

# MURORAN TIMES



March 1, 2012 No.268

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

## News and Topics



### Repairing Overseas Student Housing

With the aim of improving the environment of overseas students, Muroran Institute of Technology (President Kazuhiko Sato) will undertake the overall repair of the overseas student housing from this spring. The current building was constructed between 1980-1982. It has become superannuated. The construction will start at the end of March and students will be able to move in by November. The new accommodation has 12 single rooms, a lounge area, and more shower rooms. Also, six single rooms and a twin room are planned for foreign scholars. According to the Center for International Relations at Muroran IT, students from overseas have totaled more than 100 for three consecutive years. This school year (2011-12), there are 106 students from overseas. They come from countries such as China, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand.

むろらんこうぎょうだいがく  
室蘭工業大学では、ことしの春から留学生宿舎の  
ぜんめんかいしゅう ちやくしゆ  
全面改修に着手することになりました。現在、工大  
では106人の留学生が学んでいます。

### Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Suzuki Gives Lecture

The Emeritus Professor of Hokkaido University Akira Suzuki (81), Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry in 2010, gave a lecture at Muroran Institute of Technology on February 17. About 900 students and local citizens participated. Dr. Suzuki said, "Technology is necessary for countries which have poor natural resources such as Japan. Therefore students who are doing practical research of significant value are in demand. There is a great need to do unique research which is not found in textbooks. Without a good foundation one cannot do good

research." He encouraged the students by saying that the future of Japan depends on the power of the youth.

にせんじゅうねん  
2010年のノーベル化学賞を受賞した北海道大学

めいよきょうじゆ すずき あきら むろらんこうぎょうだいがく こうえん  
名誉教授の鈴木 章さんが、室蘭工業大学で講演

がくせい しみん きゅうひやくにん さんか  
し、学生や市民など900人が参加しました。



## NOTICE

This March issue will be the last issue of Muroran Times. We have been publishing Muroran Times for more than 22 years but recent circumstances do not allow us to continue.

The first issue was published in November 1989, and at that time there were three foreign students at Muroran Institute of Technology who wanted some information about the news or events in Muroran in English. To meet their needs, three staff members from the city office provided information about Muroran to the students and they translated it into English and distributed the copies to other foreign students at Muroran Institute of Technology. Since then, many foreign students and volunteers have supported us and we were able to continue publishing Muroran Times all this time. It has been our great pleasure to have had these 22 years.

We express our deep appreciation for all your support and thank all the readers of Muroran Times very much.

## Information and Invitations

### How to Use Sign Language

[Date] March 11(Sun) 1:30p.m.~4:00p.m.  
(Reception opens at 13 o'clock.)

[Place] Pia 216 (2-1-6 Higashi-machi)

[Description] Instruction in sign language,  
Sign language play, Experience announcement  
[Admission Fee] free



[Application] on that day  
[More Information] Handicapped Person's  
Welfare Section at Muroran City Office (Tel:  
0143-25-1155 Fax: 0143-25-1166)

## Handmade Tofu Lecture

[Date] March 24(Sat) 2:00p.m. ~  
4:00p.m.



[Place] Youth Training Center (2-16-34

miyuki-cho)

[Conditions] Parents and Child

\*The participation of one person is also possible.

[Limit] First 10 pairs

[Fee] 1,300 yen

[Application] By telephone from March 1

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

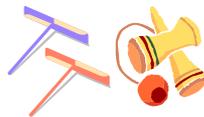
## Let's Enjoy Playing in Old Times!

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

[Place] Bokoi Station

[Admission Fee] Free

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



## Curling Experience Classroom



[Date] March 11(Sun) 1:00p.m.~3:00p.m.

[Place] Nakajima Sports Center

[Conditions] Over 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school  
Children

[Limit] First 30 people

[Admission Fee] Free (under high school  
student),

500 yen (adult)

[Application] By telephone or come to  
Nakajima

Sports Center on that day (Only when less than  
a capacity)

[More Information] Muroran curling society:  
Mr.Narita(Tel: 090-3897-2164)

## “DIAMOND PRINCESS” Onboard General Public Viewing

[Date] May 8(Tue) 10:30a.m. ~0:30p.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 inboard

[Application] Please send a postcard with your  
name, address, sex, birthday, telephone number  
and the number on your ID card by March 22.

\*It is possible to apply for up to five people with  
one postcard. A baby also must apply as one  
person.

Any omission on the application, duplicate  
applications,

and defective applications will not be accepted.  
Lottery winners will be notified by mail.

People who did not win will not  
be notified.

The winning right cannot be transferred to  
others.

The viewing may be cancelled on account of  
ship conditions.

〒051-0022 Kaigan-cho 1-20-30, Muroran

(室蘭市海岸町1 - 20 - 30)

港湾部総務課振興係)

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



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## Japanese Lesson

### “Nihongo de hanasou”

< Topic of the month >



Graduation : 卒業 [sotsugyou]

Vocabulary

graduation ceremony : 卒業式 [sotsugyou shiki]

graduate : 卒業生 [sotsugyou sei]

degree : 学位 [gakui]

doctoral degree : 博士号 [hakase gou]

master's degree : 修士号 [syu-u-shi gou]

bachelor's degree : 学士号 [gakushi gou]

dissertation : 学位論文 [gakui ronbun]

thanks-giving party for teachers : 謝恩会 [syaon kai]

go on to a school of higher grade : 進学 [shingaku]

entrance examination : 入学試験 [nyugaku shiken]

pass/ fail : 合格/ 不合格 [goukaku/ fu goukaku]

retirement : 退職 [taisyoku]

### Phrases

(1) 「卒業おめでとうございます！」

[sotsugyou omedetou gozaimasu]

Congratulations on your graduation!

