

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



October 2021
Compiled by AIC

Kabutomushi House is open in Imakane Town 8/20

You can see kabutomushi, Japanese rhinoceros beetles, up close and even touch them at the Kabutomushi House in Imakane Town. The cold winter in Hokkaido makes it difficult for the beetles to breed. However, breeding in driftwood on riverbank has been seen in the town. Bringing those woods and surrounding soil to the house made it possible for beetles to emerge.

Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Memorial Museum will go under reconstruction 9/10

Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Memorial Museum, private museum showcasing Ainu culture, will go under reconstruction due to deterioration of the building. The museum will be built on adjoining land and plans open in July 2023.

A house you can experience Ainu culture will open in Shiraai Town next year 9/17

UKAJI Shizue, a poet and a textile artist using old materials, will be moving to a house in Shiraai Town. She hopes the house will be a hub for people to think and have an open and honest talk about what Ainu is.

Sapporo snow festival cancels its annual snow sculpture contest again 9/21

With no end to the coronavirus pandemic in sight, the Sapporo snow festival executive committee called off all the events at Tsudome site and snow sculpture contests. Small and medium sized snow sculptures may be seen at the Odori Park and Susukino sites, however, details will be decided later this year.

Kamikawa Taisetsu Sake Brewery at the Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine unveiled "Hekiun", a sake made by students 9/21

A sake brewery "Hekiungura," which is the only sake brewery built in university premises in Japan, unveiled sake made by students, under the guidance of KAWABATA visiting professor, a chief brewer.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(KAMIMAE Ayumi or SAITO Emmy)

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

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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※ Due to the ongoing
outbreak of COVID-19, events
will not be listed this month.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Ma jie
Home Country: China
Interviewed: 9/4/2021

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: So Ma jie, where are you from?

Ma jie: I'm from the province of Shandong in China.

AIC: Can you tell me more about Shandong?

Ma jie: There are a lot more people in Shandong than there are in Asahikawa. There are also more places to shop. It's completely different.

AIC: Does Shandong get a lot of tourism?

Ma jie: Yes, we get a lot of tourists. There are 72 famous springs in my city (Jinan). Tourists come from all over to get water from the springs. The water is very clean, so you can drink it straight from the springs. The locals usually bring bottles to get water from the springs and use it to cook rice. Speaking of which, the produce in Shandong is very good.

AIC: What kind of produce is Shandong known for?

Ma jie: Green onions. Shandong has really tall green onions. People use them to make dumplings with meat, they use them in *ramen*, and they export them.

AIC: So, what brings you to Japan?

Ma jie: When I was in middle school, I studied about Nagoya in one of my textbooks at school. I thought Nagoya was such a fascinating place. So, I decided that when I got older I would definitely go visit.

AIC: How did you end up in Asahikawa?

Ma jie: Well, at first I was in Sendai. After I graduated from my university in Sendai, I came to Asahikawa for work. Before I graduated, I really wanted to go to Hokkaido. The scenery here is so beautiful, isn't it? I'm also looking forward to the winter here. It will be my first time experiencing Hokkaido's winter season.

AIC: I hope you're prepared! So, what do you do for work?

Ma jie: I work for MODA. It's a pretty big company in Asahikawa. I make invoices for imports, and I make adjustments to the export schedule. That about sums up what I do.



