

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2020
Compiled by AIC

Registered Partnerships for Sexual Minorities in Japan Exceeds 900 6/21

According to a survey, the number of officially registered partnerships for sexual minorities such as LGBT individuals has exceeded 900. It is believed that the sudden increase in partnerships is due to an increase in the advocacy of rights for sexual minorities by a growing number of people, as well as an increased understanding of LGBT issues by the government and the public. However, the number of government services available to those in a partnership remain limited.

Curtains Close on Asahikawa's Very Own Snow Crystal Museum 6/23

The Snow Crystal Museum, an Asahikawa tourist facility themed around snow and ice, has announced its closure following the withdrawal of the wedding company "Marry Blossom" from its premises. The Snow Crystal Museum closed on June 30th, giving a big shock to those in the local tourist industry. It is seen as an especially big blow to the city as it tries to draw back tourists after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Rooftop Sauna Opens in Downtown Asahikawa 7/7

From July 7th to September 30th, an outdoor rooftop sauna will be operating on top of the Juji Building (4-jo 8-chome) on Kaimono Koen. Their Finnish-style sauna has a temperature of around 70 degrees. Water mixed with aromatic oils are poured over rocks to allow for easier breathing and a more relaxing experience. Asahikawa has many saunas, but few are made in the Finnish style. The organizers of this "pop-up sauna" hope that they can contribute to the revitalization of the downtown area.

Local Yumepirika Rice Incorporated into Refreshing New Beer 7/11

The Higashi Asahikawa Agricultural Cooperative has begun sales of its "Higashi Asahikawa Beer," a special beer that uses local Yumepirika rice as a secondary ingredient. The beer has received favorable reviews for its refreshing taste, so the Agricultural Cooperative Hopes that those staying at home due to the coronavirus this summer will be able to relax while drinking this beer.

Train Bound for Lavender Fields Begins Operation 7/18

The "Furano-Biei Norokko Train," a sightseeing train that runs on the JR Hokkaido Furano Line, commenced operation for this season. Due to the spread of the coronavirus, the starting date for the operation of the train was pushed back one month. The best time of the year to view the lavender fields has arrived, so in order to avoid crowds, sales of reserved seats are limited to 60% of normal capacity.



**For further information
or to register for events contact:**
Asahikawa International Committee
(KAMIMAE Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or
SAITO Emmy)
Location:
International/City Affairs Division, Tourism,
Sports and International/City Affairs Dept.
Address:
Asahikawa International Center Feeeel
Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8- chome,
Asahikawa 070-0031
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※ Due to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, events will not be listed this month.

Where Should I Consult About the Coronavirus?

Citizen's Coronavirus Hotline: 0166-25-6450

Reception Hours: 9:00-17:00

This hotline is for general questions and concerns regarding the coronavirus. Please call this number if you are not sure which number to call.

Think you might have the coronavirus?

If you...

- Have shortness of breath, strong fatigue, high fever, or any number of strong symptoms...
- Are a senior or if you have an underlying illness and you have relatively mild symptoms...
- Have mild symptoms that continue to persist...

Please call the Health Guidance Division: 0166-26-2397

Office Hours: Weekdays from 8:45-17:15

If any of the above apply to you, AND...

- You were in direct contact with someone who has/had the coronavirus.
- Within the 14 days prior to you showing symptoms, you were in an area where the coronavirus is/was prevalent.
- You were in direct contact with someone who came from an area where the coronavirus is/was prevalent.

Please call the Center for Returnees from Abroad and Contacted Individuals: 0166-25-9848

Office Hours: 8:45-21:00

Be safe out there!

Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden's 5th Anniversary

This year marks the 5th year since the opening of the Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden. You can see 350 different species of plants, numbering around 80,000 total plants at this garden oasis. Garden staff put in a lot of hard work throughout the year to ensure that this garden is as beautiful as it is, so come stop by and give it a visit!

