

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



October 2020  
Compiled by AIC

### Abashiri Beer Co. Succeeds with Unique Beer 9/2

Abashiri Beer Co.'s number of bottles shipped from September 2019 and August 2020 has been its largest ever annual sales record. Due to the success of the "drink at home" initiative centered in Tokyo, the company is outfitting their second factory located in Kyoto to handle an increase in production. Their signature "Ryuhyo Draft" is a light-blue colored beer not found anywhere else, and has been well received.

### Hidaka Mountain Range to Become National Park 9/4

The Ministry of the Environment had established a plan of action that would designate the "Hidaka Mountain Range Quasi-National Park" as an official National Park. Not only would the park encompass a wider area than before, it would also be designated as a "Special Protection Area." If designated, the park would be the 7<sup>th</sup> National Park in Hokkaido following the designation of the Kushiro Wetlands in 1987.

### Yotsuba Milk Products Co. Sees Opportunity for Growth in "Halal" Products 9/8

Yotsuba Milk Products Co. recently began displaying Halal certification for specified milk beverages. They hope to begin exporting to Southeast Asian countries in the future, like Malaysia and Indonesia. The Halal certified products include the company's "LL" (Long Lasting) milk, which can be stored at room temperature for long periods of time, and dairy beverages like coffee milk.

### Sapporo Area JR: 5.4 Billion Yen in the Red 9/10

JR Hokkaido released its income and expenditure report for its various lines during the period from April to June of this year. Due to the impact of the coronavirus, usage of railway travel has decreased significantly. Sapporo Area JR currently runs a 5.4 billion yen deficit. This is a staggering increase from their 82 million yen deficit the previous year, making it the largest increase of any JR area in Hokkaido. JR Hokkaido currently runs a total deficit of 21.9 billion yen.

### Autumn Fest – Now Online 9/11

"Sapporo Autumn Fest," Hokkaido's largest food festival, takes place every year in Odori Park in central Sapporo, but this year the festival has been cancelled to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The festival's executive committee has created an online website for the festival that will sell sets of "gourmet food products" for a limited time, available for ¥3,000, ¥5,000, and ¥10,000 depending on the set.



### Inside This Issue...

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※ Due to the ongoing  
outbreak of COVID-19, events  
will not be listed this month.

# Grace of the North

## Tabé-Marche 2020 ONLINE

From now until 10/20 (Tuesday)

Sadly, this year's "Tabé-Marche" has been cancelled in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. In order to keep the spirit of the festival alive, the organizers of Tabé-Marche will be holding some limited time promotions online so that the citizens of Asahikawa and people from all throughout Japan can experience the delicious food that Northern Hokkaido has to offer.



Embrace the spirit of Tabé-Marche with these special promotions!

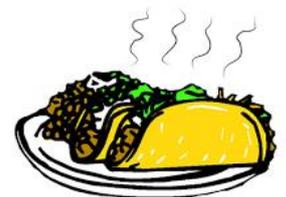
**#1: Buy an "Eat to Help" ticket and support your local restaurants in the most delicious way possible!**

- First, select a shop to support that is participating in the "Eat to Help" ticket program. You can buy tickets in four different amounts: ¥3,000, ¥5,000, ¥10,000, and ¥20,000.
- At a later date, you will receive a certificate of purchase in the mail.
- Once the period of usage (from late November through the end of February) for tickets begins, go to the shop you chose to support and exchange your certificate of purchase for an "Eat to Help" ticket of the same value PLUS an additional 10% premium (Example: a ¥5,000 initial purchase will get you an "Eat to Help" ticket worth ¥5,500).
- Eat and enjoy Northern Hokkaido's wonderful food at the shop you chose to support!



**#2: Order products online and have them sent to your door.**

- Search for sellers and for food products that deliver by mail on the event website.
- Once you find some products that you like, fill out the necessary information in order to complete your purchase.
- Once your product arrives, eat and enjoy Northern Hokkaido's wonderful food to your heart's content!



Grace of the North, Tabé-Marche 2020 Executive Committee: 0166-73-9840  
 Grace of the North, Tabé-Marche 2020 ONLINE Operations Office: 0166-76-7341



## Common Questions in Conversation

By Daniel Lizarraga

This month we are covering common questions you will likely be asked in conversation when speaking with Japanese people for the first time. I am asked these questions whenever I meet someone new, so I would highly recommend that all Japanese learners practice replying to them. While some of these questions may seem quite odd or even invasive like “Do you cook?”, please be assured that your conversation partner is not trying to pry into your cooking skills. Most of the time they are just trying to think of different conversation topics.

