

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2013

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### May 26

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner took off from New Chitose Airport and landed at Tokyo International Airport. It was the first commercial flight since battery problems previously grounded all Dreamliner aircraft. A senior executive vice president of ANA told passengers at New Chitose Airport that they had carried out about 200 test flights to make sure the 787 was safe to resume service.

### May 29

41,190 special railway tickets for people from other countries were sold in Fiscal Year 2012, which was 8.5 times greater compared to 10 years ago. People from Hong Kong and Taiwan purchased 80 percent and 10 percent of the tickets, respectively. JR Hokkaido provides four kinds of the special tickets, such as the "Hokkaido Rail Pass," "Sapporo-Otaru Welcome Pass" and others for foreign nationals who show their passports when they buy them at major railway stations in Hokkaido.

### May 29

According to "Prefectural Income Accounting in 2010" announced by the Cabinet Office, per capita income in Hokkaido was 2,440 thousand yen, which is a 1.6 percent increase over the previous year. Hokkaido is 39th in the per capita ranking, and it is 1,866 thousand yen less than that in Tokyo and 437 thousand yen less than that on average. The prefectural income is a total of personal income and business income in a prefecture.

### June 15

Two cottages for high-end tourists opened in "Taisetsu Mori no Garden" in the town of Kamikawa. The cottages are furnished with upgraded tables, chairs and so on which are made in Asahikawa, and have glass-walled bathrooms with a splendid view of the Daisetsuzan Mountains. A restaurant, "Fratello di Mikuni" run by MIKUNI Seizo, a chief cook of French cuisine, serves guests a course meal at the restaurant in the evening and a breakfast in the guest room in the morning.

### June 16

"Densuke Suika," watermelons produced in the town of Toma next to Asahikawa, sold for 300,000 yen at the first auction of this year. Unusually cold weather at the beginning of spring delayed the growth of the watermelons, but they have turned out to be as sweet as usual. "Densuke Suika" are famous for their black skin and sweet flesh, and are popular as gifts in summer.



### 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

## TRACES OF KISHIDA RYUSEI ART EXHIBITION

画家・岸田劉生の軌跡

The painter KISHIDA Ryusei (1891-1929) was an influential early figure in the world of modern Japanese art. Although he is most famous for his oil paintings, such as the many portraits he made of his beloved daughter Reiko, he worked in a wide variety of styles including watercolors, traditional Japanese painting and woodblock printing. This exhibition, which gathers approximately 130 of KISHIDA's works, provides a valuable chance to rediscover the many facets of his remarkable career.

**Date:** Now until July 18th (Thursday)**Time:** 9:00am to 5:00pm (Closed on 7/16 and Mondays except 7/15)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General: ¥900, High School Students: ¥600, Elementary/Middle School Students: ¥300**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Asahikawa Museum of Art)

## TAISHO KOTO PERFORMANCE

大正琴発表会

The Taisho koto is an updated version of the traditional *koto* stringed instrument that is played by pressing a variety of buttons to create different chords. The Asahikawa branch of the Kinjoryu Taisho Koto Association will present a wide variety of pieces including popular Japanese hits of the past and present and standards such as "You Are My Sunshine."

**Date:** July 4th (Thursday)**Time:** Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** Free**Ticket Offices:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-7331 (Trust Planning Create)

## KUBOH RURIKO HEARTFUL LIVE

久宝留理子×ハートフルライブ

Singer/songwriter KUBOH Ruriko has been entertaining audiences since her debut in 1990 and has recorded several hits such as her 1993 single *Otoko* (Man), for which she appeared on NHK's yearly *Kohaku Uta Gassen* (Red-White Song Contest). This concert celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Acacia Labor Welfare Center's opening, and is a great opportunity to experience a live performance from one of Japan's top artists.

