

Asahikawa Info

January 2022, Vol. 302

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For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)

(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZÁLEZ Gabriel)

Location:

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

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Hokkaido News Top 5

December 2021, compiled by AIC

Sapporo Snow Festival Reopens After 2 Years, 11/26

The 72nd Annual Sapporo Snow Festival is planned to be held between February 5-12. The festival's executive committee said it will host it at Odori Park as its venue. To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, crowds will circulate to prevent congestion. Lights from the 42nd Annual Sapporo White Illumination will be left up during the snow festival as collaboration. Snow sculptures made by media outlets will be on display, and the theme for the main ones is planned to be famous buildings from Munich, sister city of Sapporo in celebration of their 50th anniversary. However, the event may be cancelled altogether due to the coronavirus.

Prices for Gas and Electricity Continue to Rise, 11/27

The Hokkaido Electric Power Company and the Hokkaido Gas Company announced the projections for next year's electric and gas prices. Due to the sudden price jump in crude oil, the cost of electricity has been rising steadily since October and the cost of gas has been since May. The average costs of electricity and gas per household have risen by ¥880 and ¥776, respectively. These rises in cost are decided by the fuel cost adjustment system that reflects the rapid fluctuations of exchange rates for imported crude oil.

High Schoolers Set Up Their Own Amateur Radio Station, 11/29

At Ryukoku Gakuen High School in Sapporo, robotics club students have developed an interest in amateur radio and set up their very own radio station. Although the overall trend has shown the number of amateur radio stations in Hokkaido to be on the decline, these level-4 students, led by a teacher who is also a level-2 amateur radio enthusiast, have been able to talk with people from all over Japan, including Gifu and Osaka. "Amateur radio allows you to gain knowledge about electrical engineering. I hope it spreads to other high schools, too," the director of the Japan Amateur Radio League said.

Large Number of Marimo Moss Balls Washed Ashore, 12/8

On December 7th at Lake Akan in Kushiro, a large number of marimo moss balls had been found beached in Churui Bay. According to the Kushiro Marimo Research Laboratory, due to an atmospheric depression, strong southern winds had been intermittently causing high waves that in turn launched the moss balls ashore. They are estimated to be covering an area of over 1,500 m². Isamu Wakana, head of the Kushiro laboratory, stated: "We must return the moss balls to the lake while water levels remain high," highlighting the urgency to save the natural treasures.

Satcep, Traditional Ainu Dried Salmon at Upopoy, 12/14

The process of making *satcep* (dried salmon) began on December 13th at Upopoy, the National Ainu Museum. Traditionally made in the winter, around 130 fish were caught and salted in autumn. Afterwards, they were gutted, hung in direct sunlight facing the wind and will remain there until February. At that point, they will be brought inside one of the *cise* (traditional Ainu houses) on site and smoked until May. Yuya Shin-

Singer-Songwriter Hiroki Tsuruga in Concert, Winter 2022

ピアノ&弾き語りコンサート 敦賀ひろき 2022冬

Working as in the government, Hiroki Tsuruga presents a concert dedicated to music that speaks to the soul, combining voice and piano in a single performance. He is originally from Asahikawa and has pursued music since his retirement at 45. Born in Asahikawa, he moved around the country before ultimately coming back to his home town.

Date: 2022/1/9/ (Sunday)

Time: 1) Opens 10:30, Starts 11:00, 2) Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00 (Sunday)

Venue: Kagura Community Center, Kirarin (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Admission: General ¥3,500 (Pre-sale)/¥4,000 (Regular), Elementary-High School Students ¥1,000 reduction

Ticket Office: Otomugen (<https://otomugen.com>) (Japanese)

For further information, contact: wave@otomugen.com, 090-9964-0465 (Otomugen)



Sapporo Art Exhibit: Takeshi Sato

札幌美術展 佐藤武

This exposition takes an overall look at the work of Takeshi Sato, originally from Chitose, Hokkaido. It is a multi-media presentation of art, photography and poetry that attempts to view the world through the eyes of this multi-talented artist.

