

# MURORAN TIMES



September 1, 2010 No.250

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

## News and Topics



### Record Heavy Rain

Muroran Area was hit by heavy rain from early in the morning of August 11<sup>th</sup> through the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup>, so that heavy rain warning was announced. This heavy rain was caused by the front activated by Typhoon 4<sup>th</sup>. According to Muroran Local Meteorological Observatory, the total rainfall on August 11<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> was 218.5mm in Noboribetsu, 202mm in Muroran and 149mm in Date. The amount of rainfall 24h hours in Muroran was 182.5mm, which surpassed the past top record (169mm in August 1981) and the most ever recorded. Due to the heavy rain, 67 houses around Wanishi were flooded over the floor, and 22 houses were flooded under the floor. Nine people in 5 households in Masuichi-cho were temporally evacuated from their residences to the neighborhood association house. As for Japan Railway Company, the rail between Higashi-Muroran and Moto-Wanisi was covered by water, so that 31 trains including express trains and ordinary trains could not run. Luckily this time there was no casualties. But because Muroran has lots of slopes, people are afraid of landslides. Muroran City Office has provided citizen with a hazard map, and is asking them to take caution.

むろらん はちがつ じゅういちにち じゅうににち  
室蘭では8月11日から12日にかけて、かつ  
てないほどの激しい雨に見舞われ、床上浸水な  
どの被害が出ました。

### Heat Wave

Heat wave hit Muroran Area, so that on August 6<sup>th</sup> the temperature was 31.0 C,



the highest this season. Due to the heat wave, electric appliance stores sold 2.5 times more electric fans than last year, and in many stores they were out of stock. Air conditioners as well sold three times more than the previous year, so that service workers were very busy installing them in August. Also water usage increased. According to Water Service Department of Muroran City Office, the amount of water usage per day in August was 1,000~4,000 m<sup>3</sup> more than last year. The amount of water usage per day, 35,000 m<sup>3</sup>, jumped to 41,144 m<sup>3</sup> on August 6<sup>th</sup>, the most this summer. At supermarkets and convenience stores sales of sports drinks, beer, and ice-candy increased. As for garment industry, swimsuit sold well. On top of that, commodity goods to fight the heat, such as cool pads, also sold well.

むろらんちほう はちがつ はい さんじゅういちど きろくてき  
室蘭地方は8月に入って31度など記録的な  
あつさがつづき、せんふうきやエアコンの売り上げが伸  
びて売り切れとなるほどでした。

### Fire Department and Hospital Cooperate

Muroran Fire Defense Headquarters made an agreement with City Hospital to cooperate in emergency service. This means that if the sick or wounded person is in critical condition because of an accident, the rescue party of the Fire Headquarters can request doctors and nurses to dispatch to the spot.

So the rapid lifesaving can be done in cooperation with an ambulance and medical treatment.

The Fire Defense Headquarters said that they will protect citizens from various disasters and accidents to keep a safe daily life.

Joint training is scheduled to take place once or more every year.

むろらんしょうぼうほんぶ しりつむろらんそうごうびょういん きゅうきゅう  
室蘭消防本部と市立室蘭総合病院が、救急  
ぎょうむ れんけい きょうてい むす  
業務で連携するための協定を結びました。

## Information and Invitations

### Swan Festa 2010



<Outdoor Markets>

[Date] September 4(Sat), 5(Sun) 10:00a.m.

<Fireworks>

[Date] September 4(Sat) 9:30p.m. ~ 8:20p.m.

\*Postponed to September 5 in case of rain

[Place] Muroran Port Central Wharf

[Information] Muroran Tourist Association (Tel: 0143-23-0102)



### Food & Health Festival

[Date] September 14(Tue) 10:00a.m. ~2:30p.m.

[Place]Public Health Center

[Limit] first 150 people

[Contents] Measurements of muscle and body fat,

Obesity index measurement, health, nutrition consultation, measurement of physical fitness and Recreation dance

[Admission Fee] 300 yen (includes coffee and some snacks)

[Application] on that day



\*Please bring your shoes for floor, if you plan to participate in the measurement of physical fitness and the dance

### Luxury Cruise Passenger Ships to Enter Muroran Port



“Pacific Venus”

[Date] September 14(Tue)

Arrival: 8:00a.m. Departure: 7:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Port Central Wharf passenger ship berth

“Diamond Princess”

[Date] September 26(Sun)

Arrival: 8:00a.m. Departure: 6:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Port *Sakimori* Wharf

[More Information] Ports Section of Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-22-3191)

### DANPARA Autumn Festival

[Date] September 20(Mon) 9:45 a.m. ~3:00p.m.

\*It may be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

[Place] DANPARA Park and the lodge

[Application] on that day

[Contents]

Picking mushrooms: Please come to Danpara lodge by 9:30a.m.

Free of charge, Please prepare your long sleeve, long trousers, and boots

Walking in the park (3km/6km): Please come to Danpara lodge by 9:30a.m

Limit is first 100 people. Free of charge

Horse riding: Thoroughbred horse (500yen)

Pony (300yen)

Fresh vegetables market



\*a special bus(fee will be charged) will leave

from Muroran Industrial Hall front at 8:30a.m.

The bus will leave from Danpara Park at 2:30p.m.

