

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

September 2012 VOL. 190

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Hokkaido News Top 5



September 2012

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

July 17

The "Michelin Guide Hokkaido 2012: Restaurants & Hotels" is available in English on the Hokkaido Official Tourism Website starting July 19th. It contains information on 699 restaurants and hotels in Hokkaido selected by the guide book publisher to attract tourists from abroad.

July 24

Air Asia Japan, a low cost carrier (LCC), will go into service between New Chitose and Narita airports starting August 1st. Air Asia Japan is the third LCC after Peach Aviation and Jet Star Japan to have started flight service on the same route. Besides the domestic airline services, Thai Airways International announced they will go into service between New Chitose and Bangkok three flights a week starting October 30th.

August 17

A food-poisoning outbreak caused by enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli (EHEC) O157 left six people dead in and around Sapporo, including five elderly people living in care homes and one four-year-old girl. It turned out that all the victims had eaten pickled Chinese cabbage from a food manufacturer in Sapporo. Public health institutes detected EHEC O157 in the pickled food.

August 18

JR Hokkaido and Aeon Mall have announced plans to build a complex facility on the site of the Asahikawa Terminal Building situated next to JR Asahikawa Station. In the new eleven-story building connected directly to the station, Aeon Mall plans to operate a commercial facility from the first floor to the fifth floor. A hotel run by JR Hokkaido will occupy the sixth to eleventh floors. The facility is expected to contribute to bringing new energy to the city center.

August 18

One Greater Flamingo was killed apparently by a fox and another went missing at the edge of Lake Komuke in Mombetsu City. They are two of four flamingos taken to the lake in an attempt to attract and catch a fifth flamingo, which escaped from Asahiyama Zoo on July 18th. Staff at the zoo previously tried to capture the escaped flamingo several times but failed. They said they would come up with a new idea to catch it without using decoy birds.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kenton KNOP, or
SAITO Emmy)

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

THE WORLD OF EXTINCT MAMMALS

絶滅ほ乳類の世界

Travel back in time to when many strange and fierce beasts roamed the ancient world. This exhibit at the Asahikawa Science Center Scipal explores the evolution and extinction of numerous mammals from the time of the dinosaurs onward. Other exhibits include the mammals of Asia of the past, present and future.

Date: Now thru September 17th (Sunday)

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

Venue: Asahikawa Science Center Scipal (Miyamae-dori Higashi)

Admission: General (High School Students and Older) ¥500, Elementary and Middle School Students ¥250, Children Not Yet In School: Free. Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available.

For further information contact: 0166-31-3186 (Asahikawa Science Center Scipal)



HOT-BLOODED RAKUGO PERFORMANCE: HAYASHIYA HIKOICHI SOLO SHOW

熱血落語家・林家彦いち独演会

The most fiery personality in the rakugo world comes to Asahikawa to unleash a whole new torrent of laughs! HAYASHIYA Hikoichi the hot-blooded rakugo-ka (comic storyteller) and martial artist is acclaimed for his fresh approach that goes beyond the regular boundaries of the traditional rakugo performance.

Date: September 4th (Tuesday)

Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

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

Admission: Advance Tickets ¥1,000 (¥1,500 on September 4th)

Ticket Office: Kodomo Fukido, Gyokkodo, Takasago Brewery, Beauty Parlor ULU

For further information and ticket reservations contact: 080-5428-0157 (MATSUDA)



YAGAMI JUNKO CONCERT TOUR 2012 "WINGS- CAN YOU HEAR MY HEART?"

八神純子コンサートツアー2012「翼-私の心が聞こえますか」

The crystal voice of YAGAMI Junko comes to Asahikawa for an unforgettable stage performance of timeless hits from the eternal singing diva. Some of her songs to be performed include *Mizuiro no Ame* (Light-blue Rain) and *Purple Town*.

