

Read issues of Asahikawa Info and get to know AIC at our website! <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>

## Hokkaido News Top 5

March 2019  
Compiled by AIC

### Jan 23

An increasing number of foreign tourists are getting stranded while skiing or snowboarding outside of regular trails. Last year, 53 people were rescued or required large-scale search, the highest ever recorded. One reason is that Hokkaido has become a popular destination among foreign tourists for its powder snow. Many ski resorts have put up warning signs in English, but an increasing number of tourists are coming from Asian countries as well. They are looking into alternative ways to warn people.

### Jan 24

A severe snow storm hit Hokkaido, causing serious disruption to transport systems across the region. Takinoue Town in Okhotsk Subprefecture experienced 53 cm of snowfall in 24 hours. According to the Hokkaido Railway Co., 136 train services were suspended, including 12 express services. Hakodate and Memanbetsu Airports both had to cancel flights to and from Haneda and New Chitose Airports.

### Jan 31

You can now enjoy a "drift driving experience" on the snow field at the "Hokkaido Takasu Snow Park" in Takasu Town. Similar facilities are available in Ebetsu and Iwamizawa cities, Takasu's is the first of its kind in Kamikawa Subprefecture according to the Kamikawa General Subprefectural Bureau. It's aiming to provide safe winter driving experiences to foreign tourists. You can also enjoy snowmobile and snow rafting, too.

### Feb 1

Hokkaido's active job openings-to-applicants ratio was 1.22 in December 2018 on seasonally adjusted terms, according to the Hokkaido Labor Bureau. It was the second highest ratio next to previous month's of 1.23. The construction sector is showing a shortage of workers; hence the ratio is predicted to stay at a high level for a while.

### Feb 18

Sapporo City announced the opening of the first evening classes at a public junior high school in the downtown area. It will provide important educational opportunities for those who avoided school, hikikomori, and foreigners. The city will conduct market research and will determine both the size and services they will provide this Spring. The school is set to be operational in four to five years.



**For further information or to register for events contact:**  
Asahikawa International Committee  
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, 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

### Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5 By AIC	1	Hello Asahikawa! (Scott Francis) Interviewed by AIC	7-8
Upcoming Events	2-3	Movies	8-9
Life in Asahikawa	4	Bulletin Board	10
Explore Asahikawa Creative Kitchen JADE Interviewed by AIC	5-6		

**19th I Love Cats Exhibition****第19回 猫大好き展**

Gallery “My Friend” is a relaxing space that functions as a gallery and a café where you can relax with a drink and eat a light meal. They rotate their gallery exhibition about every few weeks. Until the 10th of March, you can enjoy cat art and figures from a variety of artists! Be on the eye out for the next exhibit!



**Date:** Now until 3/10 (Sunday)

**Hours:** 11:00-19:00, exhibition is open until 15:00 on the last day.

**Venue:** Gallery “My Friend”, (Suehiro 5-jo 1-chome)

**Admission:** Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-54-0404

**Notes:** Exhibition is open every day.

**Exploring Art and the Art Museum****探検！？美術館**

Not only will you find pictures at this exhibition, but also peculiar figures like a growling cheetah and a chair that sprouted wings! After you've finished enjoying the art, head over to the craft corner and make some for your own! This is a great exhibition for children and adults alike.



**Date:** Now until 4/17 (Wednesday)

**Hours:** 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**Admission:** General ¥510 (¥400), High school and university students ¥300 (¥250). Prices in parenthesis are for groups over ten or for tickets purchased in advance. Junior high school students, those above 65 years of age, and people with disabilities carrying an identification booklet can enter for free. High school students can enter for free on Saturdays.

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577

**Notes:** Closed on Mondays.

**EOS DANCE STUDIO 3rd Recital BRAVE and LEAP****EOS DANCE STUDIO 第3回 発表会 BRAVE and LEAP**

At this special show, you'll see dances ranging from cute routines by three year-old's all the way to stunning choreographed performances by adults! The EOS DANCE STUDIO has students from all ages and skill levels, and its teachers have experience teaching dance all over Japan. At this recital, everyone will be dancing to show you a performance to remember!



