

MURORAN TIMES



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News and Topics



Muroran JSW , the 100th Anniversary of Establishment

The Muroran Plant of Japan Steel Works Co. Ltd. in Chatsu, Muroran (head officer: Mr. Sato Ikuo) reached its 100th year this year. On November 1st a commemorative ceremony, celebrating the 100th anniversary, was held. Some 200 people consisting of the executives of the company, retired staff, union members, people from neighborhood associations, people in political and financial circles, and others took part in the ceremony.

At the ceremony Mr. Sato said, "We have been faced with a lot of crunches so far. Getting through the hard times with our perseverance, our technology and local support, we could reach our 100th year. From now on we are driving to become a top labeled company in the field of energy and ecology." The company donated one million yen each to three neighboring cities (Muroran, Noboribetsu and Date), in commemoration of its centenary. They also donated 200 thousand yen each to six neighborhood associations.

The company was established on November 1, 1907 as a joint capital investment of a Japanese company and an English company in order to produce mainly weapons. Therefore during World War, the company received heavy blows by bombardment from warships. After the war, the company changed its front to make nuclear reactors for atomic energy, big pipes for oil pipelines, and so forth. Now they have a deluge of orders from all over the world. JSW is planning to build a new factory at a cost of 50 billion yen. In March 2007, their sales volume (80 billion yen) was the highest ever recorded. The company, one of the Muroran's key corporations, has a promising future.

にほんせいこうしよむろらんせいさくしよ そうぎようひやくしゅうねん きねんしきてん
日本製鋼所室蘭製作所の創業100周年記念式典が
かいさい けっさん か こさいこう うりあげだか きろく
開催されました。決算で過去最高の売上高を記録す
るなど、さらなるはってん きたい
発展が期待されています。

Muroran IT Cooperates with Sapporo Medical University

On November 20th, Muroran Institute of Technology (Muroran IT, president: Dr. Matsuoka Ken-ichi) signed an agreement with Sapporo Medical University (president: Dr. Imai Kohzo). The two institutes will collaborate on improving medical apparatus for patients with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), developing lighter and easier-to-use artificial hands, etc.

At the signing ceremony Dr. Matsuoka said, "In June 2006 at a meeting with three institutes (Muroran IT, Otaru University of Commerce and Sapporo Medical University,) this subject was on the agenda. We have some common points of interest with the medical field. Both sides were hoping to establish a relationship. Dr. Imai said, "There are very few relationships like ours. We would like to pass our accomplishments on to the local people and the patients, by fusing the needs in the medical field and the technology in the engineering field."

In addition to collaboration, the two institutes are also going to discuss about incorporating graduates of each other's institute, co-sponsoring an Open University, and so on.



むろらんこうぎょうだいがく さっぽろい か だいがく じゅういちがつはつつか れんけい
室蘭工業大学と札幌医科大学は11月20日に連携
きょうてい ちやういん こんご きんいしゆくしやうかんじや ほじよ きぐ
協定に調印し、今後、筋萎縮症患者の補助器具の
かいりやう けいりやう そうさせい ぎしゆ かいはつ
改良や、軽量で操作性のよい義手の開発などを
きやうどう けんきゆう よてい
共同で研究する予定です。

The Lottery Ticket for “HAKUCHO Bridge Countdown 2008”

The lottery tickets for the “HAKUCHO Bridge Countdown 2008,” which will be held on the night of December 31st, are now on sale. The lottery will start after the fireworks celebrating the New Year, at about 12:10 a.m. in the vicinity of MITARA, the HAKUCHO Bridge Commemoration Center in Shukuzu-cho.

For the first prize of the lottery, the Executive Committee of the Countdown has prepared a pair of tickets for a night at the Windsor Hotel Toya in Toyako Cho (worth 100,000yen), and cash-grabbing chance (1,000 yen and 500 yen bills) as the second prize. Nintendo DS and Wii are among the other prizes offered.

The lottery tickets are sold in MITARA and the Muroran Association of Tourism (former Muroran Station). One ticket is 500 yen.

There is another lottery chance for people who cannot come to the meeting place on that day. The Executive Committee has also prepared prizes of Muroran Yakitori or Curry Ramen prize for those people. Just fill in your name, address and phone number on the back side of the ticket and put it in the box which is set in MITARA or Muroran Association of Tourism.

