



Upcoming AIC Events

EventName	EventSummary	EventDetails
Let the World Know About Asahikawa! (Culture Event)	Learn about the international and tourist organizations of Asahikawa. There will be booths about international organizations, as well as booths presenting Asahikawa and the surrounding area	Date: 7/13 (Sun) Time: 11:00-16:00 Location: A.s.h. 1F, Atrium (1-jo-dori 7-chome)
Nihongo Lounge	An opportunity for Japanese and international residents to connect in Japanese! Practice your Nihongo while connecting with the local and international community!	Date&Time: ① 7/9 (Wed) 10:30-12:00 ② 7/16 (Wed) 18:00-19:00 Location: Asahikawa International Center Feeeal 7F (1-jo-dori 8-chome)
K X J Exchange Lounge	Come practice your Korean and Japanese language skills through this Korean-Japanese language exchange!	Date: 7/18 (Fri) Time: 18:00-19:00 Location: Asahikawa International Center Feeeal 7F (1-jo-dori 8-chome)
Kamikawa Shrine Festival	The Kamikawa Shrine Festival returns this year with food stalls at Tokiwa Park, rituals, and parades in the Asahikawa area!	Date: 7/20 (Sun), 7/21 (Mon), 7/22 (Tue) Time: Varies Location: Tokiwa Park, Kamikawa Shrine (Kaguraoka Park)
Asahikawa Summer Festival	Asahikawa's largest festival is coming! Street vendors, parades, and performances happening in the downtown area!	Date: 7/31 (Thu), 8/1 (Fri), 8/2 (Sat) Location: 2, 3, 4-jo-dori, Asahikawa



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Check out our website and social media for information regarding the events above.

For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC), (NAGATA), (MIYAUCHI) or Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), (JOHN)

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Follow us on social media for latest updates and upcoming events!

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Summer in Sounkyo

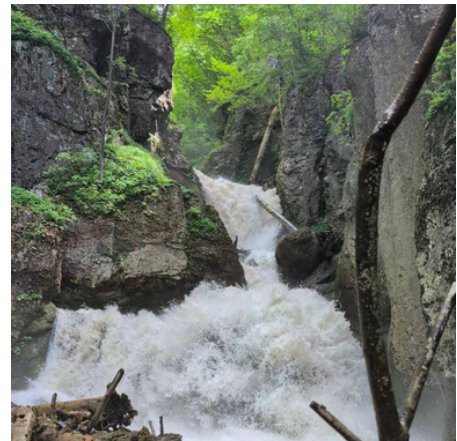
By John Mabilangan



View from Kurodake Ropeway Station

The Hokkaido prefecture is rich of beautiful sights and nature is admired nationwide and abroad. 1~1.5 hours away from Asahikawa are a range of gorges called Sounkyo (層雲峡). This area is known for being the access point for Kurodake (黒岳), one of the big mountains of Taisetsuzan as well as its many astonishing views and adventurous hikes with rivers and waterfalls, but also for their magnificent hotels and relaxing hot springs.

About a 15 minutes away from the Sounkyo bus stop is Momiji Waterfall (紅葉滝) hike which goes through a lush green path that runs by Akaishi River making the path not only scenic but also quite cool even during the hot and humid summers. The hike itself takes about 45 minutes round trip and is quite beginner friendly. Of course since Sounkyo is bear territory, it is important to take caution and bring bear bells to repel them. After a short hike to Momiji Waterfall, hikers can take a break at the roofed shelter by the entrance where they can have WiFi access while enjoying the magnificent gorges of Sounkyo.



Momiji Waterfall



**Observatory for
Ryusei and Ginga Waterfalls**

About a 4 minute drive or a 42 minute walk away from the Sounkyo bus stop are Ginga Waterfall (銀河の滝) and Ryusei Waterfall (流星の滝) rest area. There visitors of the Sounkyo area can park their vehicles and enjoy the majesty of the two waterfalls and Ishikari River. The rest area has restrooms, a gift shop, as well as a small stand to by snacks and ice cream. Visitors can enjoy the waterfalls up close, or get a complete view of the two waterfalls by climbing a short inclined hike to its nearby observatory. These waterfalls are especially beautiful during the summer with its abundance of greenery and the fall as the foliage create a stunning view with its autumn colors.

“Easy Rice Cooker Recipe! Let’s Try Making Hokkaido-Style Red Bean Rice!”

By Yoko Nagata (AIC)



What Is Red Bean Rice (赤飯)

Red bean rice is a traditional Japanese dish often enjoyed during celebrations. The red color of the rice symbolizes good luck and is used to congratulate others on special occasions. As such, this dish is typically served during important life events, such as birthdays, school admissions, and graduations. Hokkaido-style red bean rice is both sweet and slightly salty. Once you try this delicious dish, it quickly becomes addictive!

Ingredients (for 3 servings)

- 2 cups (300g) glutinous rice (mochi rice)
- Half a bag of sweetened red beans (I prefer smaller beans, but use whichever you like)
- A tiny amount of red food coloring (about the tip of an ear pick)
- A pinch of salt
- A little sesame salt (goma-shio)
- Water — according to the rice cooker’s measurement line



◆Instructions

1. Rinse the glutinous rice and soak it in water for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Use slightly less water than the 2-cup line on the rice cooker (if your rice cooker has a setting for okowa [steamed sticky rice], use that amount of water).
2. Before cooking, add a pinch of salt and a small amount of red food coloring. Mix well. (Be careful with the food coloring — a little goes a long way and can turn the rice very red, so add it gradually while checking the color.)
3. Turn on the rice cooker and cook as usual.
4. Once the rice is cooked, add the sweetened red beans and mix gently.
5. Sprinkle with sesame salt (goma-shio) before serving. Enjoy!



◆A Few Final Tips

- You can make extra and freeze it — it keeps well!
- It also makes cute and tasty rice balls (onigiri).
- If you're in a hurry, soaking the rice for just 10 minutes can still work!



AIC Event Report

By John Mabilangan

Check out our website and SNS for more information regarding our events!



Scan the QR Code to access our website!



The Asahikawa International Center has been quite lively as of recent with several events taking place throughout the month of June. These events have attracted both the local and international community alike receiving a highly positive reception from many of the attendees. Here is a peek at some of them!

Nihongo Lounge (Exchange in Japanese)

June 11, 2025, 18:00-19:00



With many international residents and visiting foreigners studying Japanese, the Asahikawa International Committee organized the Nihongo Lounge to provide a welcoming space for language practice and cultural exchange. The event brought together Japanese locals and international participants eager to connect through conversation. Local residents brought Japanese snacks to share, sparking lively discussions about food, culture, and language. It was a fun and enriching experience for everyone involved!

K X J Lounge (Exchange in Korean and Japanese)

June 19, 2025 18:00-19:00



The Asahikawa International Committee (AIC) hosted another K x J Lounge to promote exchange between Korean and Japanese residents in Asahikawa. Like the previous event, participants enjoyed practicing each other's languages. Some tables dove into discussions about cultural differences between Japan and Korea, while others bonded over popular Korean games and music. Korean residents appreciated the chance to connect with the local community, while Japanese participants enjoyed sharing their interest in Korean culture.

Friendship Party (Games and Community Safety and Security)

June 28, 2025 13:30-15:00



On June 28th, AIC held its first Friendship Party of the year, centered around the theme of games and community safety. A special guest from the Eastern Asahikawa Police Department joined the event to introduce the Hokkaido Police Safety and Security Karuta—a fun and educational card game based on important safety tips and local rules for living in Asahikawa. Participants enjoyed a round of karuta, followed by a free talk session where residents connected through conversation and other interactive games.