

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



April 2017
Compiled by AIC

- **March 8**
Hakodate Winery Co., Ltd., has won the domestic sparkling wine section of "Sakura 2017 Japan Women's Wine Awards" held in Tokyo. It is the first time the winery in Hokkaido has won this award. This contest is judged by 406 women working in the winery industry. The award winning wine "Kaori-shikomi Kerner Sparkling" uses grapes from Yoichi Town.
- **March 10**
The biggest bus company in Hokkaido, Hokkaido Chuo Bus (headquarters in Otaru), is planning to introduce an in-vehicle multi-language interface monitor and free Wi-Fi to meet the increasing demands of foreign users by the next spring. For some areas, free Wi-Fi could be available as soon as this April. The company hasn't been counting the number of foreign users, however, their reservation system which can tell the user's country, has shown an increase in the number of foreign users by 32%, 8 times the number of 5 years ago.
- **March 11**
Asahikawa Eiryō High School Brass Band has won the "Brass Band Disney!" contest. This contest judges the "dance & play" of a set piece of music. Eiryō High played "When Will My Life Begin" from Tangled. The brass band will play at Tokyo Disneyland with professionals on March 31st.
- **March 12**
Vasaloppet Japan was held in Asahikawa for the 37th time. Children 9-years old and under participated in "Mini Loppet" (1km) with a parent at the Kitasaito Special Course while the Team Sprint was held at the Tomisawa courses (5km~45km). The 2-day event had 2,571 participants, which was 67 less than last year. Participants have enjoyed mushroom soup and blueberry soup after the competitions.
- **March 13**
Seven main Hokkaido bus companies, such as Hokkaido Chuo Bus Co., Ltd., and Donan Bus Co., Ltd., will issue an all-you-can-ride ticket covering parts of their bus lines exclusively for foreign tourists. The companies have done test marketing and received favorable reviews. The "Inter City Bus Pass" covers areas all over Hokkaido like Asahikawa, Furano, Rumoi, Otaru, Niseko, Noboribetsu, and Iburi-Shiribeshi areas. Intercity lines, such as Sapporo areas, and Sapporo to Otaru are also covered. There will be 2 types of tickets: a 3-day pass for ¥5,000, and a 5-day pass for ¥5,000. The tickets are half price for children 12 and under. To buy, you need to go to the website "Hokkaido X" and make a reservation. You must show your passport to buy the tickets.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tetsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Harmony Between Color and Form in Two-Dimensional Art**色と形のポリフォニー 平面の魅力**

In the same way that music is about the harmony of sounds, the artists whose art is displayed in this exhibit tried to strike a harmony between the colors and shapes in these works and showcase the charms of two-dimensional art.

Date: Now until April 9th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥510; High School ¥300;

Junior High and under FREE; Seniors 65 and over FREE

For further information contact: 0166-25-2577

*Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

**YONEMURA Denjiro's Amazing Science Show****米村でんじろう おもしろサイエンスショー**

Come rediscover the fun and mystery of science with Prof. Denjiro. It's a good event for parents and their children to go to, but anyone can have fun learning about science at this event.

Date: April 2nd (Sunday)

Time: 1st Show: Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

2nd Show: Doors 3:00pm, Show 3:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: General 2,500; + 500 Day of, Children 2 and under: FREE

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Lawson (L-code: 11774), Ticket Pia (P-code 634-674)

For further information contact: 0166-22-3400

**Asahikawa Kita High School Concert Band 4th Spring Concert****旭川北高等学校吹奏楽部 第4回スプリングコンサート**

Program includes:

Tenmangestu no yoru ni ukabu oisa no koi

Main theme from *Sanadamaru*

Collection of songs from *Kimi no Na Ha* (Your Name)

Date: April 8th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥300; Children not yet in school: FREE

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)

**Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra 1st Recital****旭川ジャズオーケストラ 第1回リサイタル**

The Asahikawa Jazz Orchestra (A.K.J.O.) is ready to make their "Maiden Voyage" into the raging seas of recitals and concerts!

Date: April 16th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Apisu Building 4F, Apisu Hall (4-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: ¥1,500

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 080-3290-4941

AKJO Recital Office



THE BRIOSO BRASS Spring Concert 2017 THE BRIOSO BRASS スプリングコンサート 2017

Started in Kitami, "The Brioso Brass" is a British style brass band that seeks show the difference between "Brass" and "Wind" in Japan where brass bands suddenly go by the wayside in junior high schools and up.

