

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

- **May 20**  
20-year-old Japan born and raised German national, Berns Johannes, has been working as “a Ricksha driver” in Otaru since the beginning of spring. His missionary parents came to Japan 30 years ago. Mr. Johannes was born in Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture and went to the German school in Kanagawa Prefecture before finding part time work in Tokyo. Last January he decided to move to Hokkaido to be closer to nature and was employed by “Ebisuya,” a Ricksha company for tourists.
- **May 26**  
Students of Hakodate Specialized Vocational High School have discovered an ancient coin from Vietnam, which is called “Kaita Igenpo,” among 997 old coins found during roadwork in Shiriuchi close to Hakodate. It is the first time that a Vietnamese ancient coin was unearthed in Japan. The students are the members of a society studying buried cultural property by making use of the high school’s substance analysis equipment.
- **May 28**  
Limited express “Super Ozora No. 14” bound for Sapporo derailed and stalled in The First Niuu Tunnel on JR Hokkaido Seikisho Line around 9:55 pm. Soon afterward the train caught fire and 39 passengers were taken to a hospital, although none of them were seriously injured. A thrust shaft which dropped out is considered to be the cause of the derailment.
- **June 4**  
Hokkaido Air Commuter propeller aircraft carrying 13 passengers and crew members from Hakodate Airport nosedived to an altitude of 30 meters after aborting the first landing attempt at Okushiri Island Airport due to low visibility. The cause of the near miss was the captain’s incorrect setting of the ground proximity warning system. In addition, the aircraft was used for seven flights in spite of its engines needing an inspection after a pilot reporting that they revved up excessively when pulled up.
- **June 14**  
“Softbank Corporation,” one of the major telecom companies in Japan, plans to build a mega photovoltaic power plant in Hokkaido. With the maximum power output of 500 megawatts it would be the largest in the world, encompassing an area of 1,000 hectares. Obihiro and the Eastern Tomakomai Industrial Area which receive high amount of sunlight are the potential locations of the plant. The plant is one of ten planned to be built across Japan.



**For further information or to register for events contact:**  
Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)  
**Location:**  
International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.  
**Address:**  
Third Office 1F, Asahikawa City Hall, 6-jo-dori 10-chome, Asahikawa 070-8525  
**Tel:** (0166) 25-7491  
**Fax:** (0166) 23-4924  
**E-mail:**  
[cir\\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo  
Proofreader & Advisor

## KAWANAKA MIYUKI CONCERT IN ASAHIKAWA

## 川中美幸 コンサート

KAWANAKA's concert in Asahikawa is part of her nation-wide tour to promote her new album (*Deai ni Kansha 35-Nen*) which features her fan's favourite hits from her illustrious 35 year singing career. She will perform all the hits from her debut single "Anata ni Inochi-gake" (I'd Give My Life For You), to her newest single "Nagasaki no Ame" (Nagasaki Rain)

**Date:** July 6th (Wednesday)

**Time:** Afternoon Concert Show 2:30pm, Evening Concert Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** S-Seats ¥6,500, A-Seats ¥6,000

**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo, Lawson Ticket, Coach & Four, Ticket PIA

**For further information contact:** 011-261-9991 (Trust Kikaku Create)



## MIWA AKIHIRO'S "LOVE" CONCERT IN ASAHIKAWA

## 美輪明宏音楽会 愛

One of Japan's most famous performers, MIWA is also a prolific author, actor, composer, and director. Born in Nagasaki in 1935 he survived the atomic bombing of the city and due to that experience he has an outspoken critic of war and government. MIWA started his career as a *chanson* singer using his real name, MARUYAMA Akihiro, in Tokyo in 1952. He sprang to fame in 1957 with the huge hit *Meke-Meke*, and went on to appear in numerous movies, countless TV appearances (up to 6 shows a week), and also wrote a number of books. He changed his stage name to MIWA in 1971.

**Date:** July 23rd (Saturday)

**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** S-Seats ¥7,000, A-Seats ¥5,000

**Ticket Office:** Ticket PIA, Lawson Ticket, FM Riberu, Gyokkodo

**For further information contact:** 011-533-7711 (ADASH)



## ZIMBABWEAN CHILDREN'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC &amp; DANCE CONCERT

## ジンバブエの子供たちと民族音楽演奏で踊る

A unique chance to experience and participate in traditional Zimbabwean folk music and dancing. It will be held under a large tent at the "Hiroba" (Square) in front of the historic red brick building that is home to the Asahikawa Community Support Center "CoCoDe." Joining the four member visiting troupe will be the "Asahikawa *Senshoudaiko*" Taiko drum team, and "*Piadoragon*" *Yosakoi* dance team whose members have physical disabilities.