**Date:** 3/10 (Sunday)

**Time:** This concert is separated into two performances. HipHop Division Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00. JAZZ Division Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30

**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (In Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General ¥2,000, Elementary school and under ¥1,000. If you visited the afternoon show, the evening show is half price.

**Ticket Office:** Visit EOS DANCE STUDIO (Toko 15-jo 5-chome), or e-mail miya@akimiya.net

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-56-8875

**Eiryo Wind Ensemble 3rd Regular Concert****永嶺高等学校吹奏楽部 第3回定期演奏会**

Eiryo High School has a phenomenal wind ensemble that has placed in the top ranks in music competitions for the prefecture. For this concert, they have invited singer/voice actor HAYAMI Kentaro and actress/voice actress YASUSHI Yurino as guests! As for their program, you will expect “Armenian Dance Part 1”, “The Three Dango Brothers”, “The Sound of Music”, and a variety of songs from famous anime!



**Date:** 3/16 (Saturday), 3/17 (Sunday)

**Time:** 3/16 Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30. 3/17 Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Admission:** “S” Seating ¥1,500, “A” Seating ¥1,300, Adult ¥1,000 (Day of ¥1,500), High school and below ¥500 (Day of ¥1,000)

**Ticket Office:** Lawson Ticket (L code: 11927), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Coach and Four, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Gyokkodo.

**For Further Information Contact:** 080-5837-4708 between the hours of 9:00 and 19:30

# ASAHIKAWA Info

## Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra 19th Regular Concert 旭川シビックウインドオーケストラ 第19回定期演奏会

This concert will feature “Paradise Has No Border” by the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, “We Are Confidence Man”, the main theme of the TV Drama “The Confidence Man”, music from the famous opera “Carmen”, and more!

**Date:** 3/21 (Thursday, Holiday)

**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥800 (Day of ¥1,000), Elementary school and under are free

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Shop



## Hokkaido Asahikawa Higashi High School Brass Band Club 21st Regular Concert 北海道旭川東高等学校吹奏楽部 第21回定期演奏会

Come see Higashi High School students perform “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral”, the theme song for the anime “Galaxy Express 999”, and “Lucky Dragon ~Remembrance of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru~”.

**Date:** 3/21 (Thursday, Holiday)

**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥500, Elementary school and under are free

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Gyokkodo, Coach and Four

**For Further Information Contact:** Chiba at 090-2695-3646 from 16:30-19:00



## 4th Annual Hokkaido Junior Orchestra Festival in Asahikawa

### 第4回北海道少年少女オーケストラフェスティバル in 旭川

This concert's junior orchestra is composed of young, talented musicians from Asahikawa, Ebetsu, Chitose, Nayoro, Muroran, Otofuke, and Iwamizawa. YOHARA Yui, currently studying abroad at the Mozarteum University Salzburg, and SHIRATO Asami, a research student at Sapporo Otani University, will be making guest appearances.

**Date:** 3/24 (Sunday)

**Time:** Opens 13:00, Starts 13:30

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥1,000 (Day of ¥1,500), Students (high school and under) ¥500. Day of purchase is the same price

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Gyokkodo, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Coach and Four, Riviere Ticket BOX, Tick-et Pia (P code: 140703)

**For Further Information Contact:** Sukenori at 090-3898-1476



## Hokkaido Asahikawa Nishi High School Brass Band Club 20th Regular Concert

### 北海道旭川西高等学校吹奏楽部 第20回定期演奏会

Students from Asahikawa Nishi High School are holding their 20th regular concert! Come out and support the students!

