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# Hokkaido News Top 5

May 2017 Compiled by AIC



#### March 23

Hokkaido University has agreed to return 76 ancestral remains to descendants of the Ainu. The agreement reached in a court-mediated settlement at the Sapporo District Court in Hokkaido ends three rounds of legal battles between Ainu descendants and the university. This settlement returns the largest number of remains to Ainu descendants to date.

#### March 23

Regulatory measures placed by the Thai government against Japanese cantaloupe, watermelon, cucumber, and tomato, have caused some confusion among people involved. There is a concern especially over the Japanese cantaloupe, including ones made in Hokkaido, since it is very popular among Thais. The regulatory measures are in place to prevent non-native insects from entering Thailand. Thailand is the third largest importer of Japanese cantaloupe.

#### March 29

A "Sewerage hole cover design card" was issued by the Asahikawa Waterworks Bureau as part of the nation-wide Manhole-Card series to increase the awareness of its sewerage facilities. The card has the photo of the cover, which has the symbol of Vasa Loppet Japan (cross-country skiing event) on the front and its introduction on the back. The cards are available for free at the promotion center for the sewerage resources, "Banana Center."

#### April 11

Runny nose and sneezing might not be so bad this year for people allergic to white birch pollen. Due to the cold temperature in March, the time that male flowers awaken, the airborne pollen level is estimated to be only about 60% to 70% of the average of Asahikawa's past 10 years.

#### April 15

Asahikawa Airport and New Chitose Airport in Sapporo have introduced a new device called "biocart" which allows foreign visitors to register their fingerprints and a face photo while they wait in line at the passport control gates. Its aim is to reduce waiting time by 2/3. This device is also available at 10 other airports, including Narita Airport and Kansai International Airport. Foreign visitors aged 11 and older are required to enter their data under Japanese immigration law.



# For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

#### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

#### Address:

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

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E-mail:

cir kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor



International Furniture Design Fair in Asahikawa (IFDA) takes place in every 3 years. This year, Asahikawa will host it for the 10th time. 2017 is also the 35th Anniversary of the Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art's opening.

Date: Now until June 25th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000; University Students ¥600;

High School and under FREE; Seniors 65 and over FREE

For further information contact: 0166-25-2577

\*Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be

closed.

### Yasushi INOUE 110th Birthday Anniversary Mini Concert 井上靖生誕110年記念 ミニコンサート

Program:

Divertimento (Franz Joseph Hayden)

Kawa no nagare no you ni (MISORA Hibari)

And more...

**Date:** May 6th (Saturday) **Time: 1st Show:** Show 11:00am **2nd Show:** Show 1:30pm

Venue: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** FREE

For further information contact: 0166-52-1740

# #上靖生誕 110 年記念 5/6(土) 1100~//m 13:30~ MMDウンルで 加速・格式原表 hime Program 2 7 0000702007020 A 10000702007020 A 100

### 5th Adult Electric Band Charity Concert 5th 大人のエレキバンド チャリティーコンサート

"Back to the 60's!" There will be many bands playing in the style of the Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Elvis Pressley, The Ventures, CAROL, and more! Part of ticket sales will be donated to the Asahikawa Orphanage.

Date: May 7th (Sunday)

**Time:** Doors 12:30pm; Show 1:00pm to 5:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥500; Students FREE

Ticket Office: RUBBER SOUL(4-jo 7-chome, Tsutsuji Plaza Building BF)

For further information contact: 0166-21-4567 (RUBBER SOUL)



# Asahikawa Korumutti Crystal Concert 旭川コールムッティ クリスタルコンサート

Program includes:

Beloved Songs: Romanchisuto no buta, Dareka ga chisana beru wo osu, and more...

From Hohoemi: Ave Maria, Hohoemi, and more...

Songs that Kyuu-chan sang: Ue wo mite arukou, Ashita ga aru sa, and more...

Songs by Paolo Tosti: Chanson de L'adueu, La serenata, Lungi

Trombone performance: In the style of Bach, and more...