**Date:** July 15th (Friday)

**Time:** Show: 5:00pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Community Support Center "CoCoDe"

(Asahikawa Miyamae-dori Higashi)

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 74-4151 (CoCoDe)



## RIKA MIYATANI'S LECTURE &amp; PIANO COCERT FOR CHILDREN

## 宮谷理香こどものためのおんがく会

MIYATANI is an award winning concert pianist who's been performing and lecturing for 15 years. She earned fame for her "Chopin's Journey" series of concerts (2001 to 2010) and has since successfully embarked on the project to introduce classical piano music to school-children. The program will include works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, and others.

**Date:** July 26th (Tuesday)

**Time:** Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,500, Children ¥500

**Ticket Office:** Potato Asahikawa Cable TV Shop, Kawai Music Showroom, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

**For further information contact:** 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



## “REMEMBERING THE SUMMER CLOUD” HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI RECITAL 女優たちによる朗読「夏の雲は忘れない」ヒロシマ・ナガサキ一九四五年

A recital performed by six actors on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. This annual event is aimed at keeping the memory of those fateful events alive and spreading the message of peace and harmony.

**Date:** August 1st (Monday) thru 5th (Friday)

**Time:** August 1st 7:00pm, August 2nd 1:30pm & 7:00pm, August 3rd 7:00pm, August 4th 1:30pm & 7:00pm, August 5th 1:30pm

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

**Admission:** This performance is sponsored by the Asahikawa Citizens' Theater. Membership fee is ¥2,000, with a monthly membership fee of ¥2,200 (¥1,000 for university students & ¥500 for high school students). Members have access to all the performances sponsored by the Asahikawa Citizens' Theater.

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Citizens' Theater

**For further information:** 23-1655 (Asahikawa Citizens' Theater)



## PACIFIC MUSIC FESTIVAL 2011 PMFチェンバー・プレイヤーズ演奏会

The Pacific Music Festival (PMF), founded in 1990 by Leonard Bernstein, is an international educational music festival held in Sapporo with performances all over Japan. The members of the PMF Academy are selected through a very competitive audition process. These promising musicians from around the world bring fresh interpretations to traditional repertoire. “Pacific” in PMF stands for peace.

**Date:** July 29th (Friday)

**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥2,000 (¥2,500 at the door), School Students ¥1,000 (¥1,500 at the door)

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

**For further information contact:** 22-8003 (AMP)



## HAYASHIYA KIKUO & ICHIRYUSAI TEISUI RAKUGO PERFORMANCE 林家木久扇 一龍斎貞水 二人会公演

*Rakugo* is the most popular form of Japanese verbal entertainment that dates back to the Edo Period. HAYASHIYA and ICHIRYUSAI (recognized as a national living treasure) are two of the most well known *Rakugoka* (*Rakugo* performer) in Japan.

**Date:** August 19th (Friday)

**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** S-Seats ¥3,000( \*¥2,500 for students, people over 65, and disability card holders), A-Seats ¥2,500(\*¥2,000)

**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Citizens' Theater Office, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

**For further information contact:** 25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Center)



## 25TH ANNUAL KINJOURYU TAISHOGOTO PERFORMANCE 二十五周年記念 琴城流 大正琴発表会

*Taishogoto* is a long acoustic sound box with strings stretched over it. The name derives from the *Taisho* Period when the instrument first appeared. *Kinjouryu* is the biggest nationwide *Taishogoto* association and is recognized by The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture. Come and experience traditional Japanese music.

**Date:** July 21st (Thursday)

**Time:** Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am

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

**Admission:** Free



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Una Volkova  
**Hometown:** Vainode, Latvia  
**Interviewed:** 22nd June, 2011  
**By** AIC

**AIC:** *What do you do here in Higashikawa?*

**Una:** I am the Coordinator for International Relations (CIR,) as part of the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program for the town of Higashikawa. I'm in my first year in this position and I'm the first and only JET CIR from Latvia and my duties are quite varied. I teach English to the Town Hall employees, and schoolchildren. I translate official documents and E-mails in Latvian, Japanese, and English, as well as interpret official phone conversations, meetings, etc.