**Date:** July 6th (Saturday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** All Seats: ¥3,000**Ticket Offices:** Fukido, Children's Fukido, Coach & Four, Mai Friend**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-57-0888 (Acacia Labor Welfare Center)

## SUMMER NIGHT JAZZ FESTIVAL IN JOFUKUJI

夏の夜のJAZZ FESTIVAL in 静福寺

If you're looking for a night of cool jazz to beat the summer heat, look no further than this jazz festival held at the Jofukuji Temple grounds. Featuring artists such as the phenomenal jazz vocalist Mizuho and the OKUNO Yoshinori Quartet and with vendors selling food and drinks, this event has something for both new and long-time jazz fans to enjoy.

**Date:** July 6th (Saturday)**Time:** Doors 4:30pm, Opening Act: 4:45pm, Part One: 6:00pm, Part Two: 7:00pm**Venue:** Jofukuji Temple Grounds (Takasu 11-sen 6, In front of Takasu Middle School)**Admission:** Advance: ¥2,500 (¥3,000 on 7/6), Jr. High School Students & Under: ¥500**Ticket Offices:** Yamaha Music, Coach & Four, Mai Friend**For Further Information Contact:** 090-5229-2009 (SASAKI)

## ITSUKI HIROSHI AND MIYAKO HARUMI "GOOD FRIENDS" ~LET'S MEET IN OUR DREAMS~ 五木ひろし 都はるみ "な・か・よ・し" ~夢であいましょう~

Back by popular demand, legends of the *enka* (Japanese popular ballads) world ITSUKI Hiroshi and MIYAKO Harumi are teaming up again to perform their hit songs and add to the excitement on stage with their lively banter in this dream collaboration. Expect to hear favorites such as ITSUKI's *Yokohama Tasogare* (Yokohama Twilight), MIYAKO's *Osaka Shigure* (Osaka Autumn Rain) and more.

**Date:** July 12th (Friday)

**Time:** Afternoon Show: 2:30pm, Evening Show: 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** SS Seats: ¥7,500, S Seats: ¥6,500, A Seats: ¥5,500, Wheelchair Accessible: ¥7,000

**Ticket Offices:** Gyokkodo, Coach & Four Asahikawa

**For Further Information Contact:** 011-261-9991 (Trust Planning Create)



## 22ND KYOKUSHO NAGAYA RAKUGO PERFORMANCE

### 第22回 旭笑長屋寿芸無寄席

Asahikawa-based *rakugo* (traditional comedic storytelling) association Kyokusho Nagaya and its group of self-styled "extreme amateurs who know no fear" will leave audiences in stitches during this evening of old-fashioned fun. With the opportunity to see several members of the community performing on stage, this show is for anyone who would like to see what *rakugo* is all about!

**Date:** July 13th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** All Seats: ¥500

**Ticket Offices:** Gyokkodo, Children's Fukido, Takasago Brewery

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)



## THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE: MISTER MOONLIGHT

### ミスター・ムーンライト ~月光旅人~

"And then, guided by moonlight, he runs off again..." The performers of T\*S Project will present this moving moonlit story of an aspiring author who is more than he appears to be, and the family who meets him under unusual circumstances. T\*S Project is an Asahikawa-based theatrical production company led by the team of TAKAI Naoki and SHIMA Koichi that performs works from genres spanning from *jidai-geki* period pieces to fantasy.

**Date:** July 14th (Sunday) and 15th (Monday/Holiday)

**Time:** 7/14: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm, 7/15: Doors 2:00pm, Show 2:30pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** All Seats (Advance Only): ¥2,000

**For Further Information and Tickets Contact:** 090-6875-4020 (T\*S Project—TAKAI)



## MIWA AKIHIRO SPECIAL LECTURE EVENT ~HOW TO LIVE AN EASILY-LIVED LIFE~

### 美輪明宏 講演会~生きやすい生き方~

MIWA Akihiro is a legendary performer who for more than 50 years has worked as a singer, actor, television personality, and more recently a voice actor in the Studio Ghibli animated films *Princess Mononoke* and *Howl's Moving Castle*. In this special live appearance, MIWA will speak about his life and experiences while providing a powerful message to his audience about how to live easily.

