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### For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)  
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or MABILANGAN John)

### 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

**Email:** cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

## Hokkaido News Top 5

*July 2023 - August 2023, compiled by the AIC*

### **Hokkaido Locals and Visitors Learn about Food and Life at Kamikawa(7/20)**

Participants both local and visitors from their teens to their 60s participate in an adult program called "KAMIKAWA Ryuugaku" to learn about produce such as glutinous rice and soybean production. Throughout the program, they traveled to fields and plantations to learn the processes involved in food production from harvesting and producing to how the products are sold in the supermarket. Participants eventually developed a fascination and appreciation for food production and life itself during their course.

### **Sapporo Maruyama Zoo's Asian Elephant "Pearl" is Predicted to give Birth within a Month (8/2)**

Sapporo Maruyama Zoo is expecting a brand new baby elephant coming soon. The Asian elephant "Pearl" was observed doing peculiar movements from the way she sits and walks. Using these indicators, the zoo has concluded that Pearl seems to be doing contraction-like movements which could be a potential sign that the pregnant elephant mother may be due to give birth shortly. If all goes well, the elephant's birth would be considered the first to ever take place within all of Hokkaido.

### **Challenges in Elderly, Mentally Disabled, Low-income Housing (8/9)**

Asahikawa city is currently facing challenges in providing consultation for citizens struggling to get housing. The elderly, as well as the mentally-disabled and low-income residents are often rejected leasing contracts due to concerns of overdue rent payments, renter's death, or potential trouble that the neighborhood may face if such applicants were to be granted housing. Currently, various departments of the city are all discussing potential solutions such as offering additional welfare, living support, funeral services to resolve the current concerns with the housing applicants.

### **Asahikawa Shines in 5 Arenas: Fierce Competition among Kamikawa's 2 Cities and 4 Towns (8/17)**

Since it 1987, it has been 36 years since the last Interhigh was held at Hokkaido. From late July to mid August, high school students from 2 cities and 4 towns including Asahikawa fought in 5 competitions from Men's Soccer to Shaoling Temple Boxing. As the nation's strongest high school athletes gather in Asahikawa for interhigh, Asahikawa's representing student athletes receive an overwhelming amount of support from their friends and families right from their home.

### **2 Asahikawa Firefighter Teams Head Towards Nationals with Their Rescue Techniques (8/21)**

Asahikawa sends 2 teams, 9 total members of its firefighting force to represent Hokkaido on the 51st National Fire Rescue Competition. The teams will participate in 2 competitions: "Rope Bridge Rescue" and "Barrier Breakthrough". In the competition for the Rope Bridge Rescue, participants will use a 20 meter rope to cross buildings to complete a rescue mission. As for the "Barrier Breakthrough" portion, contestants will go through an obstacle course equipped with 3-7 meter obstacles to complete their rescue. Despite being eliminated from last year's qualifying rounds, this year the representatives of Asahikawa's Fire Department hope to show their potential on the national stage.

**Read the latest issue of Asahikawa Info and get to know the AIC on our website:**

**<http://asahikawaaic.jp/en/>**

## Sapporo Autumn Fest

さっぽろオータムフェスト

*Celebrate the arrival of fall at Sapporo during their Autumn Fest! Taste the many local delicacies and restaurants of the northern island all gathered in Sapporo for this grand food festival.*

### Event Details

**Date:** 9/9/2023~9/30/2023

**Location:** Odori Park (West Odori from 4 chome to 11 chome, Sapporo)

**Admission:** FREE

**Inquiries:** 011-281-6400 (Sapporo Tourism Department),  
011-222-4894 (Sapporo City Call Center)



## Swing Jazz Orchestra (A ♭)

スウィングジャズオーケストラ・アーフラッツ(A ♭)

*The locally beloved A-Flats returns with a spectacular performance this coming 9/10 with special guest Sugimoto Atsuhiko!*

