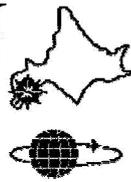


MURORAN TIMES



January 1, 2010 No.242

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

News and Topics



The Mayor of Rizhao came

A group of goodwill ambassadors from Rizhao, which is a sister city of Muroran in China, visited Muroran City Office on December 4th. The delegation consisting of the mayor, Mr.Cho, and seven other members, arrived at the city hall at 9 o'clock in the morning. At the entrance of the city hall the Mayor of Muroran, the chairman of the city council and many other staff were waiting to welcome them. Then the Mayor of Muroran invited them to his office and told them about the industry, port, sightseeing spots, food, and culture in Muroran. He also presented a carved wooden bear as a memorial to the delegation. After that, the Mayor of Rizhao made a speech to the councilor and the staff at the assembly hall. He said, "I hope that both cities, which have a port in common, will continue their exchanges, so that the friendship will last. In Japan the technology is advanced. And in Muroran there are many companies with high technology. In addition, the universities and general hospitals are also solid. We hope to cooperate in the areas of higher education, medical service and also sightseeing."

After that they visited Japan Steel Works and a sawing company, which trainees from Rizhao were working for. They toured several spots in West Iburi and stayed at Noboribetu Spa, so that the friendship with the mayors of Muroran and Noboribetsu deepened. They went back to China in the morning of December 5th.

Incidentally, Rizhao city was recognized by United Nations as one of the most habitable cities in the world in 2009.

むろらんし こくさいゆうこうとし ちゅうごく にっしょうし
室蘭市の国際友好都市である中国・日照市の

しちょう いっこう じゅうにがつよっか むろらんし おとず
市長ら一行が12月4日に室蘭市を訪れ、

むろらんしちょう こんだん よくじつ しな い きぎょう
室蘭市長と懇談したり、翌日は市内の企業などを

しきつ
視察しました。

Junior Meister of Volcano

In West Iburi the title of "Junior Meister of Volcanos", which the steering committee of the "Meister of Lake Toya and Mt.Usu" is recruiting, has attracted the interest of junior and senior high students. Junior Meister is a title given to young people who have become familiar with the local volcano (Mt.Usu). In order to get it, you have to make a report about three themes, which are 1) how you feel when you visit the area of Mt.Usu, "Toya and Usu Volcano Geopark", 2) what you learned at the Geopark, and 3) what you want to investigate about the Geopark in the future. It is not until your report is checked and certified that you can get the title. In 2009 students of the Science and Mathematics Course at Muroran Sakae High School, Usu Junior High School in Date and Soubetsu Junior High School visited the Geopark. Among the three schools, 79 first grade students of Muroran Sakae High School already took a lecture by an emeritus of Hokkaido University (Dr.Okada Hiromu) in May, visited the Geopark in June, and completed reports written by several groups of pupils. They are planning to study more and to apply individually for the title. For further information, call the Iburi Branch Office: 0143-24-9568.

とうやこうすかざん にんてい
洞爺湖有珠火山ジュニアマイスターの認定に

にしいぶりかんない ちゅうがっこう こうこう たか かんしん も と
西胆振管内の中学校や高校が高い関心を持って取

り組んでいます。

The Night View of Muroran is Booming

An excursion of the night view of Muroran sponsored by City Office has become very

popular.

Everyone who participates seems to discover something or have a new understanding about Muroran.

Muroran City Office held a night view excursion in September. After that, so many requests to have another excursion came in to the office that they decided to hold another one again in October.

The City Office has publicized about the night view of Muroran in the city's newsletter, and is providing photographs to citizens requesting them.

Moreover, there is an extension to this night view boom. A liquor store in Shukuzu-cho, Sakemoto Shoten, takes the picture of Muroran night view as has made a label for a *sake* bottle "Ranno Mai" (720ml), using various night views of Muroran. "Ranno Mai" is the original *sake* which Sakemoto Shoten consigns brewing to a *sake* brewery in Honshu.