**Date:** July 24th (Wednesday)

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

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

**Admission:** All Seats: ¥3,500

**Ticket Offices:** Gyokkodo, Doshin Play Guide

**For Further Information Contact:** 011-533-7711 (A-Dash)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY

## Hello Asahikawa!



**Name: Liz Wall**  
**Hometown: Gold Coast, Australia**  
**Interviewed: June 17th, 2013 by AIC**

**AIC:** *Please tell us about where you're from.*

**Liz :** I am from the Gold Coast, on the coast of Australia in the state of Queensland. It's about an hour's drive south of Brisbane, which is the capital of Queensland. The Gold Coast has got about 600,000 people, so it's quite large. The beaches are the main attraction I would say. There are absolutely amazing beaches which stretch for about 100 km. But we don't have just beaches, we also have rainforests and harbors, so it's a pretty outdoorsy type of place. We have a really strong surfing culture on the Gold Coast as well. People come from all over the world to surf there. Every year they hold one of the main surfing competitions of the surfing season at the Gold Coast called the Roxy and Quiksilver Pro at Snapper Rocks. When you come to the Gold Coast, you have to surf. The water's pretty warm like all year round. In winter you might need a wetsuit because the air temperature is a bit cold, but in summertime it's so warm, around 24-25 degrees. There's lots of nature on the Gold Coast as well, like lots of really nice walks and hikes. The back of the Gold Coast is mountain range, which is really nice to get into and hike around there. The Gold Coast is very different from Hokkaido in terms of environment. We don't get a winter at all. In wintertime, which is about now, during the day it gets to about 20 degrees, and at nighttime it might drop to maybe 12 degrees. During the day it's about 20-22 degrees. It's pretty nice, but when it drops down to those temperatures, Gold Coast people will get out their beanies and their scarves and start complaining that it's cold! I think it's the best town in Australia in terms of temperature and lifestyle, and also the size of the city as well. It's not too big or too small and the people are pretty laid-back.

**AIC:** *What brought you here to Asahikawa/Takasu?*

**Liz :** I didn't grow up on the Gold Coast, but grew up in a place called Mackay, which is also in Queensland. It's in North Queensland on the coast, so it's about a 12 hours' drive north of the Gold Coast. I grew up there, and like most students in Queensland schools, studied Japanese at school. It is really common actually. Japanese and Chinese are probably the most common second languages children learn in Australia. We kind of get a taste of learning a foreign language that way. Mackay and a town in Kyushu called Matsuura are sister cities, because Mackay sells coal to Matsuura, which has a huge coal-fired power station. I was lucky enough when I was 17 years old to live in Matsuura as an exchange student for a year. It was really cool. I had a wonderful time and that really continued my interest in Japan. I went back to Australia, finished my school and then went to university. I studied law at university and Asian studies, so not just Japanese, but I also studied Asian history in particular. When I graduated, I went into working as a lawyer. I've always had a continued interest in Japan, but I put that to the side and I've been working as a lawyer for five years. As you can imagine, being a lawyer is a pretty stressful job and I was working in prosecutions for the Queensland government. I was doing lots of court work, representing the state on sentences, doing lots of pretty big important criminal work. I saw this opportunity advertised because the Gold Coast and Takasu are sister cities, and so every year they allow a person from the Gold Coast to come over and work as an Assistant for International Relations in Takasu to help teach English and improve international relations between the two cities. So I saw this advertised and I thought it was the perfect opportunity to come back to Japan, and live and work here. I thought it was such a great opportunity I may never have again and so I applied and got it! So that's why I've come, and I'm really glad I have. I suppose my motivations were a little bit different from everybody else. But it was also because of the experience I had with the sister city exchange between Mackay and Matsuura. That was such a positive experience that I really wanted that again, but this time as an adult and working as a teacher instead of being a student in a Japanese school.

