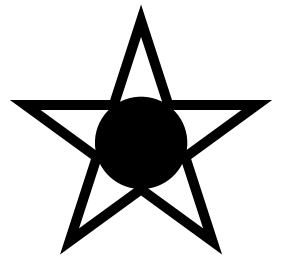


ASAHIKAWA INFO



October 2023, Volume 323

Hokkaido News Top 5

August 2023 - September 2023, compiled by the AIC

Hokkaido Farming Technology Grows Smoothly with GPS (8/22)

Many Hokkaido farmers used pandemic subsidies to upgrade their farming technology enabling them to work more efficiently and save on labor costs. Much of the upgraded farming equipment were self-steering vehicles equipped with GPS Satellite technology; which have increased demand all throughout the northern island. It is believed that the usage of farming technology has increased more than 10% as of recent and its usage is projected to increase even more in the near future.

Hokkaido Products Included in Chinese Import Ban (8/25)

Following the release of treated water from Fukushima No.1 nuclear reactor power plant to the Pacific Ocean, the Chinese government has placed a ban on Japanese all products including products from Hokkaido. The Chinese government claims that the ban's purpose is to protect its citizens from the risk of radioactive contaminants that may enter in Japanese food products. According to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, exports to China make up a significant portion of business in Japan-China trade and would certainly impact Hokkaido's farms and food production industries.

Asahikawa's New City Hall Opens (9/2)

Asahikawa City hall has recently been completed and opened for public viewing as of 9/3. The newly built city hall building comes at a height of 9 floors and equipped with an atrium spanning 2-stories, a general service counter, child-friendly areas, a restaurant, as well as an observation deck with views of Daisetsuzan and Arashiyama. According to mayor Imazu Hirotsugu, he hopes that city hall becomes a tourist attraction as well as a place for residents to come and relax.

Recent Bike Theft Increase around Asahikawa Station (9/13)

Asahikawa City has been experiencing an increase in bike theft. According to the Hokkaido Police that from January to July of 2023, out of the 122 records of bike theft in the Kamikawa area, 40 of them happened in Asahikawa. Asahikawa's Public Safety Division believes that the increase in bike prices or the increase in outings post-Covid might be some potential causes for the increase in bike theft. To prevent bike thefts, the administrators of the Asahikawa Station bike garage has installed security cameras as well as posted warnings on the wall for the purpose of deterring theft. The public safety division highly encourages the usage of bike locks and bike wires for bike theft prevention.

Protecting the Mountain Trails (9/18)

From August 10th to August 12th of this year, the first Japan Mountain Conservation Summit was held in Daisetsuzan Asahidake. This summit brought together 120 attendees of specialists and representatives from large companies, and organizations involved in mountain climbing and mountain preservation where they discussed and debated pressing concerns regarding the current state of mountain trails as well as potential approaches to tackle them. 6 panelists provided lectures focusing on potential causes for mountain trail decay, near-natural construction methods, and trail restoration.



For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or MABILANGAN John)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Tourism, Sports and International/City Affairs Dept.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

Email: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

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October Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and the rest of Hokkaido



Suekichi Akaba

Suekichi Akaba Special Exhibit : Sukh's White Horse

赤羽末吉の特別展：スーホの白い馬

Starting with *Sukh's White Horse*, the exhibit will introduce the beauty of Suekichi Akaba's original works in high definition.

Event Details

Date: 9/9~11/7 (Exhibit Duration)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Open everyday except Mondays and national holidays)

Location: Hokkaido Museum of Literature (Nakajima-koen 1-4, Chuo-ku, Sapporo)

Admission: General Admission ¥700. High School Students & Senior Citizens (¥450), Middle & Elementary School Students (¥300)

For more information: <https://www.h-bungaku.or.jp/exhibition/special.html>

Lisa Larson : Seen and Unseen

リサ・ラーソン展知られざる創造の世界

Enjoy the masterpieces of renown artist Lisa Larson.

Event Details

Date: From 9/9~11/19 (Exhibit Duration)

Time: 9:30~17:00 (Open everyday except Mondays and national holidays)

Location: Hokkaido Obihiro Museum of Art (Midorigaoka-2-banchi, Obihiro)

Admission: General Admission ¥1,300. High School Students (¥800), Middle & Elementary School Students (¥500)

For more information : <http://event.hokkaido-np.co.jp/lisalarson/>



Asahikawa Symphonic Wind Orchestra: 50th Annual Concert

旭川交響吹奏楽団 第50回定期演奏会

Listen to the beautiful performance of ballet suite "Gayane", "Bravo Brass", and "My Fair Lady", featuring guest performance by the Sapporo Seishonen Wind Orchestra!

