

MURORAN TIMES



March 1, 2008 No.221

Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics

Eight Obstetricians in Muroran



The obstetrics and gynecology department of Nikko Memorial Hospital in Muroran has been closed since last March, due to the absence of doctors. Until then, the facility had coped well with high risk childbirths, and had offered advanced medical treatment at an intensive care unit for newborn infants (NICU). After the close of the department, pregnant women with difficult childbirth cases were transferred to hospitals in *Tomakomai* and other places.

To remedy the situation, Sapporo Medical University decided to dispatch two obstetricians each to Nikko Memorial Hospital and Shin-Nittetsu Hospital this coming April. On the other hand, the number of obstetricians sent to Muroran City Hospital will be decreased from three to two. In addition, one of the doctors dispatched to the City Hospital will support Nikko Memorial Hospital three times a week to restore the high capability which Nikko Memorial Hospital used to possess. Incidentally, the reshuffling of personnel in this case is quite exceptional, but the citizens of Muroran welcome the measures as an alternative, which everybody is relieved about.

In March eight obstetricians (two in Nikko Memorial Hospital, three in Shin-Nittetsu Hospital, two in Muroran City Hospital and one private obstetrician) will be stationed in Muroran. Therefore, a full support system for childbirth, which covers not only Muroran but also West *Iburi*, will be formed.

このたび札幌医科大学から医師が派遣され、さらに

市立室蘭総合病院からも医師が応援に加わって、

日鋼記念病院の産婦人科が4月から再開されること
となりました。

The Shipment of the Reactor

Last month, the Japan Steel Works (JSW) Muroran Plant shipped the first four reactors of an order for 14 large-scale desulfurization reactors for oil refining that they received from Kuwait National Petroleum Company in Kuwait.

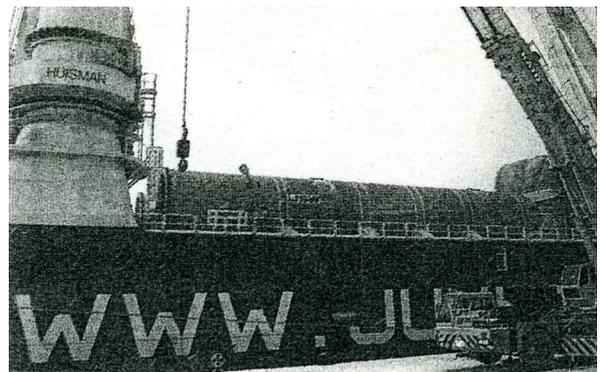
JSW Muroran Plant accepted the order of 12 reactors for a record-high of 22 million yen last March. Furthermore, an additional request for two more reactors was made, bringing the total number of reactors ordered to 14.

JSW Muroran Plant will divide the delivery into three segments to be completed by January, 2009.

A desulfurization reactor is a columnar device which removes sulfur from crude oil at high temperatures and high pressure, and refines heavy oil.

The one reactor which was shipped this time is of world maximum grade with an inside diameter of 4.5 meters, a height of 30 meters, a wall thickness of 30 centimeters, and about 1,030t in weight.

JSW Muroran Plant is highly evaluated because they can produce high quality products consistently from production to assembly over a short term; and they have received many orders from foreign countries.



日本製鋼所室蘭製作所が220億円で受注した

石油精製のリアクター14基のうち、完成した4基

が初出荷されました。

“Relay for Life”

A relay race named “Relay for Life”(RFL) will be held in Muroran this August. RFL is a campaign to

support cancer patients through walking. While walking in a stadium or a park for 24 hours, the participants (patients, their family members, their friends and others) share the preciousness of life and the strong will to fight against cancer. An American doctor started the RFL activity in 1985. In Japan, it originated in 2006.

RFL will be held on both 30th and 31st of August in Muroran. It will be the very first time to be held in Hokkaido. Some 1,000 people will join in the event as volunteers and participants.

