

# MURORAN TIMES



March 1, 2011 No.256  
Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,  
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

## News and Topics



### Muroran's population

The Japanese government takes a national census once every 5 years. The most recent one was held in October 2010. According to the result, the population of Muroran is 94,531. That is a decrease of 3,841 since the previous census.

At its peak the population of Muroran was 162,059 in 1970, and it has been decreasing since then.

There are, 179 cities, towns, and villages in Hokkaido but only 16 of them have increased in population, including Sapporo, Tomakomai.

The total population of Hokkaido is 5,507,456. This includes the population of Sapporo, which is 1,914,434, the largest city in Hokkaido, and it accounts for 34.8% of the total population in Hokkaido.

The population in the Iburi district is 173,406 in Tomakomai, 51,540 in Noboribetsu, and 36,283 in Date.

さくねんじゅうがつ おこな こくせいちょうさ そくほう  
昨年10月に行われた国勢調査の速報によ  
むろらんし じんこう  
ると、室蘭市の人口は  
きゅうまんよんせんごひゃくさんじゅういちにん  
9 4 , 5 3 1 人でした。

### Questionnaire About Nakajimacho Shopping District

The Consortium organized by stores in Nakajimacho sent out questionnaires about the shopping street in Nakajimacho. According to the results, the facilities which people want the most was a parking lot 49%, and the next was a book store 15.5%. The public facilities which

people want the most were a branch of the city office and a library, both of them were about 19%. Also, the kind of eating places lacking in the area, in order, were family restaurants, soba/udon restaurants, and fast food establishments.

なかじまちょう しょうてんがい じゅうと  
中島町の商店街でアンケートを実施した  
けっか ちか ちゅうしゃじょう ひつよう こえ もっと おお  
結果、近くに駐車場が必要との声が最も多く  
ありました。

### Muroran Curry Ramen Renewed

Nissin Food Products Co., Ltd renewed Muroran Curry Ramen, the package type of instant noodle and put it on the market.

The first Muroran Curry Ramen which was on the market last March sold two million packages around the whole country.

70% of the sales were in Hokkaido, so that the renewed product was put on the market only inside Hokkaido.

Company officials say that the renewed product has a spicier taste, and wakame sea weed has been added to the soup, so they have confidence that this new instant ramen is closer to the original one eaten in the ramen shops.

The one package has five servings and costs 500 yen.

You can buy them at supermarkets and other places in the city.



にっしんしょくひん めん むろらん  
日清食品ではインスタント麺の「室蘭カレーラ  
メン」をリニューアル発売しました。

## Information and Invitations

### How to Use Sign Language

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

[Place] Pia 216 (*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)

## Information of Muroran Science Museum Planetarium Stop

Muroran Science Museum Planetarium will  
close on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th in  
March

because of regular maintenance

[More Information] Muroran Science Museum  
(Tel:0143-22-1058)



## Courses at Sun Life Muroran

### • Slow Exercise Course

[Date] March 12,26(Sat) 10:00a.m. ~12:00noon

[Limit] 15 people \* by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 15

[Admission Fee] 1,400 yen

[Application] by telephone until March 4

### • Picture Postcard Course

[Date] March 19,26(Sat) 1:30p.m. ~3:30p.m.

[Limit] 10 people \* by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 10

[Admission Fee] 1,300 yen

[Application] by telephone until March 12

[More Information] Sun Life Muroran  
(*Kouhoku-cho*)(Tel: 0143-55-3040)

## Muroran Art Society's New Artists's Exhibition

[Date] March 24(Thur) ~ 27(Sun) 10:00 a.m. ~

[Place]Muroran Citizens Museum  
(Tel: 0143-22-1124)



## “DIAMOND PRINCESS” Onboard General Public Viewing

[Date] May 14(Sat) 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 from March 10  
to 22.

\*It is impossible to apply over one people with

one postcard even a baby. 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)

## Muroran Citizens College

Rediscover Muroran through

10-time course about the culture, history, and  
natural

walking areas etc. of Muroran.

[Entrance Ceremony] April 23(Sat) 1:30p.m.~

[Place] Disaster-prevention center  
(Fire fighting public office building  
at *Higashi-machi*)

[Lecture Fee] 3,700 yen in annual sum  
(Insurance is included.)

[Application] Please send a postcard or  
a fax or E-mail with your name,address, sex,  
birthday, telephone number and occupation  
until April 16.