Event Details

Date: 10/8/2023 (Sunday)

Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large) (7 jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)

Admission: ¥800

Ticket Office: Junku Do(1-jodori 8-chome), Gyokkodo (Miyashitadori 7-chome)

Inquiries: info@asahikawa-kokyo.com

Seseragi Wind Ensemble's 22nd Annual Disaster Relief Charity Concert

せせらぎウィンドアンサンブル 第22回定期演奏会～災害復興チャリティデー～

Enjoy the musical sounds of Seseragi Wind Ensemble this October. Donations made during the charity will be used for disaster relief funds.

Event Details:

Date: 10/15 (Sunday)

Time: Entry at 13:30, Performance begins at 14:00

Location: Taisetsu Crystal Music Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome 1-45, Asahikawa)

Admission: FREE

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Crystall Hall Ticket Stand
Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall



October Events



Gershwin Musical Comedy: Crazy for You
 ガーシュウィンミュージカルコメディー：クレイジー・フォー・ユー
 Set in 1930s, the musical comedy tells the tale of bank heir, Bobby Child, and daughter of a theater proprietor, Polly Baker, and their chaotic, but theatrical romance.

Event Details
Date: 10/24/2023 (Tuesday)
Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large) (7 jo-dori, 9-Chome, Asahikawa)
Admission: S-seat (¥10,000), A-seat (¥8,000), B-seat (¥5,000), No-Entry for children 3 years and under
Ticket Office: Coach & Four Music Corner (2-jo 2-chome 4-1, Asahikawa) 7/11, Lawson, Seico Mart
Online Ticket Platform: <https://www.shiki.jp>
Inquiries: 0570-008-110 (Shiki Troupe Hokkaido Office)

Asahikawa...Connecting Souls
Asahikawa...繋がりゆく魂

Performed by “BREATH Acting Troupe”, this riveting musical tells the story of Taisho era, teacher Mizawa Kenchi who encounters Chisato Yukie, a writer who should have died a year ago.

Date: 11/4 (Saturday), 11/5 (Sunday)
Time: Saturday entry at 17:30, performance begins at 18:30. Sunday entry at 15:00, performance begins ay 16:00
Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large) (7 jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)
Admission: Pre-purchased tickets (¥2,500), Same-day tickets (¥3,000)
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Kiosk
Online Ticket Platform: <https://breath.asahikawa.tv/ticket/>



Asahikawa Comedy Fest
旭川演芸祭

Finish the weekend with some laughter! Six comedians, one stage, and an evening full of jokes and humor coming this November!

Date: 11/5 (Sunday)
Time: Entry for the 1st act at 11:30, performance begins at 12:00. Entry for the 2nd act at 15:00, performance begins at 15:30
Location: Asahikawa Public Hall (Tokiwa Park)
Admission: Pre-purchased tickets (¥2,500), Same-day tickets (¥3,000)
Ticket Office: Sushi Dokoro Kiyohama (Suehiro 1-jo6-chome-1-28) R-Crew (3-jodori 6-chome), Karaoke Snack Kinta(3-jo 6-chome)

Lottery Town Music Recital: Heartsong Concert
宝くじまちの音楽会：心のうたコンサート

Listen to the sounds of folk singer Minami Kousetsu, featuring guzheng musician Wu-Fang as they perform their notable works : “Princess Kaguya”, “Kanadagawa River”, “Daughter”, and many more.

Date: 11/14 (Tuesday)
Time: Entry at 18:00, performance begins at 18:30.
Location: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7 jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)
Admission: Pre-purchased tickets (¥2,000), Same-day tickets (¥2,500)
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Office (7 jo-dori, 9-chome), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome), Coach and Four (Miyamae 1-jo 2-chome), Gyokkodo (Miyashita-dori 7-chome)



Language Corner

Approaching the Japanese Language

By John Daniel Mabilangan



The Average Japanese Language Learning Experience

Intro

When it comes to language acquisition. Everyone has their own motivations that push them to learn and progress in their target language. In the case of Japanese, whether it be the love for Japanese manga and anime, a strong interest in Japanese culture and history, or perhaps just trying to survive in Japan; regardless of the impetus, the challenges that come with learning Japanese is a mutual struggle we all share as learners.

