

Inside this issue...

- 1 Hokkaido News Top 5
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 4 Life in Asahikawa
- 5 Hello, Asahikawa!
- 6 Movies
- 8 Bulletin Board



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

August - September 2022, compiled by the AIC

Drone Delivery Service Trial in Higashikawa, (8/24)

Higashikawa entered into an official partner agreement with the private companies Aeronext, Seino Holdings and Dentsu Hokkaido on 8/23 to promote urban development in both the public and private sectors. Their current project involves programming drones to deliver groceries to elderly people who have difficulty going out to shop. The drones can carry up to 5 kg and travel as far as 20 km, keeping its contents stable as it moves around.

Rice Harvest Begins in Higashikawa, (9/4)

Farmers start their yearly reap this year for rice used in local brands like the renown Yume Pirika, known for its moist and delicious taste. Although the harvest began ten days later than last year, newspapers report this actually falls in line with past years farming periods. According to the Higashikawa Agricultural Association, 170 farms have planted 2,070 hectares of rice and expect a yield of around 12,000 tons, to be on store shelves by early October.

2022 Olympics Day Run in Shibetsu, (9/5)

On 9/4, 300 townpeople had fun walking and jogging alongside Olympic and Paralympic athletes at the 2022 Olympics Day Run in Shibetsu, held by the Japanese Olympic Committee. Those in attendance included weightlifter Masato Tachibana, Nordic combined skier Masahi Abe, ski jumper Masahiko Harada, mogul skier Miki Ito, basketball player Naomi Yashiro, and javelin thrower Takuya Shiramasa. Everyone was broken up into five groups with different start times to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and completed the race in around 30 minutes.

Sapporo Snow Festival to Reopen in 2023, (9/6)

It has been announced that the 73rd Annual Sapporo Snow Festival will be held on 2/4-11 in Odori Park and Susukino, after three years of cancellations. Five large snow sculptures constructed by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and over 100 smaller sculptures made by citizens will be on display. While there will be a sports area, other snow activities, food/drink booths, and the international snow sculpture contest have been canceled due to COVID-19. In order to prevent further spread, pathways will be made one-way and rest areas for the snow sculptors will have spaced seating.

Lion Cubs Born at Asahiyama Zoo, (9/16)

A two-year-old lioness named Io gave birth to lion cubs at the Asahiyama Zoo on 9/12 at around 6:00AM, but the number and sex of the cubs is still unknown. The father is a five-year-old male named Orito. The two were confirmed to have copulated in May, and Io was transferred to the delivery room in late August. Although the last time a lion was born at the zoo was in 2008, the zoo has yet to decide when to introduce the cubs to the public.

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

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

Primitive: ODA Collection at Station Gallery

デザインの原型 ～プリミティブからデザイン～

Come and discover the origin of design at this exhibit featuring chairs and other tools from all over the world, comparing primitive and modern art styles.

Date: Until 10/16 (Sunday)

Time: 10:30-18:30 (Entry ends at 18:15), Closed Mondays (The following day if Monday is a holiday.)

Place: Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture (Station Gallery), (Asahikawa Miyashita-dori 8-chome 3-ban 1-go)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-46-6277 (Station Gallery)



The 1400th Memorial for Prince Shotoku: Horyuji Treasures

聖徳太子 1400年御遠忌記念 国宝・法隆寺展

In celebration of 1,400 of faith and prayer thorough art, this exhibit will include Buddhist sculpture and painting related to Prince Shotoku and his influence on religion.

Date: Until 10/30 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed Mondays (except 10/10) & 10/11 (Tuesday)

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

Admission: General ¥1,800(*¥1,600), University and high school student ¥1,000(*¥800, Middle school student ¥700(*¥500), Elementary school student and under FREE (*Presale or groups of 10+)

Ticket Office: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Doshin Playguide, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11419), 7 Ticket (7-code: 095-330), Ticket Pia (P-code: 686-092), <http://event.hokkaido-np.co.jp/horyuji/> (for online tickets)

For more information, contact: 011-644-6882 (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art)



Asahikawa Fukukitayose Duo

旭川福北寄席 二人会

Why not enjoy an afternoon of laughs with this comedic duo? Experience the joy of rakugo and rokyoku, both two distinct forms of traditional Japanese storytelling.

