

MURORAN TIMES



August 1, 2011 No.261

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

News and Topics



A Dialogue with the Mayor

On July 8 the Mayor of Muroran city, Takeshi Aoyama (33) had a talk with the students of Muroran Institute of Technology. The Mayor Aoyama is an alumnus of the institute.

Mr. Toshiaki Watanabe of the chief accounts section of the Muroran city office lectures on contemporary democracy to the students of Muroran Institute of Technology. He suggested that it would be a great opportunity for the students who study about the democracy have a dialogue with the Mayor.

The proposals and suggestions from the students were given to the Mayor beforehand. One hundred and eighty students participated at the dialogue, and 11 students actually spoke to the Mayor. Since Muroran Institute of Technology is the Mayor's alma mater, the mood throughout the conversation was cheerful. Among the suggestions made from the students were 1) to hold a series of eating contests using the well-known products of Muroran, such as yakitori and curry ramen; 2) to make the night view of the factories more appealing in order to rival Hakodate's night view; and 3) to hold a career guidance event on campus with local small and mid-sized businesses participating for those students who want to work in Muroran and the surrounding area. The Mayor encouraged the students, "I am doing my best as the mayor. I hope that things you plan to do will have positive results." He was pleased that the dialogue was constructive, and that there were many positive proposals.

むろらんしちょう むろらんこうぎょうだいがく がくせい たいわ おこな
室蘭市長と室蘭工業大学の学生との対話が 行

われました。

Relay for Life

The event called "Relay for Life (RFL)" will be held in Muroran on August 27 and 28 again this year. The purpose of RFL is to promote the extermination of cancer by walking all night to encourage cancer patients.

The opening ceremony will be held at the plaza next to Hakucho Bridge Memorial in Shukuzu-cho at 2:30PM on August 27.

The walk starts at 3:00PM and continues until 10:00AM of the next day, August 28. Other entertainment is scheduled at the plaza. The executive committee is looking for volunteers to manage the site.

Interested persons can contact the executive committee: 080-4046-4232.

Financial contributions to the event are also being accepted.

Payee: ゆうちよ銀行 (yucho bank)

Account number: 908-4624910

Name of account: リレーフォーライフ室蘭実行
委員会 (Relay for Life Executive Committee Muroran)

ことし 今年もがん患者を励ますイベントが 室蘭で開催
されます。

Information and Invitations

General Opening of Cape-Chikyu



Lighthouse

It is possible to go inside the lighthouse.

[Date] August 8(Sun)10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

* It may be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

[Admission Fee] free

[More Information] Sightseeing Section at
Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-3320)

Muroran Mikoshi Parade (portable shrines)

[Date] August 14(Sun) 6:30p.m. ~

[Place] Chuo-cho old arcade at Muroran

[Information] Mr. Funamoto (Tel: 0143-22-8211)



Muroran Hachiman *jingu* Shrine Festival

<Outdoor Markets>

[Date] August 14 (Sun) 12:00 noon ~,
15 (Mon) 10:00 a.m. ~

[Place] Chuo-cho

[Information] Mr. *Funamoto* (Tel: 0143-22-8211)



Date Warrior Festival

[Date] August 6 (Sat) 6:30 p.m. ~

[Event] *Date* warrior float parade

[Course] JR *Datemonbetsu* Station → *Date* City Office

[Date] August 7 (Sun) 3:00 p.m. ~

[Event] The cavaliers' parades

[Place] *Date* Historical Culture Center

[Information] *Date* City Office
(Tel: 0142-23-3331)



“*Diamond Princess*”

Onboard general public viewing

[Date] October 2 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. ~ 0:30 p.m.

[Place] Muroran Port *Sakimori* Wharf

[Limit] 100 people * by lottery if number of applicants exceeds 100

[Necessary ID card] Your driver's license or passport.

[Conditions] *Muroran*, *Noboribetsu*, *Date*, *Toyoura*, *Sobetsu* and *Toya* Citizen who can use the stairs on board

[Application] Please send a postcard with your name, address, sex, birthday, telephone number, and the number on your ID card by August 21.

* It is possible to apply for up to five people with one postcard. It is assumed that the baby is one person.

Lottery winners will be notified by mail. People who did not win will not be notified.

The winning right cannot be transferred to others.

〒051-0022 Kaigan-cho 1-20-30, Muroran

室蘭市海岸町 1 - 2 0 - 3 0 港湾部総務課振興係

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

The First Hula Class



[Date] August 29 (Mon) 1:30 p.m. ~ 15:00 p.m.

[Place] Sun Life Muroran

[Limit] 10 people * by lottery if number of applicants exceeds 10

[Admission Fee] 700 yen

[Application] by telephone until August 22

[More Information] Sun Life Muroran

(Tel: 0143-55-3040)

Handmade Bean Curd Course



Tofu seller will teach how to make bean curd and deep-fried bean curd.

[Date] August 27 (Sat) 2:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

[Conditions] Parents and Child

* The participation of one person is also possible.

[Limit] First 10 pairs

[Fee] 1,300 yen

[Application] By telephone from August 1

[More Information] Youth Training Center
(Tel: 0143-47-5824)

Tour for the People of Muroran

[Date] September 7 (Wed) • 8 (Thur) 9:30 a.m.

~ 3:00 p.m.