As someone who has studied Japanese for about 6 years, I have experience the follies of not being able to read Kanjis, using the wrong expression at the wrong time, and speaking unnaturally in many occasions. Learning Japanese had its follies with motivations that ebb and flow, lack of practice due to insufficient speaking opportunities, and the constant reminder of how language learning is a lifetime commitment. In this article, I will share 3 big tips on how to approach studying Japanese as a full-time adult. This language is not easy, but definitely surmountable with motivation and grit!

Tip 1: Have a Vision

In language acquisition, or just in all forms of

study, it is important to have goals. First, you would need to establish a long term goal. Ask yourself, “Why do I study Japanese?”, “What do I hope to accomplish with my Japanese?”, and so forth. For instance, “I want to study to be able to live in Japan”. Having a main, longterm goal will keep you focused and motivated throughout your studies. It sets a path on what direction you will take, what areas to focus, and enable you to think of different ways to approach your studies.

Next, is to break down the goal in specific steps. It is important to think about how to accomplish said goal. If my goal was to live in Japan then my small goals could look like this :

- 1) Learn vocabulary and expressions used in daily conversation for shopping, cooking , etc.
- 2) Learn expressions for asking directions and using transport
- 3) Understand the different Kanjis and symbols for signage.

Breaking it down to specific goals enables you to prioritize what you need to learn first. This way you are able to come with a more concrete battle plan to tackle Japanese.

Lastly, it is important to set deadlines.

Goals are not easily to accomplish. In order to increase the likelihood of accomplishing your study goals is to be realistic and set a deadline. In my case, “I will study JLPT grammar for 30 minutes a day and read 1 hour a day after work from October until December for the JLPT exam”. By setting a deadline, you are able to create a sense of urgency which prompts you to focus on your studies and be more committed to accomplishing it.

Tip 2: Focus on The Relevant

When studying anything, interest and necessity are arguably really important. The human brain has a tendency to learn information that is interesting or relevant. For instance, an mecha anime fan would probably be more likely to remember words like 艦隊 (かんたい) “fleet” as opposed to the word 麒麟 (きりん) “giraffe” since the former aligns more towards a personal interest compared to the latter. The same applies in relevance too. A person who frequents the supermarket may more likely remember the word 割引 (わりびき) “discount” than the word 牧師 (ぼくし) “minister”.

Words and expressions we see and use frequently are more likely to be remembered as opposed to those that are not. In applying this to Japanese studies, it is more effective to focus on things that are more relevant to you personally. By focusing on the words and expressions that are more relevant to you, you will be able to learn new words and grammar more efficiently rather than spending hours reading textbooks.

Back when I was studying Japanese in college, I focused on vocabulary and grammar that I was interested in and see myself using on a regular basis. I learned words like 地理 (ちり) “geography”, 論文(ろんぶん) “thesis”, and 研究(けんきゅう) “research” which I was able to remember these vocabularies quicker and easier because in addition to my frequent

interaction with these words, it was also something I was genuinely interested in.

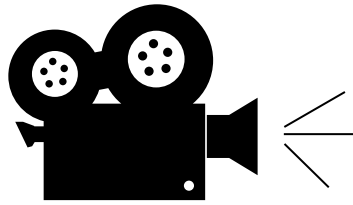
By focusing your language study on something that is relevant to you personally, you would be able to personally connect with the language and memorize words and vocabularies much easier, integrate language in your daily life, and find ways to enjoy your studies.

Tip 3: Seek Opportunities for Exchange

In language learning, finding ways to practice and apply languages is very important when trying to develop proficiency. Being able to put what you have learned into practice not only demonstrates and challenges your own capabilities, but also further helps you retain learned material in the long term. One of the best ways to practice is through language exchange.

In my Japanese studies, I was able to meet native Japanese speakers online who were looking to practice their English. When we do a language exchange, we would correct each other’s written work like text messages and emails, ask each other questions about our target language and the cultures surrounding it, and put the language into practice. Through language exchange, I was able to constantly polish my Japanese language skills, have my errors corrected, learn aspects of culture and language beyond the textbook, and most importantly, make a new friend.