For more information, contact the Executive Committee at 0143-42-4910.

じゅうにがつさんじゅういちにち	よる	はくちょうおおほし
12月31日	の夜	「白鳥大橋カウントダウン」
で行		
われ	る	抽選会に参加するための抽選券が、1枚
ごひゃくえん	はんばい	ちゅうせんけん
500円	で	販売中
です。		

Information and Invitations

Magic Show

[Date] December 8(Sat) 1:30p.m. ~

[Place] Bokoi Station

[Admission Fee] Free

[More Information] Mr. Nigishi (Tel: 0143-23-3801)



Hands-on Lectures at Sun Life Muroran

• Making Nengajyo (New Year's Cards) with a personal computers

[Date] December 8(Sat) 10:00a.m ~12:00noon.
2:00p.m. ~ 4:00p.m.

[Limit] 5 people each time

[Admission Fee] 1,000 yen

• Cocoa bread making

[Date] December 15(Sat) 2:00p.m. ~ 4:00p.m.
6:30p.m. ~ 8:30p.m.

[Limit] 5 people each time

[Admission Fee] 1,500 yen



• Flower arrangement

[Date] December 22(Sat) 2:00p.m. ~ 4:00p.m.

[Limit] first 20 people

[Admission Fee] 2,300 yen

• Mini New Year's pine decoration making

[Date] December 22(Sat) 10:00a.m ~ 12:00noon.

[Limit] first 20 people

[Admission Fee] 2,800 yen

[Application] by telephone until three days before each date

[Information] Sun Life Muroran

(Kohoku-cho 1-6-2)

(Tel: 0143-55-3040)



Muroran Citizens Orchestra Concert

[Date] December 9(Sun) 3:00 p.m. ~ 5:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Bunka Center (Saiwai-cho 6-23)

[Performers] Grieg's piano concerto, Symphony the second Svensen

[Tickets] 700 yen (500 yen in advance) for students
1,300 yen (1,000 yen in advance) for adults. You can

get tickets at Puratto Tetsuichi (Wanishi-cho), Elm musical shop (Nakajima-cho), Ginya record shop

(Chuou-cho) and Muroran Institute of Technology Coop

[Information] Muroran City Office (0143-22-5094)

News from the Recycle Plaza (Ishikawa-cho)

• Exhibition and purchase of reconditioned furniture

[Date] December 20(Thur) ~ January 15(Tue)
10:00a.m ~5:00p.m. (1:30p.m.on the last day)

• *Calendar sales*

[Date] January 5(Sat) * Sale ends when items have been sold out
[More Information] Nishi-iburi Recycle Plaza (Tel: 0143-59-0319)

The Otaki Cross-Country Skiing course open

[Date] December 16(Sun) ~ March 31,2008(Mon)
* The opening day may change due to snow conditions.

Come experience the nature in *Otaki* while cross-country skiing! A part of the course can be enjoyed with the nighttime lighting until nine o'clock.

[Place] Date city Otaki sports park (*Taisei-cho*)
[Admission Fee] Free
[More Information] Physical education part of Lifelong learning promotion section at Date City Office (Tel: 0142-23-3331)

Opening of Sanraiba Ski Area in Karurusu

hot springs



[Date] December 15(Sat) *The opening day may change due to snow conditions.
[Lift charge] Coupon ticket (11 times):2,300 yen (1,900 yen for under elementary school children)
Ticket for six hours:2,600 yen(2,100 yen for under elementary school children) One-day ticket:3,000 yen(2,400 yen for under elementary school children)
[More Information] *Sanraiba* Ski Area in *Karurusu* hot spring (Tel: 0143-84-2872)

Hands-on Lecture at Muroran Historical Museum (*Jinya-cho*)

Experience making *MOCHITSUKI* (pounding steamed rice)
[Date] December 23(Sun)
10:30a.m. ~ 12:30p.m.
[Admission Fee] 300 yen
[Limit] first 20 people
[Application] by telephone (Tel: 0143-59-4922)
[More Information] Muroran Historical Museum (Tel: 0143-59-4922)

Special Christmas Planetarium Program

[Date] December 24 (Mon) ①1:30p.m. ~
②3:00p.m.~ *It takes about 35 minutes.

