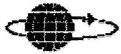


MURORAN



TIMES



July 1, 2010 No.248

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

News and Topics



YAMADA DENKI Comes to Muroran

At a press conference on June 14th Muroran Mayor, Mr. Shingu Masasi, disclosed that YAMADA DENKI Co., LTD was going to open a store at the former site of Hokkaido Marui Imai in Muroran. Until now, Hokkaido Marui side had been asked to tear down the decrepit building. However, recently, Hokkaido Marui made a deal with YAMADA DENKI Co., LTD, the top electric appliance retail company. YAMADA DENKI had been aiming at advancing into the Muroran area. After Marui Imai withdrew from Nakajima, the empty building was left. This situation had left a dreary influence upon the town, so the agreement was welcomed. The Muroran Mayor commented that the city was very happy, not only because of the effort of Hokkaido Marui but also because of the support of the citizens and the assembly, which brought about this good result.

In July the sales contract will be completed. Within this year the building will be subdivided and the construction will start early next year. Next summer the shop will be open. YAMADA DENKI intends to use 80% of the whole lot (7,000 m²) and to provide parking space on the first floor and sales space on the second floor.

YAMADA DENKI Co., LTD was established in 1973. The shop has a capital of 71 billion yen. The consolidated net sales in March 2010 were 2.0161 trillion yen. YAMADA DENKI is nationwide. The two closest shops in are Tomakomai with a total of 25 shops in all Hokkaido.

きゅう まるいいまいむろらんとん あとち でんき しゅってん
旧・丸井今井室蘭店の跡地にヤマダ電機が

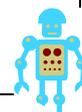
する見通しとなりました。

“Robot Arena”

Muroran Institute of Technology (Muroran IT) is going to start a project called “Robot Arena”, using a part of the gymnasium at the former Muroran Bunka Women’s Junior College in Takasago, Muroran. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology supports this project, which will last for five years. The aims of this project are to rejuvenate the Muroran area, where manufacturing is prosperous, and to train young talent in robot-related areas. Muroran IT intends to rent a part of the gymnasium from the Muroran City Office and to provide a professor to work there exclusively. Not only will there be research and development but also lectures about robots, and many kinds of contests will be held, targeting elementary and junior high school students. Muroran IT also intends to introduce the most advanced technology through the exhibitions of robots. Muroran IT expects this growing new field to be a feature in the future.

こうだい けんきゅう すず あら
工大ではロボット研究を進めるため、新たにロボ

ットアリーナを開設します。



Green Department Store Renewal

Green Department Store, a commercial establishment in Nakajima-cho is renewing goods in the store.

Until now, the store had been mainly been selling clothes and ornaments, but they have decided to change their sales focus. Along with some food shops, there will be a massage service, a real estate office and a coffee shop. In particular, the meat shop that had been doing business in the former Marui Imai will open. They offer local specialties, such as quail’s eggs and *natto*. The opening of a sweets shop is also planned.

They hope this renewal inspires the shopping area after the departure of Marui Imai Department Store.

なかじまちょう
中島町のグリーン・デパートでは、肉や地場産品の
にく じばさんびん
みせ たら
店などが新たにオープンしています。

Information and Invitations

Muroran Port Festival <July 23–25>

<July 23>

Fireworks at the Central Wharf:
8:00 p.m. ~ 8:30p.m.



* Postponed to July 25 in case of rainy weather.

<July 24>

(1) Dance (Muroran Bayashi and Hokkai Bon song) by the citizens of Muroran at Nakajima-cho: 4:00 p.m. ~ 5:30 p.m.



*It may be cancelled in case of rain.

(2) Muroran NERIKOMI [Mikoshi Festival (portable shrines)] at Nakajima-cho: 5:30 p.m.~

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

<July 25>

(1) Dance (Yosakoi Soran) in Muroran at Chuo-cho: 2:00 p.m.~

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

<July 24–26>

Stage and Big Markets will be open at the side of Muroran Ferry Terminal

<July 24,25>

Nakajima Heaven Festival will be held at Nakajima-cho

*A free course to learn the citizens' Dance will be

held by the Muroran Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Free rental VHS and DVD will also be available.

[More Information]the Muroran Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Tel: 0143-22-3196)

General Opening of Cape-Chikyu Lighthouse

It is possible to go inside the lighthouse.



[Date] July 19(Mon) 10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

*It may be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

[Admission Fee] free

[Information] Muroran Maritime Safety Office
(Tel: 0143-23-3133)

Citizen's Cycling



[Date] July 11(Sun) 9:30a.m. ~3:45p.m.

[Place] Muroran Gymnasium

[Course] Round trip from gym to Noboribetsu City Forest Mine (one way 18km)

[Conditions] Elementary school children must be accompanied by a guardian, and junior high school students must have permission from their guardian to participate.

[Admission Fee] 500 yen (includes insurance)

[Application] Come to the Muroran Gymnasium or any bicycle shop until July 8 and submit an application form with the admission fee

[More Information] Muroran Cycling Society
(Tel: 0143-55-5449)

Muroran Itanki Beach Open



[Date] July 24(Sat) –August 11(Wed)

[Information] Muroran Tourist Information
(0143-23-0102)

Noboribetsu Oni(Demon) Festival

[Date] July 31(Sat) 10:00 a.m.~8:30p.m.

August 1(Sun) 10:00a.m.~6:00p.m.