Date: April 22nd (Saturday)
Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)
Admission: ¥500; Elementary School and under FREE
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Couch and Four
For further information contact: 050-1095-6556



Asahikawa Broadcast Choir 69th Regular Concert 旭川放送合唱団 第69回定期演奏会

Part 1:
 Works from KUROKAWA Nakako's "Songs of the Heart"
 Hit songs by MISORA Hibari
Part 2:
 Nostalgic Japanese Songs
Ryokansoubun for the piano and choir

Date: April 23rd (Sunday)
Time: Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥1,000; Junior High school and under FREE
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall
For further information contact: 0166-55-3540



Sumi Ballet Studio 20th Anniversary Spring Concert Highlights of Sleeping Beauty スミ・バレエスタジオ ~20周年記念 春のバレエコンサート~ 「眠れる森の美女」ハイライト

Sleeping Beauty is known as the largest in scale of Tchaikovsky's 3 great ballets. Sumi Ballet studio has made this story, with all of its show and many highlights, fast paced and easy to understand while maintaining the good parts.

Date: April 23rd (Sunday)
Time: Doors 4:00pm, Show 4:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: ¥1,000
For further information contact: 090-6448-1570



Asahikawa Youth Concert Band 50th Regular Concert 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団 第50回定期演奏会

Program includes:
Orphée aux Enfers, The Hounds of Spring, Army of the Nile, *Salut d'amour*, Symphony/Mambo No.5, Works by KOGA Masao, Chanson Melody, New Asahikawa Marching Song, and more.

Date: April 30th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥800; High school and under ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Couch and Four
For further information contact: 080-2873-7700 (Hatakeyama)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR APRIL



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Nicholas Modine
Home Country: United States
Interviewed: March 19th, By AIC

AIC: **So Nicholas, what brings you to Japan?**

Nicholas: When I was really young I liked video games and Yu-Gi-Oh and other stuff that was made in Japan. I had always wanted to go to Japan ever since I was a five or six years old but my first chance was when I came to Asahikawa through the sister cities program in the summer of 2015. It was the first time that I went overseas and I loved the experience, so when I found out that I could do a ten month program I immediately jumped at the opportunity.

AIC: **So that was your first time outside of The States??**

Nicholas: No, I have been to Canada about five times in my life. But I feel like that doesn't really count as a foreign country because of how similar it is to America.

AIC: **Do you speak Japanese ?**

Nicholas: I do speak Japanese at what I think is a decent level. Before I left I got private tutoring through the sister cities committee for about eight months. I also plan to continue Japanese when I get back to America so I do not forget it in the future. I also learned German for two years before starting this program, but now I have forgotten about 95% of it.

AIC: **And how long will you be in Japan?**

Nicholas: I have to leave in early August so I can finish my senior year of high school in America. I am actually sad that I can't stay in Japan for longer.

AIC: **Is there anything you particularly like about Asahikawa?**

Nicholas: I really enjoy how polite everybody is here. I also enjoy how in public places it is a lot quieter than compared to America. And I love how even in the city, Asahikawa is very beautiful. Mainly because you can always see the mountains in the distance. I especially like when there is a lot of snow.

AIC: **Where are you from originally?**

Nicholas: So I am from a small town called Hudson that is about ten minutes away from Bloomington/Normal. It's very different to go from a town of 2,000 people to a small city. Also, in my home state of Illinois there are no mountains, so that is very nice to see. And it's very strange to go from driving myself everywhere to having to take public transportation.

AIC: **Yea, I'm from Illinois too. It's strange living in a basin now. Thanks for letting me interview you!**

Nicholas: No, thank you.

KAWAI-SAN'S PRO TIPS

“English Salesperson Eigoya-san”

By KAWAI Tatsuo

‘Eigoya-san’ was published by Mr. GENJI Keita many years ago, which made me get interested and want to write an essay like that. This is a novel-like essay.

Today, most Japanese believe Katakana English or “Janglish” is real English. When Janglish is spoken or written, there will be misunderstanding, because of different concepts or distrust between Japanese and foreign people.

I have proofread two English newspapers, one is Asahikawa Info and the other is the Aoyama Gakuin University English Newspapers both for over 17 years. I have commented on the Kagura Public Presentation held in Saitama Prefecture on the screen in English which is at the right side of its Kagura stage for almost ten years. Here is some Janglish I think Japanese people need to be aware of.