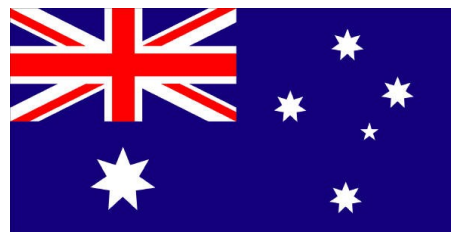
This is a really cool coincidence, but Takasu and Matsuura actually have a domestic sister city relationship. In many ways, I think that's fate. Somebody from Mackay went to Matsuura, and then went to the Gold Coast. Maybe in the dead of winter I'll pop down to Kyushu and get some nice warm weather.

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

**Liz :** It's been a fantastic experience so far. I suppose living in Takasu, the first thing that really hits you that it is really *inaka* (rural). But I think that is a wonderful thing about it because the people of Takasu are so nice and so friendly. Everybody goes out of their way to say hello to you and you get to know everybody pretty fast. I feel that everybody just kind of looks out for me.

**Continued on the Next Page**

# Hello Asahikawa!



## Liz Wall Interview Part Two

I think the town is just beautiful and it's really nice because I teach at two primary schools, and so I've gotten to know pretty much all of the kids in the town. So when they ride their bikes or when I ride my bike it's nice to be able to say hello. Actually, in Takasu I feel like I live in the best of both worlds because not only do I get to have this town all to myself, being the only foreigner there, but I also have the proximity of Asahikawa only 20 minutes away. If I feel I want more of a city life, I can. I've also found I've made friends quite easily, especially with lots of the foreigners and their Japanese friends in Asahikawa. I've found people are so friendly and so welcoming; even when you're new and people don't know you, they're willing to get to know you. My other impression I suppose, was when I first came here in the beginning of April, it was so cold still. It made me realize that the winter is going to be very cold, which I'm really looking forward to because snowboarding is my other passion in life. One of the reasons why I wanted to come to Takasu when I applied for the job was because I knew that Hokkaido has some of the best snow in the world and I knew the proximity of the ski fields to Takasu is pretty good. During my university days, in my summer holidays from November to the beginning of March I used to go to America every year and teach snowboarding. I taught snowboarding in a place called Mammoth Mountain in California for six years, so the chance to be able to come back and be living in the snow is a bit too good to be true. It was really good having such a long winter because I was able to come here in April and still get a couple of days' snowboarding. But since then it's been wonderful how warm it's been. We definitely don't get that seasonal change on the Gold Coast, and it's kind of really nice actually, having winter and then spring. I'm looking forward to the colors in autumn as well. We don't have the change of colors in autumn at the Gold Coast.

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

**Liz :** My main role is to assist with teaching. I assist with teaching at two of the primary schools. I spend a day each a week at each of those schools and then I spend two days at the junior high school, helping to teach English there. Also, a couple of times a year I do a seven-week adult English class that I teach at nighttime. It's been really great and diverse, and I really love teaching the really small kids, like the Grade Ones and Grade Twos, because they're super *genki*. Very, very, very energetic! And then there are the junior high kids. I really like teaching the junior high kids because their English is a lot more advanced than the primary school kids, but they're not quite in that really serious *kokosei* high school student mindset yet so you can have a bit more fun with them. Then teaching the adults is always really interesting. We always have really interesting conversations. Sometimes I scratch my head whether I'm actually helping them or not, but they laugh and smile with me. My secondary role is to help promote the Gold Coast within Takasu to promote the sister city relationship. For example, in a couple weeks' time there is a delegation of students coming from the Gold Coast to Takasu and they will be doing homestays for about five or six days. Takasu also sends a group of students to the Gold Coast for the same kind of program in March. There are also other events during the year. Takasu has a festival called the Nekka Festival and I have a Gold Coast stand. The idea is for a Gold Coast person to immerse themselves in the town, promote the town and show how beneficial it is, not just for the towns, but for individuals, in that it might inspire somebody to go travel overseas. In many ways, I think facilitating the people-to-people exchange is the most important thing and hopefully that's what the program does. Takasu might be a small town, but they are incredibly enthusiastic about engaging with their international sister cities.