I am assigned by the Board of Education (B.o.E.) to teach English to 30 first and second year students once a week over a five month course. This course is called the Apple Kids Club (APC). I also do school visits to the local elementary schools. There are four elementary schools in Higashikawa, Daiichi (Number 1,) Daini (Number 2,) Daisan (Number 3,) and Tohshou (Higashikawa Elementary School). However, I only visited the first three schools to introduce myself and I conducted no more than about two English lessons in each, but I conduct weekly lessons in Tohshou as an Assistant English Teacher (ALT). When I first started teaching I was really nervous because I've never thought before and English isn't my first language. Over time the kids have gotten used to me and started to open up more. I've also gained more confidence and experience and I really enjoy it now. Higashikawa will receive two new ALTs next month and I'm looking forward to meeting them and sharing my teaching experience with them.

Very soon and official Latvian delegation will be visiting Higashikawa and I've been very busy translating documents and letters, as well as other work connected to this visit. The Latvian town of Rujiena is the Sister-City to Higashikawa and the Latvian visiting delegation, including the Mayor of Rujiena, is from this town. The Latvian community in Japan is very small, and as a matter of fact the Latvian Embassy in Tokyo has only two staff. Therefore, there's only three of us preparing the whole program for the visit. Incidentally, the Latvian Ambassador's hometown is Rujiena and it was on his initiative that Higashikawa and Rujiena concluded Sister-City ties. I believe that the bilateral relationship between the two countries will greatly develop in the future.

We have a Latvian Association here in Higashikawa with Mr. Inoshita in charge of it as well as acting as the Latvian Consular General for Higashikawa. There is a Latvia Kan (Latvia House) in town where visitors and can get information on Latvia. A few years ago there was also a Latvian café there but unfortunately it closed down. Another activity that I do outside working hours to promote understanding of Latvian culture in Higashikawa is a regular Latvian dance class. I try to introduce traditional Latvian culture through folk dancing.

**AIC:** *Please tell us a little bit about your hometown?*

**Una:** My home country is Latvia which is in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It is bordered

*Continued from Page 4*

**Una:** by Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, and Belarus. It is one of the least populated nations in the European Union with a population of around 2.2 million. In the 20th Century Latvia was part of the Soviet Union until it gained its independence in 1991. Latvian people first settled on the coast of the Baltic Sea around 3,000 BC and established trading routes to Rome and Byzantium. The Baltic Sea region is famous for amber, and so Latvian traders traded it for precious metals. Unlike Hokkaido, Latvia is a very flat country consisting of low-lying fertile plains, rivers, and forests. The highest peak, Gaizinkalns, is only 312 meters. I was amazed to see such high mountains here in Hokkaido. The Latvian capital and largest city is Riga. With around 700,000 inhabitants it's the biggest city in the Baltic region. It's a very beautiful city whose historical center has been declared a UNESCO World heritage Site.

My hometown is Vainode in the Kurzume region, or Courland in English, and is a very small town not far from the sea. Historically Kurzume is famous for its ferocious sailors, so much so that in a church in Denmark there is a plaque that read "Beware of the Kurzi (Courlanders) and the Black Plague." But today it's a very beautiful and peaceful little seaside town. After graduating from high school I moved to Riga and entered university. The lifestyle in Riga is very different to that in Vainode. So it was an eye-opening experience.

**AIC:** *What do you like to do in your spare time?*

**Una:** In this time in Latvia it doesn't get dark until around 11pm, so there's a lot of time for outdoor experience. But my main passion is music. I studied violin for 11 years and have been singing since I could remember. I also play the guitar and practice as much as I can. I like different styles of music depending on my mood. I want to be a professional musician in the future.

