

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

January 2013 VOL. 194

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Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2013

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

- **November 19**
The first snow of the season came to nearly all of Hokkaido due to the arrival of a high-altitude cold-air system with a temperature of negative 35 degrees Celsius. It was the latest first snow in Asahikawa's recorded history since meteorological observation began in the city in 1888.
- **November 22**
Furano Agricultural Cooperative started exporting "long-life milk" to a supermarket chain in Hong Kong. The supermarket chain has 250 stores all over Hong Kong. A carton of the milk is sold for 31.5 Hong Kong dollars (approx. 340 yen). The price is twice as much as that of local milk, but farmers in Furano believe that they can sell their milk in Hong Kong because products from Hokkaido have a good reputation there.
- **November 24**
The Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters marched in a parade from JR Sapporo Station to the Susukino downtown area in the morning to celebrate their winning the Pacific League Championship for the first time in three years. A tremendous cheer rose up from the crowd of 100,000 gathered by the roadside in the ticker-tape parade.
- **November 27**
About 56,000 houses and buildings in areas around Muroran City and Noboribetsu City suffered from power outages after a strong snow storm collapsed a power transmission tower. Train service by JR Hokkaido was stopped in the same area as the blackout, and 83 flights were canceled at New Chitose Airport due to the blizzard.
- **December 9**
OTANI Shohei, a hard-throwing pitcher at Hanamaki Higashi High School in Iwate Prefecture, said that he decided to join the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters. Otani had said that he wished to play for a major league baseball team on October 21st. He had also previously stated that he would never join the Fighters after he was picked by the team during the first-round draft. The high school power pitcher apparently changed his mind after delicate negotiations.



For further information or to register for events contact:
Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kenton KNOP, or SAITO Emmy)
Location:
International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.
Address:
Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

HOKKAIDO ASAHIKAWA MUSEUM OF ART - 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITIONS

北海道立旭川美術館・開館30周年記念展示・木の造形100選・天と地と人と

In commemoration of its 30th anniversary this year, the Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art is holding two special exhibitions. First is the exhibition *Ten to Chi to Hito to* (Heaven, Earth, People), a selection of outstanding works by northern Hokkaido artists from the museum's collection. Second is a selection of 100 pieces crafted from wood that range from the practical to the whimsical.

Date: Heaven, Earth, People: Now until January 14th (Monday)

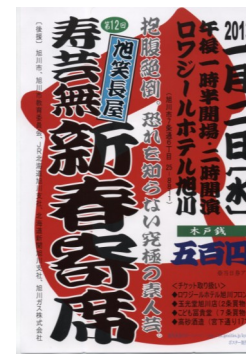
Wood Works - 100 Selections: January 22nd (Tuesday) to April 7th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm, closed Mondays except on holidays**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General: ¥500, High School Students: ¥300, Over 65 or Middle School Students and Younger: Free**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2539 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)

KYOKUSHO NAGAYA RAKUGO ASSOCIATION NEW YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

旭笑長屋・寿芸無新春寄席

Get ready for an afternoon filled with laughs as the members of Kyokusho Nagaya, Asahikawa's own amateur *rakugo* (traditional comedic storytelling) performance group present their 12th annual New Year's show. These self-styled "extreme amateurs who know no fear" are guaranteed to leave audiences in stitches.

Date: January 2nd (Wednesday)**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm**Venue:** Loisir Hotel Asahikawa (7-jo 6-chome)**Admission:** All Seats: ¥500**Ticket Offices:** Loisir Hotel Asahikawa, Gyokkodo, Children's Fukido, Takasago Sake Brewery**For Further Information:** http://1st.geocities.jp/kyokusyou_fan (Kyokusho Nagaya)

RAKUGO PERFORMANCE: KATSURA SHIKO II

桂枝光独演会

An Osaka-born *rakugo* performer who also has strong ties to Hokkaido, Katsura Shiko II will come to Asahikawa for a special New Year's performance. Mr. Katsura is a leading proponent of reviving *rakugo*'s popularity in Hokkaido and even founded a new theater in Sapporo that specializes in traditional comic performances.