むろらん やけい 室蘭の夜景がブームになっています。市役所では
こうほうし やけい とくしゅう 広報紙で夜景の特集をしたり、またラベルに夜景の
しゃしん つか さけ はつばい みせ 写真を使ったお酒を発売した店もあります。

Information and Invitations

Robot Soccer Contest



[Date] January 9(Sat), 10(Sun) 10:00a.m. -
[Place] Muroran Institute of Technology
[More Information]Tel: 0143-46-5125

Gardening Photograph Panel



Exhibition

[Date] January 12(Tue) - 22(Fri) 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
[Place] Historical Muroran JR Station
[Date] January 23(Sat) - 25(Mon) 10:00a.m. - 8:00p.m.
[Place] MORUE Nakajima Shopping Center
[Date] January 26(Tue) - February 6(Sat) 10:00a.m. - 9:00p.m.
January 30 and February 6 is until 5:00p.m.

Closed January 31.

[Place] Citizens Activity Center

[More Information] City Planning Division,
Park Section, Muroran City Office (Tel:
0143-25-2603)

Fire Fighters New Year Parade of Fire Brigades

[Date] January 10(Sun) 11:00a.m. -
[Place] Ranran Bridge (Nakajima-cho)
[Contents] Marching and Songs by the young steeplejacks group, Draining water with fire fighting vehicle
[More Information] Fire fighting headquarters Administration Section (Tel: 0143-41-4131)

Illumination Factory at Muroran IT

Muroran Institute of Technology (Muroran IT) will be decorated with 20,000 colorful lights and 100 Ice candles for 2 days. The event team plans to make photo cards and serve hot drinks.

[Date] January 23(Sat), 24(Sun) 5:00p.m. - 10:00p.m. * Note: January 25(Mon) - 29(Fri) only the illumination will be lit.

[More Information] Muroran Institute of Technology studio events: (Tel: 090-3397-6883)

2010 Calendar Recycling Market



[Date] January 13(Wed) - 15(Fri) 10:00a.m. ~ 4:00p.m.,
[Place] The 1st floor in NTT East Hokkaido Muroran branch (Higashi-machi)
[Contents] The calendar and the pocketbook are sold cheaply. The profit is contributed to the education fund etc.
[Information] NTT East Hokkaido Muroran Branch (Tel: 0143-43-2102)

Ceramic Art Experience Study

[Date] January 28(Thur) -31(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~ 12:30p.m or 1:30p.m.~4:00p.m.
[Place] Muroran Citizens Museum
[Conditions] elementary school children or older
[Limit] First 25 people
[Fee] 500 yen

[Application] Apply by telephone beforehand.
[Information] Muroran Citizens Museum
(0143-22-1124)

Japanese Cooking 217

Taro Tumbles きといもに 里芋の煮っころがし

- Ingredients (serve four) -

taros	12 (600g)
water used to rinse rice	600cc
-soup-	
broth	2cups (400cc)
sugar	3 tablespoons
mirin	2 tablespoons
soy sauce	3 tablespoons



Directions

- (1) Wash taros thoroughly, cut both ends off, and peel.
- (2) Parboil taros, in water used to rinse rice.
- (3) Place the taros, broth, sugar, and mirin in a soup, cover with a drop-lid, and heat over medium heat.
- (4) Cook for 10 minutes, and soy sauce, and simmer it down.
- (5) Shake the pot to tumble the taros, coating them with glaze.

* Drop-lid : A drop-rid, which is smaller than the diameter of the pan, is placed directly on the ingredients or liquid inside the pan, mainly for simmering .Bubbling liquid is forced back down by hitting the lid, and circulates evenly. Flavor distributes well, and the contents cook quickly. Wooden lids are usually used, however, stainless steel or glass lids, aluminum foil, or washi (Japanese paper) are also fine.

Japanese lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the Month>

“Hospital” : 病院 [byouin] (part 1)



Words

- outpatient : 外来患者 [gairai kanja]
- health insurance certificate : 健康保険証 [kenkou hoken shou]
- internal department : 内科 [nai ka]
- surgical department : 外科 [ge ka]
- pediatrics : 小児科 [shouni ka]
- vaccination : 予防接種 [yobou sesshu]
- health check : 健康診断 [kenkou shindan]
- blood-test : 血液検査 [ketsueki kensa]

Phrases

- (1) 「かぜ₁をひいて 熱₂があります。」
[kaze₁ wo hiite netsu₂ ga arimasu]
I caught a cold and have a fever.
- (2) 「インフルエンザの予防接種を受けたいです。」
[infuruenza no yobou sesshu wo uketai desu]
I like to take a flu vaccination shot.

