

MURORAN TIMES

December 1, 2011 No.265

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



News and Topics

RMIT Students



From November 7 -17 Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) students from Australia spent time on the campus of Muroran Institute of Technology. Muroran Institute of Technology (President Kazuhiko Sato) concluded the learning exchange agreement with RMIT in 1999. Since then students from Muroran Institute of Technology have visited RMIT to study English 13 times, and RMIT students have visited Muroran Institute of Technology to study Japanese seven times. This year, ten students from RMIT stayed with Japanese families for five days, while learning Japanese language and culture. They also learned how to do casting by making a country sign from tin. In addition to visiting Muroran, they also went to Shiraoi to learn about the Ainu culture, and to Date to try indigo dying. They presented their experiences and had a ceremony to mark the completion of the program. They returned to Australia on November 17.

むろらんこうぎょうだいがく がくじゅつこうりゅうきょううてい むす
室蘭工業大学と学術交流協定を結んでいるオース
トラリアのロイヤルメルボルン大学(RMIT)の学生
じゅうにん じゅういちがつなのか とおかかん こうだい にほんご
10人が、11月7日から10日間、工大で日本語や
にほんぶんか まな
日本文化などを学びました。

The industrial night view summit



On November 10 the second industrial night view summit

was held in Yokkaichi in Mie Prefecture. Staff from Muroran city office and Muroran tourist association participated in it. The first summit was held in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture in February of this year. It was declared that Muroran, Kawasaki, Yokkaichi, and Kitakyushu were “the 4 large industrial night view areas in Japan”. Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture and Shūnan, Yamaguchi Prefecture joined this summit for the first time. A total of 300 people participated, and each city reported about the tour of the industrial night view. At the end of the summit a joint appeal was made for the “six cities to continue cooperating with each other to maintain the attraction of industrial night views.”

Muroran will host the third summit next year.

じゅういちがつとおか だいにかいこうじょうやけい
11月10日に第二回工場夜景サミットが、三重県
よっかいいちし かいさい むろらん しやくしょ かんこうきょうかい
四日市市で開催され、室蘭からも市役所や観光協会
しょくいん さんか の職員が参加しました。

Booklet for Iburi Gourmet

Hokkaido Government Iburi General Subprefectural Bureau published a booklet introducing 86 food processed in Iburi district in order to promote sales.

In the booklet, the kinds of food introduced ranges from agricultural and marine products to noodles, sweets and beverages.

The Bureau wants consumers to use the booklet as a catalog for orders or gifts.

Copies of the booklet can be picked up at the Domin Hall on the first floor of Muroran Koiki Center Bldg. in Kaigan-cho.

いぶりそごうしんこうきょく いぶりかんない せいぞう
胆振総合振興局では、胆振管内で製造されてい
はちじゅうろく かこうしそくひん けいさい さっし さくせい
る86の加工食品を掲載した冊子を作成しました。

Information and Invitations

The slogan for the commemoration enterprise was chosen.

Seventy-seven people from all over the nation submitted 180 entries. After much discussion, the phrase, “Into the shining future—the people,

the town, the port" was chosen. It was submitted by Mrs. Chikuta Ayami, who is living in Muroran now. We appreciate her contribution

Opening of Danpara Skiing Area

[Opening Date] December 23(Fri)



* The opening day may change due to snow conditions.

The Danpara skiing area celebrates the 25th anniversary at the end of this year. The Danpara skiing area plans

various events, and is waiting for everyone to come join the fun.

For details, such as opening information and snow coverage,

refer to the homepage below.

[Hours open] 9:00a.m. ~ 9:00p.m.

(It may change according to the weather etc.)

[More Information] Muroran development-of-recreational-facilities incorporated company
(Tel: 0143-43-5600 HP:
<http://danparaski.web.fc2.com/>)

Final Count Down to 2012 at Hakicho Bay Bridge



[Date] December 31(Sat) 10:30p.m. ~

[Place] near Hakicho BridgeMemorial Hall
(Shukuzu-cho)

[Contents] Count down, Fireworks, Lottery

*You can get the fireworks information from

FM うわー(84.2MHz) radio station

[Tickets] Lottery tickets are 500 yen. You can get tickets at Hakicho Bridge Memorial Hall, Muroran Sightseeing Association and also you can get a ticket on that day.

[More Information] Hakicho Bay Bridge Countdown Executive Committee Secretariat
(Tel: 090-6213-4786 HP:

<http://since1999hakuchocd.web.fc2.com/>)

Let's Enjoy the 76th Anniversary Magic Show to Commemorate the Opening of Bokoi Station



[Date] December 10(Sat) 1:30 p.m. ~

[Place] Bokoi Station

[Information] Mr. Nigishi (Tel: 0143-23-3801)

Wood-block Print Exhibition of Toshio Sano



The technique of a wood-block print, etc. are introduced.

[Date] December 13 (Tue) - March 4(Sun)
10:00a.m. ~

[Place] Muroran Citizens Museum

[More Information] Muroran Citizens Museum
(Tel: 0143-22-1124)

Recreation Class

Games suitable for community and children's associations, as well as welfare facilities, etc. will be introduced.

Please wear clothes easy to move in.

[Date] December 10(Sat) 2:00p.m. ~ 4:30p.m.

[Place] Youth training center

[Fee] 500 yen(to cover cost of handouts and drink)

[Limit] first 30 people.