Date: September 11th (Tuesday)

Time: Show 6:30pm

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

Admission: All Seats ¥5,500

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo Asahikawa, Lawson, Ticket Pia (7-Eleven, Sankus)

For further information and tickets contact: 011-261-9991 (TRUST PLANNING CREATE)



"A ONE-SHOT LIFE" PLAY PERFORMANCE STARRING GUANTEI YUUA

愚安亭遊佐「人生一発勝負」演劇

This award-winning one-man play, written and performed by GUANTEI Yuuza (real name HASHIMOTO Yuzo) and directed by YUI Junko, is the story of Miki, a woman born in the Meiji period. Miki enjoys a happy childhood, encounters adversity upon the death of her parents, and goes on to marry a fishing net crew foreman and raise eight children.

Date: September 13th (Thursday)

Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

Venue: Takasu Melody Hall (Takasu Town Minami 2-jo 4-chome)

Admission: All Seats ¥2,000

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo Asahikawa, Yamaha Music, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 0166-87-2500 (Takasu Melody Hall)



2012 HOKKAIDO SINGING FESTIVAL/ 56TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE BY “KOKUTETSU NO UTAGOE” IN ASAHIKAWA 2012北海道のうたごえ祭典・第56回国鉄のうたごえ祭典IN旭川

This year's Hokkaido Singing Festival features two days of choral and instrumental music performances, starting with a concert by the “Kokutetsu no Utagoe” singing group on the 15th, followed by shows by numerous Hokkaido choral groups, shamisen and violin performances on the 16th.

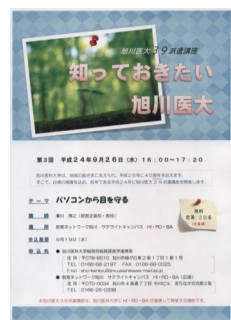
Date: September 15th (Saturday) ~ September 16th (Sunday)
Time: 9/15-Doors 09:30am, Show 10:00am. 9/16-Doors 12:00pm, Show 12:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: 9/15 Adults ¥1,000, Students/Disabled Persons ¥500
9/16 Adults ¥1,500, Students/Disabled Persons ¥800



ASAHIKAWA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE “PROTECTING YOUR EYES FROM THE PC” 知っておきたい旭川医大・派遣講座・「パソコンから目を守る」

Part of a 39-lecture series celebrating Asahikawa Medical University's 40th anniversary, this lecture's theme is “Protecting Your Eyes from the Personal Computer.” The lecturer is Professor HIROKAWA Hiroyuki from the university's management and planning division. Seats are limited to the first 20 applicants.

Date: September 19th (Wednesday)
Time: 4:00pm~5:20pm
Venue: Kyoiku Network Asahikawa Satellite Campus HI.RO.BA (4-jo 7-chome, Machinaka Koryukan 2F)
Admission: Free
For further information contact: 0166-68-2197 (Asahikawa Medical University)



ENKA! THE HIT PARADE OF DREAMS 演歌！夢のヒットパレード

This revue of Enka (Japanese popular ballads) stars and local singing and dancing talents has something for everyone. Featuring the singers SASA Midori, ISSETSU Taro, the KOMADORI Sisters, MIYA Shiro and KIMURA Yue, this concert series is dedicated to the reconstruction of the Tohoku region. The first half of the program consists of local singers and a dance performance by SHIBAYANAGI Hosen of the Matsuba Dance Troupe, followed by the main Enka event.

Date: September 27th (Thursday)
Time: Show 12:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All Seats ¥4,500
Ticket Office: Gyokkodo Asahikawa, Kawai Asahikawa Shop (Okuno 7F), Onuma Music
For further information contact: 0225-22-0934 (OKADA PLANNING)



2012 4TH ANNUAL ASAHIKAWA HALF MARATHON 2012年度第4回旭川ハーフマラソン

The Asahikawa Half Marathon returns, promising a day of fierce and fun competition. Although the deadline for entries was August 28th, family, friends and city residents are strongly encouraged to come out and cheer on the participants.

