

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

September 2017 VOL. 250

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Hokkaido News Top 5



September 2017
Compiled by AIC

- July 22
- SEC Co., Ltd., in Hakodate has come up with Jellafin, a newly invented transparent, waterproof, pressure-resistant resin. According to the company, this product is the first of its kind in the world. It is expected to be used for deep sea IoT devices. These devices are usually equipped with a pressure-resistant titanium container, however, its cost of production is seen as a major drawback. Jellafin is estimated to be half the cost.
- July 23
- A croquette, two-meters in diameter, made of 250 kg of May Queen potatoes, was fried in 250 liters of cooking oil in Assabu Town during its summer festival. This croquette, big enough to feed 1,000 people, was served free for visitors. In order to fry it, a crane was needed to lift the enormous wire rack.
- Aug 4
- The Daisetsuzan National Park attracts many visitors in and out of Hokkaido but due to lack of funding and manpower, its trails have been deteriorating. Due to year after year of heavy rain, the trails have eroded and alpine plants are covered with mud. The 300 km long trails are managed by the ministry of the environment, prefectural and municipal governments. On this date, the Hokkaido government organized a tour to increase awareness of the importance of maintaining trails.
- Aug 5
- Tourist season began at the Blue Pond in Biei Town and the paths were crowded with people taking pictures. The famous blue reflection is caused by aluminum in the water. Combine this with the partly submerged, once-living Japanese larch and silver birch trees and it makes a one-of-a-kind scenery. To those that would like to visit, the town tourist association noted that between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. the pond is less crowded.
- Aug 14
- The Hokkaido Ornamental Plants and Vegetables Research Center in Takikawa is developing a special film designed to prolong the shelf life of melons by more than 2 months. Usually, melons are ready to eat a week after harvest and they are in season in the fall, but by using this film, melons can be available for both the Christmas season and the year-end gift-giving season (oseibo.)



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Labyrinth of Cats: Cats in Art from Ukiyo-e to the Present

招き猫亭コレクション 猫まみれ展 浮世絵から現代美術まで

Over the span of 40 years, mysterious collector and cat lover Manekineko-tei has amassed over 300 pieces of artwork including oil paintings, Japanese style paintings Ukiyo-e paintings, sculptures, and ceramics in the likeness of cats.

Date: Now to October 28th (Saturday)**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General ¥1,000; High School and University Students ¥600; Junior High and under ¥300**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art**For further information contact:** 0166-25-2577

*Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed. Open on September 18th (Respect for the aged Day) and October 9th (Sports Day). ¥200 discounts for General Admission/High School/University students and ¥100 discount for elementary school students if you bring a picture of your cat! Have it displayed too!

**The Chime of Nostalgia Concert**

望郷の鐘コンサート

Want to get a taste of traditional Japanese music? Explore classic songs from Asahikawa and the rest of Japan! This concert will feature performances from traditional Japanese instruments, chorus, and a concert band.

Date: September 3rd (Sunday)**Time:** Open: 14:00, Starts: 14:30**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** ¥1,000 (Non-reserved Seating)**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Asahikawa Civic Culture Center (Shop), Yamaha Music Store**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-32-9855**“The Three Billy Goats Gruff” performed by Puppet Theatre PUK**

「三びきのやぎのがらがらどん」 人形劇団プーク

Here is something kids can enjoy! The Puppet Theatre PUK is performing the classic Norwegian story “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” and the English story “The Boy Who Was Always Late.” These stories have spread across the world and are now beloved by children across Japan. Combined with lively music, brightly colored sets and excellent character voicing, it makes for a magical performance!

Date: September 6th (Wednesday)**Time:** Open: 18:00, Show starts: 18:30**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** Children (Advance Sale) ¥700, Children (Day of) ¥900, Adult (Advance Sale) ¥1,000, Adult (Day of) ¥1,200**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Office, Kodomo Fukido Bookstore (7-jo-dori 8-chome)

For further information contact: 0166-46-6100, or reserve tickets by mail at ticket@kodomo.daa.jp. If reserving by mail, please leave your: Name, Phone number, Address, # of Adult & Child tickets. Your tickets will be at the ticket counter on the day of the play.

**17th Annual Crystal Trio Concert**

第17回クリスタル・トリオコンサート

The Crystal Trio was formed in 1998, and quickly gained popularity thanks to its active fan base. This year, the Crystal Trio received Asahikawa's 40th Nanakamado Cultural award. This concert will feature the works of Dvorak, Beethoven, and Shostakovich. Their performance is sure to dazzle you!

Date: September 8th (Friday)**Time:** Open: 19:00, Starts: 18:30**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** ¥1,500**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Coach and Four**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-37-5420, 0166-62-7173

2017 ANRI LIVE in Asahikawa 2017 ANRI LIVE 旭川公演

The incredibly influential J-pop singer Anri is coming to Asahikawa! A pioneer of her time, she revolutionized Japanese pop music by infusing elements of R&B, rock, and jazz into her own style. She has played thousands of concerts, and was even chosen to perform the official theme song for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. Don't miss this!