Date: Until January 10, 2022 (, Holiday)

Time: 9:45-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)

Place: Sapporo Art Museum (Geijutsu-no-mori, Minami-ku, 2-chome 75-banchi, Sapporo)

Admission: General ¥1,000(¥800), High School and College Students ¥700(¥560), Elementary and Middle School Students ¥400(¥320) *Prices in parentheses are for groups of 20+ or pre-sale

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide, Ticket Port (in Sapporo Parco), Kyobun Playguide, Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center, Sapporo Art Museum

For further information, contact: 011-591-0090 (Sapporo Art Museum), <https://artpark.or.jp/>



The World of Tomino Yoshiyuki: A Retrospective of Legendary Director—Gundam, Ideon, and Now

富野由悠季の世界—ガンダム、イデオン、そして今

Regarded as a giant in the world of anime, this exhibit delves into the outstanding direction of Tomino Yoshiyuki, and his ability to create stories that have spanned a career of over 55 years.

Date: Until January 23, 2022 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)

Place: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo, Nishi 17-chome, Sapporo)

Admission: General ¥1,500(¥1,300), High School and College Students ¥1,000(800), Elementary and Middle School Students ¥700(¥500) *Prices in parentheses are for pre-sale

Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12170), Seven Ticket (090-317), Ticket Pia (P-code: 685-701), Doshin Playguide, Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art

For further information, contact: 011-232-1373 on weekdays, 10:00-17:00 (HBC), <https://www.hbc.co.jp/event/tomino>



Creative Opera Mix Vol. 3—MASTERPIECES

Get a taste of the latest on Sapporo's cultural scene at this event where opera singers, dancers, DJ's and band men come together for a mesmerizing fusion of the senses. Blending famous songs from the various genres of jazz, metal, pop, and classical, there is bound to be something for everyone to enjoy!

Date: 2022/1/23 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 14:00, Starts 15:00

Place: Sapporo Cultural Arts Theater hitaru (Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo Nishi 1-chome, Sapporo)

Admission: General ¥3,000(¥2,500), Under 25 ¥1,500(¥1,000) *Prices in parenthesis are for pre-sale

Ticket Office: Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center, Doshin Playguide (0570-00-3871), Ticket Pia (P-code: 200-390), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11721)

For further information, contact: 011-271-1950 on closing days, 9:00-17:00 (Sapporo Community Plaza)

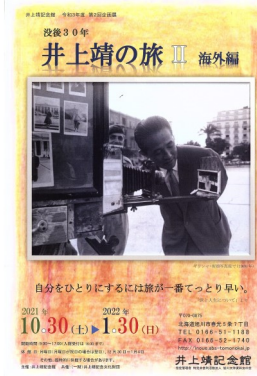


Yasushi Inoue's Travels II: Overseas

没後30年 井上靖の旅II 海外編

After establishing himself in the literary world, there wasn't a single month where Yasushi Inoue didn't find himself traveling for lectures and interviews. Based around the works he produced around that period, this year's exhibition will focus on his travels in the West.

Date: Until 01/30 (Sunday)
 Time: 9:00-17:00, Closed: 2021/12/30-2022/1/4
 Place: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)
 Admission: General ¥300, High School student ¥150, Middle School and under FREE
 Ticket Office: Yasushi Memorial Hall
 For further information, contact: 0166-41-1188 (Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall)



Masterpiece of Chairs: Oda Collection at Station Gallery

マスターピースオブチェアーズ展 —織田コレクションから—

This exhibit presents a truly unique selection of furniture from all around the world, many of which are not only original but the only one of its kind ever made! Driven to display the allure of design and how these pieces have left their mark in the field, this display allows the visitor to discover the exceptional world of chairs.