### Event Details

**Date:** 9/10 (Sunday)

**Time:** Entry begins at 5:00, Performance begins at 5:30

**Location:** Asahikawa Public Hall (Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** ¥1,500 (Open Seating)

**Ticket Office :** Gyokkodo (Aeon Mall near Asahikawa Station)

Coach & Four Music Corner (2-jo, 2-Chome 4-1, Asahikawa)

Fukido (Toyooka & Suehiro Stores), Arabigo Coffee (Kaimono Koen Shopping Street)

**Inquiries :** 0166-23-5048



## Northern Blessings: Tabo Marche - Indulge in Hokkaido's Culinary Treasures

北の恵み、食べマルシェ(2023年度)

*Join us for a gastronomic adventure celebrating Hokkaido's finest cuisines and local delicacies, all brought together in the heart of Asahikawa!*

### Event Details:

**Date:** 9/16 (Saturday) to 9/18(Monday)

### Time:

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Location:** Stretched across 1.7km from Asahikawa Station to Tokiwa Park

(Heiwa-dori Street to 7-jo Ryukodo (Greenway))

**Admission:** FREE



## Minami Satsuma's Sand Sculpting Festival Debriefing : Northern Blessings, Tabo Marche

砂像制作報告会 in 食べマルシェ

*The Sand Sculpting Team of the Sister City Minami Satsuma, Kagoshima Prefecture debriefs us on their renown Sand Festival. Learn all about the different sand sculptures and the profound experiences of the Sand Sculpting Team!*

### Event Details

**Date:** 9/17(Sunday)

**Time:** 14:45~15:15

**Location:** In front of Asahikawa Station Plaza Venue (Miyashita-dori, 8-chome, Asahikawa)

**Admission:** FREE

### For Information and Queries:

Asahikawa International/City Relations Division

Tel :0166-25-7491 Email : toshikoryu@city.asahikawa.lg.jp



## LETERRA AMOROSA: Italian Baroque

恋心の言葉: イタリアンバロック

Experience the enchanting world of 17th and 18th-century Italian Baroque music as we present the mesmerizing masterpiece, "Ombra Mai Fu". Let the melodies of the lute transport you to a bygone era of musical elegance.

### Event Details:

**Date:** 9/18 (Monday)

**Time:** Entry starts at 13:30; Performance begins at 14:00

**Location:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall,  
Asahikawa (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome 1-45, Asahikawa)

**Admission:** General: ¥3,500 (Hall Mate Members enjoy a 10% discount)

Name-Class Handicap Certificate Holders: ¥2,000

Elementary School to High School Students: ¥2,000

### Ticket Information and Reservations:

For ticket reservations or more information, please contact:

(0166)69-2000 (Taisetsu Crystal Hall)

**Tickets Available at:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall

Asahikawa Civic Community Center Office (0166)25-7331

(7-jodori St,9-chome,Asahikawa)



## Takehisa Yumeji Exhibition: A Dream Trip to Europe and America

竹久夢二の展示会: 憧れの欧米への旅

This exhibition will be based around the work of Yumeji Takehisa, a renown artist from the late Meiji and to early Showa era known for his unique illustrations and designs for books and magazines. .

### Event Details

**Date:** From 9/23 (Saturday) until 11/19 (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30; Closed on Mondays)

**Location:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park, Asahikawa, Hokkaido 070-0044)

**Admission:** Adults: ¥1,000(¥800), High school and University students: ¥600 (¥400), Junior high school ,Elementary school students: free

**Inquiries:** 0166-25-2577 ( Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## Yamanaka Noriko Piano Recital No.12

第12回 山中典子ピアノレサイタル

Listen to the sounds of Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, & Chopin through the spirited performance of Noriko Yamanaka!

