

# MURORAN TIMES



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

## News and Topics

### Preparations for Summit Meeting

There are only three months left until the Hokkaido Toya-ko (Lake Yoya) Summit Meeting. The hotels and the transportation companies are in a bustle preparing for it.

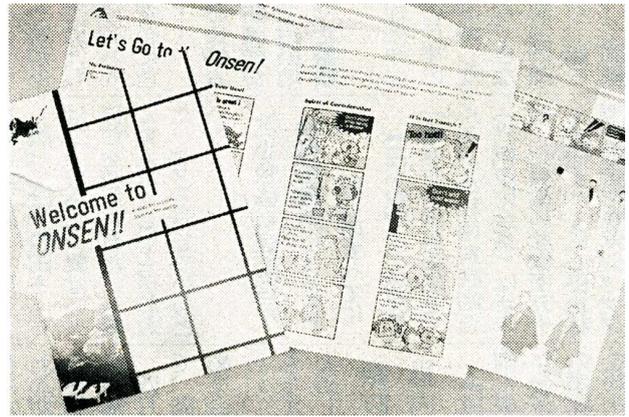
In Toya-ko Onsen (hot spring), former cabin attendants of international flights gave lectures to the employees of restaurants, hotels and others regarding Japanese-style hospitality.

In JR Higashi-Muroran Station the staff was given English lessons by native speakers. The staff in West Iburi learned not only English conversation but also conversation manners, such as talking with a smile and keeping one's eyes on the listener".

Hokkaido District Transport Bureau made brochures written in English to introduce how to take Japanese spa. They printed 7,400 copies and will distribute the copies to the hotels in Toya-ko, Noboribetsu and other places, where the delegations will stay.

These days 70 to 80 of foreign people take trains at JR Toya Station in a day. The number of foreign visitors to Toya-ko Spa and Noboribetsu Spa has increased from 6% to 9%, compared to last year.

ことしの7月に開催される「北海道洞爺湖サミツ  
ト」まで約3ヶ月となり、ホテルや交通機関などで  
は応対や英会話などの研修が行われ、さらに  
日本の温泉の入り方を紹介した英語のパンフレッ  
トなども作成されています。



English brochures

### Keeping an Eye on the Aged

A new citizen's volunteer group started up last December in Muroran. The members watch the elderly as they go about their everyday activities, so that the aged living alone can live safely and avoid isolation.

The topic of the volunteer group happened to come up in the discussion of the local assembly. An 86-year-old man who was living alone had a narrow escape in January of this year, but he was saved by a delivery boy of Yakult (a maker of lactic acid drink), who belonged to the volunteer group. When the young man visited the house as usual, he found the bottles of the drinks untouched for two days. Being worried, he contacted a social worker, following the protocol of the group. When he entered the house with the social worker, he found the man on the floor. He phoned the police station, and an ambulance came to carry the man to a hospital immediately.

There are 1,100 people from nine companies such as a railway company and a bus company registered in the group. Some of them are people who often visit the houses of the elderly in everyday life, such as mail carriers or people who deliver newspapers or drinks, etc.

むろらんし ちいき す こうれいしゃ こりつ  
室蘭市では、地域に住む高齢者が孤立せずに  
あんしん く さくねんじゆうにがつ こうれいしゃ  
安心して暮らせるよう、昨年12月から高齢者を  
たす みまも しみん かつどう  
助けたり見守ったりする市民ボランティアの活動  
がはじまりました。



## Home Package of Muroran Yakitori Again

One of the yakitori (grilled pork) shops in Muroran, TORITATSU (located in Chuo-cho, Muroran) has resumed sending out Muroran Yakitori home packages from April.

The home packages were stopped last October when the Post Office was changed to a private corporation because the cost of advertising of the home package went up.

In the meantime, requests from consumers for the resumption of the home package were increasing. In response to the requests, TORITATSU decided to start making the home packages again, and they have put handbills for publicity in the new company, Japan Post.

However, due to the increase in the advertising costs, the price for one package has been raised to 4,200yen. The content of one set (25 sticks of yakitori with sauce and mustard) has not changed.

むろらんしちゆうおうちよう とりたつほんてん さくねんじゆうがつ  
室蘭市中央町の「鳥辰本店」では、昨年10月か  
らきゆうし じゆうしゅう さいかい  
休止していた「ふるさと小包」を再開しました。  
ゆうびんきょく う つ にじゅうごほん  
郵便局で受け付けており、やきとり25本とタレ、  
よう ぜんこくいちりつよんせんにひやくえん  
洋ガラシがついて全国一律4200円です。



## Information and Invitations

### Walking Class

[Date] April 20 (Sun) 9:00 a.m. ~ 0:30 p.m.

[Contents] The basics of walking, and taking walks in Wanishi-cho

[Place] Irie track and field

[Admission Fee] 300 yen

[Limit] first 100 people.

[Application] Please apply directly at Muroran Gymnasium, Irie Swimming Pool, Irie track and field sports office. Please fill out the application form at that time.

[Information] Irie track & field (0143-24-3443)

## Hakucho-Ohhashi Park Golf Course Opening

[Opening Date] April 21(Mon)

[Opening hours] 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

\*Tuesdays open from 12:00 noon.

[Admission Fee] \* There is a discount coupon ticket, as well as club, ball, and shoes rental (for a charge).

	One time (18 holes)	One day Ticket
adult	300 yen	500 yen
over 65 years	200 yen	300 yen
Under high school student	100 yen	200 yen

[More Information] Lifelong learning section at Muroran City Office(Tel:0143-22-1112)

Hakucho-Ohhashi Park Golf Course

(Tel:0143-27-5266) : after April 21



## Muroran Aquarium Opens

[Opening Date] April 25(Fri)

[Opening hours] 9:30a.m.-4:30p.m.