Date: September 30th (Sunday)
Time: Race Start 09:30am
Venue: Asahikawa Hanasaki Sports Park Running Track
Admission: Free
For further information contact: 0166-51-2244 (Asahikawa Half Marathon Committee)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR SEPTEMBER



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Panupong "Boom" Utvichai

Hometown: Bangkok, Thailand

Interviewed: 14th August, 2012

By AIC

- AIC:** *Panupong Utvichai is a very cool name, but you usually go by a different name?*
- Boom :** Yes, my nickname is "Boom."
- AIC:** *Boom? Like an explosion? How did you decide to have that nickname?*
- Boom :** Yes. My parents decided it for me. We all have nicknames in Thailand because our first and last names are really long and difficult to say. They have no meaning, however.
- AIC:** *What did you do in Thailand before coming to Japan?*
- Boom :** I went to school and cram school, studying hard every evening to prepare for university. Also, I like to hang out with friends.
- AIC:** *What kinds of things did you do for fun back home?*
- Boom :** I like to do extreme sports, like jet-skiing and ATV-ing (riding All-Terrain Vehicles). I like these sports because of my dad, who also likes them. I join him when he goes out.
- AIC:** *What brought you to Asahikawa?*
- Boom :** I was told by friends how cool and fun it is to be an exchange student, so I decided to take the test for the AFS exchange program. The test was difficult, especially the listening part. The exam is all in English, with listening and speaking portions. However, I passed and had Japan listed as my third choice, so that is how I came to Asahikawa.
- AIC:** *How did you decide that Japan was one of the places you wanted to go?*
- Boom :** I like Japanese food and the culture is really exciting. Onsen (hot springs) were one of the most unusual things I had ever heard of. My dad came to Japan and said that he had a great time, so I decided to put Japan as one of my placement choices.
- AIC:** *What were your first impressions of Asahikawa and Hokkaido?*
- Boom :** I arrived here at the end of March, and there was a lot of snow! It was my second time ever to see snow, so it was quite exciting. However, I realized that I don't like snow, because it's too cold and too hard to walk and travel in. But when the snow is gone, everything is great in Asahikawa.
- AIC:** *Have you had the opportunity to travel much outside of Asahikawa?*
- Boom :** Not much, but maybe I will in the future.
- AIC:** *How is life at a Japanese high school?*
- Boom :** I've been going to school here since April. Life at a Japanese high school is very much the same as in Thailand. For instance, we have each class for 50 minutes too. Lunch-time here is really great. Everyone brings a bento box-lunch, so you don't have to bring any money to school. The Japanese sports clubs are very hard. I joined the basketball club and had fun playing with friends, but it was a little too hard for me to practice all the time. They practice eight hours each day during summer vacation.
- AIC:** *Where else in Japan do you want to visit?*
- Boom :** I like history, so I want to visit Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- AIC:** *What are your plans for the future?*
- Boom :** I plan to enter a university in Thailand or abroad if possible, because I like to travel. I want to study engineering and become a pilot in the future.
- AIC:** *Thank you very much for your time Boom. Best of luck to you in the future!*
- Boom :** You're welcome.

Life In Asahikawa

The Two Hundred-Tenth and Two Hundred-Twentieth Days

By: Tadao KITAMURA

September 1st and September 10th are the 210th and the 220th days respectively from the beginning of spring in the traditional Japanese calendar. Because rice plants come into bloom around these days, farmers are very nervous about the weather during this season.

A typhoon begins as a tropical low-pressure zone emerging from the Pacific Ocean off the Philippines or South China Sea that comes up to Northeast Asia, developing its dynamic energy. When the wind velocity of its rotary center exceeds about 20-m / sec., it is defined as a typhoon.

In many cases, typhoons make landfall on the Japanese islands in September. However, other months of the year are not exempt from the destruction a tempest can bring.

The 210th and the 220th days are the symbolic dates of warning against the dangers of wild weather.