**Date:** 3/30 (Saturday)

**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥800, High school and junior high school ¥500, Elementary school and under are free

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop

**For Further Information Contact:** Izumi, Miyamae, or Miyakoshi at 0166-52-1215



**EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH**

# Life in Asahikawa

## The Royal Ceremony and *Ohinasama*

By KITAMURA Tadao

This month will mark the last March in the era of ‘HEISEI’. Those of you who are from foreign countries might think this is a strange way of keeping track of the current year. Last year, Emperor Akihito expressed his wish to abdicate the throne in favor of his son, Crown Prince Naruhito. The Cabinet granted His Highness’s wish and introduced the bill allowing for his abdication, and the National Diet approved the one-off bill. His abdication will take place on the last day of April 2019. Consequently, the name of the current era, HEISEI, will change the following month. The new name of the new era is kept secret in the Cabinet.

You might not find a system of naming eras in foreign countries like you can in Japan. An era designates the number of years reigned by a particular Emperor. This system originated in the age of the Han Dynasty in China (around 100 AD), but now, it no longer exists in modern China. Japan has used the “era system” since 645 AD and continues to use it today. The new era commencing with the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito will have an auspicious meaning; however, as mentioned above, it cannot be revealed yet. Nevertheless, this event will be celebrated by the whole nation. The enthronement ceremony will be an unbelievably elegant event, proceeding in accordance with guidelines for traditional rituals passed down from over a thousand years ago.

You too can experience the elegance of the Royal Court. For the ‘peach festival’, known nowadays as ‘*Hinamatsuri*’, you will see a display of dolls known as ‘*Ohinasama*’. ‘*Hinamatsuri*’, also called “Girl’s Day”, is celebrated on March 3rd. The birth of girls is celebrated and wishes are expressed for their future happiness. The ‘*Ohinasama*’ dolls are said to imitate the style of the royal court of the HEIAN period, an era taking place over a thousand years ago when the nation’s capital was located in modern Kyoto. The HEIAN period was distinguished by its flourishing court culture.

On the top level of the scarlet-carpeted and tiered stand sit ‘*Odairi-sama*’ dolls representing the Emperor and Empress. The male doll, ‘*obina*’, wears loose clothing called ‘*Ikan-Sokutai*’; formal wear for the nobility of those days. The female doll, ‘*mebina*’, wears colorful and beautiful clothing called ‘*Jyuni-hitoe*’, the neck of which is ornamented with a variety of multicolored fabrics. These dolls are incredibly beautiful, however, perhaps not as extravagant as the kings and queens of other kingdoms who are adorned in expensive items, including gold, silver, and gems.

On the second top tier are three female royal attendants, the ‘*Sannin -Kanjo*’. And on the tier below is a band of five musicians’, called the ‘*Gonin-bayashi*’. In addition, a miniature blossoming cherry tree and orange tree are essential to the display.



# Explore Asahikawa!



*In this edition we interviewed Mr. Iioka, the owner of Creative Kitchen JADE. Previously featured in our “Hello Asahikawa” interview, we are interviewing him this time as a local business owner! He has years upon years of experience as a chef and his wide repertoire of dishes is certainly impressive! Read more about Creative Kitchen JADE and Mr. Iioka’s thoughts in the interview below!*

**AIC:** **Did you think about pursuing cooking from the time you were young?**

**Mr. Iioka:** I started cooking when I was 19, but I never thought it's what I would end up doing. There was an izakaya I would occasionally go to and it was a great place to hang out. One day one of the staff said, “Well, how about working here?”, so I did, and that's how it all started.

**AIC:** **What got you interested in cooking?**

**Mr. Iioka:** I started out making izakaya food in an enormous restaurant in Tokyo. It could fit around 220 people. There were 14 people in the kitchen including myself, and I had a good time working there. That's when I started to take a liking to cooking.