Date: September 12th (Tuesday)
Time: Open: 18:30, Start: 19:00
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: Pre-paid: ¥6,700, Day of: ¥6,900
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Big Hall, 7-jo-dori 9-chome), Coach and Four, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Museum shop), Shinohara (In Takasu), Lawson
For Further Information Contact: 011-242-6661



The Grace of the North: Tabe-Marche 2017 北の恵み 食べマルシェ 2017

A three-day festival revolving around food? You heard it right! Tabe-Marche is back at it again in 2017! Experience Northern Hokkaido food and music, and interact with the community! Unique events are being held at each of the locations indicated below for all three days so be sure to check them out. Bring your friends and eat to your heart's content!

Date: September 16th (Saturday) to September 18th (Monday • Holiday)
Time: 10:00-18:00 (Last day is only until 17:00)
Venue: Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Tokiwa Park, JR Asahikawa Station, and 7-jo Green Road (Across from City Hall)
For Further Information Contact: 0166-73-9840 or marche@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp. Also, check out their home page at <http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/marche/>



Barber Beauty Festival 理容・美容フェスティバル2017

This fashion festival will showcase the hard work of students from the Asahikawa Technical College of Barber & Beauty. You will see incredible displays of fashion, hairstyles, and just about everything related to beauty and style. There will also be a live performance by the group Nene & Waka!

Date: September 18th (Monday • Holiday)
Time: Open: 13:00, Start: 13:30, End: 16:30
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: Free
Sponsored by: Asahikawa Technical College of Barber & Beauty
For Further Information Contact: 0166-22-1331



60th Annual Kotan Matsuri 第60回こたんまつり

Kotan Matsuri is a festival held in Kamui-kotan on the day of the Autumn Equinox in September. The Kamuinomi-inau, a traditional Ainu ceremony is held, Ainu dances are displayed, and many local shops sell sweets that can only be found in Kamui-kotan. See Ainu culture and more in a lively festival atmosphere!

Date: September 23rd (Saturday)
Time: 10:30-15:30
Venue: Vicinity of former Kamui-kotan Station, Kamui-cho, Asahikawa
For Further Information Contact: 0166-23-0090
Notes: Cycling road is blocked off. The best way to get to the venue is by car. The Japanese name of the venue is 旧神居古潭駅 (Kyuu Kamui Kotan Eki).





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Daniel Ziv

Home Country: United States

Interviewed: August 17th, By AIC

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 Daniel, what brings you to Japan? Is this your first time abroad?

Daniel: I actually have a wife here, and we met in Hawaii. I didn't plan to go to Japan anytime soon, but since my wife is Japanese I ended up here.

No, I have actually been in 29 countries. I like to travel a lot. This is going to be, well, not my last stop, but it's going to be where I stay for the long term because of my wife.

AIC: Wow, 29 countries? That is incredible! Do you find work in those countries or are they mostly short trips?

Daniel: Some countries I find work in, and some I just manage with the amount of money I have. Most countries I try and find a job so I can be there longer. The longest time I've been in another country was about eight months. It was up north in the states in Columbus, Ohio. It was pretty rough because of the cold.

AIC: How about Asahikawa?

Daniel: Yeah... Asahikawa is a lot tougher. I didn't know Asahikawa would be so cold. I just came to Japan and then found out that it was colder than Ohio.

AIC: Is your wife from Asahikawa?

Daniel: She was born in Nayoro and she lived Sapporo for a number of years. Then she came to Asahikawa because she likes the countryside, and you know, we have a lot of nature over here. I prefer that too. Sapporo is a really big city. I think it's perfect here. The perfect location that combines both the city and nature. Not loud, and not boring.

AIC: Now I am going to change topics a little bit. What are your hobbies? And are you into winter sports?

Daniel: I like to go to the gym, I like to play video games, and I like to listen to music. Well, I cook too, but it's not as much a hobby, it's just that I know how to cook because it was one of my previous jobs. I also really like to hang out with my friends, especially a bunch of people I met in Asahikawa. They're really good people. As for winter sports, I don't really do anything because I don't like the snow. I surf, but it's hard to do that here.

AIC: Is there anything you miss about Hawaii?

Daniel: (Laughs) There's a lot of stuff. Especially the weather, the sun, my friends, and my family. I think the thing I miss most is actually the weather because I can walk around in just pants. I don't need 3 layers of clothes just to keep warm.

AIC: And what languages do you speak?

Daniel: I speak English, Spanish, Hebrew, and Arabic. I can speak Japanese, but not good enough. Not as much as I'd like to. I'm studying, but it's still not where I want it to be.