Prior to the event, a leader of the executive committee, Ms. Kaneko Akemi (a 39yr-old cancer patient), paid a visit to Muroran Mayor, Mr. Shingu Masashi. Mr. Shingu said, “This year is the 10th anniversary of the opening of Hakucho Bridge. As a bridge unites people, RFL unites people’s hearts. We will fully support the event.”



Ms. Kaneko Akemi

がん患者を支援するイベント「リレー・フォー・ライフ」が
8月に室蘭で開催されることとなり、実行委員長の金子
明美さんが室蘭市長を訪問し、あいさつしました。

Information and Invitations

City Office and Nakajima Service Center Hours Extended till 7:00p.m.

Official-business time will be extended till 7:00p.m. because of the seasonal increase in address changes.

[Date] March 27(Thur)-April 4(Fri)

[Place] Service Center and Insurance Pension Section at City of Muroran (Saiwai-cho), Nakajima Service Center

[More Information]Service Center at Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-2416)

Insurance Pension Section at City of Muroran (Tel: 0143-25-2433)

Muroran Art Society’s New Artists’ Exhibition

[Date] March 20 (Thur) – 23 (Sun) 10:00a.m. ~

[Place] Bunka Center Gallery (Saiwai-cho)

[More Information] Ms.Sakaki(Tel:0143-23-3370)

Orchids Exhibition

[Date] March 29(Sat), 30(Sun) 10:00a.m.~

[Place] NHK Plaza μ

[More Information] Ms.Otubo(Tel:0143-44-8691)

Korean Cooking Class

[Date] March 21 (Fri) 11:00a.m. ~ 2:00p.m.

[Place] ミンクール (higashi-machi)

[Limit] first 25 people *The person who is participating the first time will be given priority.

By lottery if number of applicants exceed 25

[Admission Fee] 1,000 yen

[Application] by telephone until March 14

[More Information] International Relations of the City of Muroran (Tel: 0143-43-9092)

Recording of the Opening to the Public of

NHK TV Program “BS Japanese Songs”

[Date] April 10 (Thur) 6:40p.m. ~ 8:30p.m.

[Place] Muroran Bunka Center

[Guests] Mr. Takao Horiuchi, Ms. Yuri Harada, and etc

[Admission Fee] free

[Application] Please send a pre-paid reply postcard with your name, address, ZIP code and telephone number to NHK Muroran by March 14

(〒051-0012 1-3-50 Yamate-cho,Muroran)

室蘭市山手町1-3-50 NHK 室蘭放送局

「BS日本のうた」係

[More Information] BS Japanese Songs dial: Taped 24-hour guide (Tel: 0143-22-7301)

Let's Participate in the "Team-6%"

Challenge

This program aims at reaching the goal of reducing carbon dioxide 6% by 2012 as promised by the Kyoto Protocol to defend the earth where we live, and taking measures in the home and office for the prevention of Global warming prevention that can be done. Let's make a public declaration to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions around our personal environment.

[More Information] Team -6% committee & Ministry of the environment
(HP: <http://www.team-6.jp/>)

Japanese Cooking 196

Garnished Sushi ちらし^{ずし}寿司

- Ingredients (serves four) -

rice	2 cups (400 cc)
water	2 cups (400 cc)
kelp (昆布)	5cm square
<u>vinegar sauce</u>	
{ rice vinegar	3 tablespoons
{ sugar	1 tablespoon
{ salt	1 teaspoon
prawns	8
broiled sea eel	200 g
snow peas	8
thin omelet (<i>kinshitamago</i>)	
{ eggs	2
{ pinch of salt	
{ a little of oil	
simmered shiitake mushrooms	
{ dried shiitake mushrooms	4
{ broth	100 cc
{ soy sauce	2 tablespoons
{ sugar	1 tablespoon
{ mirin	1 tablespoon



Directions

- (1) Wash the rice, leave to drain for 30 minutes before cooking.
Put the rice, water and konbu in a pan and cook. Remove konbu just before the water starts to boil.
- (2) Mix all of the vinegar sauce ingredients into a pan, heat to medium, stir until sugar and salt are dissolved, and then remove from heat and leave to cool.
- (3) Transfer cooked rice into a large wooden sushi bowl (or vat) and spread (2) over entirely.
- (4) Stir sushi rice with a wet spatula in a slashing motion to evaporate excess moisture, and then cool.