[Application] By telephone until December 7

[More Information] Mr.Nakamura;
Muroran recreation association
(Tel: 0143-27-3643, please call after 6:00p.m.)

Interview



Jane Takizawa

Interviewed by Mike Nima

Jane Takizawa is from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She runs the Seikosha English Conversation School, teaches at Muroran Institute of Technology, and also works as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) for some

Muroran elementary schools. I spoke with her on a hot and sunny day at Chiribetsu Elementary School.

(Second of three parts)

How has the role of English developed during these past three decades in Japan?

Very slowly, I'm afraid. As far as the formal governmental English education system is concerned, the pace of change has been very, very slow. Thirty years ago, there was talk of teaching English in elementary schools, and now it's just beginning! It's taken too long. But outside the public education system, private English teaching has grown by leaps and bounds. Thirty years ago, there was one publisher of children's English materials. There were no other publishers in Japan. When I started teaching English, I had to get my materials from the United States, and even then, there weren't a whole lot of materials for teaching English to children as a second language. Now, in the private sector, it's such a common thing to have your child learn English. You'll find all sorts of areas where English is taught outside of the formal education system.

What, in your opinion, is the importance of learning English in today's Japan?

Many people think, "Okay, Japan is an island country, and it's an exporting country, and so most of the English will be used in some form of business." But my personal opinion is that just by learning a foreign language—and I think that English is going to be the most practical one, and that's why I promote learning English—will broaden your outlook and give you a more interesting life. My children say that they prefer to hear movies in English rather than with the Japanese overdubbing, because they like the intonation and the expressions that are used. I think that if you can get information about another country in the language of that country, you can find out that there's a world beyond Japan. And since not everybody can travel all the time, learning English gives you an opportunity to experience other cultures.

Why has change come so slowly to the Japanese educational system regarding the teaching of English?

Japanese organizations have to have group consensus before they can move on, so it often takes them a much longer time to come to a conclusion, to make a decision, or to figure out how to carry things out. Also, the biggest reason why English hasn't progressed more, I feel, is that there's a misunderstanding about learning English at a young age. Many educators think, "The children don't know Japanese well enough. Why should we burden them with another language?" But if children are exposed to another language at an early age, it will actually develop their language-producing brain cells, and they will actually become better at learning Japanese. So I think that educators should find out more about how languages are learned, and once they understand that learning a second language will actually be beneficial for the children, I think that they will make the promotion of English in the educational system faster and more widespread.

What kinds of signs of progress do you see in Japan's internationalization?

Well, to give a practical example—of course I've been in Muroran for a long time—I'm not pointed at and called "Gaijin! Gaijin!" anymore, and I've noticed the change not only in Muroran but wherever I go. So it's just a fact that foreigners living in Japan have become a normal thing, and it's not an unusual thing to see foreigners walking down the street. Some people are still surprised, but it's not going to shock them and make them say, "Oh! Who is that person?" That's one practical sign. Also, the Japanese government has made sure that all the road signs are in Romani so that foreigners coming here won't be shocked by everything being in kanji. That was a good step. There is cable TV, so there are more sources of information from the outside. And of course, the internet has given people much more access to the outside world. I think the combination of those things has helped the Japanese to become a little bit more globally minded.

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

Snowy day : 雪の日 [yuki no hi]

Vocabulary

snow : 雪 [yuki]

frost : 霜 [shimo]

hailstone : 霰 [hyou]

fall : 降る [furu]

be covered with : 積まる [tsumoru]

snow storm : 吹雪 [fubuki]

ice : 氷 [ko-ori]

frozen : 凍る [ko-oru]

snow flake : 雪の結晶 [yuki no kessyou]

rake away snow : 雪かき [yuki kaki]

snowman : 雪だるま [yuki daruma]

Phrases

(1) 「一面の雪景色がとてもきれいです。」

[ichimen no yuki geshiki ga totemo kirei desu]

It is very beautiful to see the landscape covered with snow.

(2) 「雪道で滑って怪我をする人が多くいます。」

[yuki michi de subette kega wo suruhito ga ooku imasu]

Many people get injured from slipping on snowy roads.

Explanation

In Hokkaido, the severe winter starts from December and it stretches on for 1/3 of a whole year.

For most foreign residents from regions where people enjoy moderate climate, it must be surprising to see how people manage the season with coldness and snow. For example, houses here have doubled-paned windows and thick heat insulation on all of the walls. As people

wear winter clothes, vehicles also need to change to winter tires. Surprisingly, the total expense of a few billion yen is spent each year by municipalities in Hokkaido just to clear away snow. On the other hand, snow is indeed a blessing of nature which brings abundant crops in the following year.

Japanese Cooking 232

Tuna and cucumber Salad

ツナとキュウリのサラダ

- Ingredients (serve four) -

fresh tuna fillet	450g
cucumber	2
onion	75 g
貝割菜	1 pack
Japanese leek	10 g
Onion slices	120 g
soy sauce	2
teaspoons	
wasabi horseradish	

- (1) Cut tuna into 1.5cm cubes.
- (2) Pare cucumbers and cut them quarter lengthwise and cut 1cm width.
- (3) Mince the onion
Rap the onion and soak in water and dry.
- (4) Put 1cm off the end of 貝割菜.
- (5) Mix (1), (2), (3) and (4) and then arrange on serving plate.
- (6) Pour the soy sauce with grated わさび.



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.