[Place] Muroran Science Museum (*Hon-cho* 2-2-1)
[Entrance Fee] 300 yen for adult, 100 yen for high school student (under junior high school age and over 70: free)
[Planetarium Fee] 140 yen(adult) 50 yen(high school student) 40 yen(elementary and junior high school student) free(under elementary school children)
[Program] Introduction of winter constellations and live music from the acoustic guitar band "Cell block".
[Limit] first 100 people *you need a numbered entrance ticket
[Ticket] You can get a ticket at Muroran Science Museum from December 1
[More Information] Muroran Science Museum (Tel: 0143-22-1058)

Final Count Down to 2008 at Hakucho Bay

Bridge

[Date] December 31(Mon) 10:30p.m. ~
[Place] near Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall (*Shukuzu-cho*)
[Contents] Count down, Fireworks, Lottery
[Ticket] Lottery ticket is 500 yen. You can get a ticket at Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall or Muroran Sightseeing Association, and also you can get tickets on that day.
[More Information] Hakucho Bay Bridge countdown executive committee secretariat (Tel: 0143-42-4910)

Japanese Cooking 193

Simmered Flounder

- Ingredients (serve four) -

Small flounders	4
<Sauce>	
water	240 cc
sake	240 cc



sugar	3 tablespoons
mirin	4 tablespoons
soy sauce	4 tablespoons

<Directions>

- (1) Scrape the scales off both sides of the flounder, make a slit on the reverse side then scrape out the guts.
- (2) Wash the flounder in water, and score the skin (to allow the flavors to infuse the fish).
- (3) Combine all the sauce ingredients in a shallow pan at high heat.
When it boils, add the flounders with the skin side facing up.
- (4) Cover with a drop-lid, bring to the boil and cook on medium heat for about 10 minutes.
- (5) Transfer the flounder to plates, and pour sauce over.

About Japan

Government System



<What is the parliamentary system of Japan like?>

The parliament of Japan is called the Diet, and is made up of the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Both houses consist of elected members representing the nation. The House of Representative mainly represents the people's opinions, and the House of Councilors checks the power and judgment of the House of Representatives.

<How many members of the Diet are there and how are they elected?>

As of June 2004, the House of Representatives has 480 members and the House of Councilors has 247. The number in the House of Representatives reflects the most recent revision of the election law, which after heated discussions, was enacted in 1994.

The election system, for the House of Representatives consists of two voting methods. Of the 480 seats, 300 are elected according to the "small electoral district system," in which one candidate is elected for each of the 300 districts of the country.

And the "proportional representation system" is applied to the remaining 180 seats. With this system, the country is divided into 11 large electoral districts, and votes are cast for political parties instead of candidates. The seats for members of the Diet are

allocated to each party in proportion to the number of votes gained nationwide.

Therefore, a voter casts a ballot for one candidate in the small electoral district, and a ballot for one party in the large proportional electoral district.

98 members of the House of Councilors are elected according to the "proportional representation system" and the remaining 149 members are elected from electoral districts based on prefectural units.

Terms of office are four years for members of the House of Representatives and six years for members of the House of Councilors. Half of the members of the House of Councilors are elected every three years.

<What is the government system of Japan like?>

The Japanese government, as in many democratic countries, is composed of a legislative branch, an administrative branch, and a judiciary branch. Each of the branches is independent from the others in term of power. The Diet is vested with legislative powers, the cabinet with administrative powers, and the court with judiciary powers.

The execution of administrative powers is based on the "parliamentary cabinet system" in which the cabinet is organized by the Diet. The prime minister is designated by the Diet and the state ministers are chosen by the prime minister.

However, unlike in some democratic countries such as the United States, the majority of state ministers are chosen from among members of the Diet. This fact can obscure the line between the legislature and the administration.

(quotation from "Talking About Japan")

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
2. 樫三十郎 (Japanese)
3. マリと子犬の物語 (Japanese) (from Dec 8)
4. I AM LEGEND (from Dec 14)



About the Muroran Times

The Muroran Times is designed to bring information about local events to the international community of Muroran. Staff: Mitani Yoichi, Ishizawa Yuko, Yamashita Mayumi, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.