

YOUTH FORUM NEWS

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Sapporo University

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Mt. Moiwa Ropeway Renewal

By Yusuke Utsumi

Mt. Moiwa is famous as a sightseeing and dating spot in Sapporo. It is also one of the three most popular night views in Japan.

If you go there at night, you will see many couples and tourists. If you do not like crowds, you should go there in the daytime. If you go to there with your girlfriend or boyfriend, you should go there at night.

Also, there is a "Happiness Bell" at top of the mountain. Couples can also put padlocks on the handrails to represent their love for each other.

It is said that couples who place a padlock on the handrail will not break up. There is also a planetarium, which is said to be the highest planetarium in the world.

Traditional planetariums project from 6,000 to 30,000 stars. However, the planetarium at Mt. Moiwa can project 5 million stars.

At the top of the mountain (Moiwa Sanchou Station) the viewing platform was repaired and upgraded in 2011.

The new building was redesigned for elderly people, people with disabilities and people with children.

There is an elevator from the basement floor to the top floor to make it easy for



them.

In summer, Mt. Moiwa Ropeway is open from 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. In winter, it is open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

However, from November 21 to November 30, it is closed due to maintenance. On December 31 it is open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on January 1 it is open from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The cost for taking the ropeway from the base station (Moiwa Sanrei Station) to the central station (Moiwa Chufuku Station) is ¥1,700 for adults and ¥850 for children.

To continue to the top of the mountain to Moiwa Sanchou Station on the Mini Morris Car costs an additional ¥1,100 for adults and ¥550 for children.

Sapporo Autumn Festival 2016

By Akihiro Kudo

The annual Autumn Fest was held in Odori Park from November 9 to October 1. This year, about 2.3 million people came out to enjoy food, drink and entertainment.

It is very profitable, and the Autumn Fest executive committee donates some of the profits to the Japanese Red Cross Society.

There are many kinds of food shops at the fest. For example, there are ramen shops, soup curry shops, and seafood, meat and desert shops.

In particular, the strawberry snow ice cone is very delicious. It goes well with condensed milk that is often used on strawberries, but the price is a little expensive.



Here are a few recommendations. If you want to feel the vibe of the festival, you should go to Odori 1-Chome, 5-Chome and 8-Chome. There you will find mostly Hokkaido food shops.

If you want to enjoy sweets, you should go to Odori 6-Chome, because there are a few popular café and stores.

Many shops sell goods from booths at the Autumn Fest, so it is an enjoyable event for everyone.

Next year, the Sapporo Autumn Fest will be held from November 9 to November 30.

日本新三大夜景
長崎 札幌 神戸

R 025330

札幌もいわ山ロープウェイ
MT. MOIWA ROPEWAY

札幌市中央区伏見5丁目3-7 TEL 011-561-8177
<http://moiwa.sapporo-dc.co.jp>

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The World of M. C. Escher

By Kanae Seino

“The World of M. C. Escher” exhibition was held at Sapporo Art Park from September 3 to October 16 last year.

It was surprising to see many males and females people of all ages there.

The general admission fee for adults was ¥1,300. The admission fee for high school and college student was ¥700, and ¥500 for junior high school students.

Elementary school students and small children accompanied by a guardian were free.

Besides viewing many art works by Escher at this exhibition, you could also learn many things about him and buy some souvenirs.

As you may know, Escher is one of the most famous graphic designers in the world.

He made a lot of masterpieces beloved by many people regardless of age,

gender or nationality.

His masterpieces include Metamorphosis I, II and III, Sky and Water, Drawing Hands, Waterfall, and otherworldly creations.

He began by drawing landscapes because he was fascinated by the Italian scenery and buildings when he lived there, but he is mostly known for his unusual drawings more than his landscape work.

Why did he start to make these unusual and unique drawings?

According to this exhibition, it is because he was fascinated by the regular Division of the Plane when he saw the elaborate tiles in the Alhambra, a fourteen century Moorish castle in Granada, Spain.