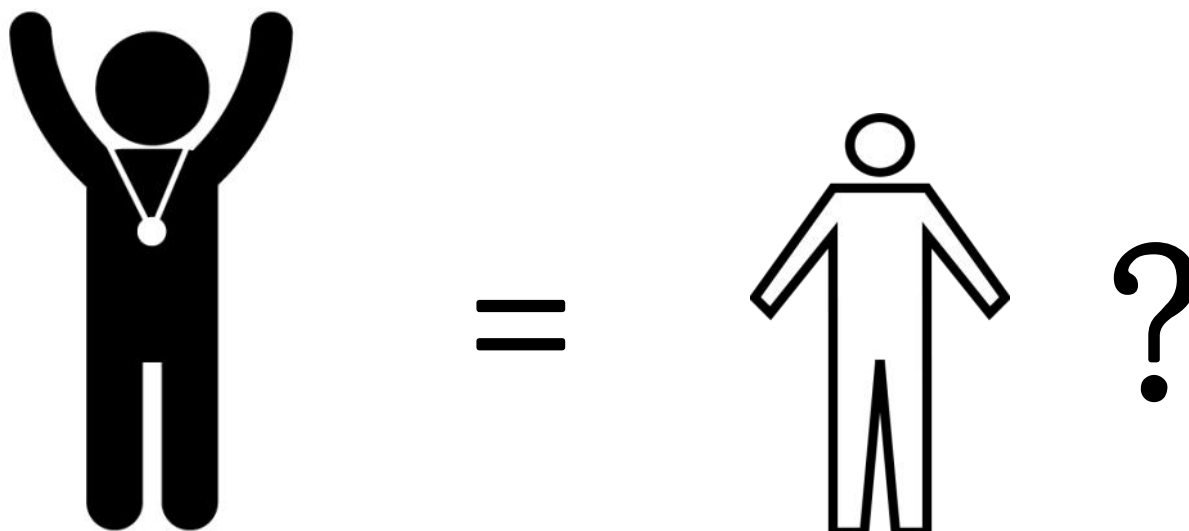
1. “Front” and “Lobby”? (Note: In Japanese, the “front” of a hotel means the front desk.)
 Hotel front is “front door,” not front desk, information or information desk. An American woman stayed at a hotel in Tokyo. She asked an interpreter tour guide for the next day. A Japanese interpreter guide said, “OK, mam. Please wait at the hotel front at nine o’clock tomorrow morning.” Next morning, the American woman waited and waited for him at the front door of the hotel. The Japanese guide never appeared. The woman gave up sightseeing around Tokyo. On the other hand, the Japanese guide waited for the American at the hotel front desk in vain. The day tour was canceled.

*Use “reception desk,” “front desk,” “the front office,” or “reception,” not “front/フロント.”

2. ‘Shortie’ is “Victory”? (Note: 勝利(Shouri) is the word for “Victory” in Japanese.)

At GHQ Hokkaido attached motor-pool, an old man was hired as a janitor. He was a remobilized soldier. He still wore a worn-out ex-military soldier’s uniform. GIs called him “shortie,” instead of “papa-san.” One day he came up to the interpreter (which happens to be me), and said “May I ask you to interpret to express my thanks to the GIs. Because even though Japan lost the war, they console me by saying “shouri.” “Hey, shouri. Come here and clean around here.” I laughed and said to him “Mr., You completely mistook the meaning of ‘shortie.’ It is means a very short, small guy, not “victory.” I’m sorry to tell you this.” He said to me, “I’m very discouraged to hear that.” I said “The ‘T’ Americans pronounce is heard as a ‘ra’, ‘ri’, ‘ru’, ‘re’, and ‘ro’ to our ears.

*Just be aware that your ears can play tricks.



Life in Japan

“Japanese Sake (Rice Wine)”
By SAKUBARA Satoshi

There are many farewell parties and welcome parties in March and April. In many parties, people choose beer as their first drink. However, there are many types of alcoholic beverages. As you may know, *Sake* (rice wine) is a Japanese traditional drink.

Sake is made from rice and a type of fungus. It has a relatively high alcohol percentage (generally 13 to 15%). One of the characteristics of *Sake* is that different kinds vary in tastes and flavors according to the place made in. Otokoyama Sake (男山) in Asahikawa and Kunimare Sake (国稀) in Mashike (増毛; the town located in the west side of Hokkaido) are very different from each other in terms of flavors and so on. The differences might come from processes when making it, especially, rice pruning process. As matter of fact, only the middle part of rice is used to make Sake.

If you order *Sake* in some pub or bar, I recommend that you should take the Sake Meter Value (日本酒度; SMV) into account. High SMV (generally, over about +5) represents a dry taste. Low SMV (less than about +1) represents mild taste. I think the +3 to +5 along with chilled *Sake* (冷や) are the easiest to drink for most people. *Sake* has a relatively high alcohol percentage. When you drink *Sake*, you should drink it little by little, and feel its tastes and flavor.