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

**Liz :** At the moment I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year, having only been here for a bit over two months. I'm starting to get my feet in Japan but I've still got quite a long way to go, especially with my language. Definitely one of my goals is to get my language up to a high proficiency. I'll definitely be here for one year, but whether I'll be here for another year after that, I suppose I'm not quite sure at the moment. I definitely see that whatever I do in the future will incorporate Japanese and the international connections that I've made, and combining that with my law degree would be pretty cool. It would be even better if I could incorporate snowboarding into that in some way!

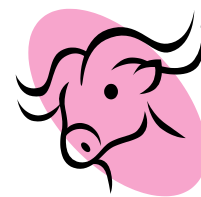
**AIC:** *Thank you for your time, Liz!*

**Liz :** You're welcome!

# Life in Japan

## The Midsummer Day of the Ox

By: SAKURABA Satoshi



There has been a relentless heat wave in July. Because Asahikawa is located in a basin, it tends to get warm. In that case, we should be careful about summer fatigue and heat illnesses. To prevent getting these bad health conditions, it is very important to drink plenty of water and not to go out during times when it is hottest. As you may know, staying in a cool room with an air conditioner is also not recommended.

If you feel summer fatigue, you could lose your appetite, feel slack and your work may not make good progress. If you lose your appetite, it could reduce your physical strength and lead to worse health conditions. In any case, it is very important to prevent getting summer fatigue. In Japan, it is said that you can prevent summer fatigue if you eat eel on the Midsummer Day of the Ox (土用の丑の日 *Doyo no Ushi no Hi*) in July, which is July 22nd this year. Moreover, it is also said that foods whose names include “う” (*u*) such as *udon* noodles(うどん), *umeboshi* pickled ume (梅干し), and some types of gourd (ウリ *uri*) are good for preventing summer fatigue. Of course, the benefits of some foods are able to be proven scientifically, while those of other foods are not.

Now, how could you prevent summer fatigue by eating eel? In fact, insufficient nutrition is one of the causes of this bad health condition. People sweat a lot in hot weather, and they lose some nutrients with the sweat. To prevent summer fatigue, it is important to take in a lot of nourishment. Eel has a great deal of nutrition necessary for preventing summer fatigue (for example Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and so on). Therefore, eating eel in August is also effective for preventing this bad health condition.

The most popular way of eating eel in Japan is *kabayaki* (かば焼き). *Kabayaki* is a dish made by broiling or frying fish in a thick sweet sauce. I like this sauce mixed with just white rice (without eel). Usually, eel *kabayaki* is served on white rice and people eat it together. Although eel is slightly expensive, how about trying some before you start feeling summer fatigue?

# Life in Asahikawa

Summer is Here

By: KITAMURA Tadao

All school-children and also young people are looking forward to the coming of the month of July. For their big summer vacation, as long as more than 30 days, starts at the end of this month.

Hokkaido is, as you know, in a comparatively cool climate zone in the archipelago of Japan. However, the highest temperatures here sometimes reach more than 30 degrees Celsius in this month. You can enjoy a hot summer here. However, you should be cautious about the chill at night, coming down to 16 degrees or lower.

You'll have lots of fun living in Asahikawa during this jolly season. Nature becomes so nice to enjoy. At the beginning of the sports-season at beaches or mountain areas, ceremonies such as *umi-biraki*, or "beach opening," and *yama-biraki*, or "mountain opening," take place at each beach resort and mountain base. Mostly these are done as a *Shinto*-style ceremony to pray for the safety of people enjoying nature. Mountain openings normally take place on the last Sunday of June or the first Sunday of July. The opening of the Daisetsuzan Mountains is on the first Sunday of July. The opening of the beaches in Rumoi and Mashike on the coast of the Sea of Japan is around the first Sunday of July.

You might be astonished by seeing so many people on the beach; it really looks like a festival or an amusement park. You should join them. However, Route 233 bound for Rumoi is so crowded with cars going to beaches that you have to be very patient during that kind of heavy traffic jam. Therefore, it is a good idea to take JR lines to go to beaches.