Date: May14th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm

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

Admission: ¥800

For further information contact: 0166-69-2000







# 旭川フィルハーモニー管弦楽団

#### Asahikawa Philharmonic Orchestra Two composers at the mercy of the revolution 革命に翻弄された二人の作曲家

Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff were two Russian composers during the Russian revolution that took place 100 years ago that led to the rise of the Soviet Union. This concert features parts of Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5, and more.

Date: May14th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,000; High School and under ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall,

Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 050-5879-5078

18th Asahikawa Citizen Band Festival 第18回旭川地区 市民ハンドフェスティバル

Come on down to support Asahikawa artists along with those from Pippu and Aibestu!

**Date:** May 21st (Sunday)

Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: ¥500

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

Civic Culture Hall

For further information contact: 080-2873-7700







Members and ex-members of the bands HOUNDDOG, Twist, JUNGAPOP, ATR and Kotan are coming together for a special first and last Asahikawa event!

**Date:** May 26st (Friday)

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

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

Admission: 44,000; + 500 the day of Ticket Office: Lawson (L-code: 11679)

For further information contact: 0166-22-3400



#### 2017 Marching Dance & Playing Summit in Asahikawa 吹奏楽ジョイントコンサート サミット2017 In Asahikawa

A high school extravaganza! Hokkaido Asahikawa Eirvo High School, Komazawa University Tomakomai High School, and Hokkaido Sapporo Intercultural Technological High School are all coming together for a joint concert!

Date: May 28th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,000; High school and under ¥500 Day of prices: General ¥1,300; High school and under ¥700

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha

Music Store, Coach and Four, Lawson (L-code: 12404), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall by

Asahikawa Station)

For further information contact: 080-5837-4708 (Eiryo High School)







# Life in Japan "Arashiyama in May"

By KITAMURA Tadao

For your eyes green foliage,

Mountain cuckoo.

First-catches of bonito.

You may easily understand Japanese (or rather that of the people in the Edo era) sentiment, or aestheticism, through this set of key-words that make an idiomatic phrase that people here like to use to express what they appreciate in this season.

It is without a doubt a wonderful season here in Asahikawa. In the early days of May, you'll see on the hill-side of Mt. Arashiyama, standing on the south-west of this town, white spots among the trees that have yet to sprout. They are crowns of **Kitakobushi**, Japanese magnolia, (*Magnolia Kobus var, bolealis Sarg*), clusters of fragrant white blossoms in full bloom. And then, the hill-side gradually becomes a hue of rosy pink. They are blossoms of **Ezoyamazakuras**, Sargent cherry, (*Prunus Rehder*).

Meanwhile, the mountain puts soft fresh green on its surface. And then the greenness increases in depth day by day. At the foot of the forest of trees with their branches spreading out, pretty flowers called 'the spring ephemeral' are showing their short-lived beauty. **Katakuri**, (*Erythronium japonicum Decne.*) and **Ezoengosaku** (*Corydalis ambigua cham.et Schlcht*,), both are perfect examples of the spring-ephemeral or spring fairies in another word.

Certain parts are filled with a pinkish violet color from the large colony of **Katakuri** and **Ezoengosaku**, Very pretty butterflies may be fluttering behind them; they are a very rare species of **Hime-gifuchou**, an insect of natural monuments. As the season proceeds, so many kinds of wild flowers show their prettiness up one after another, competing with each other.

The whole forest is enclosed with a pleasant sweet fragrance; that comes from **Tsuru-ajisai**, *Hydrangea petiolaris Sieb.et Zucc*, twining around thick Basswood trees. The whole mountain is like a botanical garden. A large part of Southern Mt. Arashiyama is the Hoppo Yaso-En (The Boreal Wild Plant Garden).