- AIC:** **How long have you been living in Asahikawa?**
Ma jie: For about four months. I came here in April right after winter ended. In total, I've been living in Japan for about six years. I feel like I've gotten used to life in Japan. Chinese culture and Japanese culture is very different, so there were a lot of things that were hard to get used to when I first got here.
- AIC:** **What was difficult for you to get used to?**
Ma jie: At first, I didn't know what Japanese people were thinking. The culture is so different. In China, you say what you want to say, but in Japan, people are more reserved.
- AIC:** **What do you like to do in your free time?**
Ma jie: I like outdoor activities like jogging and tennis, and I like cooking food. I also like making Chinese food on weekends. Most of the food I make is Chinese food.
- AIC:** **Is it difficult to get certain Chinese ingredients here?**
Ma jie: Ever since coming here, I have noticed that it is a little difficult to find certain things compared to when I lived in Sendai. Don Kihote usually sells Chinese spices and sauces, so I like to go there.
- AIC:** **I didn't know they sold international foods there! Have you travelled anywhere in Hokkaido yet?**
Ma jie: I've been to Asahidake. It was so beautiful. That was the first trip I went on in Hokkaido. The scenery was amazing. Asahidake is a volcano, right? I've never been so close to one. It was incredible.
- AIC:** **Asahidake really is an amazing place to visit. So, how does life in Japan compare to life in your home country?**
Ma jie: Japan is very peaceful, and Japanese people are very polite. They are very helpful. While living in Japan, I have felt like I can achieve whatever I want to. In China, I felt a lot of stress. People pay close attention to what choices you make, and compare you to other people. People are very competitive in Chinese society. In Japan, it's not like that. It's much more comfortable living here, and you can do what you really want to do.
- AIC:** **What are some of the most noticeable cultural differences between your home country and Japan?**
Ma jie: There is a big culture gap. I feel like Japanese people are too quiet sometimes. They tend not to show emotions or feelings, so it's hard to tell what they are thinking. This is a big difference. Another difference is that cities in Japan are a lot cleaner than in China. No matter where you go, they are all fairly quiet—especially Asahikawa.
- AIC:** **What do you like about living in Asahikawa?**
Ma jie: I love the nature here—the scenery is so beautiful. Almost every weekend, I go out on my bike and head to various places. I love going to see the scenery in the countryside. I feel like I can truly relax. I also like going to unattended sales shops. They are shops, but inside there are no people. There are actually two near where I live. They sell vegetables and many other things. The vegetables in Asahikawa are so fresh and delicious. I think that's a wonderful thing about Asahikawa. What I also really like is that the people here are very kind. The people in Sendai were kind, but the people in Asahikawa are even more kind. Especially at work. I'm new at work, so my coworkers have helped me out quite a bit. I think Asahikawa is a very livable city, but it would be nice if there were more people.



AIC: **Do you like Japanese food?**

Ma jie: I like Japanese food. Especially *karaage*. Right now I mostly make all my own food, but when I first came here I wanted to try as much Japanese food as I could. The supermarkets here have a lot of tasty looking *bento* all lined up. During my first year in Japan, I bought many different types of *bento*, *tsukemono*, and *nimono*. My favorite food right now is probably Japanese *ramen*. Although there are many different types of Chinese *ramen*, the way they make *ramen* in Japan is totally unique, and I think it tastes amazing. Sadly because of the coronavirus, I haven't been going out to eat. I've only had *ramen* once since I came to Asahikawa.

AIC: **What are some differences between Japanese and Chinese food?**

Ma jie: I like spicy food quite a bit. There are people here that love spicy food, but most people just like a little bit of spice. Are you familiar with *gyoza*?

AIC: **Yes, I am.**

Ma jie: In China, people eat *gyoza* by boiling them, but in Japan, most people fry them. In my hometown, pretty much everyone eats them by boiling them. Also, most people make *gyoza* at home in China.

AIC: **I've heard that from one of my Chinese friends. The whole family will get together on Chinese New Year and make *gyoza*. It sounds like a lot of fun!**

Ma jie: That's right!

AIC: **How long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?**

Ma jie: There are times when I think I would like to live here for a while, but I don't know how long I will be here for work. I would like to live here over the long term, but I'm still young, and there are many things I would like to experience. If a good opportunity comes across my path, I might want to move somewhere else. To sum it up, I'm not sure at the moment. I do like Asahikawa, but when I think about my future in terms of work, I'm not sure if it makes sense to stay here.

AIC: **Do you miss anything about life back in China?**

Ma jie: Everything (*laughs*). I've been living in Japan for quite a while, so I've become familiar with Japanese culture. I miss my country. I want to experience my culture again, and I feel like I lost myself after I came to Japan. I think I'm more Japanese now (*laughs*). In my country, I can say what I really want to say at work, for instance. In Japan, I can't. The people here are very kind and nice, but it's different. I don't want to lose myself. Before the coronavirus outbreak I used to go back home once a year, but now that's impossible. Whenever I went home, I felt like I was going crazy. I was more used to living in Japan, and because of that, there were aspects of Chinese culture I couldn't get used to anymore. I want to go back home and experience the culture of my country again. I want to see my friends, my family, eat Chinese food, and be in that environment. I want to go back to visit, but I want to live in Japan. If I think about my own needs, I think I'm more suited to living in Japan. It's more peaceful here than in China.