Location: Miyashita-dori 7-chome~9-chome, Miyamae 1-jo~2-jo 1-chome, Asahikawa

Garden Express: Currently in Operation

A series of linked carts decorated to look like a train that runs between the Asahikawa Station and the Kitasaito Garden. Why walk to the garden in the sun when you can *choo-se* the express!

Days Open: All Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays until September

Times: 10:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00

Fee: ¥100 each way. Children pre-school age and below ride for free

Notes: A reservation by phone is required for usage during weekdays (0166-74-5966)

Kitasaito Garden Shop

You will find soft cream, original cookies, herb tea, post cards, and much more at this shop!

Length of Operation: Open until the end of October

Hours: 10:30-15:30

Notes: Closed Mondays (In the event a holidays falls on a Monday, the shop will close the next day)

Coronavirus Vocab You Should Know: Part 2

By Daniel Lizarraga

Last month we covered basic symptoms and words relating to infectious spread. This month, I included a variety of words that I frequently hear when it comes to the coronavirus. I hope you find them useful!

Businesses: ビジネス			
Japanese	English	Example Sentence	Example Sentence Translation
いんしょくてん 飲食店	Restaurant	さいきん おお きんえん 最近、多くの飲食店が禁煙になりました	Recently, many restaurants have become non-smoking
つぶれる	Close down, go out of business	てん し A店つぶれたの？知らなかった！	Shop A went out of business? I had no idea!
さいかい 再開	Reopen	おお えいぎょう 多くの飲食店は 営業 を再開しました	Many restaurants reopened for business
きゅうぎょう 休業	Closed (Businesses)	てんしゅ びょうき あいだ 店主が病気のため、しばらくの間休業します	The owner has come down with an illness, so the shop will be closed temporarily
Other: 他 (ほか)			
たいさく 対策	Measure, countermeasure	かんせんしょう てあら まいにち 感染症 対策のため、手洗いを毎日する	The government is taking measures against the spread of the virus
じびょう 持病	Underlying medical condition	かた がいしゅつ ひか 持病のある方は 外出 を控えたほうがいいです	Those with underlying medical conditions should refrain from going out
じたくたいき 自宅待機	Self quarantine, self isolation	アメリカから日本に着いたので、2 しゅうかん 週間 自宅待機をします	I came to Japan from the U.S., so I have to self quarantine for 2 weeks
きゅうふきん 給付金	Cash handout	10,000円の給付金をもらいましたか？	Did you receive your ¥10,000 cash handout?
えいきょう 影響	Effect, impact, due to ~	コロナウイルスの影響で、なつまつ ちゅうし 中止になりました	The summer festival was cancelled due to the coronavirus.
けんおん 検温	Temperature check	さんか かなら イベントに参加する方は 必ず 検温 をおこないます。	Those participating in the event must get their temperature checked
きゅうこう 休校	School Closure	えいきょう あさひかわ しない がっこう コロナウイルスの影響で 旭川 市内 の学校が休校になった	Schools in Asahikawa are closed due to the coronavirus
かんき 換気	Ventilation	まどやドアをあけて、こまめに換気する	Ventilate frequently by opening doors and windows
あたらしい 新しい せいかつようしき 生活様式	New normal	あたらしい しょうじょう 新しい生活様式のため、症状 が なくても、マスクをしよう	Wearing a mask even if you have no symptoms is part of the new normal



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Ho Yu Ting
Home Country: Taiwan
Interviewed: 7/17/2020

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 Yu Ting! Where are you from?
Yu Ting: I'm from Taiwan.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?
Yu Ting: Nine years ago I took a course at a Japanese School in Higashikawa for 3 months. That was my first time in Japan. When I first arrived there, I was surprised that such a beautiful place could exist. After I finished my course, I went back to Taiwan and continued my studies at university. I studied abroad in Kyoto for one year during my time in university. After I graduated, I worked at a Japanese company in Taiwan. However, I wanted to do a working holiday in Japan before I turned 33, so I quit my job. I loved Higashikawa so I knew that was where I wanted to do my year-long working holiday, and then I went! After my working holiday ended, someone I met through work told me that the DMO (Destination Management Organization) in Asahikawa had an opening available, so I applied and now I'm working there! In total, I think I've been living in Japan for about three years.