[Place] Noboribetsu citizens' hall

[Event] There are more than 50 kinds of events such as dynamic Japanese drums, local performing artists,, and a seafood market

[Information] Noboribetsu City citizens activity center "Noborin"(Tel: 0143-83-6866)

Luxury Cruise Passenger Ships to Enter Muroran Port

"Pacific Venus"

Onboard general public viewing

[Date] September 14(Tue) 10:00a.m. ~12:00noon

[Place] Muroran Port Central Wharf

[Limit] 80 people *by lottery if number of applicants exceeds 80

[Necessary ID card] Have your driver's license or health insurance cards ready to prove your identity



“Diamond Princess”

Onboard general public viewing

[Date] September 26(Sun) 10:30a.m. ~0:30p.m.

[Place] Muroran Port *Sakimori Wharf*

[Limit] 100 people *by lottery if number of

applicants exceeds 80

[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, name of passenger ship

you hope to visit, and the number on your ID card from July 12 to 20.

*Please apply with separate postcards if you

would like to visit both passenger boats. It is possible to apply for up to two people with one postcard. Lottery winners will be notified by mail. People who did not win will not be notified.

The winning right cannot be transferred to others.

〒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)

[More Information] Sun Life *Muroran*

(Tel: 0143-55-3040)

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

Topic : Telephone (Part 2) Cellular phone : 携帯電話 (keitai denwa)

Vocabulary

mail address : メールアドレス [me-ru adoresu]

mail : メールする [me-ru suru]

send : 送信する [soushin suru]



receive : 受信する [jyushin suru]

reply : 返信する [henshin suru]

attached file : 添付ファイル [tenpu fairu]

new subscriber : 新規 加入者 [shinki kanyusya]

message recorder : 留守番電話 [rusuban dennwa]

Phrases

(1) 「携帯の連絡先をお知らせいただけますか？」

[keitai no renraku saki wo oshirase itadake masuka]

Will you tell me your cell phone number?

(2) 「こちらのメールアドレスに送ってください。」

[kochira no me-ru adoresu ni okutte kudasai]

Please mail to this e-mail address.

(3) 「請求書を添付ファイルでお送りします。」

[seikyusyo wo tenpu fairu de ookuri shimasu]

Please find the bill for attachment file.

Explanation

As you see, an original word for cellular phone is “keitai denwa”. Though nowadays, people just call by its shortened word. Japanese cell phones have many small but unique functions; some of them are very useful, though only a few people really utilize all those functions. “E moji” icon is one of the most typical Japanese Keitai cultures. What do you find interesting about Japanese “Keitai” culture?

Japanese Cooking 223

Spinach and Octopus with Mustard-Miso

Sauce ほうれんそうとたこの酢味噌あえ

- Ingredients (serve four) -

spinach 1 (100g)

boiled octopus 100g

mustard – miso sauce

white miso 60g

yellow mustard 1 teaspoon

sugar 1 teaspoon

vinegar 1 tablespoon

mirin 1 tablespoon



Directions

(1) Boil lightly spinach and cut into 2cm length.

(2) Cut boiled octopus into 5mm widths.

(3) To make mustard – miso sauce, mix white miso, sugar and yellow mustard, add mirin

- and vinegar and mix.
- (4) Dry the spinach and octopus.
 - (5) Spread sauce on serving plates, arrange spinach and octopus.
-

Interview Konnichiwa “Muroranese”

[Vol.10]

Susannah Howard

by Mike Nima



Susannah Howard comes from Talkeetna, Alaska. She has been living in Muroran since July 2009. She taught this past year at Kaisei Gakuen High School. She also gives private eikaiwa lessons. I spoke with her on a foggy Sunday afternoon. (First of two parts)

What were you doing before you came to Japan?

Before I came to Japan, I got my bachelor’s degree in English literature from Rice University in Texas, and then after college I came straight to Japan on the JET program.

Why did you decide to come to Japan?

Some of my friends had tried the JET program, and they told me that it was very fun and interesting.

What have you been doing since you came to Japan?

I’ve lived in Hokkaido for four years now. I lived in Engaru for three years, and I’ve lived in Muroran for one year. In Engaru, I was a JET ALT (Assistant Language Teacher), and I taught mostly junior high school, and also elementary school, some high school and eikaiwa.

What are some differences between living in Alaska and living in Hokkaido?

In Alaska we have snow plows. So Hokkaido has been very good exercise for me—shoveling my driveway and walking to school in the snow. The food is healthier here in Hokkaido. In Alaska, we eat a lot of American-style food like burgers and pizza.

In Alaska, recreational fishing and hunting are

very popular, and people spend a lot of time outside. At the same time, when you go inside, all the buildings have air conditioning and central heating.

What do you like about living in Japan?

I’ve met a lot of fun people here—interesting people with different views of the world. I really like learning Japanese, watching Japanese tv and reading stories in Japanese. Here in Muroran, I have a scooter and live across from the karaoke box, so that’s fun. In Engaru, everybody in town knew who I was, so sometimes when I was walking around I would not see a stranger all day long. Muroran is a bigger city so I see a lot of strangers. I really miss having English bookstores around, but the yakitori here is great. I enjoy eating at Ippei!

What do you like about Japanese food?

I really like Hokkaido miso ramen. And I like sushi—I think it’s healthy and nutritious, and a lot of it is easy to make, so that’s fun!

About the interviewer: Mike Nima is an ALT for the Muroran Board of Education. He teaches English at Muroran Institute of Technology. He also gives private eikaiwa lessons.

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. THIS IS IT
2. FLOWERS (Japanese)
3. 踊る大捜査線 THE MOVIE 3 (Japanese)
4. 孤高のメス (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.