AIC: **I hope you will be able to go home sometime soon! Thank you so much for participating!**

Ma jie: Thank you very much!



★ Movies ~ 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 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.

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

Now Showing

- My Daddy (Japanese)
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt1 (Japanese/Anime)
- Reminiscence (English/PG12)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)
- Okaasan to Issho: Escape from the Strange World (Japanese)
- Ryoma! The Prince of Tennis (Japanese/Anime)
- The Woman of S.R.I (Japanese)
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English)
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- The Method of Repulsing the Dove (Japanese)
- Last of the Wolves (Japanese)
- Kaguya-sama: Love is War the Final (Japanese)
- My Hero Academia: World Heroes' Mission (Japanese/Anime)
- Belle (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- No Time To Die (English) 10/1
- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- Wrath of Man (English) 10/8
- Pity (Greek) 10/8
- Child of Kamiari Month (Japanese/Anime) 10/8
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Lupin's Daughter (Japanese) 10/15
- Dune (English) 10/15
- Otoppe: Papa Don't Cry (Japanese/Anime) 10/15
- Ron's Gone Wrong (English/Anime) 10/22
- Cube (Japanese) 10/22
- Sing a Bit of Harmony (Japanese/Anime) 10/29
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese) 10/29
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese) 10/30
- What Did You Eat Yesterday? (Japanese) 11/3

★ **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

- First Gentleman (Japanese)
- Kuhaku (Japanese/PG12)
- Minamata (English)
- The Courier (English)
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt1 (Japanese/Anime)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)
- Reminiscence (English/PG12)
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English)
- My Hero Academia: World Heroes' Mission (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- Fast and Furious 9 (English)

Coming Soon

- No Time To Die (English) 10/1
- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It (English R15+) 10/1
- The Laws of the Universe: Elohim Chapter (Japanese) 10/8
- Girls und Panzer das Finale: Part3 (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 10/8
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Lupin's Daughter (Japanese) 10/15
- Dune (English) 10/15
- The Last Duel (English) 10/15
- Cube (Japanese) 10/22
- Ron's Gone Wrong (English/Anime) 10/22
- Snake Eyes: G.I. Joe Origins (English) 10/22
- Tropical-Rouge! Pretty Cure: The Snow Princess and the Miraculous Ring! (Japanese/Anime) 10/23
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese) 10/29
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese) 10/30
- What Did You Eat Yesterday? (Japanese) 11/3
- Eternals (English) 11/5

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 - 21 - 1218 URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- First Gentleman (Japanese)
- White Snake (Japanese)
- Reminiscence (English/PG12)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)
- Drive My Car (Japanese)
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English)
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- The Method of Repulsing the Dove (Japanese)
- Last of the Wolves (Japanese/R15+)
- Kaguya-sama: Love is War the Final (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime)
- Belle (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers (Japanese/PG12)

Coming Soon

- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- No Time To Die (English) 10/1
- Blithe Spirit (English) 10/1~14
- Summer of Soul (English) 10/1~14
- The Sound of Grass (Japanese) 10/8
- The Laws of the Universe: Elohim Chapter (Japanese) 10/8
- Lupin's Daughter (Japanese) 10/15
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Dune (English) 10/15
- The Last Duel (English) 10/15
- Candyman (English) 10/15
- Cube (Japanese) 10/22
- Ron's Gone Wrong (English/Anime) 10/22
- The Mauritanian (English) 10/29
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese) 10/29
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese) 10/30
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese/Anime) 10/30

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

Language Courses at AIC

Foreign Language Courses: Beginner (8 Classes)

Language	Dates	Teachers
Korean	Every Tuesday starting 11/16	KIM Michie
Chinese	Every Wednesday starting 11/17	TSUYAMA Noboru
Russian	Every Thursday starting 11/18	SUZUKI Momoko

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 Sunday starting 10/17

Intermediate: Every Sunday starting 10/17

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: October 8th & 22nd, November 12th & 26th, December 10th & 24th

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

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924

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 Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****