The 7th of July is the day of the *Tanabata* festival, which originates from an old Chinese legend. Once there was a cowherd and a weaving girl in the heavens who fell in love with each other. They loved so deeply that they forgot their own jobs. The Emperor of Heaven, who was the father of the girl, got angry and drew apart the two, putting a big river, the Milky Way, between them. However, he allowed them to see each other once a year on the night of the 7th of July.

The cowherd is the star Altair in the constellation Aquila, and the weaving girl is the star Vega in the Lyra constellation.

July is a very good month for enjoying star-watching. Children stand up small bamboo trees and put many colored paper strips on the twigs on the evening of the 7th of July. On those papers they put their messages to the Emperor of Heaven hoping their wishes will be fulfilled.

Route 237 bound for Furano also gets traffic jams during this month because of the beautiful landscape filled



with flowers of this area. The hilly country from Biei to Furano is covered with the sweet-smelling scent of lavender and other flowers. I recommend that you go there and take many wonderful pictures. Never mind the traffic! You can also get there by railway via the JR Furano Line.

## Hello Wild Flowers

## Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa

By: Hitoshi KUDOH

Cyrano comes across where Christian is engaged in something enthusiastically.

Christian: Elle m'aime a la folie... Elle m'aime beaucoup.... Elle m'aime un peu... Elle ne m'aime pas du tout...

Cyrano: What are you doing there, Christian?

Christian: J'effeuille la marguerite. Je ne sais pas si Roxane m'aime.

Cyrano: Why don't you send her a love letter! You should, Christian. Try it.

Christian: Mais une lettre! Je ne pourrai jamais...

Cyrano: Look, here is your letter to her. I wrote it for you except your address.

Christian: Tu, pour moi...? Mais.....Je...

Cyrano: Or I can prompt you to woo her under her balcony.

Christian: Des mots d'amour...? Sous son balcon...? Mais, d'abord, je voudrais effeuiller la marguerite... Elle m'aime a la folie... Elle m'aime beaucoup....

## FRANCE-GIKU

(フランス菊)

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

Family: Compositae

Common name:

Ox-eye Daisy,

Marguerite (French),

Moon Daisy

**Description:** A perennial herb 70 cm high. Its ovate-leaved shoot sprouts from a rhizome or a seed. Mostly the stem is not branched and erect. Alternate leaves are serrated, dark green. White ray florets surround a yellow disc. Seeds have no pappus.



*Water Colour Painting of  
a France-Giku  
By Hitoshi KUDOH*





## Movies ~ July



\*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

- Tantei wa Bar ni Iru 2 (Japanese) PG12 until 7/5
- Jinjin (Japanese)
- Oblivion (English)
- G.I. Joe: Retaliation (English/Japanese 3D until 7/5)
- Olympus Has Fallen (English)
- Kiseki no Ringo (Japanese)
- The Great Gatsby (English/Japanese 3D until 7/5)
- The Serialist (Japanese) until 7/5
- The Hangover Part III (English) PG12
- Galileo: Manatsu no Hoteishiki (Japanese)
- After Earth (English/Japanese Dub)
- Saint Young Men (Japanese/Animation) until 7/5
- Kansai Johnny's Jr. Kyoto Uzumasa Koshinkyoku! (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Monsters University (Japanese Dub/Animation 3D) 7/6
- Fast & Furious 6 (English/Japanese Dub) 7/6
- Nintama Rantarō (Japanese) 7/6
- Silent Hill: Revelation (English/Japanese 3D) 7/12
- Pokemon Best Wishes! Shinsoku no Genosect (Japanese/Animation) 7/13
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation) 7/20

★ **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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi Mae."