Date: January 3rd (Thursday)**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm**Venue:** Kagetsu Kaikan Hall 3F (3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** Advance: ¥1,000, On 1/3: ¥1,500**For Tickets and Further Information Contact:** 090-3773-0853 (Asahikawa Rakugo Association-KOBAYASHI)

ASAHIKAWA SCIENCE CENTER "SCIPAL" SCIENCE EXPLORATION SQUARE 2013

旭川市科学館「サイパル」・科学探検ひろば2013

Calling all young scientists! The Asahikawa Science Center "Scipal" will present two days filled with opportunities to learn about science while having fun. Visitors can explore approximately 50 different booths, each showcasing a different science activity. In addition, the event includes live shows featuring experiments and even workshops where participants can experience the wonders of science before their very eyes.

Date: January 12th (Saturday) and January 13th (Sunday)**Time:** 10:00am to 4:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Science Center "Scipal" (Miyamae-dori Higashi)**Admission:** Free**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-31-3186 (Asahikawa Science Center)

ASAHIKAWA INOCHI NO DENWA NEW YEAR CHARITY CONCERT: LOVE, PEACE, AND FREEDOM 旭川のいのちの電話・NEW YEAR チャリティーコンサート～愛、平和、そして自由～

This charity concert benefiting the Asahikawa branch of the suicide-prevention phone hotline *Inochi no Denwa* (Life Phone) will feature The Guppys playing pieces such as *Takeda no Komoriuta* (Takeda Lullaby), and the band Kazu & Yukara-dan performing a selection including the moving YAMASHITA Tatsuro song *Sobo* (Faceless People).

Date: January 18th (Friday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: All Seats: ¥1,000
Ticket Offices: Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Coach & Four, Children's Fukido, Junkudo, Early Times
For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2143 (Inochi no Denwa Office)



ASKA IN CONCERT ASKA コンサート

Aska, part of the hit music duo Chage & Aska and also an accomplished solo performer, is coming to town as part of "ASKA Concert Tour 12>>13 Rocket." Fresh from the release of his first original solo album in seven years, "SCRAMBLE," Aska is sure to create a memorable evening for both long-time fans and new listeners as well.

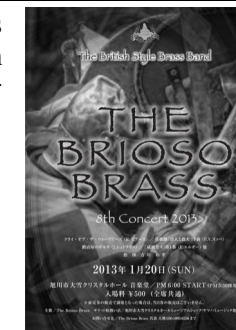
Date: January 20th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 5:00pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All Seats ¥8,000
Ticket Sales: Lawson, Ticket Pia
For Further Information Contact: 011-614-9999 (Wess)



THE BRIOSO BRASS 8TH CONCERT 2013 ザ・ブリオソ・ブラス・コンサート

The one-and-only British-style brass music ensemble in northern Hokkaido, The Brioso Brass will perform ten pieces, such as the prelude from von Suppé's *Poet and Peasant*, and March No.1 from Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*. If you think that brass bands are only for elementary school students, come and see what you've been missing!

Date: January 20th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: All Seats: ¥500
Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music, Taisetsu Crystal Hall
For Further Information Contact: 050-1095-6556 (Okuma)



KAN IN CONCERT~ IF I WERE ABLE TO PLAY PIANO KAN コンサート～弾き語りばったり#17 もしもピアノがぴけたなら

The famous rock and pop pianist Kan will play the last performance of his current nationwide concert tour in Asahikawa, bringing his trademark sound and sense of humor to the Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall. Expect to hear hits such as *Ai wa Katsu* (Love Will Win) as well as selections from his more recent works.

Date: January 25th (Friday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All Seats: ¥5,300
Ticket Offices: Lawson, Ticket Pia
For Further Information Contact: 011-614-9999 (Wess)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Joyce Posada
Hometown: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Interviewed: December 20th, 2012 by AIC

AIC: *Please tell us about your hometown.*

Joyce : Toronto is the largest city in Canada. There are a lot of people there, and it's a very multi-cultural place. Many Chinese and Japanese people live there, as well as people from all over the world. You can hear many different languages spoken on the streets, so it's a really interesting place. There are many art and music festivals that are popular with tourists, and we also have many marathons in the city.

AIC: *What is a famous tourist attraction in Toronto?*

Joyce : The most popular one would be the CN Tower. It used to be the tallest structure in the world, until it was overtaken in 2010 by the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. Also, recently the Tokyo Sky Tree was completed and that is also taller than the CN Tower.

AIC: *What brought you here to Asahikawa?*

Joyce : I applied to the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program and Hokkaido was one of my choices for placement. There are three different types of locations you can request: rural, semi-urban and urban. I chose semi-urban, and I also noted on my application that I don't like hot weather because I don't like insects. I was placed here in Asahikawa, and live in Nagayama, which is really good for me because it is kind of a semi-urban area of the city. JET gave me a placement that is exactly what I wanted, so I am very happy to have come here.

