

YOUTH FORUM NEWS

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Historical Village of Hokkaido

By Kana Tarui

The Historical Village of Hokkaido is located in Nopporo Shinrin Park. This is an open air museum which was built to celebrate the centennial of Hokkaido.

The park opened in April 1983 and has buildings from the Meiji period to the early Showa period. The purpose of the park is to understand the life of those days and to experience it physically.

Various events are held there all year round. Carp streamers are displayed from April to May. In August, the Star Festival is held and participants can write wishes on a strip of paper and hang it on a bamboo leaf.

In December you can experience Mochitsuki. This is making rice cakes in English.

There are more than 50 buildings in the village on 54.2 hectares. There are four areas. There is a farming village, a fishing village, a mountain village and a town.

There are some houses and barns in the farming village and you can see architecture that is particular to Hokkaido.

A ship and fishing implements are displayed in the fishing village. In this way, each area has its own purpose.

There is a guided tour carried out by volunteers and they give explanations about the buildings in both Japanese and English, so tourists can enjoy it.

The opening dates and times are different each season. From May to September it is open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

From October to April it's open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, it's closed on Mondays (except when Mondays are holidays it is closed on Tuesdays) and during the New Year (Dec. 29 – Jan. 3).

The fee for adults 15 to 64 is ¥800. The fee is ¥600 for university and high



school students with an ID.

Junior high students and younger, as well as persons 65 years or older, are free. Those with groups of 10 or more get a ¥100 discount per person.

Parking is free, or you can catch bus 22 from Shin-Sapporo Station. The bus costs ¥210 for adults and ¥110 for children.

Get off at the last stop, which takes about 18 minutes from the station. For more information, please check the website below.

<http://www.kaitaku.or.jp/en/en.htm>

Rakugo: The Japanese Art of Storytelling

By Haruka Murakami

Rakugo is a Japanese form of storytelling by one person. It is a very old tradition and has been popular for over 400 years.

Rakugo topics are amusing stories about common people's daily lives. It consists of an introduction and a main body.

At the end there is always an ochi, or punch-line. They are funny and emotional stories.

The storytellers are called Rakugoka, and they wear a kimono and are seated on a floor cushion on a stage.

The Rakugoka play the role of various characters by themselves. To perform each character skillfully, they change their voice and turn their head to the left and right.



Rakugoka make use of a folding fan and a small cloth called tenugui.

For example, the folding fan can be used as chopsticks and the tenugui can be used as a soup bowl.

In this way the audience can imagine the stories. Rakugo can be enjoyed by adults and children from all countries.

If you are interested in Rakugo, please go to a Rakugo theater or listen to a Rakugo CD.

The Sapporo Rakugo Festival was held from May 24 to May 26 at Sapporo Cultural Arts Theater Hitaru, Doshin Hall and Kyosai Hall.

This festival was sponsored by TVH (TV Hokkaido) to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

The general admission fee for adults was ¥4,500. The Festival consisted of twenty-eight Rakugoka performing their amusing stories.

The festival was a great success due to the audience attendance.

Spade & Ryu Graduation Dance Party

By Shogo Tsuchimoto



A graduation dance party was held in Space Art Studio in Susukino on March 13, 2019 by SPADE and Ryu.

SPADE is Sapporo University's dance club and Ryu is Hokusei Gakuen University's dance club.

The performance fee was ¥1,500 and regular tickets were ¥1,000.

The party was divided into three parts in all and there were also three break times.

During the break time a DJ played

This was the first time for this party to be held.

More than 30 dance teams participated in this party.

The party venue opened at 2:00 p.m. and started at 2:30 p.m.

music and everyone enjoyed it.

In Part 1, six teams appeared on the stage followed by a break.

In Part 2, nine teams appeared on the stage and then there was a second break.

For the last part, there were nine teams and a guest performance.

Instructor Seiya Miyatsu (SE-YA) from Sapporo University gave a guest performance and later participated in the showcase with the students who graduated.

The showcase was very impressive. The choreography at that time was the same choreography when they belonged to SPADE.

This graduation dance party was a great event for everyone who came.

The dance club is recommended for any student who is interested in dance.

Universities dance-off for Arukita Cup

By Rei Morita

The Arukita Cup tournament consists of college dancers from Hokkaido.

There are five to eight people in each crew, and they compete against each other to decide the strongest university dance group in Hokkaido.

This year the tournament was held for the 5th time on Saturday, July 6.

The tournament took place at JINX Sapporo, which was built this year.

The event began at 1:00 p.m. and ended at 7:00 p.m.

