue to take precautions such as avoiding the “Three C’s” (crowded spaces, close-contact settings, and confined and enclosed spaces), wearing a mask, and washing your hands.

Q: What type of vaccine will be available in Asahikawa?

A: The vaccine will help prevent the onset of illness as well as serious symptoms. The vaccine that will be available in Asahikawa at this time is Pfizer’s “Comirnaty” vaccine.

Q: How old do you have to be to get the vaccine?

A: 16 years and up. However, women who are pregnant or breast-feeding should consult a doctor to weigh benefits versus possible side effects before deciding whether or not to get the vaccine.

Q: How long should I wait after getting the first dose of the vaccine to receive the second?

A: For Pfizer’s “Comirnaty” vaccine, you should wait at least three weeks (21 days) after getting your first dose to receive your second. The effectiveness rate (ability to prevent onset of the illness) of the vaccine is about 95% (According to an efficacy analysis done by Pfizer)

Other Points to Take into Consideration

There may be changes to this information

The information listed here is based off of information from the March *Asahibashi* (published March 15th), so the information listed here concerning vaccine distribution may be out of date. Delays in national vaccine distribution could also delay the ability to make reservations for vaccine appointments. Updated information will be available in the *Asahibashi* newsletter, in the local newspaper, or on the city homepage.

Contact your vaccination site if you need to cancel your appointment

The coronavirus vaccine must be regularly kept at extremely low temperatures of -70°C , so they are stored in what is called a “deep freezer.” Vaccines that are thawed must be used within five days. In addition, the contents of a vial must be used within six hours after being opened, so any remaining contents of the vial must be disposed of after that time. The vaccine is brought to your chosen medical facility or hospital only after you make an appointment, so if you need to cancel your appointment, you must make preparations to do so in advance.

Informed Consent

Measures are taken to ensure that everyone can have a worry-free experience getting the vaccine, such as collecting and utilizing data in order to provide safety for others, and establishing a system to provide aid in case an individual has an adverse response to the vaccine. Please be fully aware of both the benefits and potential side effects before making your decision to get the vaccine. You may not receive the vaccine without first providing your consent.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Grace Abe
Home Country: Philippines
Interviewed: 1/23/2021

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!

AIC: Hello Grace! Where are you from?

Grace: I'm from Bohol, and island province in the Philippines.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?

Grace: In Japan in the 1980s, the economy was really booming. I came here at around that time as an entertainer after I graduated from college. In the Philippines, I was a dancer since I was in elementary school. My friends were the first to come to Japan, and they told me, "You can make so much money here!" (*laughs*). They were the kids of well-off families in the Philippines, but they went to Japan for only six months and they changed so much! They had money, and they looked even more beautiful than they were before, so I thought, "Maybe I'll go to Japan after graduation." However, it's not easy because you have to audition. If you can't pass the audition, you won't have a license, and you can't come to Japan.

AIC: What was the audition like?

Grace: They had you do jazz dance, modern dance, Broadway, and more. You'd have to audition for six different types of dance and really practice them, because the judges were the number one dancers in the Philippines. I passed on my first try, so I was able to come here. My first job was in Tokyo, and I came here as a group. Our contract was only for six months. Then, we'd have to go back to the Philippines and look for our next job. After Tokyo, I came to Asahikawa.

AIC: Why Asahikawa?

Grace: Actually, I didn't know anything about Hokkaido before I came. We had no gadgets like smartphones. The most commonly used gadget at the time was something called "Pocket Bell." You dial the Pocket Bell number of the person you want to contact, and that person will call you back. Anyways, I had no idea what kind of place Hokkaido was. When it snowed in Tokyo it was only a little. I came to Hokkaido wearing summer clothes and sandals. After I arrived at the Chitose Airport, I thought, "How can I walk in all the snow wearing just these summer sandals?" It was really hard for me. I didn't even have a jacket.



AIC: Was that your first time seeing so much snow?

