

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Also visit us at: [www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kokusaikouryu/english/index.html](http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kokusaikouryu/english/index.html)



## Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### November 27

“The 30<sup>th</sup> Sapporo White Illumination” has started in Odori Park in the center of Sapporo. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative event features the “Crystal River,” which represents a river in Hokkaido in winter. The crystal river, with three Japanese red-crowned cranes, which is displayed at Odori 4-chome square, is made of 70,000 blue LED light bulbs.

### December 2

Hokkaido “Shiki” Theatre has been completed at Odori Higashi 5-chome in Sapporo. The Tokyo-based musical theater company has the exclusive rights to use it. The theater will open on January 8<sup>th</sup>, with planned performances of “Evita” and “Anne of Green Gables.” The production of “Lion King” will be staged from March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### December 3

A 5 meter-tall Christmas tree has been set up at the east entrance hall of the new JR Asahikawa Station. The tree is decorated with red ribbons, golden balls, and blue lights. JR Hokkaido will organize Christmas concerts in front of the east entrance gate.

### December 3

Mikuni Kiyomi, a French cuisine chef, is awarded “Officier de Mérite Agricole” by the French Government for dishes which he prepared using local Hokkaido ingredients. The French Government awards the order to those who contribute to the popularization of French food culture. A Mashike local, Mr. Mikuni is the 20<sup>th</sup> Japanese who has received the prize.

### December 6

Muroran Police and Muroran Maritime Safety Agency have arrested two Chinese sailors and a Japanese citizen from Funabashi in Chiba, at one of the piers at Muroran Port on suspicion of possessing 5 kg of illegal narcotics. According to investigators, after the two Chinese sailors went into a public toilet, the Japanese suspect came out with a bag. Customs officers who had received an anonymous tip questioned him and found the narcotics in the bag.



### Inside This Issue...

#### For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)

#### Location:

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo  
Proofreader & Advisor

## THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF THE PAINTER SEPTET

## 絵画の魅力「画家たちの七重奏」

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by the seven artists known as the "Painter Septet." A diverse range of works; abstract, realist, colourful, and monochromatic, depicting the unique landscape of northern Hokkaido. The seven painters are NAMBATA Tatsuoki, ONO Shuichi, ASAKURA Rikio, SATO Susumu, INDOU Hisashi, KANDA Kazuaki, and YAMAGUCHI Masao. The common theme of the septet's work is Asahikawa and its surroundings.

**Date:** Now to March 21st (Monday–Public Holiday)

**Time:** 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays

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

**Admission:** General ¥500(\* for groups of over 10 people ¥400) High School Students ¥300 (\* ¥250,) Junior High & Elementary School Students Free

**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**For further information contact:** 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## NOTEBOOK AND TEXTBOOK EXHIBITION "THEN AND NOW"

## 教科書、ノート展...昔と今

An exhibition of old and new educational textbooks and notebooks from MOMOI Masao's extensive educational resources collection. A fascinating insight into the development of textbook content through the years.

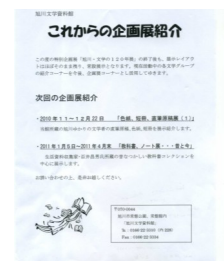
**Date:** January 5th (Wednesday) to end of April

**Time:** 9am ~ 5pm (Closed Mondays, Sundays and Public Holidays.)

**Venue:** Tokiwa Literature Resources Hall (inside Asahikawa Tokiwa Hall - Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 22-3310 (Asahikawa Tokiwa Hall)



## "THE PANORAMA OF ASAHIKAWA" PHOTO CONTEST

## 旭川景観コンテスト

Asahikawa City wants you to submit your photo of your favourite spot in Asahikawa. This city is surrounded by beautiful natural scenery which transforms dramatically through the 4 seasons, as well as having a bustling downtown area with always something going on. There is ample and diverse imagery to choose from, so get the camera out.