### Event Details

**Date:** 9/29 (Friday)

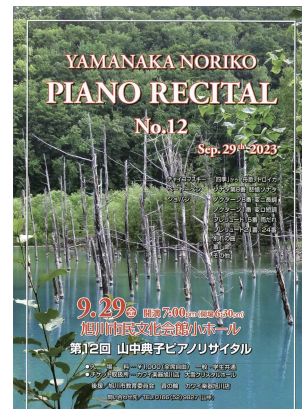
**Time:** Entry starts at 18:30, Performance begins at 19:00

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

**Admission:** ¥1,000 (Open Seating)

**Ticket Office:** Kawai Music Store, Taisetsu Crystal Hall

**Inquiries:** 0166-52-9827 (Noriko Yamanaka)



## Kyiv Classic Ballet : Swan Lake

キーウ・クラシック・バレエ: 白鳥の湖

Directly from Kyviv, Ukraine comes the world renown Kyviv Classic Ballet. White, black, good, & evil; witness the powerful contrast and the majesty of Kyviv Classical Ballet.

**Date :** 9/30(Saturday)

**Time:** Entry starts at 13:30, Performance begins at 14:00

**Location:** Asahikawa Large Civic Cultural Hall (7 jo-dori, 9-Chome, Asahikawa)

### Admission:

General (S-Section) ¥4,500 , (A-Section) ¥ 3,500

Students & Handicapped (S-Section) ¥3,500, (A-Section) ¥ 2,500

**For Information and Queries :** 0166-25-7331

### Tickets Available at :

Asahikawa Civic Cultural Hall , Taisetsu Crystal Hall , Coach & Four Asahikawa's Music Center, Gyalpa Hall at Aeon Mall near Asahikawa Station





# Asahikawa Info

## Introduction

Greetings! My name is John Daniel Mabilangan and I will be new CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) for Asahikawa City's International/City Relations Divisions. I am pleased to be acquainted with all the readers of Asahikawa Info as well as all the residents and visitors of this beautiful city.

A little tid-bit about me is that I was born in Manila, Philippines and then I immigrated to the Washington-Baltimore area in the United States at 8 years old. From then on, I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland where I would eventually become a naturalized United States Citizen.

Growing up in the states as an immigrant, I learned to adapt to life in the U.S. while discovering its rich and diverse culture which I would one day make it as my own.



**Name: John Mabilangan**  
**Home Country: USA**

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](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)



***Hello,  
Asahikawa!***

## Background

During my time at college in Towson University, I studied primarily International Relations with a focus on French and Japanese language. Through my passion of language acquisitions, I was able to leverage my education to support my university's International Students & Study Abroad Office where I was able to meet study abroad students from all over the world and provide support in adapting and adjusting to American student life.

Throughout supporting international students in my home university, I was able to build many close relationships which I value today. During their short stay in Maryland, I would spend my time showing the international students around the local sites of Baltimore as well as Washington DC, Philadelphia, and New York City where we experienced the various culture and cuisines the cities had to offer.

I believe my experience as an immigrant was what ignited my passion for the language acquisition, international relations, and immigration. As an immigrant and visitor to Asahikawa, Japan, there are many experiences that I look forward to undertaking and sharing with you all.

**-John Daniel Mabilangan**

# The Capital Region and its Cherry Blossoms

By John Mabilangan



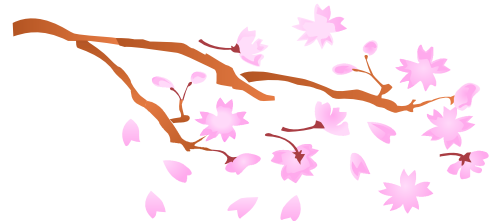
National Mall Tidal Basin in Washington D.C. during peak bloom of Cherry Blossoms (April 2022)

One of the spotlights of America would be, in my opinion, the DC-Maryland-Virginia area (DMV for short). The main parts of the DMV area is composed of the District of Columbia at the center and parts of southern Maryland and northern Virginia which are all connected by the DC Metropolitan Metro System which are a series of metro rail networks that connects the residents of this fine area.

The DMV area is full of both private and public industries from hospital and university networks to government contracting organizations. To be at the shadow of the America's central government is to be surrounded with all those that are connected to it. Living in the DMV area, there are an abundance of skilled young professionals that contribute to the vibrant urban life to the metropolitan area.