Escher was born in the Netherlands and in his early years studied printing as an apprentice to Samuel Jessurun

de Mesquita.

After graduating, he went to Italy with his friends when he was 23 years old. He was very happy in Italy, and it was there that he met his wife Jetta Umiker.

Unfortunately, in 1935, he unwillingly left Italy with his family because of the rise of fascism, and he and his family moved to Switzerland, Belgium and Holland in succession.

However, he the scenery and buildings there held no fascination for him, so he decided to abandon landscape drawing.

Instead, he began to create so-called impossible constructions in earnest. According to mathematicians, Escher’s works uses very difficult mathematics to create things that seem ordinary.

Strangely enough, he was very weak in mathematics as a



student. So how he could make such complicate drawings?

One reason was that he referred to crystallography to make his works at the suggestion of his brother who was a geologic professor. In addition, he was good at drawing three dimensions from two dimensional objects since childhood.

If you have an interest learning more about Escher, his life and art, you should check out the official M. C. Escher website at: <http://www.mcescher.com>.

Japanese animated film Your Name a surprise hit

By Kotaro Kobayashi

The animation movie *Your Name* (*Kimi No Nawa*) made more than ¥16.4 billion so far at the box office in Japan. It was shown from August 26 to late November.

The production company is Comic Wave Film, and the general director is Shinkai Makoto. He also worked on the animation movies *The Place Promised in Our Early Days* and *Five Centimeters Per Second*. Shinkai trained in creating animation movies and is well known in the animation industry.

This movie had high expectations by domestic anime fans because the animation was created by the capable and famous animation designer Tanaka Masayoshi and by Ando Masashi, who worked on STUDIO GHIBLI’s movies.

There are two main characters, Taki, who lives in Tokyo, and Mitsuha, who lives somewhere in the mountains in the countryside. Taki’s and Mitsuha’s spirits exchange bodies.



The story begins when high school student Mitsuha wakes up one morning in Tokyo in Taki’s body. She noticed it wasn’t her body. And somewhere in the mountains in the countryside high a school student named Taki noticed his body had also changed. But they didn’t know each other.

They were surprised and confused at first. Sometimes their bodies would change for a day when they woke up, and then return to their real body the next day.

In order to communicate with each other they would have to interact by writing letters on their hands and arms, keeping a diary on their smart phones, and leaving notes to each other. Gradually they fall in love. In essence, this is a love story.

One good point of this movie was the artwork. The reflections and shadows of buildings in Tokyo where Taki lives, and the sunsets and panoramic views of forests and lakes in the countryside where Mitsuha lives were absolutely beautiful. It was so impressive to see this on the big screen in a movie theater.

URESPA Club attends Sakhalin Indigenous People's Festival

By Ryo Yonezawa

From August 4 to August 10, 2016, eight URESPA Club students and two teachers joined the Sakhalin Indigenous People's Festival Program. One teacher was from Sapporo University and one teacher was from Hokkaido University.

Day 1: August 4

On the first day we took a plane from New Chitose Airport at 18:10 to Korea Incheon airport and spent the night at the airport hotel.

On this day I learned how difficult it was to exchange money.

At first, I tried to exchange money at New Chitose Airport, but they were running out of ruble. So I tried to exchange at Incheon Airport, but they were also running out of ruble.

I thought I could exchange at Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Airport, but when we arrived, there was no place to exchange money at the airport.

I had to ask the Japanese Embassy to exchange money for me at the bank.

Day 2: August 5

We arrived at Yuzno-Sakhalinsk airport. When we arrived at the airport the festival staff welcomed us in the traditional Russia way.

The traditional welcome is to offer a very big slice of bread and salt, but in Sakhalin they offered salt salmon roe because salmon is local product. It was very delicious.

After the airport we went to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk State library.

At the library hall, the guests for the festival performed dances for the staff.