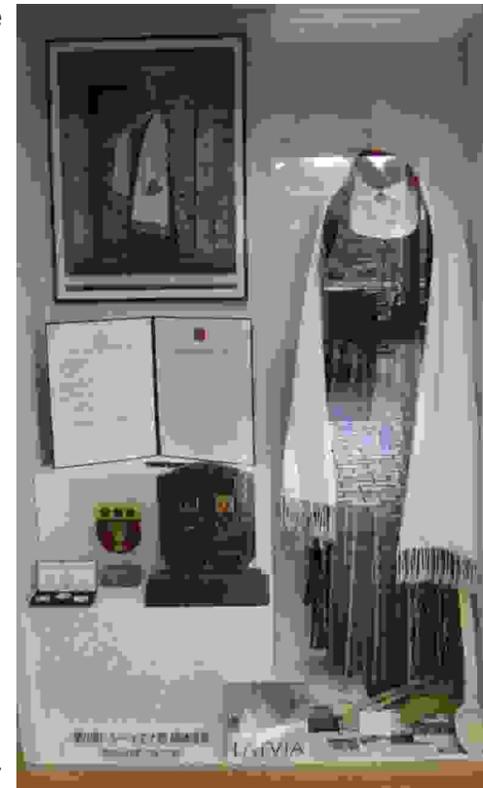
What I like about Higashikawa is the beautiful natural scenery around the town. When I'm alone I cycle down the riverside, and I also get together with friends here and go to karaoke or house parties. One of my favourite places in Higashikawa is the cake shop "Tengetsu." The cakes are excellent there and I always stay for a chat with the lady who runs it. However, I try to avoid the shop as much as possible as it's affecting my waistline (laugh). I'm also a vocalist in two bands, one in Mombetsu and the other in Sapporo, and so I travel every weekend for practice.

**AIC:** *And what are your goals for the future?*

**Una:** As I said I would like to be a musician or work in the music industry, for example. Also, I would like to introduce Japanese culture to Latvian people. I feel very privileged to have this experience as a CIR. So I would definitely like to use it in the future. I would like to organize public and private events which would showcase traditional and modern Japanese culture.

**AIC:** *Well, thank you very much for your time, Una.*

**Andy:** You're welcome.



Latvian display in Higashikawa Town Hall

# Origins of English Words

By KAWAI Tatsuo

The following English words are derived from the names of persons, gods, goddesses, etc.

**Achilles tendon** - Achilles, the strongest hero in Homer's Iliad.

**Adonis** - Adonis, the handsomest young man who died young and was loved by Aphrodite.

**Aegis Warship** - Aegisthus, Greek god of the shield.

**Amaryllis** - Amaryllis, Roman shepherd maiden in Virgil's poem.

**Andromeda Galaxy** - Andromeda, daughter of Cassiopeia.

**Aphrodisiac** - Aphrodite, the most beautiful goddess in Greek Mythology.

**Apple** - Uncle Apple, who propagated apple seeds in the Americas.

**Atlas** - Atlas, Titan giant.

**Aubrietia** - C.C. Aubriet, French botanist.

**Barcelona** - G. Barcas, general of Carthage

**Begonia** - Michel Begon, French botanist.

**Bilharziasis** - Theodor Bilharz, German physician.

**Bombay** - Mumbai, Hindu goddess, varied to Portuguese.

**Braille** - Louis Braille, French educator.

**Buddhism** - Buddha; Sakyamuni (sage of the Sakyas).

**Burnsides** - A.E. Burnside, General in the Civil War

**Cardigan** - Cardigan, a British earl.

**Cattleya** - Cattley, British horticulturist.

**Constant** - Constantine, Roman Byzantine Emperor.

**Dahlia** - Andes Dahl, Swedish botanist.

**Dallas** - George Muffin Dallas, US Vice-President

**Dentist** - Denta, Roman physician.

**Erotic** - Eros, Greek goddess of love.

**Europe** - Europa, daughter of the Syrian king who went around Europe on the back of an ox (Zeus in disguise).

**Fletcherism** - Horace Fletcher, US dietician.

**Gee whiz!** - Jesus, apparently.

**Geiger counter** - Geiger, German physicist.

**Guillotine** - Guillotine, professor of medicine at Paris University.

**Hyacinth** - Hyacinthus, a handsome young man loved by Appolo.

**Himen** - Hymen, Greek goddess of marriage.

**Lo** - Lo, a priestess of Hera in Argos raped by Zeus who turned her into heifer.

**Iris** - Iris, Greek goddess of the rainbow.

**Joule** - James Prescott Joule, British physicist.

**Jovial** - Jove = Jupiter.

# Hello Wild Flowers

## Wandering Among The Wild Flowers Around Asahikawa By Hitoshi KUDOH

In early June, two ants are busily treading through a dense clump of aromatic herbs under semi-shaded deciduous woods. Ant A tells Ant B, "Look. These are hitorishizukas or you might say 'Placid alone'. Placid alone is one of our precious foodstuff, you know."

"Gulping Gargoyles! Why is it Placid 'ALONE'? There are so many of these plants, crowded, forming the clump here – a thicket." exclaimed Ant B.

