

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

September 2020 VOL. 286

Published by AIC

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Hokkaido News Top 5

September 2020
Compiled by AIC



Local Brewery Helps Raise Money for Ainu Museum 7/22

The Takasago Shuzo Brewery in Asahikawa is selling two varieties of sake that help raise funds for the recently opened UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park in Shiraoi Town, Iburi Subprefecture. The packaging of the sake incorporates traditional Ainu patterns, and was designed by the vice director of the Ainu Memorial Hall and the vice director of the Shiraoi Ainu Association.

Niseko-made Energy Bar is Gaining Popularity 7/29

A company in Niseko Town, Shiribeshi Subprefecture, is selling their all-natural energy bar (called the "POW BAR") outside of Hokkaido to expand their market into regions like the Tokyo Metropolitan area. Not only are there no additives or added sugars, the "POW BAR" is also vegan. Although the originally intended audience for the "POW BAR" was for outdoors lovers, office workers in Tokyo have also taken a liking to it.

Special Restaurant Vouchers Issued in Municipalities Throughout Hokkaido 8/4

In an effort to combat the economic impact of the coronavirus, 123 municipalities throughout Hokkaido are selling or plan on selling restaurant vouchers at a discounted price that can only be used at local restaurants. The initiative has had an immediate effect on revitalizing local communities. Each municipality pays the cost of the discount they offer, and the prefectural government subsidizes 10% of that cost.

First Lawsuit in Japan Seeking Legal Conformation of Indigenous Rights 8/18

The Raporo Ainu Nation (based in Urahoro Town, Tokachi Subprefecture) filed a lawsuit at the Sapporo District Court against both the national and prefectural governments, claiming that the Ainu people have been unjustly prohibited from salmon fishing in rivers despite having indigenous rights to do so. This is the first lawsuit in the nation to seek confirmation of indigenous rights under the law.

Uncertain Future for Record-breaking "Sapporo Classic" 8/18

Sapporo Beer's Hokkaido-only beer, "Sapporo Classic," may fall short of being able to break its record for sales as it has done for the last 19 years. According to Sapporo Beer's Tokyo office, sales for the month of July have decreased 24% compared to last year. The drop in sales is believed to be the result of a decrease in the number of people who eat out. Sapporo Classic first launched in 1985.



For further information or to register for events contact:

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Life in Asahikawa

September in 2020

By Kitamura Tadao

It is difficult to predict an end to the constant fear in our lives caused by the coronavirus. We cannot expect that this September will be a joyful and easygoing one.

Two opinions are clashing with one another. One, from a medical standpoint, states that more strict regulations should be put on the behavior of individuals to prevent the spread of the virus. The other standpoint suggests that regulations should be eased in order to promote tourism and businesses in the entertainment industry to rescue them from the recent economic recession.

At the time I am writing this piece (August 2nd), the officially reported number of new daily coronavirus cases is 1,532. This number is increasing day by day, and people's anxiety is increasing accordingly. Those working in medical facilities are overwhelmed with work. A shortage in the number of hospital beds is now a serious concern.

On the other hand, the government's guidance to avoid as much social contact between individuals as possible has brought various problems, impacting the economy, education, and artistic endeavors. Businesses in the hotel, transportation, restaurant, and entertainment industries are suffering especially seriously. Many owners of small businesses are on the verge of ruin, and their employees could lose their jobs at any moment.

The government has issued a so-called "Go To Travel" campaign in order to rescue businesses in the tourism industry. Some local governments oppose the campaign due to concerns that carriers of the virus who live in crowded areas would come to their prefecture. The campaign encourages businesses to discount a variety of service fees and offer specials for tourists in order to promote domestic tourism.

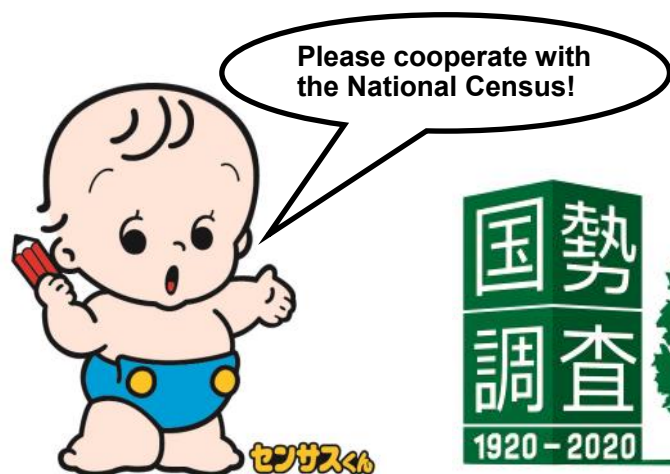
As everyone knows, September is a very nice and beautiful season to go travel, and it is one of Asahikawa's most beautiful seasons as well. Citizens take pride in the autumn vista, and without hesitation, are quick to remark that the city's autumn scenery is one of the best in the world.