★ *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 / ☎ 74 – 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- La La Land (English)
- Shimajiro a World of WOW!: Shimajiro and the Rainbow Oasis (Japanese/Anime)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Dai-bouken (Japanese/Anime)
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese)
- Survival Family (Japanese)
- Moana (English/Anime)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese)
- Hirune Hime: Shiranai Watashi no Monogatari (Japanese/Anime)
- Sing (English/Anime)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Lego Batman Movie (Japanese) 4/1
- Girls in the Dark (Japanese) 4/1
- Ghost in the Shell (English) 4/7
- Thonas & Friends: The Great Race (English) 4/8
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- ReLIFE (Japanese) 4/15
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 4/21
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt2 (Japanese) 4/22
- Kamisama Minarai Himitsu no Kokotama the Movie: Kiseki wo Okose!, Teppuru to Dokidoki Kokotama Kai (Japanese/Anime) 4/28
- The Fate of the Furious (English) 4/28
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese PG12) 4/29
- Teiichi's Country (Japanese) 4/29
- Tsuioku (Japanese) 5/6
- Guardians of the Galaxy remix (English) 5/12
- Tataru Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- To Each His Own (Japanese) 5/27
- Logan (English) 6/1

★ *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 / ☎ 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

- Moonlight (English/R15+)
- Kong: Skull Island (English)
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese)
- P and JK (Japanese)
- Passengers (English)
- Precure the Movie: Dream Stars! (Japanese/Anime)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese)
- Sing (English/Anime)
- Moana (English/Anime)
- Sword Art Online the Movie: Ordinal Scale (Japanese/Anime 4DX)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- The Lego Batman Movie (Japanese) 4/1
- Ghost in the Shell (English 4DX) 4/7
- K's Company La Bayadère in Cinema (Japanese) 4/8~4/21
- The Great Wall (English 4DX3D) 4/14
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 4/21
- Deepwater Horizon (English) 4/21
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese PG12) 4/29
- Tsuioku (Japanese) 5/6
- Tataru Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha the Movie 1st (Japanese/Anime) 5/20
- Logan (English) 6/1
- Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha the Movie 2nd A's (Japanese/Anime 4DX) 6/3~6/16
- Ikitoshi Ikerumono (Japanese) 6/3

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 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

- P and JK (Japanese)
- Sakurada Reset Pt1 (Japanese)
- Kong: Skull Island (English)
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese)
- Passengers (English)
- Sing (English/Anime)
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese)
- Moana (English/Anime)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime)
- Assassin's Creed (English)
- Sword Art Online the Movie: Ordinal Scale (Japanese/Anime)
- KanColle: The Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Your Name (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Lego Batman Movie (Japanese) 4/1
- Ghost in the Shell (English) 4/7
- Black Butler:Book of Atlantic (Japanese/Anime) 4/8
- T2 Trainspotting (English R15+) 4/8
- Snowden (English PG12) 4/8~4/21
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/Anime) 4/15
- Beauty and the Beast (English) 4/21
- The Fate of the Furious (English) 4/28
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese PG12) 4/29
- Teiichi's Country (Japanese) 4/29
- Last Cop the Movie (Japanese) 5/3
- Guardians of the Galaxy remix (English) 5/12
- Sakurada Reset Pt2 (Japanese) 5/13
- Arrival (English) 5/19
- Kimi no Manazashi (Japanese) 5/20
- Peach Girl (Japanese) 5/20
- Tataru Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- What a Wonderful Family! 2 (Japanese) 5/27
- To Each His Own (Japanese) 5/27
- Logan (English) 6/1
- Hana Ikusa (English) 6/3

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

Selected Wood Works II Forest of Images: Wood Works



木の造形セレクションⅡ
10月27日(木)~2017年3月31日(金)

休館日: 月曜日(11/7、3/20をのぞく)、12/19~2017.1/16、3/21
観覧料: 一般 260(210)円、高大生 150(110)円
●中学生以下、65歳以上、障害者手帳をお持ちの方等は無料。
●()内は10名以上の団体料金。●11/10~7月の芸術週間は無料。

Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art will be bringing out the second part of their award winning wood carvings and crafts out from its collection in the latter part of this month.

Date: Now to April 9th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥260; High school/University ¥150

FREE for junior high and under, seniors, and disabled

Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

If you are a fan of woodworks, here is one more exhibition to set your eyes on!

Date:

April 21st (Friday) to October 28th (Saturday)

Time:

9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue:

Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥260; High school/University ¥150

FREE for junior high and under, seniors, and disabled

Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

4.21(金)~10.28(土)

イメージの森—木から生まれる

Forest of Images: Wood Works

木という素材に根ざしながら、観る者の想像力をかきたてる多彩なイメージが生み出されています。深遠なイメージの森を探検するように展覧会を鑑賞ください。



保田神智之
(向に彫←descent)
1983年

田原義典
(観る者の心(心)に)
1983年 いずみ木彫製

FUN FRIDAYS

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!

Dates: April 14th&28th, May 12th&26th, June 9th&23th

Times: 1:00-2:00pm ~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 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 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.****