**AIC:** **How did you decide on the name “JADE”?**

**Mr. Iioka:** Hisui is “jade” in English. Myanmar is a large producer of jade which is why our logo is green. I thought it would be a fitting name for a restaurant that specializes in creative cuisine, especially because I serve some Burmese food. However, it doesn't seem like many people in Asahikawa know what “JADE” means. I only realized after I had settled on the name (laughs).

**AIC:** **Can you tell me a little about your menu?**

**Mr. Iioka:** The focus is on Western-style food, but I also add in some of my own creativity to offer a variety of dishes. Also, since I was born in Myanmar, I also cook a couple Burmese dishes. I want to add a few more izakaya-style dishes to the dinner menu so that customers will be able to enjoy trying different foods. Also, this week I'll be having a grill installed in the kitchen. Now I'll be able to make grilled food on skewers. You can kind of make grilled foods using an oven, but it doesn't taste the same.



*Continued on Page 6*

# ASAHIKAWA Info



AIC:

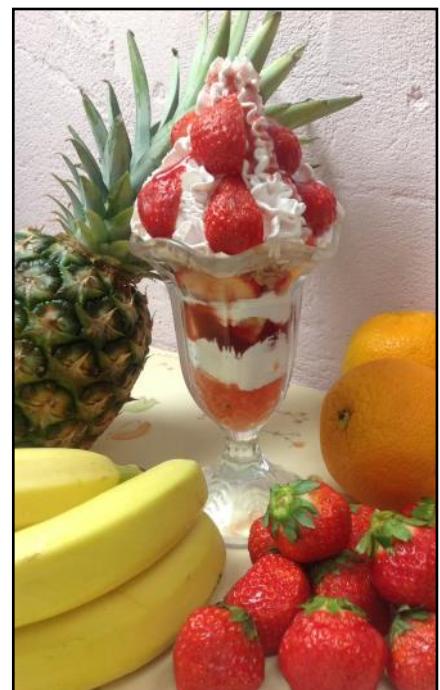
Mr. lioka:

**What dishes are most popular at JADE?**

It's hard to say. I put a lot of effort into all the dishes I cook. I avoid making dishes that don't taste good. That being said, a lot of people enjoy eating our low-cost steak. I also have a lot of confidence in my Hamburg steaks, and those are popular. The problem is, I can only make so many Hamburg steaks per day. I also have a lot of experience making pasta dishes, as I've been doing so for around 20 years.

**AIC: Could you tell us about some of the Burmese cuisine you serve here?**

**Mr. lioka:** For Burmese food, we only offer Coconut Ramen and Chicken & Rice so far. The selling point of our Coconut Ramen is the broth, rather than the noodles. I put a lot of time and effort into making the broth just right. For dinner parties, I sometimes serve popular southeast Asian dishes like satay. I don't think there are any restaurants in Hokkaido where you can eat it. The process to make satay is much more time consuming than yakitori because you have to marinate the chicken. The sauce is made up of ground peanuts and curry. The only problem is that peanuts are expensive and people don't see the time and effort that goes in to preparing the meal. They only see the overall price. The chicken isn't what makes the price go up, it's the peanut sauce. Some people say, "How can chicken on a stick be this expensive?" Of course I can make it without the peanuts or the curry and sell it for less, but it would end up being regular yakitori.



AIC:

**Do you have any aspirations or goals from here on out?**

Mr. lioka:

My goal is to make the best tasting food and sell it for as low as possible. I want to have more people come through the shop. Making money comes after; the first step is to make a lively shop. The only thing I'm thinking about is how to make the food tastier and how to drop the cost. The rest will follow.

AIC:

**Lastly, please give a message to our readers!**

Mr. lioka:

Thursday is "Steak Day", so we offer our usual ¥1,180 steak for only ¥980. It's fairly popular, so I'm thinking of doing a similar promotion on another day. We hope you come drop by and visit!