**Period for Submissions:** Now to December 31st (Saturday,) 2011

**Submission Requirements:** Anyone is eligible to apply (limit of 3 photos per season)

**How to Apply:** You may send in your pictures by post, e-mail, or submit it in person. With it you must attach your full name, address, age, telephone number, the season, the month in which the photo was taken, and the name of the person or place in the photo, title, and a comment. The photo may be either taken by a film, digital, or a cell phone camera. The photo may be in either print form or data.

**Prize Giving:** The prize giving ceremony will be held around April 2012, after all the submitted photos and comments have been judged.

**For further information contact:** 25-8561 or E-mail: keikan@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Visit the website: [http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/tosi\\_kei/](http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/tosi_kei/)



## PICCOLA OPERA DI SAPPORO'S "SINGING SCHOOL" OPERA

## 札幌室内歌劇場 オペラ「唱歌の学校」

An opera written by IWAKAWA Tomoko, directed by NAKATSU Kunihiro, and performed by the Sapporo's Opera troupe "Piccola Opera di Sapporo," accompanied by violin, cello, flute, and piano. A performance for the old and young alike that promises to move audiences to laughter and tears. This opera group was established in 1990 with the motto "Nurturing opera in Hokkaido; nurturing Hokkaido through opera."

**Date:** January 29th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥3,000, Silver and Heartful Pass Holders ¥2,500, Students ¥1,500 (tickets will be ¥500 extra at the door.)

**Ticket Office:** Kawai Instruments Asahikawa Showroom, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

**For further information contact:** 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



## ASAHIKAWA MUSE SAXOPHONE QUARTET'S 29TH ANNUAL REGULAR CONCERT

### 旭川ミュージックサクソフォンカルテット 第29回定期演奏会

The Asahikawa Muse Saxophone Quartet was formed in 1998 consisting of graduates of Asahikawa's Hokkaido University of Education Music Faculty. The members saxophonists are MORITA Mizue on soprano, UNO Kiyoshi on alto, SHINJU Naomi on tenor, and MATSUKURA Manami on baritone. This year's program will include a tribute to Mozart, Studio Ghibli medley, Bach's "Italian Concerto," theme from NHK "Period Drama" series "Ryomaden," and many more. Into the performance Kitasaito Choir will join the quartet.

**Date:** January 7th (Friday)

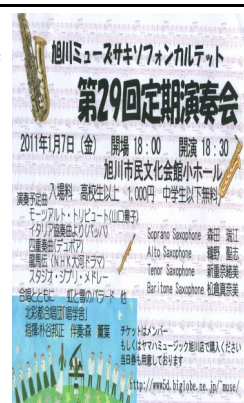
**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

**Admission:** High School Students & Over ¥1,000, Junior High School Students & Under Free

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Yamaha Music Store

**For further information:** <http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/~muse/>



## "THE LOVELY WORLD OF THE HARPSICHORD" WINTER BREAK MUSIC LECTURE

### 冬休み音楽講座「チェンバロのすてきな世界」

The predecessor to the piano, the harpsichord (or *Clavicembalo* in Italian) was widely used in Renaissance and Baroque music. This lecture will feature a slide show, as well as solo and ensemble performances. The lecturer will be ASAKAWA Hiroko, a lecturer at the Asahikawa Welfare Technical College. She will be assisted by the "Asahikawa Early Music Concert" group and Hokkaido University's Harpsichord volunteers.

**Date:** January 14th (Friday)

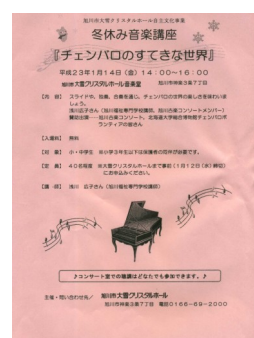
**Time:** 2:00pm ~ 4:00pm

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

**Admission:** Free (aimed at junior and elementary school students; a limit of 40 people)

**Ticket Office:** To reserve a place apply at the Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

**For further information contact:** 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



## "KIRENJAKU CHOIR" CONCERT

### 合唱団ケレンジャク演奏会

Kirenjaku Choir is made up of members of all age groups and it celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. The concert will feature the unaccompanied chorus choir as they perform works written by up-and-coming young composers, NOBUNAGA Takatomi and KITAGAWA Noboru.