The festival guests included Sapporo University's URESPA Club, the People's National Ensemble Mengume-Irganox and a singer from the Sakha Republic of Shiniriga-Kuiruiaa.

The Mengume-Irganox are the indigenous people of Sakhalin.

The singer from the Sakha Republic of Shiniriga-Kuiruiaa is not only a singer but, also teaches Sakha language and culture.

There was also a live band. The atmosphere was like an American wedding.



After that we checked in at the hotel and went to dinner with the other guests.

At the dinner we were greeted by the guests, the Japanese Ambassador and the festival organizers.

Day 3: August 6

The first day of the festival was held at the Sakhalin State Museum.

We brought some things to the exhibition.

At the festival there were many famous crafts made by the indigenous people of Sakhalin on exhibit.

There were wood carvings, embroideries and items made from beads and leather, as well as many traditional clothes.

At the opening ceremony, we performed some traditional Ainu dances.

After the opening ceremony, we went to the village of Troickoye to see the Troickoye Bell Festival.

The festival organizers gave us a traditional soup call uha, but this soup tasted the same as the traditional Ainu soup called ohau.

After having the soup, we wandered around the festival and browsed the booths and checked out the stage where they were performing traditional Russia dances.

A few of the booths were selling black

bread juice. I tried it, but I didn't like it.

After the Bell Festival we went back to Yuzhon-Sakhalin City and went to a mountain.

You can get a good view of the city from the top of the mountain. It was very beautiful.

After that we went to a supermarket because many members wanted to see what one looked like.

The supermarket we went to was as big as a convenience store in Japan.

The difference between a Japanese supermarket and a Russian supermarket is that at a Russian supermarket the cashier is near the entrance and there is always a security guard.

Also, if you buy alcohol they will always put it in a black bag.

We went to many different supermarkets, but there was always a security guard near the entrance, but there were no guards at the smaller family-owned shops.

Day 4: August 7

We returned to the festival at the museum for the second time.

There were the same exhibitions from the first time, but there were also many handicraft workshops.

At the workshops you could make a seal (stamp) by carving wood, make fish skin



bags and make beaded necklaces. I carved a wooden seal.

At noon we performed traditional dances followed by a fashion show.

Day 5: August 8

In the morning we went to Sakhalin Zoo where there were some animals that you can't see in Japan, such as camels

And the deer in Sakhalin are much bigger than the deer in Hokkaido.

After the zoo we went to Gagalin Park next to the zoo.

In the park, there is the former site of a Japanese shrine.

In the afternoon, we went to Chekhov museum.

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov wrote about how people live in Sakhalin when he went there and he also wrote a lot about the Karahuto (Sakhalin) Ainu.

The museum displayed reproductions of Chekhov's writings.

Mainly it showed how the Russians lived and showed the life of inmates there, along with writings about the Karafuto (Sakhalin) Ainu.

Many years ago, criminals and people who protested against the government were sent to prison in Sakhalin.

We then went to the second floor of the museum where there was a big area for an inter-cultural exchange with many teens.

We performed traditional dances for each other and discussed about our cultures.



After that we had an inter-cultural exchange with National Sakhalin University students who major in Japanese.

That night we had dinner with the Japanese Ambassador. The next day we said our good-byes and returned to Japan.

It was a very memorable and educational experience for everyone. You should try to visit Sakhalin someday if you have the chance.



Day 6: August 9

In the morning we went to the village of Vrestica to climb Mount Ryagusika.

There were many areas for camping between the village and the mountain.

There was a very big rock that looked like a frog on top of the mountain.

The scenery from the top of the rock was beautiful.

It was like what you see in nature movies.

After that we went to a big lake to have picnic and swim.

In the afternoon we went back to the city and then back to Sakhalin Museum.

The festival was held at the same place but, we were busy looking around the museum with the curator's commentary.

The part about Karafuto (Sakhalin) Ainu was bigger than we imagined.

The museum exhibition was about animals, Karafuto (Sakhalin) Ainu and World War II.