We would like to thank Mr. lioka of Creative Kitchen JADE for granting us the opportunity for an interview. Thank you for reading and be sure to visit at: 1-jo-dori 7-chome, Endless 17 Building 1F. TEL: 0166-23-2881



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Scott Francis**  
**Home Country: United States**  
**Interviewed: January 24th, 2019**

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)!

**AIC: What brings you to Japan?**

**Scott:** My wife is Japanese and we were living in New York. We had visited several times, but we decided a few years ago that we would move, so here we are! She's originally from Shizuoka, but she had family in Hokkaido when she was younger so she always wanted to come here. What brings us here is basically my wife.

**AIC: Where are you from, Scott?**

**Scott:** I'm originally from Nebraska and grew up there, went to college at the University of Nebraska and met my wife in New York when I was living there, and then we got married.

**AIC: Is there anything you like about living in Asahikawa or Japan in general?**

**Scott:** It's quiet compared to New York, but people are very friendly and polite. I like the food, and I like the snow, surprisingly. It's nice once you get used to it. That's it for Asahikawa, but I like the culture in general. It's a nice change from back home.

**AIC: How does Asahikawa compare to the United States?**

**Scott:** It's probably more similar to Nebraska than it is to New York. A little more rural and culturally people are a little more considerate here and polite. That's the big change—it's not as chaotic as New York is. Asahikawa is more laid-back.



**AIC: What do you miss about the United States?**

**Scott:** I just went back for a visit and of course I miss my friends and family, but so far I don't miss much because I can do or access here most stuff here, and the ability to communicate back home is so easy. I plan to go back once a year to visit family so I guess I don't really miss too much at the moment.

**AIC: What are some of your favorite places here in Asahikawa?**

**Scott:** Nothing in particular, but my wife and I like to try different izakaya along Kaimonokoen. We've been to some of the tourist stuff like the zoo. We also like to check out the different restaurants downtown. I want to venture out and see more of Hokkaido. I haven't seen much outside of Sapporo and Asahikawa. We went to Furano, but I want to check out the other surrounding towns.

*Continued on Page 8*

# ASAHIKAWA Info

**AIC:**  
**Scott:**

**Do you speak any other languages?**

I'm having Bert help me with my Japanese. I've been practicing and trying to learn but it's, you know, very slow-going. I spent some time in South America and I took Spanish while I was there. It's not very conversational, but I'm somewhat knowledgeable of the language. Japanese is going to be my big goal now.



**AIC:**  
**Scott:**

**Good luck! What are your hobbies?**

I'm a big baseball fan so we try to go to a couple baseball games during the summer. I also like running, hiking, and getting outside. I like to run along the river trail, but I can't do it this time of the year. In the next couple of weeks we're going to try skiing and snowboarding.

**AIC:**  
**Scott:**

**Awesome! Have you ever been?**

Yeah, I snowboard. I only do it a few times a year, like in New York. My wife skis, so we're going to go to Furano and check it out. My wife has friends there, so that's our destination spot once she gets some time off.

**AIC:**  
**Scott:**

**Last but not least, do you like karaoke?**

I do. I'm a terrible singer, but I do like to go. My wife loves it so we go do Karaoke every once in a while. I like the drinking part of it (laughs).

**AIC:**  
**Scott:**

**That wraps up this interview. Thank you!**

No problem.

## ★ *Movies ~ March* ★

\*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.aeonicinema.com/wm/asahikawa](http://cinema.aeonicinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- Alita: Battle Angel (English/PG12)
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese)
- Samurai Marathon (Japanese/PG12)
- Fortuna's Eye (Japanese)
- Torasan~Boku ga Neko ni Natta Wake (Japanese)
- Egao no Mukoni (Japanese)
- Chieri and Cherry (Japanese)
- City Hunter (Japanese/Anime)
- First Man (English)
- Aquaman (English)
- Snow Flower (Japanese)
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese)
- Mary Poppins Returns (English)
- Restaurant from the Sky (Japanese)
- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- A Banana? At This Time of Night? (Japanese)
- Ralph Breaks the Internet (English/Anime)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