Both advanced tickets and day tickets were ¥1,000 and you also had to pay ¥500 for one drink.

This event wasn't only dance battles, there were also some showcases.

The winning team got the winners' cup and ¥100,000 prize money.



They also got a free ticket to the Red Bull BC One Cypher Japan to be held in Hakodate on August 18.

What's more, they also get to participate in the KING DANCE MATSURI 9, which is the biggest Hokkaido street dance event at Zepp Sapporo on November 23 and 24.

The second place team got ¥50,000 prize money.

There are also special prizes.

All of the dancers always practice so hard, so you can watch smooth, rhythmical, and cool dances.

If you like dance, you have to go to this event! It will be very exciting and fun.

This event is held every year, so if you missed this year, you should go next year!



Iwamizawa Agricultural High School

By Saki Ota

About a 20 minute walk from Iwamizawa JR Station is the Iwamizawa Agricultural High School.

This high school specializes in agricultural science, basic science and technology and was designated a Super Science High School by the Ministry of Education.

The school was established in May, 1907. There are a total of 797 students and 114 of those are in the Agricultural Department.

Most of the students are males and many of them are 2nd and 3rd generation farmers.

Besides agriculture subjects, students also study English to improve conversation and presentation skills and they focus on improving comprehension and learning English expressions.

In addition, students learn how to improve their ability to compose logical sentences.

Students also learn mathematics and enhanced logical thinking skills required for science projects and presentations.

All of these areas of study are used to conduct exploratory-centered learning, observation and experimentation.

Youth Forum News spoke to teachers Mr. Yasuyuki Ishida and Mr. Mikihiro Takeda.

Mr. Ishida transferred to Iwamizawa Agricultural High School from Bihoro High School in 2018.

He is highly respected among students. He said he wanted to become a teacher because he was inspired by the teacher in charge of his high school agricultural club.

His emphasis is on basic cultivation techniques and business knowledge and skills.

He explained that there are certain certification requirements for the production and sale of agricultural products.

Management of the production process must be carried out safely using global GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) standards in order to realize sustainable agricultural products.

The Department of Agricultural Science produces 30 to 40 kinds of vegetables, including cucumbers, eggplants, melons and watermelons.

Mr. Takeda teaches in the Department of Life Science and began teaching at the school in 2008.

He said that he decided to become a teacher when he was 30 years old.

He teaches gardening and distribution, which has a total of 112 students from freshman to senior.

In order to give students valuable hands-on experience, the school holds events which include Green Fairs, Food Fairs.

Students sell their goods in “Rock Farming Shops,” which takes its name from the school.

The word “Rock” means “Iwa” in Japanese and is taken from the first part of Iwamizawa and “Farming” is for Agriculture.

The most recent Green Fair was held on May 18 and the Rock Farming Shops, where students sell their goods, were also open on June 14.

The purpose is for students to learn how to cultivate, grow and then sell flowers, vegetables and dairy products.



The Food Fair will be held on Saturday, October 5 at Ario Sapporo (North 7, East 9) and five other locations around Hokkaido.

The most popular item at the Food Fair is tomatoes. Other items for sale are processed foods, including meat, milk, butter and ice cream.

Mr. Ishida and Mr. Takeda both stress that there are many points of contact with people in the distribution process.

Therefore, students must connect with people at the various stages of production, distribution, and sales by learning compassion and hospitality.

Please visit one or all of the fairs when you have the time.

It's not a long drive from Sapporo and there is plenty of parking available.

The most popular flowers at the Green Fair are poinsettia and cyclamen, and the bulbs are sold in winter.

Cyclamen are perennial flowering plants, of which there are 23 species.

*Website:
<http://www.iwamizawanouyou.hokkaido-c.ed.jp/>

Heisei Era comes to an end

By Takuma Otaka

The curtain fell on the 30-year-long Heisei era on April 30 and the new Reiwa era began on May 1.

Let's take a look back on the things that happened and the things that evolved during the Heisei era.

Probably the most important is that the Internet became indispensable. You can now search for anything and connect to anyone on social networking sites.

In addition, anyone can do shopping online with ease without ever leaving their house.

The Internet has had a great influence on people's lives and work and has become ubiquitous.

Another change is that PCs have become lighter and lighter, with increasing capacity and the picture quality has become sharper.

There were only desktop computers at first, but now there are also laptop computers, so you can carry them and use them anywhere.

These days, with the advent of the tablet, they are more compact, efficient and comfortable.

One more change is the phone.



At the beginning of Heisei, the first mobile phones were machines on which you could only talk.