Date: 10/9 (Sunday)

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

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Small Hall), (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: (Presale) ¥2,500; (Day of) ¥3,000

Ticket Office: Machinaka Bunkagoya (0166-23-2801), Doshin Playguide (0570-00-3871)

For more information, contact: 03-5909-3080 (The Rakugo Arts Association)



But You Went to War

きみはいくさに従ったけれど

This play is about two young men from very different times, miraculously meeting and discovering they share a very similar problem: living life.

Date: 10/12 (Wednesday), 10/13 (Thursday)

Time: (Wednesday) 18:30-, (Thursday) 13:30-

Place: Asahikawa Public Hall (Asahikawa, Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: ¥2,000

For more information, contact: 0166-23-1655 (Asahikawa Civic Theatre)



The Cat Who Wanted to Be Human: A Family Musical

ファミリーミュージカル 人間になりたがった猫

Join in the fun at this musical for all ages about a cat who dreams of becoming a human, and in doing so learns the importance of love!

Date: 10/13 (Thursday)

Time: (Opens) 17:45, (Starts) 18:30

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Concert Hall), (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: [Adult] (S-seat) ¥5,500, (A-seat) ¥3,300; [Elementary school student and under] (S-seat) ¥3,300, (A-seat) ¥2,200

Ticket Office: Shiki On-line Ticket (<http://489444.com>), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11472), Ticket Pia (P-code: 513-357), Doshin Playguide, Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center, JR Hokkaido (Midori no Madoguchi), FM Riviere Ticket BOX (3F Yoshitake Park Building)

For more information, contact: 0570-008-110 (Shiki Theatre Company)



Music Treasure Box

音楽たまたまて箱

A concert with selections such as: Selections from Aladdin, Selections from Frozen, Kawa no Nagare no You ni, Treasure Island, Bossa Nova Medley, Latin Medley, and more!

Date: 10/16 (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Store), Coach & Four (Music Corner), Fukido (Toyooka), Gyokkodo (Aeon Mall)

For more information, contact: 090-6694-0050 (Hatakeyama)



Otonowa Fantasia: Some Light Classical Music

音の輪ファンタジア 気軽にクラシック

A concert with selections such as: Rachamaninoff, Liszt, Chopin, Bach, Saint-Saens, Disney, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, and more!

Date: 10/23 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 13:00, (Start) 14:00

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

Admission: General ¥1,800, Students and people with disabilities ¥1,000 (*On-day ticket prices will increase by ¥500)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (0166-69-2000), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (0166-25-7331)

For more information, contact: 0166-69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



Miura Ayako 100th Anniversary Birthday Concert

三浦綾子誕生100年記念 あたたかき日光コンサート

A talk on a work of Ayako Miura followed by a concert featuring the vocal ensemble "Birds of a Feather" singing a newly composed song dedicated to the author.

Date: 10/30 (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystall Hall (Store), Coach & Four Asahikawa, Junkudo Asahikawa, Fukido, Miura Ayako Literature Museum

For more information, contact: 0166-69-2626 (Miura Ayako Literature Museum)



October Events in Asahikawa

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

Assia: First of all, thank you for this opportunity! I am thrilled to share my story with you and your readers! My name is Assia Barchili and I'm from Taroudant, Morocco, north of Africa. I guess you haven't heard about my hometown before! Taroudant is located in the south of Morocco and is known for palm, olive and Argane trees! I lived in Taroudant until my late teens and moved to other Moroccan cities to attend college and look for job opportunities! Later on, I became an English teacher! As a teenager, I got introduced to French and English at school. I studied these languages hard as I wanted to achieve a high academic level. Little did I know that I would get hooked and charmed by how different French and English cultures are than mine and eventually develop a passion for learning multiple foreign languages including Japanese!



Name: Assia Barchili

Home Country: Morocco

Interviewed: 2022/09/15

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!