### Coming Soon

- Green Book (English) 3/1
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Kugatsu no Koi to Deau Made (Japanese) 3/1
- Ultraman R/B: Select! the Crystal of Bonds (Japanese) 3/8
- Hakobiya (Japanese) 3/8
- Kazoku no Recipes (Japanese) 3/9
- You Shine in the Moonlit Night (Japanese) 3/15
- Captain Marvel (English) 3/15
- Prince of Legend (Japanese) 3/21
- L-DK: Two Lovers, Under One Roof (Japanese) 3/21
- Bumblebee (English) 3/22
- Dumbo (English/Anime) 3/29
- Shonentachi (Japanese) 3/29

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

# Movies ~ March

\*<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

- Boku no Kanojyo wa Mahotsukai (Japanese)
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese)
- Alita: Battle Angel (Japanese 4DX3D, English 2D/PG12)
- Hansekai (Japanese)
- Aquaman (Japanese 4DX3D, English 2D) 3/7
- First Man (English)
- Mary Poppins Returns (Japanese)
- Snow Flower (Japanese)
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese)
- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- Token Ranbu (Japanese)
- Love Live! Sunshine!! The School Idol Movie over the Rainbow (Japanese/Anime)
- Bohemian Rhapsody

#### Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Even If the World Ends Tomorrow (Japanese/Anime) 3/8
- Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (English 4DX) 3/8
- Rin (Japanese) 3/8
- Eiga no Osomatsusan (Japanese/Anime) 3/15
- You Shine in the Moonlit Night (Japanese) 3/15
- Captain Marvel (English 2D, 4DX) 3/15
- Pretty Cure Miracle Universe (Japanese/Anime) 3/15
- Prince of Legend (Japanese) 3/21
- Bumblebee (English) 3/22
- Dumbo (English) 3/29
- The Guilty (English) 4/5

★ **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

- Haha o Nakushita Toki, Boku wa Ikotsu o Tabetai to Omotta (Japanese)
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese)
- Alita: Battle Angel (English)
- Boku no Kanojyo wa Mahotsukai (Japanese)
- Fortuna's Eye (Japanese)
- Shoplifters (Japanese)
- Snow Flower (Japanese)
- City Hunter (Japanese/Anime)
- Aquaman (English)
- First Man (English)
- Mary Poppins Returns (English)
- The Seven Conferences (Japanese)
- 12 Children Who Want to Die (Japanese)
- Restaurant from the Sky (Japanese)
- Masquerade Hotel (Japanese)
- Fate/stay Heaven's Feel II. lost butterfly (Japanese/Anime)
- A Banana? At This Time of Night? (Japanese)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

#### Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime) 3/1
- Captain Marvel (English) 3/15
- Bumblebee (English) 3/22
- Dumbo (English/Anime) 3/29
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime) 4/1
- Kingdom (Japanese) 4/19
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime) 4/19
- Avengers: Endgame (English) 4/26

# 39th Vasaloppet Japan



この事業は、競輪の補助を受けて開催します。  
<http://hojo.keirin-autorace.or.jp>

This year marks the 39th anniversary of Vasaloppet Japan, an annual long distance cross-country ski race originating in Sweden.

Competitive races for professional skiers will take place on 3/9 (Sat) with longer distances, up to 45km, at the Tomisawa Course or the Kamuinomori Park (Check website for updates). A "Mini-Loppet" with young skiers under 9 and the casual skiing event will take place at 3/10 (Sun) on the Kitasaito Course pictured below.

On top of watching the race, you can also enjoy various activities and warm, local winter food. To find out more about Vasaloppet Japan, including the daily schedule, race venue, transportation, and more, please visit the official website: <http://vasaloppet.jp/index.html>



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!

## FUN FRIDAYS

**Dates:** March 8th & 22nd, April 12th & 26th, May 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](mailto: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.\*\*