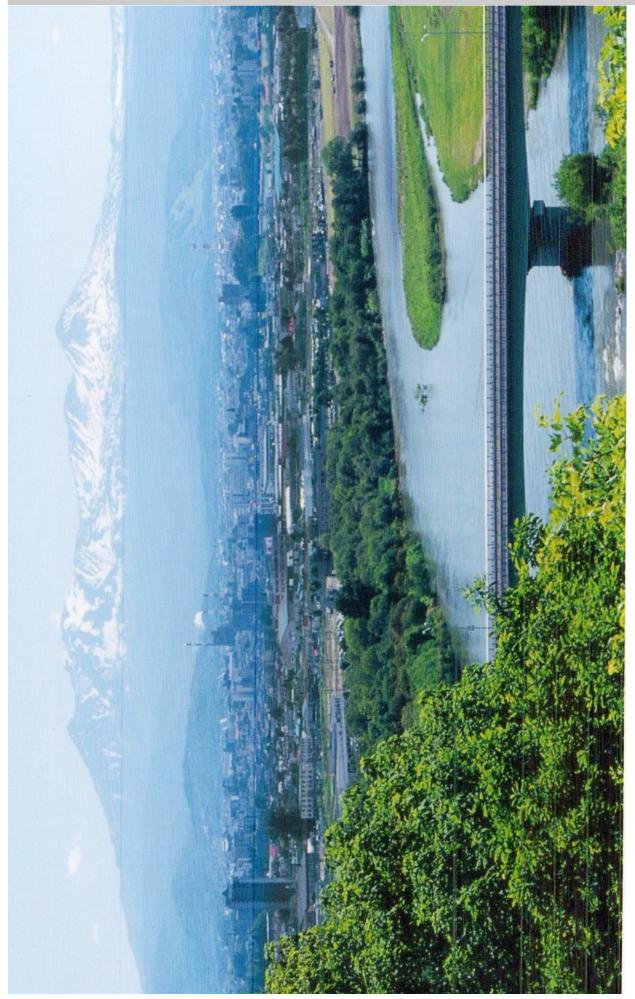


Photo: A view from Hoppo Yaso En (By Minoru KUBOTA)
Check out the color version at
http://asahikawaic.jp/publication/up/docs/asahikawa\_info\_may2017



# Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Jacob Werschev

**Home Country: United States** Interviewed: April 23rd, By AIC

AIC: So Jacob, what brings you to Japan?

After coming back from studying abroad in Tokyo, I wanted to have a job where I Jacob:

would use Japanese every day so I could get better at it, so I signed up with the JET

Program as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR).

AIC: And how do you like the job? How long have you been doing it? Jacob:

This is my second year. I got here at the end of July 2015. I was really intimidated by the job title and the way it was introduced as this job where you are worked to the bone and are responsible for all these events, etc. I'm sure it is in some placements, but I find my placement to be calmer. I actually kind of like it. Everyone in my office is super nice and understanding. I also love the school visits that I have sometimes. I make these really sweet PowerPoint presentations and the kids freak out over them.

AIC: So will you be staying in Asahikawa for a while longer then?

Jacob: No (laughs). I'm actually leaving late July/early August. I'm not fond of all the snow and the cold. The winters are too long and cold for me. I really just want to be outside

in a T-Shirt and run around.

AIC: So you wouldn't really be into winter sports then. Did you at least try some? Jacob: Only a bit. I don't have a car but my friends took me skiing and snowboarding a couple times. I wasn't really that into it and I found it a bit on the expensive side, both in

terms of time and money.

AIC: Yea, it's tough if you don't have a car. Do you like non-winter sports?

> I've been doing Parkour/Freerunning for years, but I'm kind of embarrassed at my level considering how long I've been doing it. I wish I would have spent more time training and less time studying. I go to Tokyo to train with people down there. There was even a meet-up in Tokyo about a year ago. I got to meet Jason Paul, Zen, and some other people who I had only seen through a screen. That was really cool, but it was bitter sweet because I was one of the least skilled people there. The same thing happened when I went to Bangkok.



Jacob:

AIC:

Bangkok huh? So have you been traveling around Asia during your time here?

Jacob:

Not really, just Bangkok (laughs). Part of me feels like I should be traveling all over, but I don't want to go "just because," if that makes sense. I don't get around much in Japan either for that matter. Although I did go to friend's wedding in Hachinohe. I took the ferry from Tomakomai. It took me right there. Oh! I did climb Mt. Fuji with my friends Jon and Larry who came to visit me in September of last year. We took the Gotemba Trail. It takes longer to go up because you are mostly walking up sand, but



you can practically sprint down. We didn't have proper climbing gear either. I climbed in running shoes. Larry climbed in a vest, with a DBZ beanie. Jon climbed in a hoodie and baseball cap. You should have seen the looks we got.