Explanation

Winter time is the flu season. Especially this year, A/H1N1 influenza has spread nation-wide.

To prevent an infection, gargling and washing hands after returning home is effective. Please remember to wear a mask if you have any symptoms.

Pregnant women, children and people with chronic diseases are encouraged to be vaccinated. People who have symptoms such as a fever higher than 38°C (≒ 100° F), are recommended to consult a doctor.

*Most medical facilities including Muroran General Hospital will be closed during New Year's holiday, starting from December 29th(or 30th) to January 3rd. In case of emergency, please contact the emergency department of the hospitals.

About Japan

Shougatsu



For the Japanese, *shougatsu* serves to punctuate life with an annual beginning and end. *Shougatsu* is a time when government offices, private companies, schools, and everyone else takes a few days off to celebrate the arrival of a new year. The Japanese word for January, *Ichigatsu* (first moon), reflects *shougatsu*'s original significance as the beginning of the lunar year, a time when families paid their

respects to their ancestors and prayed for successful crops. Nowadays, however, the first week of January is generally referred to as *shougatsu* and is celebrated as simply the start of the New Year.

Come late December, and Japanese homes are abuzz with activity as housewives clean the house and garden, set traditional pine ornaments called *kado-matsu* outside the front door to welcome ancestral spirits, and prepare holiday foods such as *o-sechi-ryouri*, *zouni*, and *mochi*. Just prior to the new year's arrival is the big urban exodus – a period of several days during which every transportation artery is clogged with people leaving the city to return to their ancestral village or to take a vacation trip. On New Year's Eve it is common to eat soba noodles to symbolize long life and continuity across the years. Many people also sit awake far into the night on New Year's Eve with their family members to share the joy of having spent the outgoing year in good health, as they listen to shrine or temple bells ringing (*joya no kane**) just before the arrival of the New Year.

Many special events take place during the first week of the new year, and especially during the first three days. The two most typical are the first visit to a shrine or temple where people gather to pray for good fortune during the year ahead, and the formal New Year's calls paid on relatives, company superiors, and anyone else to whom you have become indebted during the past year. It is also during this week that Japanese women, most of whom ordinarily wear Western clothing, take the trouble to put their hair up and wear traditional *kimono*. New Year's calls have to some extent been replaced by *nengajou* (New Year's cards), an indispensable part of *shougatsu* if only because receiving large numbers of *nengajou* is an indication of high social status. *Otoshidama* - small gifts of money from parents and relatives - is a treat for the children.

Relations between 12 Signs of the Zodiac and Years

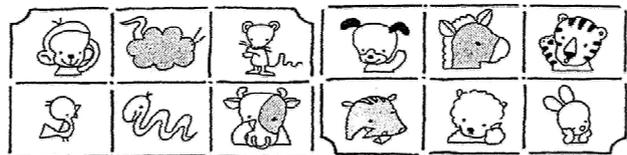
The calendar, introduced into Japan from China in ancient times, had 12 signs of the

zodiac. In ancient China these 12 zodiac signs were used to denote the Directions, Hours and Years. The Japanese invented their own 12 zodiac symbols, using 12 symbolic animals, to facilitate calendar reading.

The zodiac symbols, represented by animals, revolve in the order of rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and boar – a cycle of 12 years. Of these symbolic animals, only the dragon is an imaginary creature.

Today in Japan, the Christian Era system and Japanese Era system are in concurrent use, for example, A.D.2010 and the 22th year of *Heisei*. Nowadays, for the Japanese, the traditional zodiac symbols are a conversation item. The year 2010 is, for instance, the year of the tiger. This means the following year will be the year of the rabbit. Japanese people will celebrate the beginning of the year 2010 by drawing tigers on New Year's greeting cards (*nengajou*).

When asked "In what year were you born?" Japanese will answer, for example, "In the year of the rat," or "In the year of the monkey," according to the 12 zodiac symbols.



Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. AVATAR
2. UP
3. 2012
4. ウルルの森の物語 (Japanese)
5. のだめカンタービレ (Nodame Cantabile: 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, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.