Japanese	English	Response (Japanese)	Response (English)
お名前 <small>なまえ</small> はなんで すか？	What's your name?	ジョン <small>ジョン</small> です。	I'm <u>John</u> .
どこ <small>き</small> から来まし たか？	Where are you from?	アメリカ <small>き</small> から来ました。	I'm from the <u>United States</u> .
何歳 <small>なんさい</small> ですか？	How old are you?	30 <small>さい</small> 歳です。	I'm <u>30</u> (years old).
お仕事 <small>しごと</small> は何 <small>なん</small> で すか？	What do you do for work?	英語 <small>えいご</small> の先生 <small>せんせい</small> です。 レストラン <small>はたら</small> で働いています。	I'm an English teacher. I work at a <u>restaurant</u> .
どれくらい <small>にほん</small> 日本 にいるつもりで すか？	How long do you plan on be- ing in Japan?	2年 <small>ねん</small> くらいです。 まだ <small>かんが</small> 考えていません。	About <u>two years</u> . I haven't thought about that yet.
自分 <small>じぶん</small> でお料理 <small>りょうり</small> を しますか？	Do you cook for yourself?	はい、料理 <small>す</small> するのが好きです。 いいえ、料理はしません。	Yes, I like cooking. No, I don't cook.
兄弟 <small>きょうだい</small> はいます か？	Do you have any siblings?	はい、姉 <small>あね</small> が二人 <small>ふたり</small> います。 いません。	Yes, I have two older sisters. No, I don't have any.
なぜ <small>にほん</small> 日本 <small>き</small> に来た のですか？	Why did you come to Ja- pan?	日本 <small>す</small> で住んでみたかったからです。 小さい頃 <small>ちい</small> からずっと日本 <small>きょうみ</small> に興味 <small>きょうみ</small> が あったからです。	I came because wanted to experience living in Japan. I came because I have been interested in Japan ever since I was a child.
どこ <small>す</small> に住んでい ますか？	Where do you live?	まちなかに住んでいます。 豊岡 <small>とよおか</small> に住んでいます。	I live <u>downtown</u> . I live in <u>Toyooka</u> .
彼氏 <small>かれし</small> ・彼女 <small>かのじょ</small> はい ますか？	Do you have a boyfriend/ girlfriend?	はい、います。 いません。	Yes, I do. No, I don't.
結婚 <small>けっこん</small> しています か？	Are you mar- ried?	はい、結婚しています。 いいえ、結婚していません。	Yes, I'm married. No, I'm not married.



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Kotomi Pica**  
**Home Country: Canada**  
**Interviewed: 9/7/2020**

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](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)!

**AIC:** Hello Kotomi! Where are you from?

**Kotomi:** I'm from Richmond B.C. in Canada. Richmond is right next to Vancouver.

**AIC:** And what brings you to Japan?

**Kotomi:** I'm visiting Japan with my baby son for the first time. He's already 8 months now. We were planning to visit for his "100 days." Do you know about the "100 days" ceremony?

**AIC:** No, I don't think I've heard of it.

**Kotomi:** I think it's a part of Asian culture, because I heard that Chinese and Korean people do it as well. We celebrate to wish for the good health of the baby. We were planning to come back for that with my husband at the end of March, but it was starting to get hectic with the coronavirus, so we decided not to. And then we waited, and kept waiting until the quarantine period would be over, but it seems like it won't be over soon. That's why we decided to come home now.



**AIC:** Will you have a make-up celebration here?

**Kotomi:** Actually, we did it in Canada. Well, we tried. You have to prepare a nice meal. I tried to find all the right ingredients there, and luckily in Richmond there are so many Asians, including Japanese people, so I could get all the things I needed. I'm also planning on going to go to the shrine to make a belated prayer for the baby.

**AIC:** How long have you been living in Canada?

**Kotomi:** I moved there in August 2016, so exactly 4 years ago. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> year in Canada already. Wow, time flies (laughs).

**AIC:** What made you decide to move to Canada?

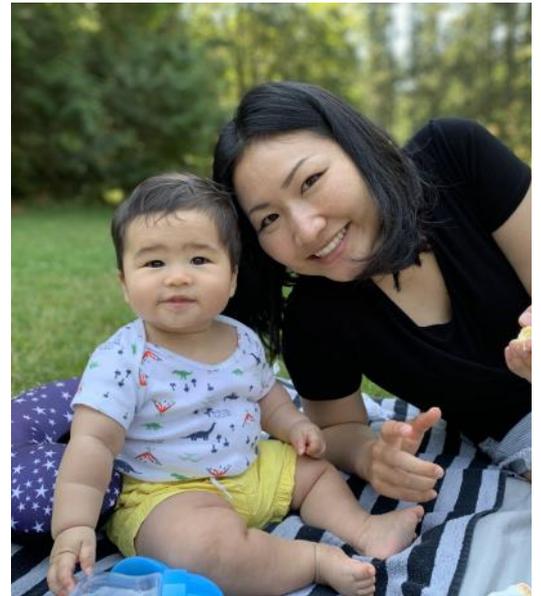
**Kotomi:** It was my husband. We were dating, and then we decided to settle together. We met in Japan, but he was based in Canada, so I decided to go there.