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Assia: I grew up watching a lot of Arabic-dubbed anime during the 90s such as Future Boy Conan, UFO Robot Grendizer, Dragon Ball, Detective Conan, Captain Tsubasa, Hello! Sandybell, Thunder Jet, Digimon, Romeo's Blue Skies and the list goes on. I was fascinated by their stories and songs. I still remember to this day many OSTs of the anime I watched as a kid. As a young adult, I got to know more about Japanese entertainment through the internet, and it became kind of my hobby to watch Japanese variety shows, dramas and music shows during my free time. I found it unique, funny, informative and entertaining and the best thing is that I learned more about Japanese customs and traditions. There are actually other factors that lead me to Japan but I can say that my love for anime specifically and Japanese entertainment generally made me interested in Japan and it has become a country that holds a special place in my heart. Later on, when I started thinking about going abroad and furthering my teaching career, Japan was the first country that crossed my mind and without hesitation I started looking for programs that match my professional goals and here I am in Japan conducting research on school education as a Teacher Training Student scholar.

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan?

Assia: YES, it is! And I still can't believe I made it here! I've been in Japan for almost 10 months since November, 2021.. First, I lived in Sapporo where I studied the basics of Japanese language for 4 months

and then I moved to Asahikawa in March to complete my course of study and conduct my research at Hokkaido University of Education.

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Assia: I would say it is destiny! I didn't actually know about Asahikawa and I thought I would be completing my program in Sapporo but it was a nice surprise as I got to know more about the countryside of Japan by visiting many beautiful places such as the flowery Furano. Also, since my university specializes in education I got the chance to visit Japanese elementary and junior schools and observe closely different lessons delivered by amazing Japanese teachers. Moreover, I got to interact with Japanese students and answer their questions about my culture. It was amusing to see their curiosity and so heartwarming to spend time with them!

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

Assia: I love listening to music, especially Jpop. Arashi is my favorite Japanese band. I was devastated that they went on hiatus before my coming to Japan but I still love watching their DVDS and music videos. I am always happy when I listen to their songs, especially "Kansha Kangeki Ame Arashi" and "Happiness"! I also love reading novels and writing short stories. In my free time, I enjoy watching my favorite historical or sci-fi movies while drinking coffee.

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

Assia: Asahikawa is an absolute must-see for all the biophilics out there! There is the amazing scenery of the flowers at Furano, the beautiful blue pond of Biei and the wild animals at Asahiyama Zoo. It would be great if you can take a look at the glassy surface of Ishikari River. The experience is incredible! The terrific shrines and temples around Asahikawa are definitely worth visiting as well. I would recommend doing a bus tour! That way you can see all the famous landmarks of Asahikawa! I guarantee you that your biophilia will flare up at the stunning view of this town!

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

Assia: I have a great impression of Asahikawa so far. It's a nice city. People here are friendly and so welcoming to visitors and foreign residents. I mostly like the weather during summer! It's cool and cozy. It doesn't feel like summer at all. In comparison, my hometown is pretty hot and dry in summer! However, winter is totally different in my hometown than in Asahikawa! It's extremely cold and snowy here but warm and rainy in Taroudant. It gets cold in my hometown, but it usually doesn't last very long.

AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations or challenges you have had thus far?

Assia: Coming from a Muslim country, I have quite some food restrictions so I can't eat anything that has pork or alcohol besides to some rules regarding beef and chicken meat. Therefore, even though I like Japanese cuisine, figuring out what to eat has been challenging sometimes. Cooking has helped me overcome this problem and Japan has a lot of great seafood which saved me as well! In addition, I struggled a little bit to get used to the cold weather and the language barrier made it hard for me to make many Japanese friends. I wish I can be fluent in Japanese so I can speak to many Japanese people and understand more about Japanese culture that I adore so much!

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

Assia: I really want to improve my Japanese skills and get as many friends as I can! If I can pass JLPT N4 before I leave Japan, that would be a dream come true. I also hope I can communicate more with my Japanese classmates and have a great time with the other international students on campus! On the other hand, since I am from a hot country, I wish I can try skiing at least once before the end of my stay in Japan! I won't lie, I'm actually scared but I do want to challenge myself and see if I can do it! Who knows? I might make it my new hobby if I succeed at it!