The hillsides of the Daisetsu mountain range begin to change color around mid-September. The brilliantly colored leaves of the alpine plants will leave you amazed. The banquet of color then moves to the deciduous broad-leaved forests on the outskirts of the city, and finally makes its way to Asahikawa's parks and streets. Flower gardens in the suburbs display their brilliant finales as the curtain closes on summer.

Nature remains as wonderful as ever regardless of the pandemic. However, do not forget to wear a mask, and try not to chat or make too much noise in crowded areas.



National Census 2020



Census-kun



Mirai-chan

The National Census will begin on October 1st.

The National Census concerns every person living in Japan regardless of nationality. Each person is obligated under the law to submit a response.

In order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus while conducting the 2020 census, the census will be conducted using methods that minimize contact between census staff and the public as much as possible. Census staff will visit households to deliver census documents starting in mid-September. An outline of the census will be explained through your residence's intercom system. If you are absent at the time of delivery, census documents will be delivered by mail or will be inserted into your doorpost. Furthermore, if you would like a face-to-face explanation of the census, census staff will maintain a safe distance as they explain.

Please submit your census form online or by mail by October 7th. You can submit your census form online at any time of the day.

If there is a part of the census application that you do not understand, you would like to request a side by side translation in a foreign language, or, if census documents have not been sent to your place of residence, please contact city hall.

National Census, Asahikawa Headquarters TEL: 0166-21-8001

国勢調査 2020

Survival Restaurant Vocab

By Daniel Lizarraga

This month we are listing commonly used words and phrases that are vital to know when going to a restaurant in Japan, divided into those that would be helpful to understand, and those that would be helpful to learn how to say. In Japan, waiters and waitresses don't stop by to regularly check up on your table, so if you need their attention, you need to call them over. Yelling out "Excuse me!" may be rude in some countries, but it is fairly normal here. Good luck, and happy eating!

Understand: 理解する			
Japanese	English	Example Sentence	Example Sentence Translation
しょうしょう ま 少々お待ち ください	One moment, please	なんぶん ま A: 何分待ちですか？ B: 少々お待ちください。	A: How long is the wait? B: One moment, please (I'll find out for you).
あんない 案内	Guide, Lead, Take you to ~.	せき 席までご案内します。	I'll take you to your table.
うかが 伺います	Ask	の もの 飲み物をお伺いします。	What would you like to drink?
しょくぜん しょくご 食前・食後	Before/After one's meal	コーヒーは食前がよろしいですか、 食後がよろしいですか。	Would you like your coffee before or after the meal?
ちゅうもん 注文	Order	き ご注文はお決まりですか？	Are you ready to order?

Say: 言う			
すみません！	Excuse me!	A: すみません！ しょうしょう ま B: 少々お待ちください。	A: Excuse me! B: One moment, please.
ねが お願いします	Please	シー Cセットをお願いします。	I'll have the "C-Set," please.
ひと ふた 一つ、二つ、 みつ 三つ	One, two, three (can be used for drinks and menu items)	なま ねが 生ビール二つをお願いします。	Two beers (draft), please.
いちめい にめい 一名、二名、 さんめい 三名	One, two, three (people)	なんめいさま A: 何名様ですか？ B: 二名です。	A: (A) table for how many? B: Two, please.
アレルギー	Allergy	わたし 私はピーナッツアレルギーがあります。	I have a peanut allergy.
かいけい 会計	Bill, check	ねが すみません！会計をお願いします。	Excuse me! May I have the check, please?



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Li Cheng Hou
Home Country: Taiwan
Interviewed: 8/25/2020

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp!

AIC: Hello Hou, where are you from?

Hou: I'm from Taiwan.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?

Hou: Well, I got married and moved to Asahikawa with my husband. While living in Japan, I was able to find work through a connection I had.

AIC: How long have you been living in Japan?

Hou: I've been living in Japan for 14 years. I lived in Tokyo for three years and have been living in Asahikawa for 11 years.