One of the greatest perks about living in the area is how walkable DC is. With the availability of trains and buses that regularly arrive on time every 10-15 minutes, DC makes it possible to live without owning a car. In addition to its pedestrian friendly streets, there are many free monuments and museums that residents and tourists can enjoy. Many of these free attractions are located at the heart of the city called "National Mall" which is an +8km stretch of land where all the monuments, museums, and many central government bodies

like the White House, the Capitol, and the Supreme Court rests.



National Mall is a tourist attraction with many students and visitors nationwide and around the world coming to visit this unique part of the city. One of the biggest attractions are the yearly cherry blossoms bloom and the Sakura Matsuri. Every late March and early April, the cherry blossoms bloom creating a very unique, exotic, and ephemeral scenery in the area which brings crowds by the thousands every year.

Shortly after the cherry blossoms have fully blossomed and passed, the annual Sakura Matsuri (also known as the Cherry Blossom Festival) begins. The festival, hosted by the Japan-America society of Washington DC, showcases Japanese culture through the various activities, stands, and exhibitions that offered each year., The festival brings together the Japanese community and the locals of DMV area, and tourists to celebrate all things Japanese culture.

## 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.

**Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only:** Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

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

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

### Now Showing

- G-Men (Japanese)
- One Last Bloom (Japanese)
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English)
- Sand Land (Japanese/Anime)
- The Boogeyman (English/PG12)
- PAW Patrol: the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Revolver Lily (Japanese)
- Minna no Uta (Japanese)
- Barbie (English, Japanese)
- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (English, Japanese)
- Elemental (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese)
- Mission:Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (Japanese)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime)
- The SuperMario Bros. Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Sweet My Home (Japanese) 9/1
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- The Forbidden Play (Japanese) 9/8
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese) 9/15
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- Alice to Therese no Maboroshi Kojo (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- A Haunting in Venice (English) 9/15
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (English) 9/22
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+) 9/22
- The Silent Service (Japanese) 9/29
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12) 9/29
- Analog (Japanese) 10/6
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese) 10/13
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese) 10/20
- Sumikko Gurashi: Tsugihagi Kojo no Fushigi na Ko (Japanese/Anime) 11/3

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



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**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

- The Meg 2: The Trench (English 4DX)
- G-Men (Japanese)
- Sand Land (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Revolver Lily (Japanese)
- Elemental (English, Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English 4DX)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- The Super Mario Bros. the Movie (English, Japanese/Anime)

## Coming Soon

- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime) 9/1
- Haunted Mansion (English, Japanese 4DX) 9/1
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- Yoru ga Oketara, Ichiban ni Kimi ni Ai ni Iku (Japanese) 9/1
- The Forbidden Play (Japanese) 9/8
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese) 9/15
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- A Haunting in Venice (English) 9/15
- Gran Turismo (English 4DX) 9/15
- Alice to Therese no Maboroshi Kojo (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+) 9/22
- The Silent Service (Japanese) 9/29
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12) 9/29
- Analog (Japanese) 10/6
- Guren Lagann the Movie: Childhood's End (Japanese/Anime) 10/6~19
- Kyrie no Uta (Japanese) 10/13
- Yutori Desu ga Nani ka International (Japanese) 10/13
- Operation Fortune: Ruse de guerre (English) 10/13
- The Nun 2 (English) 10/13
- Confess to Your Crime (Japanese) 10/20
- Guren Lagann the Movie: The Lights in the Sky are Stars (Japanese/Anime) 10/20~11/2

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

# AIC Bulletin Board

## Need Help?

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at 011-200-9595 or go to: [www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan](http://www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan)

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!

**Dates:** November 10th & 24th, September 8th and 22nd, October 13th and 27th

**Times:** 1:00pm-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)



## Fun Fridays!

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 an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. 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/sell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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

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\*\*The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AIC or the City of Asahikawa.\*\*