AIC: *What have your impressions been of Asahikawa so far?*

Joyce : I arrived here this past August, and at first it was pretty tough. I didn't know a lot of Japanese, and it took time to get used to living in Japan, such as with hearing the language, approaching people and talking with them. I'm still not used to this weather though. In terms of the cold temperatures, the weather here is about the same as back home, but before coming here I had never seen so much snow in my life! Being from Canada, that's saying a lot. The snow these days is piling up so high along the streets that when I walk outside I can't even see the cars on the road. I have to shovel the snow too, and this week is my turn for shoveling at my apartment complex. It's fun though, because I can listen to music while doing it.

AIC: *What got you interested in coming to Japan in the first place?*

Joyce : There are a lot of different things that got me interested in Japan. My oldest brother used to study in Tokyo and when he came home to visit, he would bring with him books for learning Japanese. I read the books and studied with them too. And then of course I got interested in Japan's anime and manga culture. At university my major was East Asian Studies, and for a language I studied Japanese. I studied Japanese for two years at university and wanted to learn more. I feel the best way to learn a language is through immersion, so that's why I'm here now. I applied to JET right out of university, because I also wanted to become a teacher. This is a very good place to gain teaching experience I think.

Hello Asahikawa!



Joyce Posada Interview Part Two

AIC: *What kind of work do you do?*

Joyce : I work for the Kamikawa Board of Education, and I visit a different school on each day from Monday to Thursday each week. If I'm not helping with pronunciation, I also help students write essays. In Furano especially, I'm helping students with writing their essays. There are at least 200 students' essays that I have looked at so far. I teach them how to write an essay, and how to use proper formatting and transitions in writing. I also work at three special-needs schools. Usually I do a self-introduction and bring some things from Canada to show in class. Sometimes I introduce events and holidays popular in the West, like Halloween or Christmas and try to do some fun activities. I do plenty of songs in class too, and because I play the flute I do music performances for the students sometimes.

AIC: *What kinds of things do you do in your free time?*

Joyce : I have a lot of hobbies to entertain myself. I like going to the theater to watch movies, although it's a little expensive here in Japan. I've already seen three movies since I came here, but I was able to see one of the movies on a day when the tickets are discounted. I also love going to karaoke. My favorite Japanese songs to sing are by the group Monkey Majik, because they're a Japanese/Canadian fusion band. One of the singers used to be an Assistant Language Teacher in Sendai, and they're pretty popular in Japan. Of course I sing English songs too. Recently I've been singing lots of Christmas songs, especially Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You." I also like going shopping, going from store to store and looking around.

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

Joyce : After working for JET, I think I'd like to go back to Canada and study how to become a teacher. There is a program at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Education offering either a Bachelor of Education or a Master of Education degree. I would like to get my teaching certification while studying there. I'm interested in teaching science, history, or maybe even English. I wanted to teach at the elementary school level when I applied to work in Japan, but I was placed to work with high school students, which is all right because the kids are really nice and want to use English. I would definitely like to come back to Japan after finishing my studies, because there are a lot of places in Japan that I'd really like to visit that I might not have time to see now. I'd like to go to Kyoto, Osaka and Nara of course, but I also want to visit Aomori, because there is a famous spot there that stays that Jesus Christ is buried there. I plan on getting a car, so I hope to visit a lot of places around Hokkaido. Life here in Japan is very fun and interesting, and I'm learning new things every day.

AIC: *Thank you very much for your time, Joyce! Best of luck to you in the future!*

Joyce : You're welcome! Thank you for having me!



Japanese Traditional Dishes and Rice Cakes in January

By: **SAKURABA Satoshi**

In Japan, there are many unique dishes typically made in January. For example, New Year dishes (*osechi-ryori* おせち料理) are eaten during the first three days of January. New Year dishes involve foods that stay good to eat for a longer period of time in order to avoid bothersome cooking during those first three days. Moreover, it could be said that rice porridge with seven-herbs (*nanakusa-gayu* 七草粥) is also a traditional dish eaten in January. Japanese people eat *nanakusa-gayu* on January 7th. This menu item consists of seven spring herbs, such as water dropwort (*seri* 芹), shepherd's purse (*nazuna* ナズナ) and so on. It is believed that people will be healthy all year round if they eat the porridge on this day and, in fact, this porridge is also good for digestion after eating and drinking too much during New Year parties.