It is true that typhoons do not make landfall so frequently here in Hokkaido compared to the rest of the Japanese archipelago. However, you had best be on your guard against typhoons, especially around the above dates.

On September 26th, 1954 a furious tempest raged around Hokkaido, causing four big ferry ships on the Seikan (Aomori-Hakodate) Straits to sink, with an accompanying 1,761 dead or missing. Also, the town of Iwanai caught fire, with a total of 3,300 houses destroyed. The lowest atmospheric pressure was 956 hPa, and the maximum wind velocities recorded were 42-m/ sec (53.2-m/ sec at one instant) in Suttsu, 37.2-m/sec (55.0-m/sec) in Muroran and 35.2-m/sec (45.8-m/sec) in Rumoi.

The tempest was later named the Toyamaru Typhoon, after the 3,898-ton ferry ship which went to the bottom of the strait with 1,155 lives.

The Toyamaru Typhoon exerted a significant influence on the local economy of Hokkaido. Up to then this land was blessed with the riches of beautiful forests, and the timber industry dominated the local economy. The tempest mercilessly uprooted those beautiful forests: The damage to the forest resources was 25.6 million cubic meters, which was equivalent to 3.1 times the yearly timber production of those years.

Typhoon No.14th in the year 2004 still remains fresh in our memories. It landed on Hokkaido on September 8th from the Sea of Japan (a route similar to that of the Toyamaru Typhoon), attacked Sapporo and its nearby cities, and went northward along the Ishikari River, coming to our city Asahikawa. Here, lots of tall trees were uprooted and knocked down or had their tops torn off at the Tree Specimen Park in Kagura, the grounds of the Hokkaido University of Education in Motomachi, on the top of Mt. Arashiyama and elsewhere. In the neighboring town of Takasu, several farmers' houses had their roof tiles ripped off by the storm and many plastic green houses and other facilities were blown away, yielding significant damage to agricultural production.

The Japanese idiomatic expression TAIFU-IKKA (台風一過) expresses the peaceful and calm state after a typhoon has gone. The beautiful autumn of Hokkaido will come after the typhoons have gone.



Life In Japan

Japanese Customs In September

By: Satoshi SAKURABA

Every September, the weather gets cool and we can feel the autumn flavor. It may be said that autumn is the best season to read books, enjoy outdoor sports, and so on. Additionally, we can easily take notice of the beautiful landscape because we will not suffer from the heat unlike in the summer. In Biei Town (美瑛町) for example, various agricultural crops will be ready for harvesting and we can see the beautiful hills consisting of many colors (it is called “the patchwork of hills” パッチワークの丘) . In this way, one of the appealing parts of autumn is to enjoy beautiful sights. In fact, there is the Japanese custom called “Otsukimi” (お月見) in September.

Otsukimi means “moon-gazing” on the day of harvest moon (we call the day “Chushu-no-meigetsu (中秋の名月) .” The harvest moon is one of the most beautiful of the year with its perfectly round shape. We don’t only view the full moon but also ready some offerings for the moon. The offerings are dumplings (otsukimi-dango お月見団子) and Japanese pampas grass. The arrangement of otsukimi-dango is clearly determined. A set of otsukimi-dango consists of four levels. Eight dumplings are arranged in the bottom level. The next level has four dumplings. The third level consists of two dumplings and one dumpling is placed on the top, so we should ready 15 dumplings in all. One can see the set of otsukimi-dango in the supermarket, but the arrangement of dumplings there is slightly different from the correct arrangement. Otsukimi-dango can be made in your home easily. If you are interested, you can look for the recipe of this dumpling on the Internet.

The other thing to offer is Japanese pampas grass (in Japanese, we call it “susuki (ススキ) .” Susuki is believed to exorcize evils and will be available at the supermarket in late September this year. Even after the day of the harvest moon, susuki should not be thrown away. They should be planted in a garden for several days afterward. However, few people know of this custom and will throw the susuki away right after.