Grace: Yes. I took a picture with my group, and none of us were wearing jackets. We thought, "We have to send this to the Philippines!" After one week, we started to think, "How long will all this snow be here?" And then someone said, "It will last for six months." We all thought, "Oh no!" After that we didn't go outside. We were all in our 20's so we didn't feel the cold at all because we were young. Now, I can't go outside without wearing my town jacket or I'll die from the cold *(laughs)*.

AIC: I said the same thing when I found out how long winter was here. So, what do you do for work?

Grace: I do dance, my job, and my hobby. This snack bar is my bread and butter. Sometimes I teach patchwork for one of my friends, but I'm not actually a regular worker because my job is here at night.

AIC: How does life in Japan compare to life in the Philippines?

Grace: It's a very big difference. In the Philippines, I had a close family. There was someone to talk to every day, whether it was my siblings or my parents. Here in Japan, I didn't have any family. My husband died 24 years ago. He passed away from cancer. My son was only two years old, so after my husband passed away, I had to work day and night to make ends meet. I didn't have any family so I couldn't leave my son alone in our apartment. I decided to send him to the Philippines so I could work easily day and night. He went back and forth between Japan and the Philippines until grade three. I think if you really work hard, life is easier in Japan. Ever since my husband died, I had to work hard, but I don't feel like my life is that hard. I worked in a restaurant in the morning until 2 or 3pm, and then I would work again at night in a bar. The customers were very good, and most of them were women. They came to the bar and gave me good tips. I do not regret living my life here. I chose to stay even after my husband died because I met good people. I met good customers, and I had good friends. At that time, I hardly knew any Japanese. The Asahikawa International Committee helped me a lot. They had a program that taught people Japanese, so I enrolled in it. I studied the Japanese language there, and at the same time, Ms. Kumagai, the head in those days, always asked me to write for the newsletter. I wrote for it three times. The Asahikawa Bureau of Education started a cultural exchange program for target towards elementary through high school students. They requested me to go to schools. The salary was 10,000 for one hour. It was a good deal. Sometimes I was still sleepy because I worked at night, but I would wake up early to go to the school because of *ichi-man!* *(laughs)*

AIC: I imagine you sound asleep, and then waking up yelling, "*ichi-man!!*" *(laughs)*

Grace: *(laughs)* I have to survive! When they offered me work I always said yes. Sometimes I would go to two schools in one day, and I would go because I had mouths to feed. I had to send money back to the Philippines because of my son. The customers would always give me a tip and say "This is so that you and your son can eat nice food."



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AIC: That's so nice of them.

Grace:

God has been good to me. I have been able to meet many wonderful people like the people at the Asahikawa International Committee, for example, Ms. Kurusu and Ms. Kumagai, as well as good customers, and good friends. I hate the cold, though. There is too much snow. Life for me is so very hard in the winter. It costs more money and everything takes more time. I use my bike every summer to save money, but during the winter, I either take a taxi or walk. It's so slippery and very dangerous.

AIC: What are some cultural differences between the Philippines and Japan?

Grace:

During my first time here, we were not used to eating raw food like *sushi*. When someone gave us *onigiri*, we thought, "Why is there all this seaweed on the rice? It's in the way!" We would take off the seaweed. Also, it was my first time eating *umeboshi* and *natto*. I thought *natto* smelled so bad.

One time our dance group was staying at a hotel with a large public bath. We wondered why we had to take off all our clothes to get in. It was so embarrassing! And then, everyone sits in the bath for a long time. We thought, "Why do Japanese people boil themselves?" (*laughs*) Nowadays, a lot of people have the internet so they know about Japanese bath culture before coming here, but back then we didn't know anything about that! (*laughs*). Our Japanese friends told us to get in, but it was so hot! We don't have any public baths or hot springs in the Philippines. It's a hot country, so we would rather shower in cold water than bathe in hot water.

Nowadays here, you can see a lot of Christmas decorations, but before, you couldn't. You could only see decorations on the 24th and 25th, and they would take them down right after the 25th, so on the 26th everything is gone. Then they prepare New Year's decorations. You couldn't hear a single English Christmas song! It was a shock.

