



春一番が北陸地方に南からの温かい空気を運び、石川県も日増しに春めいてきています。
桜の蕾も膨らんできており、日本気象協会の発表によると石川県の開花予想は、金沢で4月5日、輪島で4月9日となっています。また、アメリカのワシントンDCには日本から寄贈された桜が植えられています。その寄贈から100年の節目に、アメリカ政府から日本に3,000本のハナミズキが送られました。そのうちの70本が、当時、桜の寄贈に尽力した高峰譲吉博士のゆかりの地である石川県内に植樹されることになりました。
さて、去年は訪日外国人数が1千万人を超え、過去最多となりましたが、そんな外国人旅行者を加賀温泉郷に呼び込もうと女性グループ「レディー・カガ」は、ニューヨークでPR動画を撮影しました。和服姿でのPR活動がニューヨーク市民にうけたようで、行く先々で写真撮影を求められたようです。
春は出会いと別れの季節ですが、金沢駅に旅立ちを祝う花・エアリーフローラのオブジェが設置されました。エアリーフローラは石川県が8年の歳月をかけて開発した新品種のフリージアです。七色のフリージアが、この春、金沢駅から旅立つ人を見送っています。

今回の新聞情報
(1)北陸に春一番 金沢で風速16・5メートル
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/TR20140313701.htm>
(2)高峰桜の「返礼」 米国からハナミズキが石川へ
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20140311103.htm>
(3)レディー・カガ NYでも人気「次はロンドン、パリ」
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20140309101.htm>
(4)七色の旅立ち 金沢駅にエアリーフローラ
<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/E20140317001.htm>

※次回は4月末にお届けする予定です。
* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of April.

The first spring storm carried warm currents from the south to the Hokuriku region and the feeling of spring has been growing day by day.
The cherry blossom buds are bulging and according to an announcement from the Japan Weather Association, the forecast for the flowering in Ishikawa will be 5th April for Kanazawa and 9th April for Wajima. Also, 100 years have passed since sakura cherry trees were donated by Japan and planted in Washington D.C, U.S.A, and to mark the 100 year milestone, the U.S government sent 3000 dogwood trees to Japan. It was decided that 70 of these were to be planted in areas of Ishikawa related to Dr. Jokichi Takamine who at the time showed great support for the donation of the sakura cherry trees.
The number of visitors from abroad to Japan surpassed 10 million last year, and the female group known as "Lady Kaga" who call out to overseas visitors to visit the Kaga Onsen Village filmed a promotion video in New York. Dressed in Japanese attire, the promotion video seemed to have caught the attention of the New Yorkers as photos of the group were taken wherever they went.
Spring is a time of encounters and departures, and the Airy-Flora display of celebratory voyage flowers was held at Kanazawa Station. Airy-Flora has developed new types of freesia over 8 years. The freesia that come in 7 colours will be watching over the journey makers departing from Kanazawa Station this spring.

Recent News

(1) March 12th, the Niigata Local Meteorological Office announced the first spring storm in Hokuriku as strong winds blew from the south due to the buildup of low atmospheric pressure along the Japan Sea. The storm came 33 days later in comparison to the earliest storm of last year with max speeds reaching 16.5m in Kanazawa, 13.5m in Toyama and 8m in Fukui.
(2) Born in Takaoka and raised in Kanazawa, chemist Dr. Jokichi Takamine along with others donated sakura cherry trees to Washington 100 years ago. To mark the occasion and as an act of returning the courtesy, the US government donated 3000 dogwood trees to Japan of which 70 are to be planted in Ishikawa.
(3)A group of women who work in Kaga Onsen Village known as "Lady Kaga" went to New York, the home of the famous singer

and the group name inspiration Lady Gaga. The group went to film a promotion video in the big apple and caught a larger than expected following. The momentum of the feedback received at the world information hub has led to considerations of filming in London and Paris.
(4) The shipment of the Ishikawa grown freesia known as "Airy-Flora" arrived on the 17th when the flowers were at their best. Ceremonies for the sales took place in 2 flower markets in Kanazawa with JA National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations Ishikawa and Prefectural Government staff showcasing the beauty of the 7 colours of the freesia. 2000 Airy-Flora flowers were used in 3 displays at the JR Kanazawa Station concourse to mark the gateway of Ishikawa's capital.

- 詳しい情報のアクセス先 For more information, please access the following links:
- (1)公益財団法人石川県国際交流協会 IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange) <http://www.ifie.or.jp/index.php>
 - (2)ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>
 - (3)石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website <http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>
 - (4)首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/>

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