There are several ways to find language exchange opportunities. There are online apps such as HelloTalk and Tandem that allow you to meet language learners online. There are also language exchanges in person through community Eikawa’s and public language circles. By going through these avenues, you will be able to find people to have language exchange with. Through exchange, you would be able to put Japanese to use, polish your skills, and learn about Japan outside of a conventional classroom or textbook.



MOVIES IN OCTOBER

*The 1st day of every month is Movie Day in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema Only: Every Monday is Happy Monday! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

CinePlex 7 Asahikawa: Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama

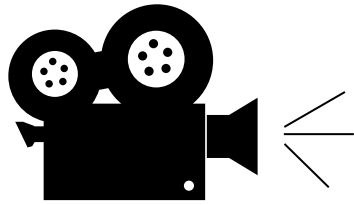
URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Hatachi ni Kaeritai (Japanese)
- The Silent Service (Japanese)
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12)
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+)
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese)
- Gran Turismo (English 4DX)
- A Haunting in Venice (English)
- Alice to Therese no Maboroshi Kojo (Japanese/Anime)
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime)
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese /Anime)
- The Forbidden Play (Japanese/PG12)
- Haunted Mansion (English, Japanese)
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese)
- Yoru ga Oketara, Ichiban ni Kimi ni Ai ni Iku (Japanese)
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English)
- G-Men (Japanese)
- Sand Land (Japanese /Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Analog (Japanese) 10/6
- Gurren Lagann the Movie: Childhood's End (Japanese/Anime) 10/6~19
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese) 10/13
- Yutori Desu ga Nani ka International (Japanese) 10/13
- Operation Fortune: Ruse de guerre (English) 10/13
- The Nun 2 (English) 10/13
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese) 10/20
- The Concierge at Hokkyoku Department Store (Japanese/Anime) 10/20
- The Creator (English 4DX) 10/20
- Gurren Lagann the Movie: The Lights in the Sky are Stars (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/20~11/2
- Hypnotic (English) 10/27
- Godzilla Minus One (Japanese) 11/3
- Houtei Yugi (Japanese) 11/10
- Seiyoku (Japanese) 11/10
- Tonde Saitama: Biwako yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese) 11/23
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Knapsack Kid (Japanese/Anime) 12/1
- Wonka (English) 12/8
- Wish (English/Anime) 12/15
- Kizumonogatari: Koyomi Vamp (Japanese/Anime) 1/12
- Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Freedom (Japanese/Anime) 1/26



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Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Fukudamura Jiken (Japanese/PG12)
- Manami 100% (Japanese)
- The Silent Service (Japanese)
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12)
- A Cat's Life (French)
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (English)
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+)
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese)
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime)
- Gran Turismo (Japanese, English)
- Alice to Therese no Maboroshi Kojo (Japanese/Anime)
- A Haunting in Venice (English)
- The Forbidden Play (Japanese/PG12)
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime)
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)
- Haunted Mansion (Japanese)
- G-Men (Japanese)
- One Last Bloom (Japanese)
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English)
- PAW Patrol: the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Elemental (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (Japanese)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Analog (Japanese) 10/6
- Antonio Inoki wo Sagashite (Japanese) 10/6
- The Equalizer 3 (English/R15+) 10/6
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese) 10/13
- Yutori Desu ga Nani ka International (Japanese) 10/13
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese) 10/20
- Resort Baito (Japanese) 10/20
- The Creator (English) 10/20
- Hypnotic (English) 10/27
- Sumikko Gurashi: Tsugihagi Kojo no Fushigi na Ko (Japanese/Anime) 11/3
- Houtei Yugi (Japanese) 11/10
- OUT (Japanese/PG12) 11/17
- My Next Life as a Villainess: All Routes Lead to Doom! (Japanese/Anime) 12/8

AIC BULLETIN BOARD

Need Assistance?



If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at **011-200-9595** or go to: **www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan**

FUN Friday

Interesting activities such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handicrafts and much more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax and relate on Fun Fridays!

Dates: September 8th & 22nd, October 13th & 27th, November 10th & 24th

Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
(Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

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

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center!

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including: items to buy/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit-related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee
Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,
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E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AIC or the City of Asahikawa.****