Nowadays, you can talk to your friends whenever you want, wherever they are, but back then, we had to use international call cards that costed ¥1000 for 3 minutes. *Kai-mono-koen* used to have phone boxes where you could call internationally, so we would go there and use our cards. I would ask my mom how she's doing and before you know it the three minutes were up! It was so expensive before. Sometimes I would spend ¥20,000 a month on international call cards. My customers would even give me cards as a tip.

AIC: What do you like about Asahikawa?

Grace:

I like Asahikawa very much. I've been living here longer than I have been living in the Philippines. This is my second home. I like that when you go to city hall in Asahikawa, and you need some help writing documents, there is someone who can assist you. If you want to request a document, it's very fast. In the Philippines, if you want takes a long time. If you want to connect water, you will need many officers to sign off on it and you have to give them a bribe.

It's very peaceful here. Even at night, I'm not scared to go outside. If I go walk around in a big city in the Philippines, I'm scared. I only wear plastic jewelry in case someone tries to snatch it from me. There are so many snatchers around. Especially in the big city. I would rather live in the countryside. Asahikawa is the perfect size. If you get used to living here, it's hard to go back. It's scary.



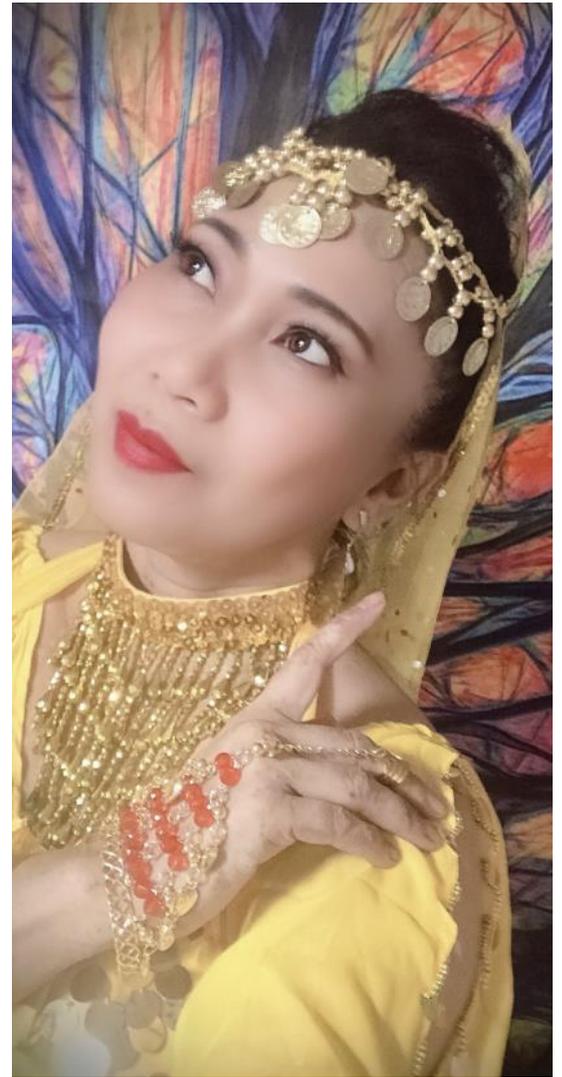
AIC: How do you like Japanese food? What are some of your favorites?

Grace: Before, I didn't like Japanese food! (*laughs*) Now I like it. It's healthy. Japanese people are good at arranging their food to make it look beautiful. Especially traditional foods. I really like that.

I lived in the countryside in the Philippines, so we had really good meat. When we wanted to eat meat, we would take a chicken or a pig, slaughter it, and make a meal out of it. Everything is fresh. When I first came to Japan, I didn't like to eat the frozen meat. I was so used to eating fresh fish, chicken, and pig. I used to hate *natto*, but now I love it. I eat it with soy sauce and onions, and I cook it.

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

Grace: I used to go to the gym, but now, because of the pandemic, I'm starting to gain a little weight. I used to practice dance three times a week, but now, not at all. Now I make décor in my free time. I feel very lonely and sad every winter. The only colors I see are white and black, so that's why I made my room bright and decorated it with many bright colors. When it's Christmas, I put up a lot of Christmas decorations. Did you know, that the longest Christmas in the world is in the Philippines? When it's September, we start to decorate our house with Christmas decorations.