〒051-0022 Industrial Hall, 2-3-2, Kaigan-cho  
Muroran

(室蘭市海岸町2-3-2 産業会館  
NPO法人「羅針盤」内)

[More Information] Incorporated Nonprofit  
Organization  
“Rashinban” :Mr.Toriyama(Tel:0143-83-6662  
Fax:0143-83-6663 E-mail:toriyama@kuru2.net)

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## Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol.17]

Achy Guillaume



*Interviewed by Mike Nima*

Achy Guillaume is from Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, and lives in Muroran. He speaks English, French, Japanese, and the African languages Attié and Dioula. He first came to Muroran in 1998 and has lived in Japan for over ten years. I spoke with Achy at the Green store in Nakajima.  
(Second of three parts)

*How do you see your role as an ALT?*

Of course, my main duty is to teach English. I have to encourage Japanese students to learn English, to have good English skills, and especially to be able to speak, because I realize that many students don’t even try to speak English. Even if they’re making mistakes, it doesn’t matter; I would like them to try to speak English.

*What’s the main difference between the education system here and that in Côte*

*d’Ivoire? For me, I’m from the U.S., so the main difference is that when the students rise up, we place them in a different class, and we separate the classes based on levels of ability. But in the Japanese system, students of different abilities are put into one class.*

I think that in the system here, students don’t have many opportunities to interact with the teacher. What I notice is that students don’t ask questions to the teacher, and they lack the ability to think independently. For example, you don’t see students who try to contradict what the teacher is saying, using different ideas from those of the teacher. In Côte d’Ivoire, students are actually quite interactive, and they can ask their teachers many questions.

*So do you mean that the teachers encourage more debate?*

That’s right. There is more debate in the classroom, and in Japan we don’t see that so much.

*What’s a positive aspect, from your point of view, of the Japanese education system?*

Japan has a universal education system. That means all children can go to school. Generally, in Africa, it’s not like that. We have many children who can’t go to school. Sometimes they don’t have enough money, and sometimes there aren’t enough facilities—no schools or no teachers.

*You’ve visited many different countries. What’s it like living as a foreigner in Japan compared with being in other countries?*

Well, first of all, there are very few foreigners in Japan compared to other countries. The percentage of black people here is very small. So being a foreigner in Japan can feel a little lonely, because we don’t have a lot of opportunities to meet other foreigners. Japanese people are not accustomed to foreigners, so sometimes they don’t spend time with foreigners. So the communities are separated—the foreigners on this side, and the Japanese on that side. It can be a little difficult, but I hope that in the future things will change.

*What advice would you give to a Japanese person who wants to interact more with foreigners?*

Well, definitely I encourage them to try and meet with foreigners and to spend time with them. Of course, we are all human beings. I'm black, but basically I'm not so different from Japanese people, except for my skin color. We are all human beings, so we don't need to be afraid of someone else because he has a different background or speaks a different language. Therefore, I would invite the Japanese to learn more about foreigners and other countries and get rid of prejudice against them.

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## Japanese Lesson

### “Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

“Doll Festival” : ひな祭り [hina matsuri]

#### Vocabulary

Hina dolls : 雛人形 [hina ningyou]

display : 飾る [kazaru]

celebrate : 祝う [iwau]

growth : 成長 [seichou]

put out : 出す [dasu]

emperor : お内裏さま [odairi sama]

empress : お雛さま [ohina sama]

counting for dolls : ～体 [tai]

hand down : 受け継ぐ [uketsugu]

generation from generation :

親から子へ [oyakara koe]

#### Phrases

(1) 「お内裏様とお雛様を含め 15 体の人形

があります。」

[odairi sama to ohina sama wo fukume 15 tai no ningyou ga ari masu]

There are fifteen dolls including an Emperor and Empress.

(2) 「雛人形は親から子へと受け継がれます。」

[hina ningyou wa oya kara ko e to uketsugare masu]

Hina dolls are handed down from generation to generation.

#### Explanation

Have you seen “hina” dolls at shops or your friend's house? The Doll Festival is held on March 3rd. It is a day to celebrate the growth and good health of girls. Families with girls put out hina dolls in their rooms. Long ago, people set the paper dolls to float down the rivers or in the sea. They hoped that the dolls would carry away their sins and misfortunes. People used to spend lots of money to have the best dolls wishing for their daughters' happiness, though nowadays, some people put out only the Emperor and Empress dolls.

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## Cinema Guide

### Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

- 1.The Tourist
- 2.The Chronicles of Narnia
- 3.太平洋の奇跡 (Japanese)
- 4.ドラえもん (Japanese)



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#### 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, Mike Nima, Sato Akiko, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.