

MURORAN TIMES



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Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics

Birth of Prime Minister Hatoyama

The Democratic Party of Japan became the leading party at the election of the House of Representative held on August 30th. Therefore Mr. Hatoyama, the president of the party, was selected the 93rd Prime Minister at the special session of the Diet held on September 16th. The vote that he got this time (more than 200 thousand vote) recorded the highest ever through out all constituencies. That is because not only mighty support for the party but also local people's passionate feeling. They had been eager to bear a prime minister in their hometown.

Mr. Hatoyama is 62 years old. His constituency (the 9th ward in Hokkaido) covers Iburi district and Hidaka district and he owns a house in Muroran. He graduated from the department of technology in Tokyo University, and got doctorate of technology at Stanford University in USA. After teaching in Tokyo Institute of Technology and others, he was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1986. Though at first he belonged to Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, he formed the Democratic Party of Japan in 1996 and assumed its leader. He respects J.F.Kenedy. He loves listening to classical music. And his favorite foods are Chinese noodles soup (Rah men in Chinese) and whatever his wife cooks.

In Muroran, his hometown, on 16th of September many events took place in order to celebrate his inauguration to a prime minister. His posters were everywhere and some store

distributed rice cakes colored red and white. Even fireworks were launched. Some restaurant sold food in sale with ¥810 (In Japanese 810 can be pronounced "Hato"). Sweets and breads in commemoration were sold in some shop. Muroran City Office set up signboard and banner for celebration. A meeting for listening to the CD, which his friend in Muroran made in 20 years ago, was held at a restaurant in Muroran. Its title is "Take Heart" and Mr.Hatoyama's singing voice can be heard in the CD.



Prime Minister
Yukio Hatoyama

むろらん じたく いぶり ひだかちほう せんきょく
室蘭に自宅があり、胆振・日高地方を選挙区とす
しゅうぎいんぎいん みんしゅとうだいひょう はとやま ゆきお
る衆議院議員で民主党代表の鳩山由紀夫さん
が、く がつ じゅうろくにち かいさい とくべつこっかい
が、9月16日に開催された特別国会で
ないかくそうりだいじん せんしゅつ
内閣総理大臣に選出されました。

The Foreign Students Factory Tour

Muroran Institute of Technology made a tour of factories in Muroran intended for the foreign students on September 8. It aimed for the foreign students to know the newest technology and expand the width of their research.

The participants were 20 persons from China, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, and Indonesia. They visited Japan Steel Works Muroran Plant and KIMERA, the metal mold parts supplier. In JSW Muroran, they looked surprised to see the shuttlecock of wind power generation of 40 meter in length and 6.5 ton in weight. They did eager questions. The University will make the students to present the reports and use them for future reference.

むろらんこうぎょうだいがく りゅうがくせい たいしやう しな
室蘭工業大学では、留学生を対象とした市内の

こうじょう けんがく おこな ちゅうごく かんこく ごとく
工場見学を行い、中国や韓国など5ヶ国の

りゅうがくせい にじゅうにん さんか
留学生20人が参加しました。

Novel Influenza

These days novel influenza is prevalent in West Iburi including Muroran. Seven of primary schools and junior high schools in Muroran are closing in a class or in whole classes. Medical mask and soap for sterilization sell very well. Though drug-stores order medical mask from makers, when they arrive is not certain. To prevent influenza, washing hands fully, gargling and abstaining from crowd are effective.

むららん しゅうへんちいき しんがた りゅうこう
室蘭や周辺地域で新型インフルエンザが流行し

ています。てあら うがい がかんせんよぼう ゆうこう
と
いわれています。

Information and Invitations

Bonsai Exhibition

[Date] October 10(Sat), 11(Sun) 10:00a.m.~
[Place] Muroran Citizen's Hall (Shimin-Kaikan)
(Wanishi-cho)
[Information] Ms. Sunago(Tel:0143-46-3412)

Playing of Japanese Harp, Bamboo Flute, and Shamisen

[Date] October 10(Sat) 1:30 p.m. ~
[Place] Bokoi Station
[Information] Mr. Nigishi (Tel: 0143-23-3801)

BONSAI (Mini potted plant) Exhibition

[Date] October 9(Fri) - 11(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~
4:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Science Museum
[Contents] About 120 pots that the member of the Muroran bonsai association raised are exhibited.

[Entrance Fee] 300 yen (under junior high school age and over 70 year's old: free)
[More Information] Muroran Science Museum
(Tel: 0143-22-1058)



Citizens Floor-Curling Rally

[Date] November 15(Sun) 8:45a.m. ~
[Place] Kaiyo elementary school gym
[Conditions] Over elementary school-age students
[Course] Doubles (Two -person groups)
[Admission Fee] 500 yen (includes insurance)
[Application] Come to the Muroran Gymnasium by November 11 and pay the admission fee with the application form
[More Information] Muroran Gymnasium (Tel: 0143-44-7521)

DATE Agricultural Festival



[Contents] Spot sale of agriculture and livestock product of local,
Milk of squeezing setting up and Ice cream free service,
Rice cake scattering and Demonstration of danced combative sports "Kapoera"
[Date] October 4(Sun) 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.
[Place] Multipurpose plaza of Date history
[More Information] Date agricultural festival executive committee secretariat (Tel: 0142-23-2181)

Fish Festival



[Date] October 4(Sun) 10:00 a.m ~1:00 p.m.
[Place] Oinaoshi fishing port (funami-cho)
[Contents] Fresh marine products and farm products are sold directly

*The order ticket distributed in front of the stage at 9:00a.m. is necessary for the purchase of the salmon (about 700 yen).
[More Information] Fish Festival Executive Committee (0143-24-3331)

The hospital volunteer of Muroran general hospital is recruited.