AIC: In September?

Grace: Yes. When September comes, we put up our Christmas tree. You can see houses inside and outside full of Christmas decorations. That's why for me, the loneliest time of the year is Christmas and the New Year. They also prepare so many foods during Christmas. Japan is just cake, but the Philippines has so much more. For New Year's we sometimes have lechon. Do you know lechon? It's a roasted whole pig. But in Japan, I'm here by myself, so I don't cook for New Year's. Who would eat? It's just me! I want to go back home to visit, but I won't be able to for a while it seems.

AIC: What do you miss the most about life back in the Philippines?

Grace: The most? My friends. My family. Just the relaxing time I have with them. I can live a luxury life in the Philippines on my vacation. I save up money for travel, so that when I go back, I can go to an expensive hotel, and I can stay for two days. That's what I miss. I cannot do that in Japan because it's very expensive. I miss the life in the Philippines. My family prepares my breakfast for me. Here, I have to make my own. Even when I'm sick. Even when I don't feel good I have to work because I have bills to pay. I want to go back once a year to relax and see my family. During my stay, I don't do anything. I just wait for my breakfast, because breakfast will be ready for me (*laughs*). I love the Philippines, because it's of course, my country. I can relax there. The sea is beautiful. It's much cheaper to live there than it is in Japan. Everything is expensive here. When you go to the Philippines, one kilogram of mangoes is only 30 pesos. That would be about ¥80.

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AIC: That's crazy!

Grace: Here, one small piece of bread is about ¥100 or ¥120. There, you can buy so much bread for ¥100 because each one costs ¥10. Every time I go to a grocery store when I just arrive from Japan, I think "Everything is so cheap!"

When I visit the Philippines, I go to the beach every night. I listen to the music of nearby bands, and go to restaurants with my family. The lifestyle here is expensive. I enjoy my life during my vacation to the Philippines because it's so cheap. I can go to fancy hotels! (*laughs*). Work here, and enjoy there! My parents' house is surrounded by bananas, coconuts, and other tropical fruits. I just go out on the veranda and get some guava, a banana, or a coconut for a snack! (*laughs*)

AIC: Last but not least, do you like karaoke?

Grace: I love karaoke, but I don't know the songs that young people like nowadays. I can sing *enka*. I can sing any of the classics. I practice them. I'm an entertainer, so I have to sing! (*laughs*)

AIC: Thank you for participating, Grace!

Grace: You're welcome.



★ *Movies ~ April* ★

*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.

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

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

Now Showing

- Monster Hunter (English)
- Kiba: The Fangs of Fiction (Japanese)
- Thomas the Tank Engine: Come One, Come All! To the Future Inventions Show! (Japanese/Anime)
- Caution, Hazardous Wife (Japanese)
- Tom and Jerry (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Minari (Korean)
- Brave: Gunjyo Senki (Japanese)
- Evangelion:3.0+1.0 Thrice Upon a Time (Japanese/Anime)
- The Sun Does Not Move (Japanese)
- Raya and the Last Dragon (Japanese/Anime)
- Liar x Liar (Japanese) ~4/1
- Detective Conan: Hiirou no Fuzai Shomei (Japanese/Anime)
- Loved Like a Flower Bouquet (Japanese)
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/PG12/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Signal (Japanese) 4/2
- Zokki (Japanese) 4/2
- Rurouni Kenshin (Japanese) ~4/8
- Omaigo ni Natta Kobushi (Japanese) 4/2
- Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno 4/9~4/15
- Freaky (English/R15+) 4/9
- Byplayers: What if 100 Supporting Characters Make a Movie (Japanese) 4/9
- Funtasia (English/Anime) 4/9
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Legend Ends 4/16~4/22
- Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet (Japanese/Anime) 4/16
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Final (Japanese) 4/23
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime) 4/23
- Police x Heroine Lovepatrina! (Japanese) 4/29
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime) 4/29
- Mobile Suit Gundam: Hathaway's Flash (Japanese/Anime) 5/7
- Hinomaru Soul ~ The Heroes Behind the Scenes (Japanese) 5/7