AIC: How does your life here in Japan compare to your life back in Taiwan?
Yu Ting: In Taiwan, everyone speaks my native language so I don't have as many worries as I do when speaking Japanese. In Japan, the thing that bothers me the most is that there are a lot of different procedures you have to go through. If you go to city hall, it can even take two or three hours. I work at a company that takes care of my housing arrangements for me, so I don't have to worry about that, but some of my friends told me that making housing arrangements by yourself in Japan can be very difficult and exhausting.

AIC: What are some differences between where you lived in Taiwan and Asahikawa?
Yu Ting: I lived in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. It is a very lively city with a population several times that of Asahikawa. The transportation network is also very well developed. Asahikawa has a lot of buses, but they don't run very often. At some bus stops only one or two buses come per hour. When I lived in Higashikawa, there were some bus stops where buses came only once an hour or once every two to three hours.

AIC: It would be awful if you missed your bus... So, what do you like about Japan?

Yu Ting: I love the nature here. Kyoto has a lot of nature too, but it doesn't compare to Hokkaido. There also seemed to be more tourists than Japanese people. I think the air is a lot cleaner in Hokkaido than Kyoto. I like cold weather, so whenever I see snow I get excited. It's only my 2nd year here, so when winter comes later this year it will still only be my 3rd year of experiencing snow.



AIC: Did you experience snow for the first time while you were in Japan?

Yu Ting: It doesn't snow in Taiwan and it doesn't really get that cold. When I lived in Higashikawa I experienced it for the first time. I even shoveled snow all by myself! It was hard.

AIC: What are some of your favorite spots in Asahikawa?

Yu Ting: I like the area around Asahibashi because you can see Mt. Daisetsuzan. It's a rare type of scenery that you can only see here.

AIC: I like that area too. It's beautiful! Do you like Japanese food?

Yu Ting: I do! I like udon—especially cold udon. There's an udon shop in Higashikawa I like called "Chiyuki Udon," and I recommend their toriten udon. It's really good! I also like sushi and sukiyaki. I like just about everything.

AIC: Is there any food from Taiwan that you miss eating?

Yu Ting: Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings)! Everything is good in Taiwan. I can't go back home right now because of the coronavirus, so I miss Taiwanese food. Anything will do!

AIC: What do you like to do in your free time?

Yu Ting: I can't drive yet but I have friends with cars, so they take me mountain climbing. Recently we went strawberry-picking in Pippu. We also went cherry picking in Asahikawa. It's the perfect time to go fruit picking, so we've been doing that a lot. It's also really cheap. You can do all-you-can-eat fruit picking for just ¥1000! The season for blueberries and haskap berries is coming up and I'm really looking forward to going. In my free time I also like to make sweets! The strawberry cupcakes in this picture are some that I baked myself!



AIC: Wow! Those look incredible! How long do you plan on being in Japan?

Yu Ting: If I can keep working where I am now, I don't plan on going back home. I don't mind living in Hokkaido for the long-term.

AIC: Do you miss your friends and family in Taiwan?

Yu Ting: When I do, I can just go back home! I try to go back once or twice a year. It's not that far away. I went back home in January earlier this year, and if you add up the total time it takes to get back to where I live, including the time on the plane and the bus, it takes around 13-14 hours. I go to Chitose first, and then I fly back home.

- AIC:** I thought it would take less time. 13-14 hours! Wow. It seems so much closer.
- Yu Ting:** It's so long. The flight takes only 4-5 hours, but it takes 2-3 hours to get to Shin-Chitose with a lot of waiting in between.
- AIC:** Last but not least, do you like karaoke?
- Yu Ting:** I'm not very good at karaoke, so when I go, I eat food and listen to my friends sing.
- AIC:** Is there karaoke in Taiwan, too?
- Yu Ting:** There is, and it's more interesting than karaoke in Japan. In Taiwan, some karaoke places have a buffet, and you can order many types of food there. You can eat Taiwanese beef noodle soup, shoronpo, and a lot of other Taiwanese food. In Japan, it's mostly fried food, like French fries and karaage (Japanese fried chicken).
- AIC:** The food in Taiwanese karaoke places sounds delicious!
- Yu Ting:** When I was in Taiwan and I was out with my friends, there were times where we couldn't decide on what to eat for dinner, and sometimes one of us would say "Let's go do karaoke!" and we would just eat there (laughs).
- AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you for participating!
- Yu Ting:** You're welcome.