Date: Until February 20, 2022 (Sunday)
 Time: 10:30-18:30 (Entry ends at 18:15), Closed: Sundays, Mondays (The following day if Monday is a holiday) and 2021/12/30-2022/1/4
 Place: Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture in Honor of Teijiro Nakahara (Miyashita-dori 8-chome)
 Admission: FREE
 For further information, contact: 0166-46-6277 (Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture)

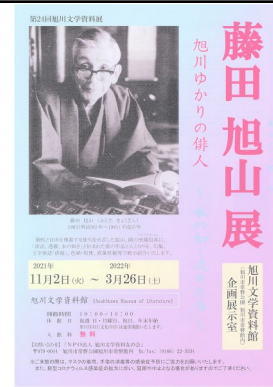


Kyokuzan Fujita: Asahikawa's Very Own Haiku Poet, "As calm as water"

藤田旭山展 旭川ゆかりの俳人 ～水の如く淡々たる～

This exposition looks back on the life and work of Kyokuzan Fujita, a haiku poet that strived to always write poetry that respects both freedom and individuality. Introduce yourself not only to his published collections, but the original manuscripts written by his own hand.

Date: Until March 26, 2022 (Saturday)
 Time: 10:00-16:00, Closed: Mondays, Holidays, and during New Year's
 Place: Asahikawa Museum of Literature (Inside Tokiwa Park)
 Admission: FREE
 For further information, contact: 0166-22-3334 (Tokiwa Kan)



Paintings by the KANDA Brothers: KAZUAKI and NISSHO

神田一明、日勝展

Brothers Kazuaki and Nissho Kanda began their art journeys from a young age, even learning and teaching each other along the way. This exhibit is centered around the works representative of both artists and the different paths they took, intending to demonstrate the constant rapport between the two in life and in their art.

Date: Until March 13, 2022 (Sunday)
 Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (except 1/10), 2021/12/29-2022/1/3, 1/11 (Tuesday)
 Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)
 Admission: General ¥800(¥600), High School and College Students ¥500(¥400), Elementary and Middle School Students ¥300(¥200) *Prices in parentheses are for groups of 10+ or pre-sale
 Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art
 For further information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



January Events in Asahikawa

明けまして
おめでと
うございます



旭川での生活
Life in Asahikawa

"AKEMASHITE OMEDETOU GOZAIMASU!" That phrase in Japanese means, "A new dawn has broken. It is truly an auspicious matter," or simply put, "Happy New Year!" I sincerely hope for a truly happy New Year in 2022, for a year free of any fear of the pandemic, terrorism, or violence; a year free of climate abnormality, natural disasters, worsening global warming, and threats on world peace; and a year free of international strain, troubles, poverty, disparity, inflation, and deflation.

The new year starts with the completion of 108 rings of big bells, or the so-called *joya no kane*, at Buddhist temples on the last night of the year. Each ring is said to represent one of the 108 human defilements, which are carried away by the ringing into the infinite cosmos when a person hears them. The defilements, as the Buddha preached, must be renounced to reach the stage of ultimate peace that is the essence of Zen. When we hear the big bells ring, we believe our evil and wicked thoughts are taken away so that good ones may come along with the New Year. The renewal of the year corresponds to the improvement of the world. People believe that the reshuffling of everything in the past year leads to new and better things in the coming New Year. These days, what people wear during New Year's changes year by year. Traditional clothing is disappearing as people's lifestyles change with the times.

However, as the first day of the New Year dawns, people still celebrate and greet each other with the words, "Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!" or "Happy New Year!"

The first meal of the New Year begins with a sweet and fragrant *saké*, called *o-toso*, which contains extracts from several kinds of herbs that are said to promote longevity.

O-toso is served from a special Japanese pot that is elaborately lacquered. The cup from which you drink *o-toso* is also elaborately made. Then, we eat a special dish called *o-zoni*, which contains *mochi*, or rice cakes in a vegetable soup. Many people, regardless of their beliefs (Buddhist, Christian, atheist, etc.), go to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples for their first prayer in the New Year, called *hatsu-mode*. At the shrine, we pray to all the gods and perform a ritual consisting of a bow, two claps, and a prayer, reciting in our hearts:

May Ye purify exorcise evil things.

May Ye purify our hearts.

May Ye defend from harm.

May Ye bring us happiness.

AIC: Hello, could you please tell us about yourself and where your from?

Gabby: My name is Gabrielle Ingham but everyone calls me Gabby. I am from Brighton, which is a seaside resort on the south coast of England.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Gabby: I studied English at university and then did some teaching when I lived in Greece after graduating. I enjoyed teaching so I decided to look for a job further afield. There were many jobs available in English schools in Japan at that time, so I applied and got a job without knowing anything much about Japan! I thought I would only stay a year but I'm still here!