By the early 2000s analog changed to digital. With the advent of the Galapagos mobile phone, the screen was colored and you could watch TV, take pictures and you could choose your own ringtone.

The 2010s saw the advent of the iPhone and of android smartphones. You could now operate your phone by touching the screen and also play games, watch videos, join social network sites, browse the Internet and more.

Phones became very compact, useful and functional.

These days, most people have a smartphone and they have become essential.

Finally, cars have become more economical and safe.

Modern cars manufacturers have to be concerned with globalism, global warming and fuel shortages.

Electric cars are now being developed, so they are becoming more energy efficient and environmentally-friendly.

Soon cars will be able to drive automatically and detect people, so car accidents will decrease.

Currently, the top three car companies in the world are Japanese.

Beside these things, game graphics and animation drawings have become very beautiful and many home appliances have become more functional.

Many things changed rapidly during the Heisei era. All these began and evolved in Heisei.

No one could have imagined how things would change in these last 30 years. Heisei was a turbulent and innovative period. What changes can we expect during the new Reiwa era?

The World of Shogi

By Yoshikuni Sato

It is believed that Shogi originated in Chatranga, India. However, no one knows when Shogi came to Japan.

In Shogi, the players battle one on one, aiming to capture their opponent's King.

They have the same 20 pieces: one king, one rook, one bishop, two gold generals, two silver generals, two knights, two lances, and nine pawns.

The abilities of the pieces are different and players are given a limited time to move their pieces in turns.

The Appearance of AI

It is said that the development of computer Shogi began around 1970 and the first computer to be able to play the game was around that time.

In those days, half of the professional players said that in the near future AI would win. From 2012 to 2017 there were six tournaments called Denosen where the top players went against computers in the final match.

However, the top players were defeated five out of six times.

About The Industry

There are eight different titles in Shogi and professional players try to win the tournament and the prize money which can be up to 42,000,000 yen.

Besides professional male players, there are also a limited number of female professional players and six different titles for women.



There are strong and famous professional players such as Yoshiharu Habu and Amahiko Sato. They are often featured on TV shows.

Little Mermaid to be Hokkaido Gekidanshiki's finale

By Shingo Narita



The Hokkaido Gekidanshiki Theater was built in 1991 in Sapporo dating back to the

stage production of *Cats*.

This was the first privately operated theater in Sapporo

and the start of the development of Gekidanshiki throughout Japan.

However, they closed the theater after the redevelopment of Sapporo Station in 1991.

They staged 20 plays with over 1 million in attendance when they closed.

A dedicated theater was built again in 2011.

However, that theater is now scheduled to close in March of 2020.

The land where the theater is located is owned by the

Takenaka Corporation and the contract has been terminated.

The original contract was for five years until 2016 and was extended twice.

The musical for the final performance is the famous *Little Mermaid*.

The powerful acting and the beautiful singing was overwhelming.

Even when the curtain came down the applause did not stop. It was very impressive.

The Hokkaido Gekidanshiki will remain in the hearts of fans for a lifetime.

Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire

By Karen Matsuda

Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire is an animated movie which opened in theaters in Japan on April 12, 2019.

This movie sold over 7 million tickets and grossed ¥9 trillion since its opening day.

The voice of Conan was played by Minami Takayama. She is a Japanese voice actress also known for her role as Kiki in *Kiki's Delivery Service*.

The voice of the phantom thief Kaito Kid was played by Yamaguchi Kappei. He is a Japanese voice actor known for his role as Usopp in *ONE PIECE*.

In this story, a lawyer named Sherilyn Tan was killed by someone at the small island resort hotel Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

A police officer found the name card of Kaito Kid at the murder scene.

Other characters in the story, such as Ran, Sonoko and Kogorou, visited Singapore in order to watch a Karate competition.

Conan had planned to stay at home, but he stowed away in Kaito Kid's suitcase instead because Conan wanted to clear Kaito Kid of the murder charge.

Once in Singapore, Kaito Kid learned that the world's largest blue sapphire stone

was in a vault in a grand home, so he made a plan to steal it.

The Detective Conan serialization first started in January 1994 at Weekly Shonen Sunday, a manga magazine, and was later released in book form in July of that same year.

The animated TV show started in 1996 and the first Conan movie was released in 1997 and a new one has been released every April since then. The current film is

the 23rd installment.

The TV animated cartoon had high ratings and marked its 20th anniversary in 2016.

The total circulation of the 40-volume Conan Series exceeded 230 million copies worldwide as of November, 2018.

This movie has international intrigue, powerful action scenes and romantic situations, so everyone can enjoy this movie.