**AIC:** How does your life in Canada compare to when you used to live in Japan?

**Kotomi:** Weather-wise it's very similar to what Hokkaido is like. There are so many Asian people where I live so it feels like home, actually (laughs). There are a lot of parks, and the great thing is that nature is right next to the city, so you only need to drive for about 20 minutes and you will be surrounded by nature.

**AIC:** **What are some cultural differences between Japan and Canada?**

**Kotomi:** I usually like to compare Canada with the States, because I've been to the States as well as an exchange student. In the States, you're expected to speak proper English and everyone tries to be "American," you could say. In Canada, they accept any culture and people try to live as they were living back home. I feel like there are many communities. For example, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian. They speak English with an accent, and that's pretty normal there, which is different than the States. In the States, if you don't speak proper English, people will be like "I don't know what you're saying." In Canada you're kind of expected to understand them.



**AIC:** **What do you like about living in Canada?**

**Kotomi:** In Canada, since there are many people from different backgrounds, so you can enjoy many kinds of cuisine. In terms of raising a child, I think it's a great opportunity for them to experience different cultures. Here, everyone is Japanese and speaks Japanese, but there, you see so many different colors of skin and languages, so I think it's great for raising a child, and education wise too, so that it's normal for them to speak two different languages. I also realized that in Canada, I'm used to talking to strangers. I walk by, and some strangers say "Oh hello! That's such a cute baby." They talk to me, so I'm used to smiling at people, right? But here it's awkward. Here, are just like "Why are you looking at me?" That's a big difference of living there and here.

**AIC:** **What do you like to do in Richmond B.C. and Vancouver?**

**Kotomi:** In Vancouver, we don't have any major league baseball teams. I love going to Seattle to the T-mobile stadium. If it wasn't for COVID I would go with my family. We love baseball. Actually, I'm not a big fan of the Seattle Mariners. I'm more of a fan for the Angels because of Ohtani. Every time L.A. comes up, we love going there. This year unfortunately we cannot cross the border. Unfortunately, Canada only has the Blue Jays and they are in Ontario, right? We can't go there much, so we just cheer for the Angels.



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

**Kotomi:** I like taking the stroller out and visiting a lot of parks. I like outdoors stuff. We used to hike a lot and go to the mountains, but right now we can't do that. Up until June of this year all the provincial parks were closed, so people were expected to stay home and stay safe. Whenever we have time we'll go for a drive, do picnics, or go on mini hikes.

**AIC:** **How long do you plan to be in Canada?**

**Kotomi:** As long as my husband has a job there (laughs). I hope one day, maybe for a couple years, we could move back to Japan and experience living here as well. I really hope so because it would be nice for my son to experience life in Japan and be close to my parents. We have no plan to move back here. Living in Richmond is the plan for now.

**AIC:** Do you miss anything about life back in Japan?

**Kotomi:** The food (laughs). Even though you can get decent Japanese food in Canada, I really miss homemade food like my mom's cooking. I cook a lot of Japanese food at home, like Japanese curry and rice, *niku jyaga*, and things like that. Buying Japanese groceries is pretty expensive. I would say that the price is probably three times more than it is in Japan. Even those *natto* packs! You can get three packs here for less than 100 yen, but over there it's like three bucks. Each is a dollar, right? It's way more expensive. I guess I'm surrounded by Asians there, that I don't miss things as much as I did in Bloomington. I didn't have access to a Japanese grocery store or anything. Another thing I really miss is *combinis*. Somewhere you can always get such good cooked food, right? There are so many varieties. You can get any kind of good food or dessert any time you want. Even my husband says "Oh my god, I love *combinis*! Those *onigiri* are so good!" (laughs). That's the first thing I got when I came back here (laughs). I just miss those tuna mayo *onigiri*. And it's only a dollar! We have 7-11 there, but it's a totally different thing.

**AIC:** Last but not least, do you like Karaoke?

**Kotomi:** I used to. When I was in high school I used to go every week. The last time I went to Karaoke was probably four years ago. I don't know if I can even sing anymore (laughs). Sorry, I'm not a big fan anymore, but I used to be!

**AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you so much for participating!

**Kotomi:** No, thank you! It was fun.



## ★ Movies ~ October ★

\*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](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- The Addams Family (English/Anime)
- Hitman: Agent Jun (Korean)
- Omoi, Omoware, Furi, Furare (Japanese/Anime)
- Violet Evergarden (Japanese/Anime)
- Tenet (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime)
- Midway (English)
- Thomas & Friends: Digs & Discoveries (Japanese)
- The Brightest Roof in the Universe (Japanese)~10/1
- Ninzu no Machi (Japanese)
- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Blue, Painful, and Brittle (Japanese)
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Onward (English/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- The Asadas! (Japanese) 10/2
- The Power of Music: Trolls World Tour (English/Anime) 10/2
- House of Cardin (English) 10/2
- Nozomi (Japanese) 10/9
- Kim Ji-young: Born 1982 (Korean) 10/9
- Mi wo Tsukushi Ryoricho (Japanese) 10/16
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime) 10/16
- True Mothers (Japanese) 10/23
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese) 10/23
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese) 10/30
- Tonkatsu DJ Age-Taro (Japanese) 10/30
- Ora, Ora be Goin' Alone (Japanese) 11/6
- Monster Strike: Lucifer (Japanese/Anime) 11/6
- Kanshari, Zutto Isshoni (Japanese) 11/6

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

# ★ Movies ~ October ★

\*<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

- Midnight Swan (Japanese)
- Honey Boy (English/PG12)
- Tenet (English 4DX)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime)
- The Cornered Mouse Dreams Cheese (Japanese)
- Midway (English)
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] III. spring song (Japanese/Anime)
- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Ip Man 4 (English)
- Onward (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Booksmart (English/PG12)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

## Coming Soon

- God of Novels (Japanese) 10/2
- Frankie (English) 10/2
- House of Hummingbird (Korean/PG12) 10/2
- The Asadas! (Japanese) 10/2
- The Power of Music: Trolls World Tour (English/Anime) 10/2
- Mobile Suit Gundam F91 (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/2
- Mobile Suit Gundam W: Endless Waltz (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/2
- Umibe no Etranger (Japanese/PG12/Anime) 10/9
- Under the Stars (Japanese) 10/9
- Nozomi (Japanese) 10/9
- Shirobako the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 10/9
- Damon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime) 10/16
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese) 10/23
- Death of the Nile (English) 10/23
- Tonkatsu DJ Age-Taro (Japanese) 10/30
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese) 10/30
- PreCure Miracle Leap: A Wonderful Day with Everyone (Japanese/Anime) 10/31
- Black Widow (English) 11/6
- Monster Strike: Lucifer (Japanese/Anime) 11/6
- 461 Lunch Boxes (Japanese) 11/6

★ **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

- Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken! (Japanese)
- Story of a Beloved Wife (Japanese)
- Angst (English)
- Tenet (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime)
- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Onward (English/Anime)~10/1
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] III. spring song (Japanese/Anime)
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese)~10/1
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

## Coming Soon

- Given (Japanese/Anime) 10/2
- The Asadas! (Japanese) 10/2
- The Power of Music: Trolls World Tour (English/Anime) 10/2
- Nozomi (Japanese) 10/9
- Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime) 10/16
- Mi wo Tsukushi Ryoricho (Japanese) 10/16
- Yoake wo Shinjite (Japanese) 10/16
- Your Eyes Tell (Japanese) 10/23
- Mid 90s (English) 10/23~11/5
- Death of the Nile (English) 10/23
- The Voice of Sin (Japanese) 10/30
- Tonkatsu DJ Age-Taro (Japanese) 10/30
- Black Widow (English) 11/6
- Wife of a Spy (Japanese) 11/6

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

# National Census Reminder

Please cooperate  
with the National  
Census!



Census-kun

## The National Census is underway!

The National Census concerns every person living in Japan regardless of nationality. Each person is obligated under the law to submit a response.

In order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus while conducting the 2020 census, the census will be conducted using methods that minimize contact between census staff and the public as much as possible.

**Please submit your census form online or by mail by October 7<sup>th</sup>.** You can submit your census form online at any time of the day.

If there is a part of the census application that you do not understand, you would like to request a side by side translation in a foreign language, or, if census documents have not been sent to your place of residence, please contact city hall.



National Census, Asahikawa Headquarters  
TEL: 0166-21-8001

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:** October 9th & 23rd, November 13th & 27th, December 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

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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.\*\***