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

★ *Movies* ~ *April* ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> 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.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Nomadland (English)
- Monster Hunter (English)
- Kiba: The Fangs of Fiction (Japanese)
- Healin' Good Pretty Cure: Yume no Machi de Kyun! tto GoGo! Daihenshin!! (Japanese/Anime)
- Tom and Jerry (Japanese, English/Anime)
- You're Not Normal, Either (Japanese)
- Evangelion:3.0+1.0 Thrice Upon a Time (Japanese/Anime)
- Raya and the Last Dragon (Japanese/Anime)
- The Sun Does Not Move (Japanese)
- Loved Like a Flower Bouquet (Japanese)
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese 4DX/PG12/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Rurouni Kenshin (Japanese)4/2~4/8
- The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 4/2
- Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno (Japanese)4/9~4/15
- My Blood & Bones in a Gloing Galaxy (Japanese/PG12) 4/9
- 21 Bridges (English) 4/9
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Legend Ends (Japanese) 4/16~4/22
- Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 4/16
- Ava (English/PG12) 4/16
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Final (Japanese) 4/23
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime) 4/23
- Black Widow (English) 4/29
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime) 4/29
- Mobile Suit Gundam: Hathaway's Flash (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 5/7
- Hinomaru Soul~The Heroes Behind the Scenes~ 5/7

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Kiba: The Fangs of Fiction (Japanese)
- Tom and Jerry (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Caution, Hazardous Wife (Japanese)
- Brave: Gunjyo Senki (Japanese)
- Shimajiro and the Flying Ship (Japanese/Anime)
- Evangelion:3.0+1.0 Thrice Upon a Time (Japanese/Anime)
- The Sun Does Not Move (Japanese)
- Raya and the Last Dragon (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: Hiirou no Fuzai Shomei (Japanese/Anime)
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Rurouni Kenshin (Japanese) 4/2~4/8
- Signal (Japanese) 4/2
- Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno (Japanese) 4/9~4/15
- Stage Mother (English) 4/9~4/15
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Legend Ends (Japanese) 4/16-4/22
- Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet (Japanese/Anime) 4/16
- Rurouni Kenshin: The Final (Japanese) 4/23
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime) 4/23
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime) 4/29
- Black Widow (English) 4/29
- Hinomaru Soul~The Heroes Behind the Scenes~ 5/7
- Fate/Grand Order Paladin; Agateram 5/8

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

Two Views of Hiroshige's 53 Stations of the Tokaido

Dates: April 17th (Saturday) ~ June 27th (Sunday)

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

Location: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Located in Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥1000, High School and University Students ¥600, Elementary and Junior High School Students ¥300

Notes: Closed Mondays (Except 5/3) and on 5/6 (Thursday)

The Tokaido was a route used in ancient times that connected eastern and western Japan, with several post stations in-between that offered food and lodging to travelers. The Tokaido was one of five main routes that connected Edo with the outer provinces, and ran along the coast of eastern Japan. At first, the Tokaido was primarily used by the government and military, with limited access for ordinary people. However, during the Bunsei period (1804-1830), the road was used by many for leisurely trips as well. Books about those making pilgrimages to the Ise Grand Shrine on the Tokaido became best-sellers, further increasing the desire for travel amongst the populace. Amidst this boom, UTAGAWA Hiroshige's series of ukiyo-e woodblock prints "The 53 Stations of Tokaido" was published, becoming well-loved for its vivid illustrations of famous locations along the route. Amongst UTAGAWA's many series of works depicting the Tokaido, this exhibition will feature his most popular series, the "Hoeido Edition," as well as the "Marusei Edition," which was created 15 years later. By comparing and contrasting these two editions, you will be able to understand the admiration the people of this time had for the Tokaido and observe the change of scenery between the two editions that portray the subtle changing of times.



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!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: April 9th & 23rd, May 14th & 28th, June 11th & 25th

Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30pm-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 for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.

FREE Wi Fi

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.



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 Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****