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long have you been in Japan?

Gabby: I've been here on and off for about 25 years!

AIC: Why Asahikawa in particular?

Gabby: I moved to Asahikawa after I met my husband, who was born here. Also, I love the winter landscape and don't like big cities!

AIC: What kind of work do you do?



Name: Gabby Ingham
Home Country: England
Interviewed: 2021/12/22

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

Hello, Asahikawa!

Gabby: I teach English at a high school, two universities, and various other places.

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

Gabby: My hobbies used to be singing in a chorus and going to tea ceremonies, but thanks to COVID, they haven't happened for about two years! I used to love wearing a kimono and going to festivals, but they've been cancelled, too. I also love going to cafés, cycling, camping, onsen, snowboarding, and skiing.

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Gabby: I love most Japanese food! My favorites are tempura soba, okonomiyaki, sushi, and yakiniku.

AIC: Any places you would recommend to others?

Gabby: I like driving around Asahikawa; the Horokanai area, Toma, Higashikawa, Tenninryo/Asahidake Onsen, even going to the beach around Tomamae! In Asahikawa, I recommend Café Asahiso, Café Chater, Belize Restaurant, and Deus Café.

AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa and how does it compare to your hometown?

Gabby: Asahikawa is about the same size as my hometown population-wise, but the similarities end there. My hometown is only an hour away from London, so it feels very cosmopolitan and is packed with people coming to the beach in the summer months. Asahikawa was just becoming more international, with increasing number of tourists, when COVID hit and closed all the borders to travelers, which is a real shame. I feel it was just opening up and becoming exciting to live/work here and now it feels quite isolated

Hello, Asahikawa! Cont.

AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations or challenges you have encountered thus far?

Gabby: My main frustrations are COVID-related, like a lot of people! Living in Hokkaido makes traveling back home very difficult now, as we have to quarantine for the full two weeks in accommodations in Tokyo before being able to take a domestic flight back up here. This is very hard financially and to take time off work for so long, but people living in Honshu can quarantine at home. I used to love being up here but now I feel living on the remote northern island has its own unique challenges. Also, I love winter but I find driving very dangerous and scary. Sorry if you're stuck behind me driving really slowly in the coming months!

AIC: Do you have any goals or things you are look-

ing forward to doing here?

Gabby: I have been here a long time so I've accomplished many things already. I want to stay motivated and try to be the best teacher I can, constantly refreshing my outlook. I'd like to modernize my life with technology, as I am quite old-fashioned in my methods. Also, I'm trying to bring up my child to be active, considerate, academic and as international as possible!

AIC: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?

Gabby: Thank you for reading! Please continue to be interested and kind towards all the foreign community and treat each of us as individuals. Asahikawa is a very welcoming and safe city, which is why so many of us have enjoyed living here for such a long time. I actually

Movies - January

**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 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.

<p>★ Dinos Cinemas: Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218 URL: http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/ (Japanese)</p>	
<p>Now Showing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese) ● Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime) ● The King's Man (English) ● Boss Baby Family Business (English) ● Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese) ● The Matrix Resurrections (English) ● Last Night in Soho (English) ● Your Turn to Kill (Japanese) ● Mankai Movie "A3!" Spring & Summer (Japanese) ● Venom: Let There be Carnage (English) ● Encanto (English/Anime) ● The Mole Song the Final (Japanese) ● Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese/Anime) 	<p>Coming Soon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Marksman (English) 1/7 ● Spider-Man: No Way Home (English) 1/7 ● The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14 ● Cry Macho (English) 1/14 ● Deliver Us from Evil (Korean/PG12) 1/21 ● The End of the Pale Hour (Japanese) 1/21 ● Noise (Japanese) 1/28 ● Kagawa 1ku (Japanese) 1/28 ● Success Sou: Shinryakusha S to Nishi Ogikubo no Kiseki (Japanese) 1/28 ● The 355 (English/PG12) 2/4 ● Daikajiu no Atoshimatsu (Japanese) 2/4 ● West Side Story (English) 2/11 ● Usogui (Japanese) 2/11

***Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation de-**

Movies - January

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Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 – 74 – 6411 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)
- The King's Man (English)
- Boss Baby Family Business (English)
- The Matrix Resurrections (English)
- Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese)
- Your Turn to Kill (Japanese)
- Venom: Let There be Carnage (English)
- Encanto (English/Anime)
- Sumikko Gurashi: A Magical Child of the Blue Moonlit Night (Japanese/Anime)
- What Did You Eat Yesterday? (Japanese)
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Spider-Man: No Way Home (English) 1/7
- The Sunday Runoff (Japanese) 1/7
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14
- Cry Macho (English) 1/14
- House of Gucci (English) 1/14
- Waiting for Rain (Korean) 1/21
- CODA (English/PG12) 1/21
- Noise (Japanese) 1/28
- Adam's Family 2 (English/Anime) 1/28
- The Deer King (Japanese/Anime) 2/4
- Ghostbusters: Afterlife (English) 2/4
- Daikajju no Atoshimatsu (Japanese) 2/4
- Westside Story (English) 2/11
- Usogui (Japanese) 2/11
- Goodbye, Don Gleees! (Japanese/Anime) 2/18

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

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

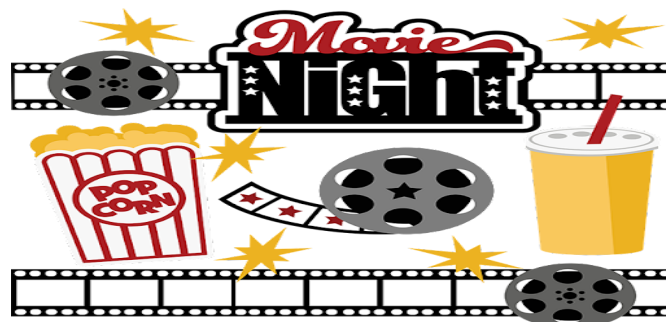
Now Showing

- 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)
- The King's Man (English/PG12)
- Boss Baby Family Business (English)
- Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese)
- The Matrix Resurrections (English 4DX)
- Your Turn to Kill (Japanese)
- Venom: Let There be Carnage (English 4DX)
- Encanto (English/Anime)
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Spider-Man: No Way Home (English 4DX) 1/7
- House of Gucci (English/PG12) 1/14
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14
- The Midnight Maiden War (Japanese) 1/21
- Tiger & Bunny –The Beginning- (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 1/21
- The French Dispatch of the Liberty, Kansas Evening Sun (English) 1/28
- Noise (Japanese) 1/28
- Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City (English/PG12) 1/28
- Ghostbusters: Afterlife (English) 2/4
- Daikajju no Atoshimatsu (Japanese) 2/4
- Tiger & Bunny –The Rising- (Japanese/Anime) 2/4
- The 355 (English/PG12) 2/4
- West Side Story (English) 2/11
- Usogui (Japanese) 2/11

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AIC Bulletin Board

Calling All Writers!

If you would like to contribute to the dissemination of local information, or simply share a story with the English-speaking community in Asahikawa, we would love to hear your voice! We are open to suggestions for new articles and will accept periodical submissions, so there is no need to commit to a monthly article. Why not join the Asahikawa Info team and let your voice be heard? If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact the AIC at the e-mail address listed below. Also, if you have any suggestions as to what kind of information should be included in the only English language periodical in Asahikawa, please let us know!

Japanese for Daily Life

If you've been looking for a way to improve your day-to-day Japanese skills, then look no further! The Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese government has created a free Japanese-learning website for foreigners living in Japan! It covers 3 levels of Japanese used everyday life with topics such as "Using the Bank," "Using Public Transportation," "Using a Pharmacy" and many more! The website has also been translated into 9 different languages to help facilitate learning! You can access it through here:

tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/?lang_id=JA



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!

FUN FRIDAYS!

Dates: January 14th & 28th, February 10th & 25th, March 11th & 25th
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



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use and is free of charge. 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 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
Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031
Tel: (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924
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