"It isn't like that, pal. Look carefully at the terminal white flower spike. Every single plant has only one spike its own. Never two nor more. Though we also have two spiked one that is called *Futarishizuka*, or Placid duplicate (*Chloranthus serratus*). Its flower isn't thread-like but shell-like." They gaze at a stalk of a Placid alone to check. Ant B inquires, "Can we collect it now?" Ant A cries out prudently, "Almost!" Ant B asks again, "What do you mean by 'Almost'?" Ant A replies, "The spike will soon bend down towards the ground, my pal. And it indicates that the fruits of this spike are ready."

**HITORISHIZUKA**(一人静) *Chloranthus japonicus* Siebold

family:Chloranthaceae

common name: Placid alone (Solitary Princess Shizuka-gozen or Placid)

\*Princess Shizuka is mistress of General Yoshitsune: one of Genji clan

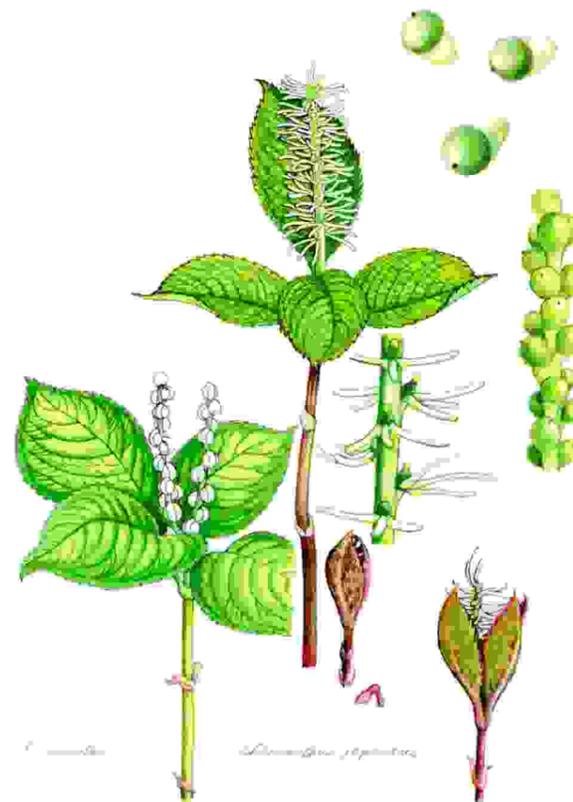
Description: Herbaceous perennial of dicotyledons. In spring, reddish shoot appears from its rhizome or seeds. Stem is erect, thin but sturdy, not branched, basal nodes have a pair of membranous opposite scale-like leaves. The 4 real leaves are ovate, bluntly serrated and glossy dark green, with conspicuous veins. The 4 leaves make up a crisscrossed pseudowhorl.

Inflorescence, a single spike. A white aromatic flower is bisexual, without petal and sepal, consists of a green pistil and 3 white filaments attached to the bottom of the pistil. Outer 2 filaments have an anther at its base but central one doesn't. Pollinated by many insects, each pistil turns into a green fruit. The fruit attaches the elaiosome at the end. The substance is rich and attracts ants. They drag it to the nest to take in the elaiosome and discard the fruit to germinate. 15~40cm high.

Edible. Medicinal.

Habitat: Semi-moist woodlands.

Distribution: Japan, Russia, Korea, China



Watercolour painting of Hitorishizuka by Hitoshi Kudoh

# Hello Japan

“Kyaraben”

By SEO Ayumi

**Kyaraben** or **charaben** (キャラ弁) is a shortened form of **character bento** (キャラクター弁当, *kyarakutā bentō*). It is an elaborately arranged bento (lunch box) which features food decorated to look like people, characters from popular media, animals, and plants. Originally, a decorated bento were made to make children interested in their food and to encourage eating preferences. It has now evolved to the point where national contests are held. In the Sanrio Kyaraben Contest, the participants are called ‘Kyarabenist’ and are generally housewives.

Since decades ago mothers have prepared octopus-shaped sausages and the like, and arranged them in children's lunch boxes. However, the lunch boxes were not really wholly decorated. Kyaraben boom began around 2005 when some housewives started a blog about neatly designed bento boxes as a way of dealing with the ‘early rising, plain, tiresome, and ungrateful’ bento preparation. Since then Kyaraben had received a great deal of attention from housewives. So much so that their blog had the second largest number of users on Yahoo! Today it is further evolving every year to the point that it is considered an art form. As it’s primarily a children lunch box the opportunity for mothers to prepare Kyaraben will decrease as the children grow up. However, the skill and techniques will be inherited by the next generation of mothers.