[Admission Fee] 300 yen (adult) free (under junior high school age and over 70 years)

[Event] Seal Stroll: Time undecided Penguin March: 11:00a.m. 3:00p.m.

[More Information] Muroran Aquarium (Tel: 0143-27-1638)



## Citizens' Marathon

[Date] April 29 (Tue) 9:30a.m. ~12:00noon.

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

[Place] The circumference of Nakajima Park

[Course] 1km, 3km, 5km

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

[Application] Come to Muroran Gymnasium on that day

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

## Mt.Usu Opening Ceremony

The long nature walkway between the outer rim observatory and the Mt.Usu ropeway station is a good way to get close to nature, so come and enjoy a mountain hike with your family.

[Date] April 29 (Tue) 9:00a.m. ~

[Place] Mt.Usu climbing mountain road entrance

[More Information] NPO Corporation Date Sightseeing Association (Tel: 0142-25-5567)

## Bird-watching Event

[Date] April 29 (Tue) 8:30a.m.~11:30a.m. \*

may be cancelled in case of rainy weather.

[Place] The Cape Chikyu walking path

[Fee] free

[Application] The Cape Chikyu parking space until 8:30a.m. on that day

\*Rental binoculars available

[More Information] Mr. Horimoto (Tel: 0143-85-9396)

## Nakajima Sports Center Swimming Pool Opening

[Opening Date] May 1(Thur)

[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 discount coupon ticket

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

## Cherry Blossoms Festival

[Date] May 9(Fri) – 11(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~3:00p.m.

[Place] Kameda commemoration park multipurpose plaza (Tonkeshi-cho, Noboribetsu)

[Contents] Yakitori and Yakisoba Shop, Game

Shop, Free Market: May 10,11 Gardening market: May 9(Fri) – 18(Sun)

[More Information] Kameda Commemoration Park (Tel: 0143-86-2511)

## Japanese Cooking 197



### Green Beans with Sesame Paste

いんげん の ごま和え<sup>あ</sup>

#### - Ingredients (serve four) -

String beans 250 g

Soy sauce little

<Sauce>

Black sesame seeds 3 tablespoons

Soy sauce 1 tablespoon

Sugar 1 tablespoon

mirin 1 tablespoon

#### Directions

- (1) Trim the string beans: Remove the strings and tops.  
Boil them, and squeeze out excess water, then add a few drops of soy sauce.
- (2) Put the sesame seeds into a pan over low heat, toast until puffy.
- (3) Grind (2) sesame seeds with a wooden pestle, add all the sauce seasonings, and then grind well.
- (4) Squeeze (1) to remove liquid, add (3) and mix well.  
Serve in a bowl.

## About Japan

### Taxes in Japan

#### <What kind of taxes do the Japanese pay?>

Taxes in Japan are classified into two categories: direct taxes imposed on one's income, and indirect taxes imposed on one's consumption and expenditures.

Direct taxes include income tax, corporation tax, inheritance tax, and donation tax. Besides

national taxes, local taxes are also imposed.

The 5% consumption tax is representative of indirect taxes which are levied on all goods. Purchasers pay the tax to merchants, and then it is the merchants' responsibility to pay the collected tax to the state.

Direct taxes account for 67% of the 2003 tax revenues of Japan, whereas indirect taxes account for 33%. In comparison with other countries, the ratio of direct taxes is higher in Japan and the United States; indirect taxes account for more than 50% in the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

It is feared that maintaining the social security system for the aging society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be impossible without raising the consumption tax.

### <Are taxes in Japan high by world standards?>

The tax burden ratio to the national income of Japan in 2003 was 20.9% with the national taxes and local taxes combined. The amount was 76.5 trillion yen. The tax burden ratio in 1994 was 23.2%, and so there has been a gradual decrease.

The United Kingdom, at 41.4%, is one of the countries with the highest tax burden ratio. In France and Germany the ratio is 39.8% and 31.2% respectively. European countries generally have higher tax burden ratios than Japan, but the majority of their taxes are indirect.

If one has the impression that Japanese taxes are very high, that is because the direct taxes, or visible taxes, from one's income are quite high.

## GREETING あいさつ 問候

おはようございます  
Ohayoogozaimasu  
Good morning  
早安

こんにちは  
Konnichiwa  
Hello/Good morning  
/Good afternoon  
您好(白天)

こんばんは  
Konbanwa  
Good evening  
您好(晚上)

おやすみなさい  
Oyasuminasai  
Good night  
晚安

自己紹介

Jikoshookai  
Self-introduction  
自我介绍

はじめまして。  
Hajimemashite.  
How do you do?  
初次見面。

わたしは ○○です。○○から きました。  
Watashi wa ○○ desu. ○○kara kimashita.  
I am [your name]. I come from [your country].  
我的名字是○○, 我從○○來。

どうぞ よろしく おねがいします。  
Doozo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.  
Nice to meet you.  
請多多關照。

さようなら  
Sayoonara  
Good-bye  
再見

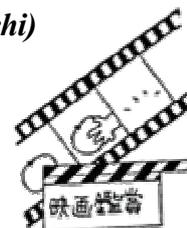
失礼します  
Shitsureeshimasu  
Excuse me  
抱歉

ありがとう ございます  
Arigatoo gozaimasu  
Thank you  
謝謝你

## Cinema Guide

### Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. EARTH
2. HIS DARK MATERIALS:  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3. クロサキ (Japanese)
4. ドラえもん緑の巨人伝 (Japanese cartoon)



### 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, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.