Would you like to sit and enjoy the beauty of the full moon in September?



Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa

By Hitoshi KUDOH

Mr. Yellow was walking along the sunny path in the field. Suddenly, he tripped over a stone and sprawled on all fours. Just then, Mr. Blue came across him.

B: Dear! Are you OK?

Y: (rising on his feet) Thanks. Ah... Ouch! My palms are bleeding!

B: Let me see. Hmm, let me wash your palms with this water in my bottle. And make sure both your palms get free from dust and grit lest tetanus infect them to your jaw go stiff.

Y: You are so kind, uh, Mr....

B: Blue is my name. Don't mention it. The first thing is to treat them with these leaves of bindweed. Squash and rub the leaves well, then squeeze a bit of fresh sap to drip into your scratches, and vous voyez!

Y: Amazing! It's magic! Not a placebo effect. It killed my pain! You are my lifesaver and a friend in need.

B: Sure. The Japanese bindweed here bound us together, you know.

Y: Bindweed! Names and natures do often agree. It really bound a bond of friendship between us.

B: I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship, pal.

HIRUGAO (昼顔) *Calystegia japonica* Choisy

Family: Convolvulaceae

Common name: Japanese bindweed, Hayahito-weed

Description: In spring, a young shoot appears from its rhizome. A vigorous, hairless perennial herb, with twining and climbing stems grow on till autumn. The stems die down in winter. But the slender rhizomes survive. The alternate leaves are rather thin, bright green, sagittate, and entire with conspicuous veins, having long petiole. The large, funnel-shaped flower, 3~5 cm across, is solitary and pink striped with white. It has a pistil, 5 stamina and lasts one day. Pollinated, the pistil turns into a light-brown 2-celled capsule. The seeds are sterile. The calyx consists of 5 sepals surrounded by 2 large overlapping bracts.

Edible. Medicinal.

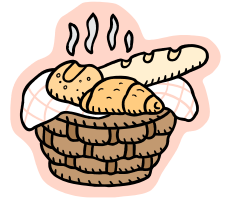
Habitat: Shiny roadside, cultivated and waste land, hedgerows, around forests.

Distribution: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu; Eastern China, Korea.



Water colour painting of a Hirugao
By Hitoshi KUDOH

Dining Out in Asahikawa



Restaurant Review: Kushiage Shin-Sen-Gumi

By: Kenton KNOP

Asahikawa is home to many excellent restaurants. In fact, there are so many choices that it can sometimes be difficult to decide which one to visit. However, those seeking a fresh dining experience should look no further than Kushiage Shin-Sen-Gumi.

Shin-Sen-Gumi specializes in *kushiage* (串揚げ) cooking, which consists of various foods which are skewered on wooden sticks, lightly breaded and then fried. Originally from the Kansai region, this style of cooking is still a rarity in Hokkaido. The meal I enjoyed was a seven-course dinner, which included a salad, several courses of *kushiage*, *inari-zushi* (rice wrapped in fried tofu), fresh vegetables and a sherbet made from *yuzu* (Japanese citrus) for dessert. The variety of foods which were fried and skewered was very impressive, with each piece also available a-la-carte priced at 100 yen and above. Sausage, squid, fish, chicken, mushrooms and pumpkin were just a few of the options available. In addition, individual plates containing almond salt and two different dipping sauces allowed me to experiment with a variety of different flavors. Everything I tried was delicious, especially the chicken and seafood, which had a particularly savory flavor thanks to the fried coating. A generous selection of beers, and over 50 different sakes and shochus were also on hand to perfectly complement the meal.

The interior of Shin-Sen-Gumi is highly evocative of the traditional Japanese *izakaya* pub, with a large counter facing the kitchen and several individual tables, including a private room with a low table and dug-out floor for one's legs. The comfortable and inviting atmosphere makes it not only ideal for a solitary visit on the way home from work, but also intimate gatherings ranging from a few friends to an entire office.