[Courses] Muroran Institute of Technology Robot Arena,

Muroran Nursing Specialty School,

Chimaibetsu Filtration Plant,

Muroran Literary Museum (Special Exhibition that

Author; *Yosinori Yagi*'s 100th birth year will be held)

* You will eat lunch at Student Cafeteria of Muroran Institute of Technology. Please buy your lunch at the cafeteria or bring your lunch.

[Limit] 40 people (if applicants exceed limit, applications will be determined by lot)

[Application] by telephone until August 26

[Information] the Public Relation Section of Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-2193)

Japanese Cooking 228

Cooked rice with *hijiki* ……ひじきご飯

- Ingredients (serves four) -

cooked rice	4 ricebowls
hijiki	30 g
burdock	1/2 spear
aburaage	1/2 sheet
broth	2 cup
mirin	3 tablespoons
sugar	2 tablespoons
soy sauce	3 tablespoons



Directions

- (1) Soak hijiki in water and boil it in salt water. Put it in a basket.
- (2) Slice burdock and soak it in water. Pour boiled water on aburaage and shred aburaage.
- (3) Put a little salad oil in a pan and stir-fry above ingredients. Add broth, mirin, sugar, and soy sauce and cook for about 20 minutes over a medium flame until the soup evaporates.
- (4) Mix cooked rice and the above ingredients. Serve in dishes and garnish with green peas.

Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol.22]

Yang Kun



Interviewed by Mike Nima

Yang Kun comes from Urumqi, Xinjiang Province, China. He studies mechanical engineering in the graduate program at Muroran Institute of Technology. He speaks Chinese, Japanese, and English. I spoke with him on a cloudy day at the Muroran IT campus. (First of two parts)

Why did you decide to do your master's degree in Hokkaido?

I first became interested in Japan when I was a

high school senior. I liked Japanese movies, animation, and drama—pop culture, singers and movie stars. When I became a sophomore in college, I started studying Japanese for my second major. I got one degree in engineering and one in Japanese. So before graduating, I wanted to come here because I was able to speak Japanese and I really liked Japan. My university has connections with Muroran IT, so I had a chance to apply for graduate school here. I received a scholarship from the Japanese government that allows me to complete my degree. There's a famous Chinese movie—“If You Are the One”—that was filmed in Hokkaido. So I knew that Hokkaido was a very beautiful place. In fact, when travelling to Japan, 70 percent of Chinese people choose Hokkaido as their first destination. In China, Hokkaido has a romantic image—there are a lot of movies about love that take place in Hokkaido.

What were your impressions of Hokkaido compared with China after you came here?

China is a very big country, of course. My hometown is near the desert. In fact, in the whole world, Xinjiang Province is the place that is located farthest from the sea. It was my dream to see the ocean. In China, I had few chances to go to cities near the ocean. Now, the ocean is just four kilometers from my home. Hokkaido is clean and has a good environment. There are few foreigners in Muroran, so I feel that the Japanese people here are very friendly and helpful towards foreigners.

What's a cultural difference between Japan and China?

When they go out drinking with friends, Chinese people want their friends to drink more and more, but the Japanese only drink what they can drink. The Chinese want their friends to drink more than their limit. Maybe the Japanese culture has its advantages when you're drinking wine. The Chinese think that drinking can enliven the atmosphere, so drinking a lot can make it even livelier. But maybe Japanese people think that's not healthy—it's dangerous and not good for your body. It's okay to drink just the amount that

you can drink.

Why did you study English?

I started to study English earlier than other students, because my mother wanted me to study English when I was in third grade in primary school. I liked that, so we studied English together. I did well in English and was very interested in foreign cultures—Japan, America, and also European countries.

Which is more important for China, English or Japanese?

I think English is now the most important language all over the world. In some places which are near the sea—where there's a lot of trade between China and Japan, like Dalian and Shanghai—maybe Japanese is more important than English. Of course, China also trades with the U.S., Europe, and other countries, so English is the most important language now. And I think the second most important language must be Japanese. For China, Japan is the second biggest trading market, after America. So there are more and more people who are studying Japanese and taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (日本語能力試験).

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

< Topic of the month >

Cool Summer : 涼しい夏 [suzushi-i natsu]

Vocabulary

“super cool biz” : スーパークールビズ

energy saving : 省エネルギー [syou enerugii]

electric fan : 扇風機 [senpu-ki]

air conditioner : エアコン [eakon]

sprinkle : 打ち水 [uchimizu]

wind-chime : 風鈴 [fu-urin]



reed screen : すだれ [sudare]

“yukata” : 浴衣 [yukata]

(wooden) clogs : 下駄 [geta]

round fan : うちわ [uchiwa]

folding fan : 扇子 [sensu]

fine noodles : そうめん [soumen]

eel : うなぎ [unagi]

watermelon : 西瓜 [suika]

shaved ice : カキ氷 [kaki go-ori]



Phrases

(1)「夏の電力不足に備え、夏を涼しく過ごす取り組みが全国で行われています。」

[Natsu no denryoku busoku ni sonae, natsu wo suzuhiku sugosu torikumi ga zenkoku de okonawarete imasu]

To cope with electricity shortage during summer time, many methods to enjoy cool and comfortable summer have been put into practice nation wide.

Explanation

This summer will be a big trial for most people in Japan, not only for people evacuated from the mega earthquake and nuclear disaster, but also for most of the people who live on this archipelago for how they can achieve a new lifestyle with less consumption of electricity. Unlike the hot and humid summer in the southern part of Japan, Hokkaido enjoys pleasant climate throughout the season. What are your plans at home and at your workplace?

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.