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

Assia: Lastly, I hope everyone who reads this has the chance to visit Asahikawa and experience life here firsthand! I promise you it will be unprecedented and different from all what you have experienced before! Any obstacle or challenge along the way will be worth it!

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.

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

- I AM Makimoto (Japanese)
- Sore ga Iru Mori (Japanese)
- Laid-Back Camp (Japanese)
- Avatar 3D Remastered (English) ~10/6
- Panda! Go Panda!: Rainy Day Circus (Japanese/Anime)~10/6
- Hell Dogs (Japanese/PG12)
- Drifting Home (Japanese/Anime)
- Silent Parade (Japanese)
- Riverside Mukolitta (Japanese)
- Hyakka (Japanese)
- HiGH & LOW The Worst X (Japanese/PG12)
- Bullet Train (English/R15+)
- Akira and Akira (Japanese)
- Offbeat Cops (Japanese) ~10/6
- PAW Patrol Jet to the Rescue (Japanese/Anime)
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese/Anime)
- Jurassic World: Dominion (English)
- Konya Sekai Kara Kono Koi ga Kietemo (Japanese) ~10/6
- Minions: The Rise of Gru (English/Anime)
- Kingdom 2 (Japanese)
- Top Gun: Maverick (English)

Coming Soon

- Seven Secretaries (Japanese) 10/7
- The Bad Guys (Japanese, English) 10/7
- Boku ga Aishita Subete no Kimi e (Japanese/Anime) 10/7
- Kimi wo Aishita Hitori no Boku e (Japanese/Anime) 10/7
- Karada Sagashi (Japanese/PG12) 10/14
- Someday, Always ... Forever (Japanese) 10/14
- Whisper of the Heart (Japanese) 10/14
- Break of Dawn (Japanese/Anime) 10/21
- The Lines that Define Me (Japanese/Anime) 10/21
- Kame no Kora wa Abarabone (Japanese) 10/28
- Sadako DX (Japanese) 10/28
- Three Sisters of Tenmasou (Japanese) 10/28
- The Roundup (Korean/PG12) 11/3
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English) 11/11
- A Man (Japanese) 11/18
- Maternal Instinct (Japanese) 11/23
- That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (Japanese/Anime) 11/25

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

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.

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

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

- Sore ga Iru Mori (Japanese 4DX)
- I AM Makimoto (Japanese)
- Avatar 3D Remastered (English 4DX)
- Delicious Party Pretty Cure: Yumemiru Okosama Lunch! (Japanese/Anime)
- Inu mo Kuwane do Charlie wa Warau (Japanese)
- Silent Parade (Japanese)
- Hell Dogs (Japanese/PG12)
- HiGH & LOW The Worst X (Japanese/PG12)
- Bullet Train (English 4DX/R15+)
- Akira and Akira (Japanese) ~10/6
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Jurassic World: Dominion (English 4DX) ~10/6
- Kingdom 2 (Japanese) ~10/6
- Top Gun: Maverick (English 4DX)

Coming Soon

- Don't Sleep Through Life! on Stage (Japanese) 10/7
- Seven Secretaries (Japanese) 10/7
- The Bad Guys (Japanese, English) 10/7
- The Divine Projector – Mater Salt Begins (Japanese) 10/7
- Girls und Panzer 10th Anniversary (Japanese/Anime) 10/9
- Karada Sagashi (Japanese/PG12) 10/14
- Whisper of the Heart (Japanese) 10/14
- RRR (English) 10/21
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Scherzo of a Dark Dusk (Japanese/Anime) 10/22
- Sadako DX (Japanese 4DX) 10/28
- Three Sisters of Tenmasou (Japanese) 10/28
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime) 11/1
- The Zen Diary (Japanese) 11/11
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English) 11/11
- The Demon Over There (Japanese/R15+) 11/11

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

AIC Bulletin Board

Need Help?

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

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



- Dates:** October 14th & 28th, November 11th & 25th, December 9th & 23th
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.