AIC: You still speak four languages! That is very impressive.

Daniel: Well, that's because I travel a lot, I've been to a lot of places. You just pick it up on the way.

AIC: What got you interested in traveling? What inspired you to travel to so many places?

Daniel: I think the thing that encourages your imagination the most is to travel a lot and get more opinions and perspectives from different parts of the world. If you stay just in one place, your mind is going to go blank. And if you don't expand your perspective, it's hard to bring more positive things in your life. If you travel, you can speak more languages, know a more food, meet more people, make a lot more friends, and you are able to see beautiful scenery all over the world. You'll be able to see the desert, you can experience cold winters, you can go to the jungle, and wherever it is you're going to go, it'll be different. I think everyone should travel. I really do.



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

Daniel: As long as my wife wants to stay here. If one day she tells me, "Hey, let's move to Hawaii!" I would say "Yeah, sure! I'm down. I'm pretty much following you. Wherever you want to go", you know?

AIC: Is there something you like about Asahikawa or Japan in general?

Daniel: In Japan, generally, I really like the people. First of all, the people here are kind and they are polite. More so than any other country I've been to. They help you in any way you need, even if there is a language barrier, which I think is the biggest problem for all the foreign visitors. They're genuinely nice, and they want to help you. Food-wise, I don't really know. I do like some Japanese food but I don't like all of it. I think my favorite thing about Japan is the people. Every day I have great experiences with them.



AIC: And finally, do you like Karaoke?

Daniel: No. I don't. (Laughs) I really don't. I don't know why, though. The first time I went to do Karaoke was after my wife's birthday, and her friends took the two of us there. Even now, I don't know why they were doing this but, they were just sitting in a room and they are screaming into a microphone even though they don't know the lyrics. (Laughs) They're just screaming into a microphone because they've been drinking. It's kind of fun, but not my cup of tea. To be honest with you, I think the only time I sing is in the shower.

AIC: Thank you so much for letting me interview you!

Daniel: Sure, no problem!

Life in Hokkaido

TABE-MARCHÉ
By KITAMURA Tadao

The blistering summer days of August are past, and the comfortable northern winds are welcomed despite lingering fear that a typhoon might still approach. The people revel in anticipation of the most pleasant season of the year, autumn. Autumn with the sky clear and blue, and horses growing “stout”, a timeworn proverb the Japanese like to use to express their appreciation for this comfortable season.

I remember a good joke an American writer* put in his book concerning this particular proverb. One of his characters says: “I’m not sure why the Japanese would prize obesity in their horses. Surely they did not eat them. Or did they?” As you know, Buddhism traditionally demands that one abstains from eating the meat of an animal (especially large animals such as cows and horses.) However, Japanese people, especially in the districts of Kumamoto, Nagano, and Fukushima, are well-known producers of fine horses. Locals have been enjoying cuisine using horse meat for the past four hundred years.

Japanese people generally consider themselves to be gourmets, or “foodies”, and September is a highly anticipated month for these gourmet masses. This is the season for harvesting. Farms and orchards distribute all types of crops, and stock raisers supply only the best quality, well-fattened livestock. The fisheries also brings good marine catches such as salmon and mackerel pike; both of which are especially prized in autumn for their excellent taste.

Asahikawa is blessed in its location as being the center of food culture in Hokkaido. This is partly because it is encompassed by agricultural areas, including many orchards, farms, and ranches. On the other hand, the seas of Japan and Okhotsk are fairly close by. That allows the people of Asahikawa to enjoy a wide variety of fresh marine life caught in different environments.

Due to its easy access to fresh foods from all over Hokkaido, Asahikawa started a festival themed around “the food culture in our city”, and in 2010 it was named TABE-MARCHÉ; TABE means eating in Japanese and MARCHÉ market in French. Between September 16th and 18th, about three hundred temporary food stands will set up shop on 1.7 km of the main-street of Asahikawa, stretching from the Central JR station to Tokiwa Park. They will offer an enormous variety of foods; raw or cooked, fruits or sweets, locally or foreign derived, everything! You may even encounter the familiar taste of food from your home country!

