

MURORAN TIMES



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

News and Topics

The 5th Anniversary of the Civic Activity Center

The civic activity center (*Kaigan-cho* 1, Muroran), which has been a base for supporting various activities, will have its 5th anniversary in June. The civic activity center was established in 2006 for the purpose of exchanging information, making informational materials, exhibiting activities, holding meetings, and furthermore, exchanging friendship with other activity groups. It is open from Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 9:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. It is closed on Sundays, national holidays, and before and after New Year's. It is managed by a staff of four and a team of volunteers. There is no charge for holding meetings, exhibiting things or using the gallery, but there is a charge for using the copying machine and the printing machine. There have been 28,624 people utilizing the center from its opening in 2006 to the end of March this year. The civic activity center has been used by many citizens, and it is expected that more activities will be held there in the future.

しみん さまざま かつどう きょてん しみんかつどう
市民の様々な活動の拠点となっている市民活動
ごしゅうねん むか
センターが5周年を迎えました。

Mobile Shop starts

Co-op Sapporo began operating a mobile grocery car on May 17 to support people who have found it inconvenient to go shopping because there are no supermarkets around their neighborhood. A 2-ton truck loaded with 1000 items sells fresh fish, meat, vegetable,

fruit, and general goods. It is sent out from Higashi-machi Co-op Sapporo and goes around to Muroran and Noboribetsu. On Tuesday and Friday the mobile truck goes to *Noboribetsu*; on Thursday to *Hakuchodai*; and on Wednesday and Saturday to *Takasago* and *Mizumoto* from 11:30am to 4:00pm. It came to *Noboribetsu* on the opening day and many people welcomed it. One of the customers said, "I am grateful that this shop is coming close to my house."

For further information, contact:

Mr.Izumida:080-6066-9260 (9:00am-5:00pm).

「コープさっぽろ」では、^{ちか}近くに^{みせ}店がなく^か買い物に^{もの}
^{こま}困っている^{ひと}人たちのために^{いどうはんばいしゃ}移動販売車をスタート
させました。

Mayor Aoyama Visits the Hokkaido Governor

Mr. Takeshi Aoyama(33 years old), who was elected for his first term as the mayor of Muroran this April, started his official duties on May 2.

On May 16, he visited Governor Harumi Takahashi at the Hokkaido Prefectural building for a courtesy call.

During the visit, Mayor Aoyama described his strong ambition to lead Muroran in the field of technology to contribute to the development of Hokkaido and the world. He also requested that the government of Hokkaido cooperate in various fields.

In the election held this April in Hokkaido, two mayors in their thirties came into office: in Muroran and in Yubari. People in both cities are looking forward to their fresh perspectives and energy in their respective municipal administrations.

しがつ せんきょ むろらんしちょう どうせん
4月の選挙で室蘭市長に当選した

あおやま たけししちょう ごがつじゅうろくにち
青山 剛市長(33)は、5月16日

ほっかいどう たかはし ちじ ほうもん
に北海道の高橋はるみ知事を訪問しました。



Information and Invitations

Cleaning of ITANKI Beach

[Date] June 12 (Sun) 10:30a.m. ~
June 25(Sat) 1:00p.m. ~



*Postponed to June 14 or June 27

in case of rainy weather.

[Place] ITANKI Beach (*miyuki-cho* side)

Please bring your work gloves and fire tongs

[More Information] Ms. Kikuchi

(Tel: 0143-23-1075)

Citizen's Cycling

[Date] July 3(Sun) 9:30a.m. ~3:45p.m.

[Place] Muroran Gymnasium

[Course] Round trip from the gym to Noboribetsu
City Forest Mine (one way 18km)

[Conditions] Elementary school children must be
accompanied by a guardian, and junior high
school students must have permission from their
guardian to participate.

[Admission Fee] 500 yen (includes insurance)

[Application] Come to the Muroran Gymnasium
or any bicycle shop at Muroran or Noboribetsu
through June 30 and submit an application form
with the admission fee

[More Information] Muroran Cycling Society:
Mr. Kikuchi (Tel: 0143-55-5449)



Hand-made Buckwheat Noodle Club Wants Members

Would you like to make delicious buckwheat
noodle by yourself?

[Conditions] over junior high school students

[Date] The 2nd and the 4th Saturday every month
9:00a.m. ~

[Place] *Takasago-cho* Neighbor Hall

[Participation fee] 2,400 yen per one year (the cost
of materials is separate.)

[Application] by telephone

[More Information] Mr. Yamagishi
(Tel: 090-3116-6234)



Courses at Sun Life Muroran

• Slow Exercise Course

[Date] June 17,24 (Fri) 10:00a.m. ~12:00noon

[Limit] 15 people * by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 15

[Admission Fee] 1,300 yen

[Application] by telephone until June 10

• Yoga Course

[Date] June 18(Sat) 1:30p.m. ~3:30p.m.

[Limit] 15 people * by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 15

[Admission Fee] 700 yen

[Application] by telephone until June 11

[More Information] Sun Life Muroran (1-6-2
Kouhoku-cho)

(Tel: 0143-55-3040)

The Citizens Music Festival

Music event in which a lot of amateur musicians
in the region such as chorus groups and music
groups for wind instruments, etc. participate

[Date] June 18 (Sat) 3:30p.m. ~ Chorus Section

June 19(Sun) 1:00p.m. ~ Instrumental music
Section

[Place] Muroran *Bunka* (Culture) Center

[Ticket] Advance ticket: 500 yen for elementary
school age or above

(Same-day purchase is 600 yen).