### AIC: Jacob:

# Nice. Back to Asahikawa. Is there anything you like about the city?

There is actually. I like the amount of parks/sports recreation facilities there are. The city gym is cheap, especially if you get one of the monthly passes. People from the surrounding towns etc. even come to use it. Even though the trains aren't really reliable because there are so few, there are usually a good amount of buses going around town so you don't really need a car, which is usually a necessary expense for people placed in Hokkaido. And, although I'm not huge on burgers, but Asahikawa has a good amount of burger joints as well as Indian and Nepalese curry places.

# AIC: Jacob:

# So where are you from? How does it compare to Asahikawa?

I'm from Springfield, Illinois. Springfield is definitely hotter and more humid than Asahikawa. It is actually pretty close to Tokyo weather because it's about the same in terms of latitude. I would say Asahikawa is a lot more comparable to Kenosha Wisconsin where I went to university than my hometown. In Springfield we get snow and sometimes it a lot but I feel like the winter isn't as long and cold. I don't think as much ice stays on the ground either. Then again, I haven't actually spent a winter in Springfield in about 6 years now. Sorry this is all weather related! (laughs) It's hard to

compare in more detail since because I've spent my

adult life away from home.

## AIC:

# Speaking of home, are you excited to go back this summer?

Jacob:

I am, but I am also not dreading my time left here or anything. Like I said, I actually like my job and the people I work with. I was nervous that with the shuffling of personnel in the new year (namely the head of the division), that the office dynamic might change but even though I am sad to see the people from day one (well, my day one), including my former supervisor leave, the new people are really sociable as well. I'm finally seeing some spring-like weather here too. I'm excited to spend the time I have here running around and living it up in the sun. I also have a lot of vacation time saved up that I have to use up.



AIC: Use it or lose it right? And lastly, what is your take on Karaoke?

Jacob: Karaoke is the best. It's not something I'm dying to do all the time, but I get really

hyped up for it. You have to do it right though. I have been to really restrained karaoke parties where the lights are still on, people pass the mic around one by one and everyone sings the 2 or 3 songs they are really good at and everyone claps. When I go to karaoke, I want 4 people trying to sing the same song with 2 mics, drink orders (not necessarily alcoholic) flying out, and to be physically exhausted at the end. Also, on the note of drinking and doing karaoke, it breaks my heart when I hear stuff like "I need to drink more before I can start singing" and stuff like that. It's not a contest. Just

sing. Nobody cares, that's fun of it.

AIC: I can see that you feel very strongly about karaoke.

Thanks for letting me interview you!

**Jacob:** My pleasure.



\*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is \(\frac{\pmathbf{1}}{1}\),100 for Adults, \(\frac{\pmathbf{8}}{800}\) for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

\*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is \(\frac{\pma}{1}\),100 (tax included) for all.

★ Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 – 6411 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

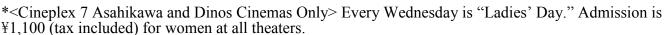
#### **Now Showing**

- Teiichi's Country (Japanese)
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese/PG12)
- The Fate of the Furious (English)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt2 (Japanese)
- Beauty and the Beast (English, Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/ Anime)
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/Anime)
- ReLIFE (Japanese)
- Thonas & Friends: The Great Race (Japanese/Anime)
- Ghost in the Shell (English, Japanese)
- The Lego Batman Movie (Japanese)
- Girls in the Dark (Japanese)
- P and JK (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider X Super Sentai: Ultra Super Hero Taisen (Japanese)
- Daytime Shooting Star (Japanese)
- Passengers (English)
- Hirune Hime: Shiranai Watashi no Monogatari (Japanese/ Anime)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese)
- Sing (Japanese/Anime)
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese)
- Moana (Japnese/Anime)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime)
- La La Land (English)

### **Coming Soon**

- Last Cop the Movie (Japanese) 5/3
- Tsuioku (Japanese) 5/6
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 (English) 5/12
- Peach Girl (Japanese) 5/20
- Tatara Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- The Light Between Oceans (English) 5/26
- What a Wonderful Family! 2 (Japanese) 5/27
- To Each His Own (Japanese) 5/27
- Logan (English) 6/1
- Flower and Sword (Japanese) 6/3
- Confession of Murder (Japanese) 6/10
- Hirugao (Japanese) 6/10
- Lion (English) 6/17~6/17
- Hacksaw Ridge (English) 6/24
- Mumon (Japanese) 7/1
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English)
   7/1

# Movies ~ May



\*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is \(\frac{1}{2}\),100 (tax included) for men.