It is for these reasons that I highly recommend Kushiage Shin-Sen-Gumi. Thanks to the excellent food and atmosphere, after one visit you just might find yourself becoming a regular.

Kushiage Shin-Sen-Gumi 串揚げ 新鮮組

Address: 2-jo 7-chome, Planet 2.7 Building 1st Floor, Asahikawa (near the Okuno department store)

Phone: 0166-24-8240

Hours: 5pm to 1am, Every Day (Last Order: 12:30am)

Average Cost: ¥3500. Major credit cards accepted.





Movies ~ September



*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.

**Please be aware that scheduled screenings might be cancelled due to planned power blackouts. Make sure to contact the cinema before going to see a movie.*

★ **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

- Anata e (Japanese)
- Rurouni Kenshin (Japanese)
- Prometheus (English 3D)
- The Avengers (English 3D)
- Batman 3 - The Dark Knight Rises (English)
- Total Recall (English)
- Okamikodomo no Ame to Yuki (Japanese/Animation)
- Madagascar 3 (Japanese Dub/Animation)
- Pokemon - Kyuren Versus Seikenshi (Japanese/Animation)
- Umizaru - Brave Hearts (Japanese)
- Another (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider - Fourze (Japanese)
- Eightranger (Japanese)
- Himitsu no Akko-chan (Japanese)

- Odoru Daisousasen The Final (Japanese) 9/7~
- Yumeuru Futari (Japanese) 9/8~
- Resident Evil 5: Retribution (English) 9/14~
- Tenchi Meisatsu (Japanese) 9/15~

Coming Soon

- The Hunger Games (English) 9/28
- The Bourne Legacy (English) 9/28
- Hotel Transylvania (Japanese Dub/Animation) 9/29

★ **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 "Nippou Seishi mae."

Now Showing

- The Avengers (English 3D)
- Madagascar 3 (Japanese Dub/Animation)
- Prometheus (English 3D)
- Umizaru - Brave Hearts (Japanese)
- Rurouni Kenshin (Japanese)
- Total Recall (English)
- Batman 3 - The Dark Knight Rises (English)
- Okamikodomo no Ame to Yuki (Japanese/Animated)
- Helter Skelter (Japanese)
- Kueki Ressha (Japanese) Until 9/14
- Odoru Daisousasen The Final (Japanese) 9/7~
- Safe House (English) 9/7~
- Bakugyaku Familia (Japanese) 9/8~
- Resident Evil 5: Retribution (English) 9/14~
- Mirror Mirror (English) 9/14~
- Key Of Life (Japanese) 9/15~
- Tenchi Meisatsu (Japanese) 9/15~

Coming Soon

- The Bourne Legacy (English) 9/28
- The Hunger Games (English) 9/28
- Outrage 2 (Japanese) 10/6
- The Lorax (English/Animation) 10/6
- The Raven (English) 10/12
- The Expendables 2 (English) 10/20
- Uchuu Keiji Gavan THE MOVIE (Japanese) 10/20

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

The 2012 Asahikawa Tabe Marche

Back by popular demand, the 2012 Asahikawa Tabe Marche promises to showcase the bountiful variety of delicious foods that Northern Hokkaido has to offer, while also celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Kaimono Koen Shopping Street. In addition to the incredible amount of different foods available at the market stalls, this celebration is meant to emphasize just how important a role agriculture and food production plays in the local community.

Date: September 15th (Saturday) ~ 17th (Monday-Holiday)

Venue: Asahikawa Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Tokiwa Park, 7-jo Midori Michi



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: *Summer Session:* September 14th

Autumn Sessions: October 12th, November 9th, December 14th

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)

International Center Announcement

Internet Wi-Fi network is now operational at the Asahikawa International Center! To use the network you must register at the information counter. Also, certain rules apply, so please make sure to ask the staff for all the information regarding the use of the Wi-Fi network.

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.

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.****