Furthermore, many Japanese also eat *ozoni* (お雑煮) during the first three days of the new year. *Ozoni* is a soup which contains rice cakes and vegetables. Its flavor and ingredients vary from region to region and are different in each family. Typically, *ozoni* contains carrots, burdock root, chicken, and rice cakes. As for the soup, soy sauce or miso is used.

Ozoni always contains rice cakes. Some people outside Japan might think that rice cakes are dangerous to eat because they are likely to get caught in one's throat. Others might say that they do not have the time it requires to chew and swallow them because of their distinctive soft and chewy texture. However, when you eat *ozoni*, you can eat the rice cakes with the soup, so the risk of them getting caught in your throat is somewhat lower. Additionally, the hot soup makes the rice cakes softer and easier to swallow.

In addition, there are many different ways to eat rice cakes. I think rice cakes go best with foods that are usually eaten with rice. I like to eat rice cakes rolled in a sheet of dried laver (*nori* のり) with soy sauce. It is called *isobe-mochi* (いそべ餅), and it tastes even better if you add a piece of butter to it. Surprisingly, it is also said that rice cakes with pizza sauce and cheese are delicious. Although I haven't tried this recipe yet, it might be an easy way to start eating rice cakes if you have yet to try them.

Life In Asahikawa

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu

By: KITAMURA Tadao

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! Did you stand tall against that dark and cold weather of December? A fresh new year is dawning. According to tradition, *Shogatsu* (正月 "January") is the beginning of spring, even if it is still cold. People rejoice the coming of a new year, hoping it brings us something good. I hope the year of 2013 brings us a peaceful, bright world without starvation and illness, wars or conflicts, and natural or man-made disasters.

Is there anything in the New Year's holiday here that is different from yours? Traditional customs and events in the *o-Shogatsu* season are losing their popularity among people. Children used to enjoy flying kites, spinning tops and playing with battledores (a kind of badminton racquet) as games that were only for during the *o-Shogatsu* season. Elegant competitions using poem cards (*karuta*) were also games only played at *o-Shogatsu*. These days, however, children are equally absorbed in playing computer games throughout the year.

However, the tradition concerning special meals for New Year's has continued to be observed relatively well. This must be a result of sales campaigns among department stores and supermarkets. As the year draws to a close, food distribution companies put up samples of beautiful sets of cold meals called *osechi-ryori* prepared by famous restaurants or hotels, in order to get reservations to deliver them to tables across Japan on these special New Year's days.

Twenty to forty kinds of foods are neatly arranged in two or three pretty square boxes. They sell for twenty to fifty thousand yen for a set, equivalent to 250 to 625 US dollars. Do you think it is very expensive?

A friend of mine from China told me that people there do not appreciate cold meals. I presume that Japanese people think differently because due to their long history as an agricultural people, they cherish the pleasure of having a picnic with ready-made cold foods outdoors.

Each piece of food has some reason to be eaten on New Year's Day. Most of the reasons are a sort of strained interpretation or a play on words. For example, a lobster boiled whole is served because its bent back symbolizes longevity. The herring roes symbolize numerous offspring. Candied anchovies are a reminder of the much-appreciated work of this fish as a soil fertilizer. Syrup-cooked black soybeans are included because their Japanese name '*kuro-mame*' sounds like an adverb *mame-mame shiku* meaning "to work busily like a bee."

Most families serve special bowls of soup called *ozoni*, and *o-mochi*, a rice cake, the recipes of which are very different from region to region.

O-toso is a special drink for the New Year that consists of sweetened *sake* containing extracts of several kinds of herbs and is said to promote longevity.





New Year's Special



The Year of the Snake

By: Kenton KNOP

Now that the Year of the Dragon has come to an end, it is time to welcome a new year and a new animal. 2013 is the Year of the Snake. First, it must be noted that there are some regional differences when it comes to celebrating the New Year in Asia. Japan celebrates the New Year the earliest, observing the holiday on January 1st. China, Korea and Vietnam will celebrate the traditional New Year according to the lunar calendar, which places the date on February 10th this year. Countries in South and Southeast Asia observe the New Year holiday starting on April 13th each year. More than simply providing a fun motif for each year, however, the snake and the other animals of the zodiac are part of an intricate system of making sense of the world that originated in Asia long ago.

The snake is sixth in the order of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac: mouse, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and wild boar (pig). Traditional wisdom holds that people born in the Year of the Snake have personality traits such as being ambitious, charming and persistent and have different levels of compatibility with people born in other years. However, as with other kinds of astrology and personality analysis through characteristics such as one's blood type, these are fun topics to talk about with friends and family, but should not be taken so seriously as to affect the decisions one makes in life.