How to Make Garnished Sushi

Directions

- (1) Boil prawns, remove shell and black vein. Cut in half.
- (2) Chop the sea eel roughly. Boil snow peas, chop thinly.
- (3) Make a thin omelet: Beat the eggs and add a pinch of salt.
Heat a frying pan with a little vegetable oil; pour in the eggs and spread.
When the surface is firm, turn over.
- (4) Cook briefly on the reverse side, and slice into thin strips.
- (5) Simmer the shiitake mushrooms : Wash dried shiitake mushrooms and soak then in 1/2 cup cold or lukewarm water until soft.
Remove hard tips, cut thinly.
- (6) Put the shiitake mushrooms (5) and soaking water into a pan, add broth, put over high heat, bring to the boil, reduce heat to low and cook for about 15 minutes.
Add sugar, mirin and soy sauce, and simmer until the liquid is reduced to about 1/3rd.
- (7) Place the sushi rice on a large plate; decorate with the above ingredients (prawn, sea eel, omelet, shiitake mushrooms and snow peas.)
Eat with soy sauce and wasabi to taste.

How to Make Sushi Rice

About Japan

Japanese Culture



<Do all Japanese women know how to arrange flowers and perform at tea ceremonies?>

No. Until the end of World War II both the tea ceremony and flower arrangement were prerequisites for marriage for single women. At that time, getting married was virtually the only option they had. However, as more and more women started playing an important role in the post-war society, this gradually changed, and currently both art forms are taken up only by people who are truly interested in them.

<How is the tea ceremony different from just drinking tea?>

The tea ceremony was initiated by Murata Juko (1422 – 1502), and perfected by Sen-no Rikyu (1522 – 1591), who exalted the everyday act of drinking tea to an integrated art form by stylizing manners and etiquette.

Maccha, or powdered tea leaves, is used in the tea ceremony. As one of the ceremony's most fundamental elements, the host has to follow various rules in every procedure of tea making, from making the fire, adding hot water to tea cups, stirring the tea with a whisk until it gets foamy, to serving it.

Another important element is a shared sense of communication between the host and the guests throughout the ceremony. The host, in order to entertain his or her guests, takes utmost care in every step of the preparation process, such as in choosing everything from tea utensils to a hanging scroll, flowers, a vase and other amenities to go with the environment. The guests, in return, are expected to express their understanding of the host's consideration and gratitude toward the host's efforts.

<What is *ikebana*?>

Ikebana, or Japanese traditional flower arrangement, was first stylized in the *Muromachi* period (1333 – 1568). Prior to that, people were in the habit of offering arranged flowers to Buddha. The concept of *ikebana*, therefore, developed into one that expresses something Buddhistic or divine. It also embraces harmony with nature, symbolized

by three well-balanced basic sprays signifying ten (heaven /universe), *jin* (mankind) and *chi* (earth).

Since World War II, however, modern schools of *ikebana* such as the *Sogetsu* school, which uses materials other than flowers, have appeared in an attempt to present this traditional flower arrangement as a kind of formative art.

There are about 2,000 *ikebana* school and *Sogetsu* school.

<what is the *iemoto* system?>

In the world of traditional Japanese arts such as tea ceremony, flower arrangement, incense ceremony, and traditional music, the *iemoto* is a person who consolidates his or her particular school by transmitting the correct methods of that school. The rank of *iemoto* is usually passed on by direct inheritance.

The *iemoto* has great authority. Licenses issued by the *iemoto* are necessary in order to teach such arts as the tea ceremony and flower arrangement and it is the *iemoto* who has the sole authority to grant these licenses.

Licenses are usually graded according to rank, and every time a higher rank is granted, a licensing fee must be paid. The highest ranks in some cases require a fee of several million yen.

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. HIS DARK MATERIALS: THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2. ガチ・ボーイ (Japanese)
3. クロサギ (Japanese)
4. ドラえもん緑の巨人伝 (Japanese cartoon)



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.