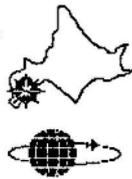


# MURORAN TIMES



April 1, 2011 No.257

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

## News and Topics

### Extending support to disaster victims



The death toll and number of missing from the Tohoku-Kanto massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11 is more than 20,000 people, and about 250,000 survivors has been obliged to live in harsh conditions at evacuation shelters such as schools. Also, the nuclear power plants at Fukushima were devastatingly damaged. Neighboring residents found shelters to get away from the leaking radiation. People throughout Japan are supporting these evacuees. Municipal firefighters and water works employees went to the disaster areas. The doctors and nurses at the Muroran Municipal Hospital organized an emergency medical team, and they stood by at Chitose Airport in the case of disaster.

From March 22-31, citizens of Muroran donated many goodwill items such as blankets, diapers, instant noodles, and canned food to survivors from the stricken areas. In addition, Muroran city donated 20 million yen from the city budget.

東日本大震災で被害を受けた地域に対し、  
室蘭市の消防や水道、病院などの職員が派遣さ  
れているほか、市民からの支援物資も多数集まり  
ました。

### The Floating Disaster Prevention Facility

The floating disaster prevention facility loaded with fuel, food and other support goods traveled to Soma Port on March 22 by tug boat.

Soma Port, Fukushima Prefecture is one of the

stricken areas of the Tohoku earthquake of March 11.

The Hokkaido Regional Development installed this float at Muroran Port in 2003 and its total length is 80 meters, the width is 24 meters and the height is 4meters. This is the first mobilization due to a disaster.

Since arriving at Soma Port on March 25, the float has been used as mooring facilities in substitution for Soma Port where there is no prospect of restoration so far.



室蘭港に配備されていた防災フロートが、震災で大き  
な被害を受けた福島県相馬港に運ばれ、臨時の岸壁  
として活用されています。

### Development of the largest class wind power generator

Japan Steel Works, Ltd. Muroran plant has designed and developed a 2,700-kw wind power generator (windmill), which is the largest class in Japan. The Muroran plant has been marketing wind power generator since 2006 and starting with the production of a 2,000-kw windmill. Having the second largest market share (25%) in Japan, sales figures soared to 18 billion yen. Since financial assistance from the government has not been arranged recently, production has gone down. Muroran plant officials judge that they are undertaking the development of the largest wind power generators to correspond to the worldwide needs. Although production of the first 2700-kw generator is still to be decided, a demonstration model has been made to determine its efficiency and the affect on the environment.

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 日本製鋼所室蘭製作所では、国内最大となる 2,  
 ななひゃくきろ わつと きゅう ふうりょくはつでんき かいはつ と く  
 700キロワット級の風力発電機の開発に取り組ん  
 でいます。

## Information and Invitations

### Danpara Park Opening

[Opening Date] April 21(Thur)  
 [Opening hours] 9:00a.m.~5:00p.m.



#### Tennis Court (4 courts)

[Admission Fee] 200 yen for two hours a person  
 (100yen under high school student)  
 Special use of one court 800 yen for two hours



#### Putter Golf Hall (9 halls)

[Admission Fee] 200 yen for one day a person  
 (60 yen under high school student)

#### Ground Golf/Park Golf Hall (9 halls)

[Admission Fee] 250 yen for one day a person  
 (80 yen under high school student)



\*There is a discount coupon ticket, too.

Equipment for putter golf, ground golf, and park golf can be rented: *free of charge*.

[More Information]

Sun Power380 (Tel: 0143-44-6055)

### Muroran Aquarium Open

[Opening Date] April 22(Fri)  
 [Opening hours] 9:30a.m. ~4:30p.m.  
 [Admission Fee] 300 yen (adult) free (under junior high school age and over 70 years)  
 Annual Passport 1,000 yen  
 [More Information] Muroran Aquarium  
 (Tel:0143-27-1638)



### Spring Gardening Class

[Date] April 16(Sat) 10:00a.m. ~ 12:00noon.  
 [Place] Small Enterprise Center  
 [Description] The flower master, Ms.Omote will teach how to make a personal spring garden  
 [Fee] 1,000 yen  
 [Limit] first 40 people.



[Application] By telephone or FAX from April 4

\*Please bring your own gloves and shovel

[More Information] City planning division, Park section at Muroran City Office  
 (Tel: 0143-25-2603, Fax: 0143-24-2091  
 Email:hanamidori@city.muroran.lg.jp)

### Citizens' Marathon

[Date] April 29 (Fri) 9:30a.m. ~

\* Marathon will be held even if there's light rainfall.

[Place] The circumference of Nakajima Park  
 [Course] 1km, 3km, 5km, Long distance relay (Three-person group per 1km)

[Admission Fee] 300 yen (junior high and under) 500 yen (high school and over)

[Application] Come to Muroran Gymnasium on that day after 9:00a.m.

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



### Nakajima Sports Center Swimming Pool Opening

[Opening Date] May 1(Sun)  
 [Opening hours] 10:00a.m. ~7:00p.m.

[Closed Day] Monday \* But when Monday is a holiday, the next day is closed.

[Admission Fee] 400 yen (adult) 300 yen (over 65 years) 150 yen (high school student) 70 yen (schoolchildren) free(children under school age) There is a profitable coupon ticket, too.

[More Information] Nakajima Sports Center  
 (Tel: 0143-45-0800)



### Running Class

[Date] April 9 (Sat) 3:00p.m. ~ 4:30p.m.