AIC: That's quite some time! What is one of the main differences between Taiwan and Japan that you have noticed so far?

Hou: Hmm. Taiwanese people are fairly relaxed and easygoing, whereas as Japanese people are very neat, proper, and serious.

AIC: Interesting. What do you like about Japan?

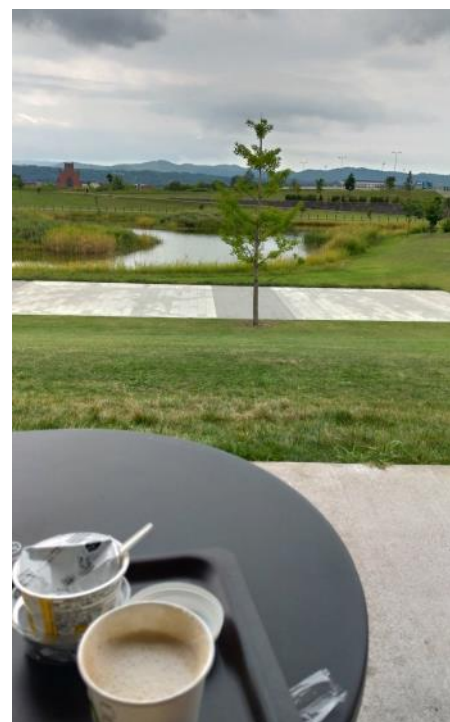
Hou: What I like about Japan is that the environment is well taken care of. The air and water is clean, the sea is beautiful, and it is very calm and relaxing here.

AIC: Hokkaido certainly is beautiful. What are some of your favorite spots in Asahikawa?

Hou: I love Kaguraoka Park. There weren't any parks that made you feel like you were in a forest where I lived in Taiwan. The natural surroundings of the park are incredible, and I think it's a wonderful place to have in the city. When I had a dog, I would always go for walks there. It was a golden retriever that I brought back from Taiwan.

AIC: Bigger dogs are rather rare in Japan, aren't they?

Hou: It seems like there are more small dogs than large ones. We moved here with our dog from Taiwan, and snow doesn't fall in Taiwan at all. Before our dog experienced snow in Hokkaido for the first time, I always wondered how our dog would react after seeing it. I imagined our dog would get really excited and surprised, but when our dog experienced snow for the first time, it jumped into the snow like it had known snow its whole life. It was amazing.



AIC: Do you like Japanese food? Do you have a favorite?

Hou: Yes, I do. I like sashimi.

AIC: Are there any Taiwanese dishes that you miss?

Hou: Yes, there are. I miss a lot of different food. In Japan, most foods have a very simple taste, whereas in Taiwan, there are many dishes from a wide variety of countries, so in that sense, there is quite a big difference.

AIC: Is there anything that you want to eat specifically?

Hou: Yes there is. I want to eat stinky tofu.

AIC: How would you describe stinky tofu?

Hou: It's fermented tofu that is fried.

AIC: I've never had it, but I've definitely caught a whiff of it once!

Hou: It has a really strong smell, right?

AIC: Yeah, it's crazy. I need to try it! So, what do you like to do in your free time?

Hou: I like to go for drives outside of Asahikawa. It doesn't matter where, really.

AIC: Have you gotten used to the winters here yet?

Hou: Not at all. There is so much snow and the winters are so long.

AIC: How long do you plan to be in Japan?

Hou: It depends on my husband, but when he retires I think it would be nice to try living in a different country, whether in Taiwan or somewhere else. I would like to live in Hokkaido during the summer and in Taiwan or a south-east Asian country during the winter. That would be ideal.

AIC: That sounds nice... Do you miss anything about life back in Taiwan?

Hou: Of course I miss my family, but I also miss the convenience of living in a big city. Even if you go out at night, a lot of stores are open, including the night markets. All the restaurants are open late, including all of the hangout spots. You never get bored.

AIC: What about in Asahikawa?

Hou: Nighttime in Asahikawa? I just get ready for bed (laughs). Stores have a tendency to close early in Japan, and Japanese people don't have the custom of going to parks late at night.