[More Information] Lifelong Learning Section at
Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-22-5094)



Tulip Bulbs for Sale

Tulip bulbs from Niigata (10 bulbs/package) are
for sale for 700 yen.

[Application] Please telephone or send a fax
or e-mail with your name, address and telephone
number through June 24(Fri)

[Pick-up] Bring the voucher mailed
in the beginning of August to pick up the bulbs
you ordered



at the city planning section park at Muroran City Office
on August 23(Tues) or Nakajima Hall on August 24(Tue)
[More Information] Park section of the City Planning Section at
Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-2603
Fax: 0143-24-2091)
E-mail: hanamidori@city.muroran.lg.jp

Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol.20]

Jonathan Mason



Interviewed by Mike Nima

Jonathan Mason is from Santa Ana, Orange County, California, USA. He works for the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program for the Hokkaido Board of Education, and his base school is Akebi Secondary School. I spoke with Jonathan at Coffee Shop Iwamoto in Nakajima.
(Second of three parts)

As an English teacher, what's a big challenge for you teaching English in Japan?

I think one major challenge is encouraging learning English through immersion. Many Japanese students don't have the opportunity to learn English in English, because of the teachers or 'the system.' The best situation is when you're able to teach in English, and the students realize that they can understand what you're saying, and they couldn't do that a month ago or a year ago, and then a few more months go by, and they realize that they can respond, and I understand exactly what they're trying to say. Whether they have perfect grammar or not is irrelevant, but they grow and see that they can communicate. It's difficult,

especially at the beginning when students don't expect to learn in English—they want to study it as a special specimen that they experiment on, but that they don't actually engage with in a personal way.

For our readers who might not know what it is, what is 'immersion'?

Basically, it's doing what you are learning. No one uses that term when they learn math, because of course to practice math, you need to do problems and get the correct answer. But that truly is immersion—you talk about math using math terms, and you're doing it. So for English or another language, it's learning, hearing English in English, having some explanation in your native tongue—but that is usually only in the very very beginning—and then everything you learn is learning in the second language, about the second language, using only the new language.

What are the benefits of immersion, and do you think that there will be more of immersive types of English teaching in Japan in the future?

I do think there will be more in the future. I definitely think it's something that's changing—very slowly, but in some places more—and I think that it's something that's being realized slowly. The benefits I see for immersion is that everything else you learn, you learn by doing, and language shouldn't be any different. When you learn how to play badminton, you don't watch videos on badminton and learn the rules, take a test, and then move on with your life. You play it a little, even if it's not a lot; you play it for a couple days of the week. Sure, you can study about it first, but to say you've learned badminton, you do badminton. It's the same with cooking class, you can't just watch some cooking shows, study a recipe book, and then never actually do it and say that you know how to cook, so why would be English be any different?

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

Sightseeing :

観光 [kankou]

Vocabulary

airport : 空港 [ku-u-kou]

air ticket : 航空券、チケット [kou ku-u ken]

jetlag : 時差ぼけ [jisa boke]

train : 電車 [densya]

station : 駅 [eki]

go pick up : 迎えに行く [mukaeni iku]

transportation : 交通 [kou tsu]

subway : 地下鉄 [chika tetsu]

map : 地図 [chizu]

city tour : 市内観光ツアー [shinai kankou tsuaa]

one-day trip : 日帰り旅行 [higaeri ryokou]

tourist spot : 観光名所 [kankou meisyo]

scenery : 景色 [keshiki]

plan : 予定 [yotei]、計画 [keikaku]

temple : (お)寺 [(o) tera]

shrine : 神社 [jinjya]

Phrases

(1) 「夏の観光には自然が豊かで気候のさわやかな北海道をおすすめします。」

[natsu no kankou niha shizen ga yutaka de kikou no sawayakana hokkaidou wo osusume shimasu]

I would like to suggest Hokkaido for your

sightseeing destination in summer time: for its vast nature and refreshing climate.

Explanation

With the end of the “Golden week” holiday, it is time to look for a plan for the coming summer holiday. Since there are still fears of earthquake and radiation disaster in wider area in East Japan, Hokkaido may attracts attention of many tourists from both domestic and international.

Japanese Cooking 227

Cooked gobou and beef

ごぼうと牛肉のしぐれ煮
ぎょうにく に

- Ingredients (serve four) -

gobou	200 g
sliced beef	200 g
ginger	20g
sake	1/3 cup
sugar	1/3 cup
soy sauce	1/3 cup
water	300cc



Directions

- (1) Wash gobou and cut it into 3cm width. Soak them in water and change water 3 times.
- (2) Shred ginger.
- (3) Cur beef into 3cm width.
- (4) Put 1 and a half cups water in a pan and boil.

When boiling, put in gobou and cook for about 5 minutes over low flame.

- (5) Put sake, sugar, soy sauce and ginger and cook over high flame. Add beef and cook until brown and reduce.

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