**Date:** January 29th (Saturday)

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

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥1,000, Students & Heartfull Pass Holders ¥800

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Fukido Mega Store

**For further information contact:** After 7:00pm 090-6442-7399 (NAKAGAWA)



## A EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURES BY HONDA MEIJI

### 本田明二展

A native of Sapporo, HONDA Meiji (1919 - 1989,) is best known in Asahikawa for his statue of Asahikawa's baseball great Victor Starffin, in the Asahikawa Starffin Stadium. HONDA was one of the members of the "Shinseisakuhakyoukai" arts movement's which was established in the 1930's. The movement was based in Tokyo where most artists converged. However, HONDA remained in his beloved Hokkaido. Most of his works depict the long harsh winter of the northern lands, yet conveying warmth and good-natured simplicity. The exhibition will feature 12 works that were donated to the city by the HONDA family.

**Date:** Now ~ January 16th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00am ~ 5:00pm (last entry at 4:30pm)

**Venue:** NAKAHARA Tejiro Memorial Sculpture Museum (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥300 (\*¥240 for groups of over 20 people,) High School Students ¥200 (\*¥160,) Junior High School Students & Under Free

**For further information contact:** 52-0033 (NAKAHARA Tejiro Memorial Sculpture Museum)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY

## Hello Asahikawa!



**Name:** Dararat Phanklong  
**Hometown:** Wapi Pathum, Maha Sarakham  
 Province, Thailand

**Interviewed:** 24th November, 2010  
**By** Sergej Nestic (AIC)

**AIC:** *Tell us a little about your home-town?*

**Dararat:** I'm from a small town called Wapi Pathum in the Maha Sarakham Province of North-East Thailand. Most of the people in this area work in the agricultural industry, basically as farmers. It's very hot for most of the year and in winter it's kind of warm. Actually, my first time to see snow was here in Japan when I arrived earlier this year.

**AIC:** *What did you do in Thailand?*

**Dararat:** I was a high-school student in Wapi Pathum School. My school is well known for its science faculty. I was in the science class, even though science doesn't really interest me. My school has over 3,000 students and 120 teachers, and it's classed as an academic school. It's also the biggest school in my town.

**AIC:** *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

**Dararat:** I'm a high school exchange student on the AFS exchange program at the Asahikawa Nougyo High School. It's an agricultural high school and it's my first time to be studying in such a school. I've learned a lot of new things in Nougyo High School. For example, I've learned to cook Japanese food and different agricultural methods. Actually, as my home-town is an agricultural town I did some work in that field, but only on a very small scale helping out my family. We have small vegetable garden where we grow a small number of vegetables, such as Garlic Chives (*Guichaii* in Thai, and *Nira* in Japanese.) My grandmother and mother are mainly responsible for our garden, and our dinners always contain plenty of vegetables.

Now, regarding AFS. It is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. As I mentioned its activities are volunteer based and there are more than 30,000 active volunteers in over 50 countries. It's been running for over 50 years and there are over 325,000 program alumni.

**AIC:** *How did you apply for the AFS exchange program?*

**Dararat:** I sat for an exam at my school in Thailand and based on my results I received a scholarship to come and study in Japan for free. Including myself, this year there are 28 new exchange students from Thailand in Japan. I keep in contact with some of them.

**AIC:** *Do you like Japanese food?*

**Dararat:** I like Japanese food quite a lot. It's the main reason why my weight is going up now (laugh.)

**AIC:** *Which do you prefer, Thai or Japanese food?*

**Dararat:** Well, being Asian I don't think there is such a great difference between Japanese and Thai cuisine. Of course, Thai food is much spicier but we both use common ingredients, such as soy sauce, ginger, garlic, and so on. Therefore, to me many Japanese and Thai dishes taste similar. Thai, like Japanese cuisine, also has many different noodle dishes. While it's common in Thailand to use chopsticks, we also often use spoon and fork.