- AIC:** People go to parks late at night in Taiwan?
- Hou:** Once it becomes nightfall, many people go to the park to exercise, go for a walk, or just hang out.
- AIC:** For our last question... do you like Karaoke?
- Hou:** I do. In Japan, I have noticed that I can't always find my favorite Chinese songs. It's a little sad, so it's probably a good idea to learn as many Japanese songs as you can if you want to sing karaoke here. In Taiwan, many people wake up early and go to the park to exercise, and afterwards, they sing!
- AIC:** They sing in the park? Woah.
- Hou:** They sure do. Mostly grandmas and grandpas. They have small karaoke gatherings quite often.
- AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you so much for participating!
- Hou:** You're welcome.



★ Movies ~ September ★

*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.

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

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

Now Showing

- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Blue, Painful, and Brittle (Japanese)
- The Traitor (Italian/R15+)
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Onward (English/Anime)
- Omoi, Omoware, Furi, Furare (Japanese)
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime)
- Grand Blue (Japanese/PG12)
- Ultraman Taiga the Movie: New Generation Climax (Japanese)
- 3 Nenme no Debut (Japanese)
- Justice of the Alps Stand (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- Secret x Heroine Phantomirage! ~We've Become a Movie ~ (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Thomas & Friends: Digs & Discoveries (Japanese) 9/4
- The Brightest Roof in the Universe (Japanese) 9/4
- Ninzu no Machi (Japanese) 9/4
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime) 9/11
- Midway (English) 9/11
- Omoi, Omoware, Furi, Furare (Japanese/Anime) 9/18
- Violet Evergarden (Japanese/Anime) 9/18
- Tenet (English) 9/18
- The Addams Family (English/Anime) 9/25
- Hitman: Agent Jun (Korean) 9/25
- The Asadas (Japanese) 10/2
- The Power of Music: Trolls World Tour (English/Anime) 10/2
- House of Cardin (English) 10/2

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

★ Movies ~ September ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 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

- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Onward (Japanese, English 4DX/Anime)
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Butt Detective the Movie 2 (Japanese/Anime)
double-feature Kamen Rider Den-O: Fushigi Dagashiya Zenitendo (Japanese)
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese)
- Inception (English)
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime)
- Grand Blue (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] III. spring song (Japanese/Anime) 9/4
- Restart After Come Back Home (Japanese) 9/4
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime) 9/11
- The Cornered Mouse Dreams Cheese (Japanese/R15+) 9/11
- Midway (English) 9/11
- Tenet (English) 9/18
- The King's Man (English) 9/25
- Midnight Swan (Japanese) 9/25
- God of Novels (Japanese) 10/2
- House of Hummingbird (Korean/PG12) 10/2
- Mobile Suit Gundam F91 (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/2
- Mobile Suit Gundam Wing Endless Waltz (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/2

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 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

- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese)
- Labyrinth of Cinema (Japanese)
- Onward (English/Anime)
- Tapestry (Japanese)
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] III. spring song (Japanese/Anime)
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese)
- Grand Blue (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Kiseki tono Deai Kokoro ni Yorisou 3 (Japanese) 9/4~10
- Crayon Shin-chan: Crash! Rakuga Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes (Japanese/Anime) 9/11
- Tenet (English) 9/18
- Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken! (Japanese) 9/25
- The King's Man (English) 9/25
- Wonder Woman 1984 (English) 10/9
- Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba the Movie: Mugen Train (Japanese/Anime) 10/16

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

Language Courses at AIC

Foreign Language Courses: Beginner (12 Classes)

Language	Dates	Teachers
Korean	Every Tuesday starting 9/8	KIM Michie
Russian	Every Wednesday starting 9/9	SUZUKI Momoko
Chinese	Every Thursday starting 9/10	TSUYAMA Noboru

Time: 18:30-20:00

Capacity: 19 people (For each class)

Fee: ¥16,000

Sign-up: Contact or visit the Asahikawa International Committee (1-jo 8-chome, Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, International/City Affairs Division) at 0166-25-7491

Notes: Courses will be taught in Japanese

Japanese Language Course: Beginner/Intermediate (8 Classes)

A Japanese course for foreign residents and those returning from abroad.

Dates:

Beginner: Every other Sunday starting 9/6

Intermediate: Every other Sunday starting 9/13

Time: 10:30-12:00

Capacity: 8 people (If less than four people sign up. The class will be cancelled)

Fee: ¥3,000 (Fees can be exempted for special cases)

Sign up: Contact the Asahikawa International Committee at 0166-25-7491 or visit the Asahikawa International Center (1-jo 8-chome, Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, International/City Affairs Division)

FUN FRIDAYS

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: September 11th & 25th, October 9th & 23rd, November 13th & 27th

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

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.



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.****