Beyond the animals' connection with personality traits, however, the zodiac has a deeper meaning. Each animal corresponds to part of a sequence called *junishi* (十二支), literally "twelve branches" but also known as the earthly branches in Chinese thought. This sequence of twelve positions was developed through observations of the planet Jupiter and came to be used for numbering years, months and days, telling time and determining direction. The branch associated with the snake is represented by the character 巳, pronounced *mi* or *shi*, which carries the meaning of a plant that has reached its full size and will soon begin to wither. As the snake's position in the middle of the sequence suggests, it represents the completion of one half of the sequence before moving into the second half. This relationship between the two halves of the sequence reflects the well-known Taoist concepts of *yin* 陰 and *yang* 陽, which are the opposites that occur everywhere in nature that complement and balance each other.

Continued on Next Page

New Year's Special

The Year of the Snake Part Two



To add to the interesting story behind this way of naming the years, there is an extra layer of meaning associated with each year that delves into the metaphysical. Traditional Asian thought views the world as being constructed of five phases: wood, fire, metal, water and earth. With each phase having two orientations, one each for *yin* and *yang*, there are ten different configurations in all. These ten configurations are known as *jikkan* (十干), “ten stems” or the celestial stems. When combined with the earthly branches, these stems create a cycle of 60 combinations used for naming and recording the years called *eto* (干支). Certain events in Japanese history were named in this fashion, such as the Boshin War which began in the “dragon/*yang* earth” year of *boshin* (戊辰) in 1868. On the slightly more modern side, the annual high school baseball championship *Koshien* (甲子園) is named for the stadium in Hyogo Prefecture where the tournament is held. The stadium took its name from the year it was constructed, which in 1924 was the “mouse/*yang* wood” year of *koshi* (甲子). Each combination in the cycle occurs exactly once each 60 years, so if you have heard of the special significance placed upon a person’s 60th birthday, called *kanreki* (還暦), it is because he or she has “returned” to the year he or she was born.

The stem that corresponds to this year is represented by the character 癸, pronounced *ki* or *mizunoto*, which happens to be last in the sequence of ten. It has the meaning of “measuring” and represents water in the *yin* orientation. By the way, the branch *mi/shi* 巳 represents fire in the *yin* orientation. Combining both the stem and branch for this year creates the combination of *mizunotomi* or *kishi* (癸巳). A common way to interpret this combination is that the *yin* water and *yin* fire are equally matched and struggle for supremacy, which creates uncertainty. In addition, the position of 癸巳 in the cycle is - you guessed it- exactly in the middle at the 30th place.

As a result, the general astrological outlook for 2013 is that things are very much up in the air and far from being settled. On the bright side, the Year of the Snake promises to provide a chance to put things in perspective and move forward. Although maybe not nearly as anticipated as years that feature more exciting creatures like dragons and tigers, the Year of the Snake will be like all years, a fresh start filled with hopeful expectations.

Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa

By: Hitoshi KUDOH

Early in the morning, in Kagura-Sample-Plantation, Yoko was plodding along step by step wearily among the pine columns, where the snow was knee-high. Puffs of snow fell dancing from the overhead twigs from time to time. When she passed through the eastern-white-pines, she came to the bank. It was a hard trudge up the slope towards the river.

As she went down the bank and into the Norway-spruce forest, she found a brown thicket of agrimonies, which were slightly trembling in the bleak wind. Dumbfounded, she halted her steps and pondered.

“Oh, poor Agrimonies! You are waiting perseveringly for some carrier animals to pass by. You lie in ambush in hope of catching someone else’s body such as fox, squirrel or bird which scatters your seeds, even in this harsh winter of far below FREEZING POINT!” she cried out. “The chances are almost null. Nevertheless... It looks like you have the divine mission to distribute your seeds over a vast area.”

“Oh dear, no! Agrimony is Gratitude or Thankfulness in your language of flowers. Thank you so much for reminding me the profound values of every tiny life. I’ve changed my mind. I, too, will strive to live strongly.”

KIN-MIZUHIKI (金水引)*Agrimonia peliosa* v. *japonica***Family:** Rosaceae**Common name:** Japanese Agrimony, Golden decorative cord**Description:** A persistent perennial herb that is slender and hairy. In late spring, its cotyledons appear. It grows erectly to 50-150cm tall.