Continued from Page 4

**AIC:** *Have you tried Thai food in Asahikawa?*

**Dararat:** I often cook Thai food at home with my host mother. I brought some ingredients from Thailand and my host mother bought some at AEON. The taste is actually a bit different than the Thai food in Thailand, but overall it's ok.

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

**Dararat:** I sometimes play the guitar, and I spend some time studying *Kanji*. I'm not very good at writing *Kanji* but I love speaking Japanese.

During the summer I often went cycling. I also spend some of my free time just hanging around with friends. I have Japanese and foreigner friends, and I like hanging around with both groups. I haven't studied Japanese before coming to Asahikawa, so *Hiragana*, *Katakana*, and *Kanji* are all new to me. Also, I had to learn speaking from scratch. That's why I really value my time spent with Japanese friends because I'm able to practice and improve my Japanese speaking ability.

**AIC:** *Why did you choose to study in Japan?*

**Dararat:** Well, I received a scholarship to study in this country, so I guess that's the main reason why I'm here. Also, there are many Japanese companies doing business in Thailand, so I wanted to study the Japanese language in order to one day work in a Japanese company in Thailand. I believe that if I learn Japanese well enough it would be relatively easy for me to find a job in Thailand.

**AIC:** *What are some differences and similarities between Asahikawa and Wapi Pathum?*

**Dararat:** In my home town there are no mountains, and the climate is very hot. I actually like the weather here in Asahikawa and I really like the natural environment here, especially the tall mountains of the *Daisetsuzan* Mountain Range. My home town is very flat, so I've never had the chance to view such scenery. I also really like going to Kaimono Koen Shopping Street as we don't have anything like that in my home town.

**AIC:** *Have you experienced an Asahikawa winter?*

**Dararat:** I arrived in Asahikawa in March, so it was still very cold and there was a lot of snow on the ground. Actually, I really like snow. I've never tried skiing and it's the one thing I would really like to try while I'm in Asahikawa.

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

**Dararat:** I practiced playing the guitar, studied foreign languages, and sometimes I would help my mum with our vegetable garden. I joined a few clubs in my school. The club system in Wapi Pathum School is very different to the one here. For example, if we wanted to try out a particular sport just for that day, we would ask the students in charge and try it out. If on the next day we wanted to try out another sport or activity, we were free to do so. I like badminton and I am quite good at it, so I regularly practiced with the badminton club. The most popular sport club at my school is basketball.

**AIC:** *What are your plans for the future?*

**Dararat:** Well, when I return to Thailand I first have to complete grade 12 of high school, even though I'll be 19. As I said before, I have a deep interest in foreign languages. I've studied German, English, and now I'm studying Japanese, so I would like to work in a type of job in which I can use my language abilities. The only foreign countries I've been to are Laos and Japan, so in the future I would like to travel to many countries.

**AIC:** *Well, thank you very much.*

**Dararat:** Thank you.

# Life In Asahikawa

## NEW YEAR'S CARDS (ねんがじょう 一年賀状)

By KITAMURA Tadao

*Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu*" and A Happy New Year to you all! I wish all of you good fortune and health in the new year of 2011. I send you all my *Nenga-jo* for the year 2011 via Asahikawa Info.

*Akemashite* (明けまして) means "It has dawned." *Omededo* (おめでとう) means "Congratulations," and *Gozaimasu*, a polite form of "it is." Did you know that the Japanese have a special affection for the New Year and place all their hopes in it? We Japanese are apt to think that the New Year renews everything in the world and clears away the bad things of the old year. "*Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu*" as well as "*Kinga shin-nen* (謹賀新年)" is the most commonly used wording on a New Year's greeting card.