★ *Movies ~ August* ★

*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

- Justice of the Alps Stand (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- Secret x Heroine Phantomirage! ~We've Become a Movie ~ (Japanese)
- Step (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)
- Kiss Him, Not Me (Japanese)
- The Invisible Man (English)
- Mother (Japanese)
- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7
- Grand Blue (Japanese/PG12) 8/7
- Ultraman Taiga the Movie: New Generation Climax (Japanese) 8/7
- 3 Nenme no Debut (Japanese) 8/7
- Omoi, Omoware, Furi, Furare (Japanese) 8/14
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese) 8/14
- Tapestry (Japanese) 8/21
- Onward (English/Anime) 8/21
- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese) 8/28
- Blue, Painful, and Brittle (Japanese) 8/28
- Thomas & Friends: Digs & Discoveries (Japanese) 9/4

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

★ Movies ~ August ★

*<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

- Dunkirk (English 4DX)
- Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan (English)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- Patlabor: the Movie (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)
- Hachioji Zombies (Japanese)
- Kiss Him, Not Me (Japanese)
- Shinigami: The Death Handler (Japanese)
- The Dark Knight (English 4DX)
- Waves (English/PG12)
- Rambo: Last Blood (English/R15+)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)
- Dolittle (English)
- Gone Wednesday (Japanese)
- The Dead Don't Die (English/R15+)

Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7
- Grand Blue (Japanese/PG 12) 8/7
- Butt Detective the Movie 2 (Japanese/Anime), double-feature
Kamen Rider Den-O: Fushigi Dagashiya Zenitendo
(Japanese) 8/14
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese) 8/14
- Onward (English/Anime) 8/21
- Tapestry (Japanese) 8/21
- Stigmatized Properties (Japanese) 8/28
- Restart After Come Back Home (Japanese) 9/4

★ **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

- Why You Can't Be Prime Minister (Japanese)
- Noboru Kodera-san (Japanese)
- The Confidence Man JP: Princess (Japanese)
- From Today, It's My Turn!! (Japanese)
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] I. presage flower
(Japanese/Anime)~8/6
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] II. lost butterfly (Japanese/
Anime) ~8/6
- Harriet (English)
- Anna (English)
- Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (Japanese/Anime)
- Princess Mononoke (Japanese/Anime)
- Spirited Away (Japanese/Anime)
- Tales from Earthsea (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Grand Blue (Japanese) 8/7
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 8/7
- Yowamushi Pedal (Japanese) 8/14
- Fate/stay night[Heaven's Feel] III. spring song (Japanese/
Anime) 8/15
- Onward (English/Anime) 8/21
- Tapestry (Japanese) 8/21
- Mulan (English) 9/4

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

Asahikawa Summer BBQ Spots

August is here, and so are the long sunny days perfect for doing outdoor activities like camping, hiking, and my favorite—barbeques! Outdoor barbeque gatherings are a staple for this season, so we listed the best places in Asahikawa for you to go out and get your grill on!

Kaguraoka Park

TEL: 0166-65-5553

Kamui no Mori Park

TEL: 0166-63-4045

Address: Hanasaki-cho 3-chome

Notes: A small fee must be paid per person

Nishi-Kagura Park

TEL: 0166-75-3669

Address: Nishi-Kagura Minami 1-jo 1-chome

Shunkodai Park

TEL: 0166-52-0694

Address: Aza-Chikabumi 6-sen 3-go

Notes: A small fee must be paid per person



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: August 14th & 28th, September 11th & 25th, October 9th & 23rd

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)

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.



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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.****