*Jack Seward; Macneils of Tokyo, Tuttle Publishing (2000)



★ 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.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 – 6411

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

Now Showing

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Osanago Warerani Umare (Japanese) ● Sekigahara (Japanese) ● Wonder Woman (English) ● Lovelive! Sunshine!! Aqours 2nd Love Live! Happy Party Train Tour (Japanese/Anime) ~9/30 ● HiGH & LOW the movie2: End of Sky (Japanese) ● Uchiage hanabi, shita kara miruka? Yoko kara miruka? (Japanese/Anime) ● Spider-Man: Homecoming (English) ● Kamen Rider Ex-Aid: True Ending/ Uchu Sentai Kyuranger the Movie: Ghes Indaver's Counterattack (Japanese) ● JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Diamond is Unbreakable Chapter 1 (Japanese) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transformers: The Last Knight (English 2D, 3D) ● Tokyo Ghoul (Japanese) ● The Mummy (English) ● I Want to Eat Your Pancreas (Japanese) ● The Anthem of the Heart (Japanese) ● Despicable Me 3 (English/Anime) ● Pokemon the Movie 20: I Choose You! (Japanese/Anime) ● Cars 3 (Japanese/Anime) ● Gintama (Japanese) ● Mary and the Witch's Flower (Japanese/Anime) ● Mumon (Japanese) ● Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English) |
|---|---|

*<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 / ☎ 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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sekigahara (Japanese) ● King of Prism:Pride the Hero (Japanese 2D, 4DX/Anime) ● Kuma no Gakkou & Fuusen Inu Tinny (Japanese/Anime) ● Wonder Woman (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D) ● HiGH & LOW the movie 2: End of Sky (Japanese) ● Spider-Man: Homecoming (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D) ● Kamen Rider Ex-Aid: True Ending/ Uchu Sentai Kyuranger the Movie: Ghes Indaver's Counterattack (Japanese) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Diamond is Unbreakable Chapter 1 (Japanese) ● I Want to Eat Your Pancreas (Japanese) ● Despicable Me 3 (Japanese/Anime) ● Pokemon the Movie 20: I Choose You! (Japanese/Anime) ● Cars 3 (Japanese 2D, 4DX2D/Anime) ● Gintama (Japanese) ● Mary and the Witch's Flower (Japanese/Anime) ● Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English, Japanese) ● Mumon (Japanese) |
|--|--|

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 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.”

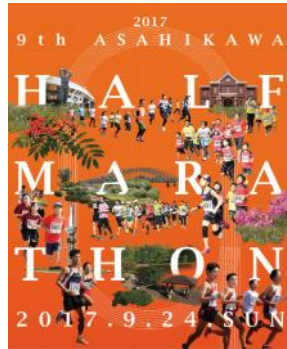
Now Showing

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sekigahara (Japanese) ● Wonder Woman (English) ● HiGH & LOW the movie2: End of Sky (Japanese) ● Uchiage hanabi, shita kara miruka? Yoko kara miruka? (Japanese/Anime) ● Spider-Man: Homecoming (English) ● Kamen Rider Ex-Aid: True Ending/ Uchu Sentai Kyuranger the Movie: Ghes Indaver's Counterattack (Japanese) ● Transformers: The Last Knight (English) ● JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Diamond is Unbreakable Chapter 1 (Japanese) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tokyo Ghoul (Japanese) ● The Mummy (English) ● I Want to Eat Your Pancreas (Japanese) ● The Anthem of the Heart (Japanese) ● Despicable Me 3 (English/Anime) ● Cars 3 (Japanese/Anime) ● Pokemon the Movie 20: I Choose You! (Japanese/Anime) ● Gintama (Japanese) ● Mary and the Witch's Flower (Japanese/Anime) ● Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (English) ● Mumon (Japanese) |
|---|---|

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

Asahikawa Half Marathon

The half marathon will start at Hanasaki Sports Park and participants will run on National Route 40, Hanasaki-dori, Chikabumi East Takasu-sen down to the Ishikari River, through Tokiwa Park, down the Ushubestu River and back up via Chuo-Dori before crossing Hanasakiobashi Bridge back into Hanasaki Sports Park.



Be aware that these roads and bridges will have their lanes of traffic reduced if not completely shut off to traffic.

Date: September 24th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00 (1st Race)

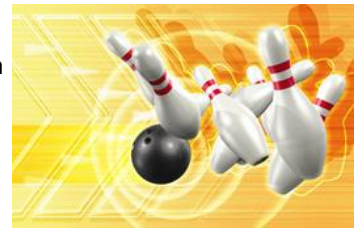
Website: <http://www.asahikawa-half-marathon.jp>

Course Maps for 3km, 5km, 10km & Half at:

<http://www.asahikawa-half-marathon.jp/feature/>

Friendship Party

Join us for AIC's Friendship Party! Here's your chance to have fun with citizens of Asahikawa, foreign residents and visitors while playing bowling.



Don't miss out on the chance to have a wonderful time with great friends from around the world !!

★**Date:** September 23rd (Saturday)

★**Time:** 10:00am ~12:00am

A chartered bus will depart at 9:45.

★ **Place:** Dinos Bowl (Sugai Dinos, Taisetsu-dori 5-chome)

★ **Number of Participants:** 40

★ **Charge:** ¥500 (including playing fee and rental shoes)

★ **Contact :** Asahikawa International Committee
(0166) 25-7491 or aic1_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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: September 8th&22nd, October 13th&27th, November 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.

**FREE
Wi Fi**

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