The alternate leaves are stipulate and imparipinnate compound consist of serrated oval leaflets.

The yellow flowers, 5-8mm across, have 5 separate sepals and petals and up to 12 stamina.

The fruit bears hooked bristles that readily attach themselves to soft materials such as fur and clothes and help to disperse the plant to new locations.

Edible.

Medicinal: internal bleeding, hemostatic, cough, diarrhea, peptic ulcer

Habitat: Dry grassy woods, roadsides, field boundaries, hedgerows

Distribution: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu. Korea, China, Russia



Water Color Painting of a Kin-Mizuhiki
By Hitoshi KUDOH

★ *Movies ~ January* ★

*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.
 *<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for men.
 *The 1st 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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nobou no Shiro (Japanese) ● Aku no Kyoten (Japanese) (15+) ● Evangelion:3.0 You Can (Not) Redo. (Japanese/Animation) ● 007 Skyfall (English) ● Kyo, Koi wo Hajimemasu (Japanese) ● Kamen Rider Wizard & Fourze Movie Taisen Ultimatum (Japanese) ● The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (English/Japanese Dub 3D) ● ONE PIECE FILM Z (Japanese/Animation) ● Good Morning Everyone! (Japanese) ● Frankenweenie (Japanese Dub/Animation) ● Yokai Ningen Bem (Japanese) ● Les Miserables (English) ● Ohoku~Eien~Emonnosuke • Tsunayoshi-hen (Japanese) ● The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 2 (English) ● Ao no Exorcist (Japanese/Animation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taken 2 (English) 1/11 ● Looper (English) 1/12 ● Ted (English) 1/18 (15+) ● Tokyo Kazoku (Japanese) 1/19 ● Tokumei Sentai Go-Busters Vs Kaizoku Sentai Go-kaiger (Japanese) 1/19 ● Life of Pi (English/Japanese Dub 3D) 1/25 ● Strawberry Night (Japanese) 1/26 ● Jack Reacher (English) 2/1

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218
 URL: 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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nobou no Shiro (Japanese) until 1/10 ● Kita no Canaria-tachi (Japanese) until 1/10 ● Ninkyo Helper (Japanese) until 1/10 ● Inazuma Eleven GO vs. Danboru Senki W (Japanese/Animation) ● 007 Skyfall (English) ● Kyo, Koi wo Hajimemasu (Japanese) ● Kamen Rider Wizard & Fourze Movie Taisen Ultimatum (Japanese) ● The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (English/Japanese Dub 3D) ● ONE PIECE FILM Z (Japanese/Animation) ● Frankenweenie (Japanese Dub/Animation) ● Les Miserables (English) ● Ohoku~Eien~Emonnosuke • Tsunayoshi-hen (Japanese) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taken 2 (English) 1/11 ● HUNTERxHUNTER Phantom Rouge (Japanese/Animation) 1/12 ● Tokyo Kazoku (Japanese) 1/19 ● Life of Pi (English) 1/25 ● Tsuya no Yoru (Japanese) 1/26 (15+) ● Jack Reacher (English) 2/1 ● Berserk: Ogon Jidai Hen III Korin (Japanese/Animation) 2/1 ● No-Otoko (Japanese) 2/9 ● A Good Day to Die Hard (English) 2/14 ● Yokomichi Yonosuke (Japanese) 2/23

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

AIC Winter Activity

“Enjoy Winter in Asahikawa”

Want to have a fun day in the Asahikawa snow? Then join us for a trip to Asahiyama Snow Village! There we will experience exciting snow activities, such as snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling! Please join us in enjoying winter in Asahikawa!



Date & Time: January 19th, 2013 (Saturday) 10:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Asahiyama Snow Village.

Meet at 9:20am in front of the Feeeal Asahikawa building “au Shop” at Kaimono Koen Shopping Street (1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Cost: Free (Transportation costs and Lunch will be provided by AIC)

To Participate, Contact Us At: Tel: 0166-25-7491

Or E-mail at: aic2_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

AIC Staff Board

If you haven't visited us at the Asahikawa International Center in a while, now is the perfect time to come by and see our **new bulletin board** featuring our **international staff!** On the board, pictures of each staff member are accompanied by a short self-introduction. In addition, each staff member has a sign that shows when they are in the office, so it's easy to tell who is available to talk when you visit. Please come by to say hello when you get the chance; we'd love to meet you!

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: January 11th, February 8th, March 8th

Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 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.

Center Computers: The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. 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 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.



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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.****