[Information] DANPARA Park Lodge (Tel: 0143-43-5600)

### Call for Muroran IT Festival Free Market Tenants

[Date] September 25(Sat), 26(Sun) 10 a.m.open

\*It may be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

[Admission Fee] 200 yen per one lot (1.5m×2.5m), per day

[Conditions] Tenants should be the representative of a group, or an individual older than high school age.

[Application] E-mail or Postcard (please write the representative's address, name, telephone number, number of lots desired (up to three), and the desired day, by September 18.

\*First-come-first-served basis

[Information] Muroran IT studio events Free Market Supervisor Mr.Yamashiro (Tel: 080-6091-5323

E-mail:flea\_saiji@hotmail.co.jp)

<Mail applications to>

Muroran IT studio events Free Market Supervisor



27-1 Mizumoto-cho, Muroran  
〒050-8585:室蘭市水元町 2 7 - 1  
室蘭工業大学スタジオ催事フリマ係

## The MURORANPIC (Sports Event for the Citizens of Muroran)

[Date] September 26(Sun) 9:00 a.m. ~ 2:15p.m.

\*Postponed to October 3 in case of rainy

weather

[Place] Irie Sports Field

[Application] application will start at 8:30a.m.on that day



\* please bring your lunch

[Contents] Relay and tug-of-war, etc.

[More Information] Muroran City Gymnasium  
(0143-44-7521)

## Muroran Tour for People of Muroran, Noboribetsu, Date

[Date] September 29(wed) 3:30 p.m ~7:00 p.m.

[Departure point] Higashi Muroran Station east exit side

[Courses] Bolta atelier, FM View Studio, Night view appreciation

(with stops at Mt.Sokuryo, Syukuzu Park, Swan Bay each observatory)

[Limit] 14 people (if applicants exceed limit, application will be determined by lot)

[Application] by telephone until September 17

[More Information] the Public Relation Section of

Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-2193)



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## Japanese Lesson

### “Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

**Disaster Prevention** : 防災 [bousai]

Vocabulary

earthquake : 地震 [jishin]

typhoon : 台風 : [taifu]

flood : 洪水 [kouzui]

fire : 火事 [kaji]

tsunami (tidal waves) : 津波 [tsunami]

drill, training : 訓練 [kunren]

emergency : 緊急 [kinkyu]

evacuation : 避難 [hinan]

first aid : 応急手当 [oukyu-teate]

extinguisher : 消火器 [shyouka-ki]

### Phrases

(1) 「9月1日は防災の日です。」

[ku gatsu tsuitachi wa bousai no hi desu]

There is Anti-disaster Day on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

(2) 「地域の避難場所と避難路を知っていますか。」

[chiiki no hinan basyo to hinan keiro wo shitte imasuka]

Do you know the place and routes to evacuate in your neighborhood?

### Explanation

Japan is known for an island with frequent natural disasters, especially earthquake. During anti-disaster week, from August 30 to September 5, there are many disaster drills at schools and workplaces across the country. This is because preparation is very important to minimize the damage. Imagine you happened to experience a fatal natural disaster during your stay in Japan, how would you protect yourself and your family? Is there something you can prepare for from today...?

Here is some useful information about disaster prevention for your reference: Fire and Disaster Management Agency: <http://www.fdma.go.jp/en>

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## Interview

### Konnichiwa “Muroanese”

[Vol.12]

**Matt Bencoter**

by Mike Nima



Matt Bencoter comes from Washington State in the US. He has been living in Muroan since August 2009. He is currently teaching English at Kaisei Gakuin High School. He also leads private English classes.

*What were you doing before you came to Japan?*

Before I came to Japan, I worked at a bank and was a college student. I studied International Business.

*Why did you decide to come to Japan?*

My wife and I wanted to travel while we were young and learn about other cultures. We both studied Japanese in college and had an interest in the language and culture.

*Tell us about the places you've seen in Japan.*

I love Kansai because of the history and the atmosphere. I went to Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto earlier this year. I love hiking and have climbed Muroan dake, Meakan dake, and Fujisan. Japan is so full of history, it seems everywhere I go, there is a fascinating story to hear.

*Tell us about how living in Muroan is different from living in Washington.*

Muroan is much smaller than my hometown in Washington. In Washington, everyone drives cars, and there are no trains and very few buses and taxis. Public transportation is very convenient in Hokkaido compared to Washington. I lived about seven hours by car away from the ocean, and now I live about two

minutes by car away from the ocean. I love the smell of the ocean and the ability to go to the water anytime I want.

*What do you like about living in Japan?*

I enjoy learning about Japanese culture, and eating different types of food.

*What's challenging for you about living in Muroan?*

Being far away from family is difficult, but they are happy knowing that we are doing what we want.

*Tell us about your favorite places in Muroan.*

During winter the best place in Muroan is sitting under a *kotatsu*. I can't imagine anywhere else in Muroan I would rather be. When the weather is nice I like to go to Chikyumisaki. I think it is the most beautiful location in the city. My favorite place near Muroan is Lake Toya. It is a short drive away and a great place to relax.

*About the interviewer:*

*Mike Nima is an ALT for the Muroan Board of Education. He teaches English at Muroan Institute of Technology. He also gives private eikaiwa lessons.*

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## Cinema Guide

### *Muroan Gekijo (Higashi-machi)*

1. ハナミズキ (Japanese)
2. 告白 (Japanese)
3. 借りぐらしのアリエッティ (Japanese)
4. 踊る大捜査線3 (Japanese)

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### **About the Muroan Times**

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