### Now Showing

- Tantei wa Bar ni Iru 2 (Japanese) PG12 until 7/5
- Kuroyuri Danchi (Japanese)
- Oblivion (English) until 7/5
- Real ~ Kanzen naru Kubinaga Ryu no Hi (Japanese)
- G.I. Joe: Retaliation (English/Japanese 3D until 7/5)
- Kiseki no Ringo (Japanese)
- Hakoiri Musuko no Koi (Japanese) until 7/5
- The Great Gatsby (English/Japanese 3D)
- After Earth (English/Japanese Dub)
- 100-kai Naku Koto (Japanese)
- Galileo: Manatsu no Hoteishiki (Japanese)
- The Thieves (Korean/Japanese Dub) until 7/5

### Coming Soon

- Monsters University (Japanese Dub/Animation) 7/6
- Fast & Furious 6 (English) 7/6
- Nintama Rantarō (Japanese) 7/6
- Gintama Kanketsuhen (Japanese/Animation) 7/6
- Pokemon Best Wishes! Shinsoku no Genosect (Japanese/Animation) 7/13
- Kaze Tachinu (Japanese/Animation) 7/20
- Toriko: Bishokushin no Special Menu (Japanese/Animation) 7/27
- Emperor (English) 7/27
- The Lone Ranger (English) 8/2
- Nazo-toki wa Dinner no Ato de (Japanese) 8/3
- Kamen Rider Wizard X Zyuden Sentai Kyoryuger (Japanese) 8/3
- Pacific Rim (English) 8/9
- Shonen H (Japanese) 8/10
- World War Z (English) 8/10
- White House Down (English) 8/16
- Star Trek Into Darkness (English) 8/23
- Gatchaman (Japanese) 8/24
- Man of Steel (English) 8/30

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

# Summer Festivals in Asahikawa

Summer is here and that means plenty of fun festivals are coming soon! Food and drink, live music and dance performances, and of course fireworks are just some of the exciting events planned for this summer.

23rd Ishikari River Festival	July 7th (Sunday), Starts 10:30am, Fireworks at 8:55pm	Suehiro Higashi 2-jo 11-chome
Kamikawajinja Shrine Festival	July 20th (Saturday) ~ July 22nd (Monday)	Kamikawajinja Shrine, Kaguraoka Park
Nagayama Tonden Festival	July 27th (Saturday) and July 28th (Sunday)	Nagayama 3-jo 20-chome (Near JR Nagayama Station)
<b>52nd Asahikawa Summer Festival</b>	August 1st (Thursday) ~ August 3rd (Saturday)	
Opening Ceremony	August 1st (Thursday), 6:00pm~7:30pm	Riverine Asahikawa Park (by Asahibashi Bridge)
61st Hokkaido Shimbun Evening Fireworks Show	August 1st (Thursday), 7:45pm~8:45pm	Ishikari Riverfront (by Asahibashi Bridge)
Citizens' Dance Parade	August 2nd (Friday), 5:00pm~7:30pm	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street
Taisetsu Association Portable Shrine Festival	August 3rd (Saturday), 5:00pm~9:00pm	Starting Point: Kaimono Koen Shopping Street (Seibu)
Rekka Tanabata Festival	August 3rd (Saturday), 5:00pm~10:00pm	Showa Dori (2-jo 6-chome~7-jo 6-chome)
<b>Taisetsu Sanroku Festival</b>	August 1st (Thursday) ~ August 3rd (Saturday)	Sanroku Area (Around 3-jo 6-chome)
Yosakoi Soran Dance Night	August 2nd (Friday), 6:45pm~8:00pm	3-jo 5-chome Stage
Disco Night	August 2nd (Friday), 8:00pm~9:50pm	3-jo 5-chome Stage

## 200 Issues!

*Asahikawa Info* has reached its 200th issue! The history of *Asahikawa Info* begins with the publication of the first issue of the quarterly newsletter *AIC Information* on July 1st, 1992. The aim of this newsletter has remained unchanged since then; to be an English-language source of useful information about events and life in Asahikawa. The staff of *Asahikawa Info* would like to express our deep appreciation toward all past and present AIC staff members, contributors and volunteers, whose hard work and dedication have helped make *Asahikawa Info* into what it is today. Finally, thank you to our readers who have continued to support us over all these years. Thank you and see you at the 300th issue!

## 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:** July 12th, August 9th, September 13th

**Time:** 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:50 ~ 8:50pm, 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.\*\***