### Explanation

March brings a hint of spring in the air. It is the end of the cold winter, which leads to the time of rebirth. As for peoples' lives, it is a time of graduations. For students who passed entrance examinations, for students who completed a course of education and will be graduating, and for adult people who will be newly employed, and for those who are retiring...wishing you the best in your success and a bright future!

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## Japanese Cooking 235

### Cooked Butterbur and 厚揚げ (atsuage)

..... ふきと厚揚げの煮物

- Ingredients (serves four) -

butterbur 1 bundle (400g)

厚揚げ (atsuage) 2 sheets (500g)

broth 2 and 1/2 cups

soy sauce 4 and 1/2 tablespoons

sugar 1 tablespoon

sake 2 tablespoons

mirin 2 tablespoons

(1) Boil atsuage for 3 minutes and cut into 6 equal parts of one sheet.

Put broth, sugar, sake mirin and soy sauce in a pan and boil.

Add atsuage in the pan and cook for 15 minutes over low heat.

(2) Boil butterbur and remove strings.

Cut them into 5cm length and drain well.

(3) Boil butterbur and cook for 5 or 6 minutes over high heat.

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## Interview

### Brian Gaynor



Interviewed by Mike Nima

*Brian Gaynor is from Dublin, Ireland and has lived in Muroran for seven years. He teaches English as an Associate Professor at Muroran Institute of Technology.*

*Could you talk about some of the differences for you between living in Ireland and living in Hokkaido?*

I'm from Dublin, which is Ireland's capital city. It's the largest city, but I lived slightly out in the countryside. The big difference is that we don't really have winters in Ireland. Hokkaido has these long cold winters, whereas in Ireland we don't have cold winters so much as windy damp winters, and occasionally we get snow, but it will only stay around for about two or three days, and then it melts. At nighttime, subzero temperatures are fairly unusual.

Come February, spring is beginning. The daffodils and the snowdrops are beginning to push up through the ground, so that's quite nice. Ireland is more easygoing. In Japan, there are rules—set ways of doing things—and you pretty much follow those rules. There's not an awful lot of leeway. In Ireland, we're very easygoing. In Spanish, you have the word *mañana*. "I'll do it tomorrow." In Ireland, there's nothing as rushed as that. If it can be put off until tomorrow, we'll happily put it off until the day after tomorrow!

Society and its innate rules and regulations are much more omnipresent in Japan than in Ireland. There are things you do and don't do in Japan that are understood by all Japanese, because there's a group-centered culture. Whereas in Ireland, no, you'll still get away with idiosyncratic individualism like, "You know, I'll do it because it's the way I've always done it, regardless of what other people think!"

*You've been living in Hokkaido for fourteen years. What made you come to Japan and what have you been doing here since then?*

I came to Japan on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program, because I had a friend from my university who had come to the JET program before me, and she knew how much I liked travelling, so she recommended it. I had never been to Japan, so she said, "Come to Japan. It's great. It's a very interesting place, probably unlike any other place you've been so far." So I said, yeah, what the heck? I went to Shibetsu-cho, way out on the east coast of Hokkaido, for three years. I enjoyed myself so much that I decided to stay on, and I got a job as a private AET (Assistant English Teacher) in Hiroo-cho for another three and half years, and then after that I got my job here in Muroran at the university.

*How do you look back on this experience and what sorts of changes have you seen here in Hokkaido during this time?*

If Hokkaido hadn't been the first place I came to, I don't think I'd have stayed in Japan as long as I have. I really like Hokkaido. I'm a country boy at heart, so I like the wilderness,

the outdoors, the greenery and the nature. If I had been living in Tokyo, or Osaka, or one of the big cities down south, no, I wouldn't have stayed that long—I couldn't hack the city life.

One of the most discernible changes is how international, or multiethnic, Hokkaido has become. When I first came over, and particularly because I was in a remote village, I'd walk down the street, and there'd be lots of kids with fingers pointing in my direction and saying, "*Gaijin da! Gaijin da!*" But over the years, that's gone away, to the extent that foreigners are no longer unusual, particularly in this part of Hokkaido. There's been a huge influx of foreigners in *Niseko* and *Kutchan*. Muroran has had a lot of *ryuugakusei* (exchange students) coming through. You've got the cruise ships coming in the summer as well.

*What are the perceptions in Japan of Irish English?*

Very few people, if any, realize that there's a difference in Irish English. Ireland is either lumped with the U.K., or it's mistaken for Iceland!

*What's your favorite Japanese beer?*

There's a very nice beer made in Hakodate. It's called Hakodate Beer. They sell it in the train station there.

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## Cinema Guide

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

1. WAR HORSE
2. SHERLOCK HOLMES
3. ライアーゲーム (Japanese)
4. しあわせのパン (Japanese)



### 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.