[Conditions] over 18 years old

[Place] Irie track and field

[Contents] ACE, the locally and nationally active track and field sports team, and the Irie Running Club will lead out in the training practice.

[Admission Fee] 500 yen (the admission fee and insurance is included.)

[Application] Please apply directly at the Irie track and field sports office. You can also apply with the application form at Muroran Gymnasium, Irie Swimming Pool, Irie track and field sports office.



You can also apply on that day.  
[More Information] Muroran Gymnasium (Tel:  
0143-44-7521)

## Muroran Walking Society Wants Members



Would you like to walk together while enjoying the scenery of the four seasons in the scenic areas around Muroran? Walking has been executed from April to November every month. Additionally, the walking course etc. have been held.

[Participation fee] 1,000 yen per one year  
[Application] by telephone from April 11  
[More Information] Muroran Walking Society:  
Mr.Konno (Tel0143-44-1493)

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## Interview

### Konnichiwa“Muroranese” [Vol.18]

#### Achy Guillaume



Interviewed by Mike Nima

Achy Guillaume is from Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, and lives in Muroran. He speaks English, French, Japanese, and the African languages Attié and Dioula. He first came to Muroran in 1998 and has lived in Japan for over ten years. Achy is an ALT—Assistant Language Teacher—for Muroran. I spoke with Achy at the Green store in Nakajima.  
(Final of three parts)

*Muroran is pretty small compared with Sapporo or Tokyo. What do you do in your free time? What are your hobbies, and what are your favorite things to do?*

I have my family—I have five children, and I spend a lot of time with my children. I like doing sports—playing soccer, running—and also I read a lot of books.

#### *Do you speak to your children in French?*

At home, we speak in both languages—Japanese, and French, because I don’t want them to forget their French.

#### *So your children are becoming multilingual. What is your hope for your children, in terms of their languages?*

For them, it’s a very good opportunity to be practically bilingual at a young age, and I hope that in the future they can keep speaking Japanese, and French, and why not English as well. I want them to be very international in their thinking and also in their culture. They are bicultural—they are part of Japanese culture and Western culture.

#### *French is the official language of your country. So what do you think the role of English is in the world?*

Right now, we consider English as the international language. Maybe, for humanity, I can say that it’s a good thing that many people can communicate using one language. But, of course, it should be also okay to have another international language, not just English. English will be the first world language, and everybody has to accept it.

#### *What is the main difference between English and your African languages?*

In Africa, actually, we don’t write our languages. We just speak them. For most of the languages, there is no writing process—except for languages like Swahili in central Africa and Hausa in Nigeria.

#### *What are your favorite TV shows?*

I enjoy watching sports, sumo games, and good documentaries.

#### *What do you think about Japanese food?*

It’s very healthy, so I like it. Of course, there are some things I cannot eat, like natto. In Africa—I’m from a tropical country, it’s hot, so we are not used to eating raw fish. For that reason sushi is not one of my favorites. I love miso ramen.

*Is there anything else you would like to say?*

Japan is a wonderful country, and I enjoy living here very much. I appreciate Japanese culture and respect Japanese people. It will be quite interesting if Japan tries to be a little more international. I think that will be good for Japanese competitiveness on the world stage.

*One last question. You speak Japanese very well, and I know it's very difficult for most foreigners to learn Japanese. How did you learn to speak Japanese well?*

Japanese is one of the most difficult languages in the world. At the beginning, it was a big challenge for me to speak Japanese. I had to study it, basically through having daily conversations with people, listening to the radio, watching TV programs, and taking Japanese lessons. But it took me quite a long time. To remember, I need to practice, practice, practice.

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## Japanese Lesson

### “Nihongo de hanasou”

< Topic of the month >



**Disaster Prevention** : 防災 [bousai]

#### Vocabulary

earthquake : 地震 [jishin]



tsunami (tidal waves) : 津波 [tsunami]

evacuation : 避難 [hinan]

emergency : 緊急 [kinkyu]

prompt report : 速報 : [sokuhou]

seismic intensity : 震度 [kouzui]

disaster : 災害 [saigai]

rescue : 救助する [kyujyo suru]

Self-Defense Force : 自衛隊 [jieitai]

victim : 被災者 [hisaisya]

donation : 義援金 [gienkin]

fund raising : 募金する [bokin suru]

JPN Red Cross : 日本赤十字 [nihon sekijyuji]

### Phrases

(1) 「ハザードマップを見て、自分の住む地域の避難経路と避難場所を確認しましょう。」

[hazard map wo mite jibun no sumu chiiki no hinan keiro to hinan basyo wo kakunin shimasyou]

Please take a look at a hazard map, and be informed of the evacuation route and location in your neighborhood.

### Explanation

The disaster on March 11th put eastern Japan into a chaotic situation. Fortunately, the Muroran area encountered minimum effects from the earthquakes as well as the tsunami. However, people must recognize that this could have happened in any place and to anyone on the Archipelago. Here are some suggestions for surviving these disasters: (a) prepare a minimum of personal effects and a first aid kit in case of emergency evacuation, (b) refer to above sentence (1) on Phrases, and (c) if you are a foreigner especially, find a way to get access to a credible information source.

Ref.: Fire and Disaster management Agency: <http://www.fdma.go.jp>

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### **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, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, Sato Akiko, Mike Nima, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.

*“We pray for the victims of earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku area in Japan.”*