[Contents] Wheelchair in one to which it is come to a hospital, help of reappearance receipt machine, and guide to each outpatient window, Maintenance of flower bed, Handicraft and arrangement of book, etc It is recruited to help by the volunteer. Please inquire details like the activity time etc.

[More Information] Muroran General Hospital
(0143-25-3111)

Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol.4]

Name: *Margit Krause-Ono*

Country: Frankfurt,
Germany

Profession: Professor
of MIT



Q1: When did you come to Muroran?

A: I came to Muroran in 2003, it will be 6 years. Before that I lived in Sapporo, so I have been in Japan for about 29 years in total.

Q2: What do you do in Muroran?

A: I am a professor of Muroran Institute of Technology (MIT) . I teach German, Intercultural communication, and European Culture.

Q3: How do you like teaching at MIT, any particular impression about University or Students?

A: I think most students are very serious about their study. For example, German is required only for the freshman. Though, many of those who completed the required units take German-II, which is not a required subject. They worked very hard and did excellent job, I think.

Q4: What are your recent interests of study?

A: I am doing research for how people from different cultures teach intercultural communications; what are their perception and basic concepts for one another among Germany, Japan and the U.S.

Q5: Any comments for the citizens as a foreign resident?

A: The city of Muroran may have similar problems which many regional cities have. Though, from the eyes of outsiders, this area

seems to have a lot of unique and attractive remarks. For instance, compared to living in a wide-spread cosmopolitan, Muroran can offer comfortable living, which is one of a benefit of “compact city”.

Japanese Cooking 214

Oden Stew

おでん



- Ingredients (serve four) -

octopus tentacles, boiled	400g
daikon radish, slices 2cm	4 pieces
carrot	200g
konnyaku	200g (1 cake)
deep-fried tofu (atsuage)	200g (2 cakes)
burdock fishcake rolls	200g (4)

《Sauce》

broth	2000cc
sake	6 tablespoons
sugar	3 tablespoons
mirin	2 tablespoons
light soy sauce	5 tablespoons
soy sauce	5 tablespoons
dried shrimp	30g

yellow mustard

《condiments》

chili pepper flakes



Directions

- (1) Cut octopus tentacles in half lengthwise.
- (2) Peel daikon radish and carrots, and boil until tender.
- (3) Rub konnyaku with salt, parboil briefly, cut across the surfaces, making diagonal slits, and cut the cake into 8 pieces.
- (4) Douse deep-fried tofu and burdock fishcake rolls with boiling water to remove excess oil.
Cut tofu in half.
- (5) Place all ingredients and sauce in a pot, and

cook over low heat for 2-3 hours.

(6) Serve with mustard and condiments to taste.

About Japan

Elections



<The Election System>

Elections may be broadly divided into national elections for the Houses of Representatives and Councilors and local elections for town, city, prefectural, and other local government councils.

Under the 1994 Election Law the old multirepresentative constituencies were abolished. The House of Representatives has 480 members-300 elected from single-representative districts and the remaining 180 from party lists in eleven electoral blocs nationwide, each voter having two votes (one candidate vote and one party-list vote). The House of Councilor's 242 members are elected 96 nationwide with voters voting for parties' pre-announced candidate slates and the other 146 in prefectural polls electing 1-4 Councilors per prefecture. While all Japanese 20 or older can vote, candidates must be at least 25 years old for the House of Representatives and local councils and 30 or older for the House of Councilors.

<Public Funding>

One of the objectives in reforming the election law was to make political donations less important to the process. Provision was thus made for public funding to the parties. In 2001, this amounted to 31,300 million. This funding is available to parties that either have five or more seats, or have won 2% or more of the votes in the most recent election. While it was hoped that politicians would not be as dependent on private donations as a result, there was, in fact, an increase in such private contributions in the 1996 election. Because the public funding goes to the parties, it is expected that parties will become more important in elections and that party leaders will wield more control since they have their hands on the money.

<Terms of Office>

Terms of office are six years for the House of Councilors and four years for all other offices. Unlike local council members, who usually serve out their full terms, members of the House of Representatives typically find their terms interrupted by House dissolution and general elections – on average every two and a half years or so. While the House of Representatives can be dissolved and new elections called any time, the House of Councilors elects half its members every three years, usually in July, and local council elections are every four years, usually concentrated in April and May. With the growing political apathy among young people, voter turnout has been slipping at all levels. Today, the average turnout nationwide is about 60% - about 50% in urban areas and somewhat higher in the countryside.

Almost all Diet members belong to one of the major parties, but there is a tendency to downplay political affiliation in the local elections, especially at the prefectural level. Instead, local politicians prefer to cast themselves at the head of “citizen parties” for broader appeal.

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

- 1. にじゅっせいしょうねん 2.0世紀少年 (Japanese)
- 2. TAJOMARU (Japanese)
- 3. BALLAD 名もなき恋のうた (Japanese)
- 4. デュエル・マスターズ (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, Naito Naoko, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.