



ASAHIKAWA INFO

April 2026 , Volume 352



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

@Asahikawa International Center

18:00-19:00

Language Exchange Lounge

Wai Wai Lounge

4/15 WED

Pengyou Lounge, K x J Lounge, and Solniska Lounge have been merged into the brand new **Wai Wai Lounge!** Come have a fun exchange in Chinese, Korean, and Russian with native speakers and language learners!

Nihongo Lounge

4/23 THU

Practice your Japanese conversation skills with locals!



Japanese Study Workshop



Prep for JLPT or improve your Japanese conversation skills

Date & Time: April 11th (Sat)
from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Eligibility: All Japanese Language Learners

Capacity: About 10 people

Cost: 500yen

What to Bring: Your Japanese study materials

Teachers: AIC Volunteers

Deadline: April 5th (Sunday)

Phone: 25-7491

Scan to register!
Held monthly.
See website for more details



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)
Address: Asahikawa International Center Fesael Asahikawa 7F,
1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031
Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924
Email: asahikawaiinternationalcenter@gmail.com
Website: <https://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



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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.

CONTRIBUTERS WANTED

AIC is looking for contributing writers for Asahikawa Info! If you are looking to polish your English writing skills or just share your experiences, this opportunity is for you!

If interested, please scan the QR code or contact AIC



Heads Up: New Biking Rules this April

By John M.

The following information has been written referencing the National Police Agency (警察庁) and other prefectural guidelines. For more information, please review the sources provided at the end of this article.

With the arrival of the new fiscal year, the Japan National Police Agency comes bearing with new rules for bike riders starting from April 1st, 2026! These new rules are stricter with new fines, requiring all bike riders to be aware of traffic rules in order to ensure the safety of everyone on public roads and sidewalks.

NOTICE

Violation of Biking Rules = Blue Ticket

- The blue tickets issued for biking violations will apply to anyone over 16 years old.
- Fines associated to the issued blue tickets must be paid through the bank or a post office with a statement of payment form within the provided deadline.



Biking Violations

The new law contains 113 different types of cycling violations. This article will list some of them, but please consult the nearest police stations or check online for more information



Biking on pedestrian walkways*

¥ 6,000



Using phones/device(s)

¥ 12,000



Using earphones/listening devices

¥ 5,000

Biking on sidewalks are permitted if:

1. There is a sign that permits it.
2. If the road is too narrow, too crowded, or unsafe to bike in.
3. If the rider is under 13, over 70, or has physical disabilities.





Disobeying traffic red lights

¥ 6,000

Disobeying stop signs

¥ 5,000



Using umbrellas

¥ 5,000



No safety lights at night

¥ 5,000



Not using bike handles

¥ 6,000



Biking with large loads
Hanging items on the bike handle

¥ 5,000



Biking on the right side (wrong way)

¥ 6,000



Biking side-by-side

¥ 3,000



Two people on a bike*

¥ 3,000



Broken/Malfunctioning brakes

¥ 5,000

Pre-school and below are permitted to ride if there is a dedicated child-seat. But the biker must be 16 or older to be permitted to ride with a child passenger

In Japan, bikes are considered vehicles. Just as there are traffic rules for drivers, there are also traffic rules for bikers that must be adhered for the safety of the rider and for everyone else on the road. Let's adhere to the rules to help create safer roads and a safer Asahikawa!



Sources

- <https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/traffic/bicycle/portal/rule.html>
- <https://www2.police.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/trafficsafety/trafficsafety14/trafficsafety01.html>
- <https://www.town-ono.jp/0000002591.html>

Sneak Peek into 2026



NOTE: The following events are still in the process of planning and may be subjected to change.

Throughout 2025, AIC has planned numerous events that helped promote international exchange with foreigners and locals of Asahikawa! This year, we are working to create more fun events for everyone to be able to connect, experience international cultures, and expand their horizons!

Spring

Spring Walk & Picnic (Mid-May)



Spring Walk & Picnic is an outdoor exchange event where locals and international community gather to experience Asahikawa's nature downtown and enjoy a picnic. This fun event is perfect way to start the spring and connect with people from the community!

Summer

Friendship Party (Mid-June)



Hang out with members of the community through Asahikawa International Center's Friendship Party! Through games and conversation, you can connect and have fun with locals and international residents from all over Asahikawa and Kamikawa area!

Fall

Medical English Seminar (Early-November)



Brush up and learn about medical English! English speaking medical professionals and enthusiast come to partake in this seminar to develop their understanding of medical English, but also to learn about cross-cultural communication!

Winter

Holiday Potluck (Mid-December)



Members of Asahikawa's international community join in to bring the holiday spirit and share their cultural dishes! Fun games, energetic people, and recipes from all over the world for everyone to enjoy!