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

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

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

#### **Now Showing**

- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese PG12)
- The Fate of the Furious (English, Japanese 2D/4DX2D)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt2 (Japanese)
- Beauty and the Beast (English, Japanese 2D/4DX3D)
- Deepwater Horizon (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/ Anime)
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/ Anime)
- Kong: Skull Island (English,, Japanese/4DX3D/PG12)
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese)
- Sing (Japanese/Anime)
- Moana (Japanese/Anime)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken (Japanese/Anime)

#### **Coming Soon**

- Last Cop the Movie (Japanese) 5/3
- Tsuioku (Japanese) 5/6
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 (English/4DX) 5/12
- Tatara Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha the Movie 1st (Japanese/ Anime/4DX) 5/20~6/2
- Kimi no Manazashi (Japanese) 5/20
- What a Wonderful Family! 2 (Japanese) 5/27
- Logan (English) 6/1
- Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha the Movie 2nd A's (Japanese/ Anime 4DX) 6/3~6/16
- Ikitoshi Ikerumono (Japanese) 6/3
- Flower and Sword (Japanese) 6/3
- Confession of Murder (Japanese) 6/10
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Buruburu no Takarasagashi (Japanese/ Anime) 7/1
- Mumon (Japanese) 7/1

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

URL: http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/ (Japanese)

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

#### **Now Showing**

- Teiichi's Country (Japanese)
- Blade of the Immortal (Japanese/PG12)
- The Fate of the Furious (English)
- Beauty and the Beast (English)
- Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter (Japanese/ Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Invasion! Alien Shiriri (Japanese/ Anime)
- Black Butler:Book of Atlantic (Japanese/Anime)
- T2 Trainspotting (English R15+)
- Ghost in the Shell (English)
- Kong: Skull Island (English)
- P and JK (Japanese)
- Sing (English/Anime)
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese)
- Moana (English/Anime)
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Daibouken

(Japanese/Anime)

#### **Coming Soon**

- Last Cop the Movie (Japanese) 5/3
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 (English) 5/12
- Sakurada Reset Pt2 (Japanese) 5/13
- Arrival (English) 5/19
- Kimi no Manazashi (Japanese) 5/20
- Peach Girl (Japanese) 5/20
- Tatara Samurai (Japanese) 5/20
- What a Wonderful Family! 2 (Japanese) 5/27
- To Each His Own (Japanese) 5/27
- Logan (English) 6/1
- Flower and Sword (Japanese) 6/3
- Hirugao (Japanese) 6/10
- Tap: The Last Show (Japanese) 6/17
- King Arthur: Legend of the Sword (English) 6/17
- Itsu Mata Kimito ~ Hori Jun Zairai (Japanese) 6/24
- Ani ni Aisaresugite Komattemasu (Japanese) 6/30
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English) 7/1
- Mumon (Japanese) 7/1

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

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# **AIC BULLITEN BOARD**

# Bus Kital Forest of Images: Wood Works

Do you know about asahi.buskita.com? Use this website to easily navigate the buses in Asahikawa.

It is currently only available in Japanese, but parts of the site can be automatically translated through services like Google. You can choose the departure or destination point from a map of the city instead of having to input kanji.

You can even create a free account to save your favorite bus routes!



If you are a fan of woodworks, here is one more exhibition to set your eyes on!

Date:

Now until October 28th (Saturday) **Time:** 

9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

Venue:





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

Dates: May 12th&26th, June 9th&23th, July 14th&28th

Times: 1:00-2:00pm ~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 for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. 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.



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.



Asahikawa International Committee

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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.\*\*