You might be surprised to hear that an average Japanese sends as many as 35 New-Year's greeting cards. This number is attained by dividing the number of New Year post-cards Japan Post issues a year by the total population of Japan. I, however, send about 150 cards every year. *Nenga-jo*, a New-Year's greeting card, might be somewhat different from what you would consider a Christmas card. Every year Japan Post publishes and sells as many as 35 hundred million special New Year post cards with postage included (¥50 per card.) People write their own New-Year's messages on the card as an expression of their affection. Each post-card carries a particular 6- digit lottery number. Winning prizes may include a 32inch LCD TV, domestic or

overseas holidays, PC's, digital cameras, etc. On the fourth Sunday in January the attention of the whole nation is fixed on the drawing of New Year cards' winning numbers.

So, most people are busy in December preparing their New Year cards as an expression of their goodwill towards their friends, loved ones, relatives, and people who are important to their business. Many use the opportunity of making *Nenga-jo* to show off their skills in photography, drawing, wood-printing, calligraphy, poetry, and so on.

The most popular item on the *Nenga-jo* is one of the animals from twelve zodiac signs: mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, bird, dog, and boar.

2011 is the year of rabbit, so if you received a New Year's greeting card from one of your friends, it'll probably have a picture of a rabbit on it.



平成二十三年  
元旦

明けまして  
おめでとう  
ございます



**HAPPY NEW 2011!**



## Movies ~ January



\*Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*The 1<sup>st</sup> day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

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

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- Space Battleship Yamato (Japanese)
- Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt1 (English)
- Bushi No Kakeibo (Japanese)
- Cheburashka-Kuma No Gakkou (Russian)
- Kamen Rider Oz & Double (Japanese)
- Saigo No Chushingura (Japanese)
- Bleach (Japanese/Animation)
- Tron: The Legacy (English)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Norway No Mori (Japanese)
- Robin Hood (English)

### Coming Soon

- Boku No Tsuma No 1778 No Monogatari (Japanese)
- SP The Motion Picture—Revolution (Japanese)
- Byakuyakou (Japanese)
- Draemon The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shinchan The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- The Green Hornet (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- Manzai Gang (Japanese)
- Tangled (English/Animation)

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

URL: [http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa\\_schedule.php?StoreID=5](http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5) (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- Burlesque (English)
- Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt1 (English)
- Kamen Rider Oz & Double (Japanese)
- Tron: The Legacy (English)
- Robin Hood (English)
- Ultraman Zero – The Movie (Japanese)
- Inazuma Eleven – The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Norway No Mori (Japanese)
- Shrek Forever After (English)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Saigo No Chushingura (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Unstoppable (English)
- Wall Street (English)
- Gegege No Nyobou (Japanese)
- Patterserie Coin de Rue (Japanese)
- Tangled (English/Animation)
- Taiheiyo No Kiseki (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- Red (English)
- Social Network (English)
- Paranormal Activity 2 (English)

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

# English Night in Tohma

Come and enjoy conversing in English with great people in a fun and comfortable atmosphere. "Café & Dining Bar Brown" is the venue for English Night in Tohma and anyone interested is welcome to join.

**Date:** January 26th (Wednesday)

**Time:** From 7:00pm to 9:00pm

**Location:** Café & Dining Bar Brown  
(3-jo Minami 4-chome Tohma-cho)

**Charge:** ¥2,500 (with alcohol,) ¥1,500 (non-alcohol,)

For native English speakers ¥1,500

**For more information contact:** 84-5593

(Café & Dining Bar Brown)



# Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

**Dates:** *Winter Session:* January 14th, February 18th, March 11th

**Time:** 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

**Location:** AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

**To register contact AIC.**

**Tel:** 25-7491

# AIC Snow Statue Day

Join us as a member of the AIC International Team in making a snow sculpture for the Asahikawa Winter Festival.

**Date:** February 5th (Saturday)

**Time:** 1:00pm ~ 3:30pm

**Charge:** Free

**Location:** Ishikari riverfront (Specific location TBA)

**To register or for further information, please contact the AIC.**

**Tel:** 25-7491

**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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.**

## AIC Computer:

The AIC has a computer available for public use free of charge in the International Corner (6-jo-dori 10-chome). There is a time limit for use. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the AIC.

## 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.



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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.\*\***