As snow has finally melts in Asahikawa picnic season has finally arrived. It could be worthwhile waking up to make Kyaraben which will be sure to amaze your family and friends. You might even be a bit intoxicated with your new bento talent making. And as a word of caution, make sure the characters are completely IN the box or you will not be able to close the lid. This is a common hazard of preparing Kyaraben.



## **Movies ~ July**

\*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*The 1<sup>st</sup> day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000  
 URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)  
**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ogawa No Hotori (Japanese)</li> <li>● Moshi Dora (Japanese)</li> <li>● Anpanman To Mori No Takara (Japanese/Animation)</li> <li>● Super 8 (English)</li> <li>● Super 8 (Japanese)</li> <li>● Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (English)</li> <li>● Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (Japanese)</li> <li>● Black Swan (English)</li> <li>● Hoshi Mamoru Inu (Japanese)</li> <li>● Sentai 199 (Japanese)</li> <li>● Hankyu Densha (Japanese)</li> <li>● X-Men - First Class (English)</li> <li>● Paradise Kiss (Japanese)</li> <li>● Thor (English)</li> <li>● Andalucia - Goddess's Revenge (Japanese)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kokurikozaka (Japanese/Animation)</li> <li>● Pokemon - Best Wishes &amp; Bikutoni To Kuroki Eiyu (Japanese/Animation)</li> <li>● I Am Number Four (English)</li> <li>● Harry Potter &amp; The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (English)</li> <li>● Harry Potter &amp; The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (Japanese)</li> </ul>

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218  
 URL: [http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa\\_schedule.php?StoreID=5](http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5) (Japanese)  
**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hangover 2(English)</li> <li>● Dendera (Japanese)</li> <li>● Tezuka Osamu's "Buddha" (Japanese/Animation 3D)</li> <li>● Skyline (English)</li> <li>● Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (English)</li> <li>● X-Men - First Class (English)</li> <li>● Sentai 199 (Japanese)</li> <li>● Super 8 (English)</li> <li>● Paradise Kiss (Japanese)</li> <li>● Andalucia - Goddess's Revenge (Japanese)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nintama Rantaro (Japanese)</li> <li>● I Am Number Four (English)</li> <li>● Skyline (English)</li> <li>● Thor (English)</li> <li>● Oshika (Japanese)</li> <li>● Harry Potter &amp; The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (English)</li> <li>● Kokurikozaka (Japanese/Animation)</li> </ul>

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

## Experience Traditional Japanese Culture

AIC is organizing a Soba making day. Instructors and AIC volunteers will be on hand to explain and supervise the making of this healthy traditional Japanese dish from scratch.

**Date:** July 31st (Sunday)

**Time:** 10:00am ~ 3:00pm

A chartered bus will depart from in front of the Asahikawa City Hall 3rd Office Building at 9:15am arrival at Tohbu Citizens Center at 10:00am. At 1:00pm a degustation session will commence at Takasagodai Senshoen.

The bus will return at around 3:30pm.

**Place:** Tohbu Citizens Center and Takasago Senshoen

**Number of people:** 15

**Charge:** ¥500

**To register contact AIC.**

**Tel: 25-7491 Fax: 23-4924**

## AIC Book Collection

If you have unwanted new or second-hand books in languages other than Japanese, the AIC would love to place them in our AIC book corner.

**To donate contact AIC.**

**Tel: 25-7491**

## AIC Friendship Party

Here's your chance to have fun with citizens of Asahikawa, foreign residents, and residents while playing parkgolf and enjoying BBQ.

**Date:** August 7th, 2011 (Sunday)

**Time:** 10:00am ~ 2:00pm

A chartered bus will depart from in front of the Asahikawa City Hall 3rd Office Bldg. (6-jo 10-chome) at 10:00am

**Place:** Asahikawa Arashiyama Recreation Center (Parkland Arashiyama). In case of rain there will be an indoor program.

**Number of people:** 30

**Charge:** ¥500

**To register contact AIC (from July 20th).**

**Tel: 25-7491**

## Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

**Dates:** *Summer Session:* July 8th, August 12th, September 9th

**Time:** 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

**Location:** AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

**To register contact AIC.**

**Tel: 25-7491**

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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.**

## AIC Computer:

The AIC has a computer available for public use free of charge in the International Corner (6-jo-dori 10-chome). There is a time limit for use. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the AIC.

## 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.



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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.\*\***