



Concerto of the Winds

# KARUIZAWA

Concerto of the Winds



Karuizawa Town Guidebook 2018

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*Karuizawa Town Guidebook*  
*95th Anniversary*  
*Commemorative Edition*

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Commemorative Edition  
  
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# *Welcome to Karuizawa, a healing highland resort.*

Karuizawa is a highland resort town nestled in the foothills of Mt. Asama, one of the most representative volcanoes in Japan. Although it is only 100 km and a 1-hour bullet train ride away from Tokyo, the town enjoys a cool highland climate and a relaxing woodland environment. Its climate and culture have attracted many people from all over the world and Karuizawa has developed into an international health resort for more than 130 years. Karuizawa takes pride in its beautiful scenery which is a gift from mother nature. This pristine gift has been preserved and nurtured with care by its residents. We are working together to further enhance its virtue and create a future where Karuizawa is recognized and acknowledged as a “Harmonized Town of Nature and Culture”. We want to make our town even more attractive for both of citizens and visitors in search of healing and relaxation. We would like to show you our continuing efforts to create a new culture for that purpose.

## Karuizawa Citizen's Charter

Established on the 50th anniversary of the town's establishment on 1 August 1973

We are the people of Karuizawa, a highland town embracing magnificent Mt. Asama. We hereby establish this charter on the basis of a global perspective and a foresight suitable to the residents in a Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism.

Let's maintain a clean environment and good manner that allows us to be proud in the world.

Let's welcome all visitors warmly.

Let's develop our rich traditions and culture.

Let's love and preserve the rich nature of the highland.

Let's raise healthy families and develop a vibrant town.





*Concerto of the Winds, the 1st Movement - Andante Calcando*

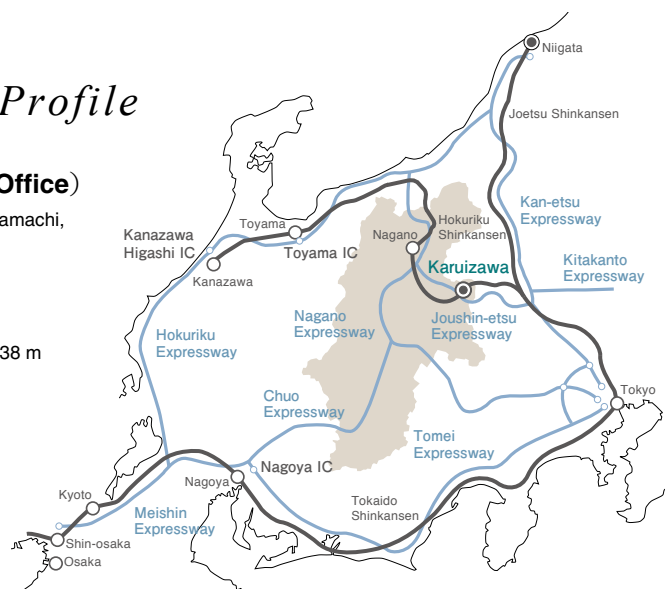
# The colorful hues of the four seasons are gifts from Mother Nature

## Karuizawa Profile

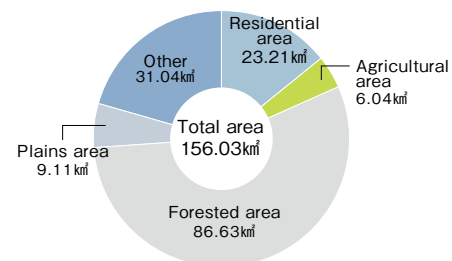
### ►Location (Town Office)

2381-1 Nagakura, Karuizawamachi,  
Kitasakugun, Naganoken

East longitude: 138°35' 50"  
North latitude: 36°20' 54"  
Elevation above sea level: 938 m

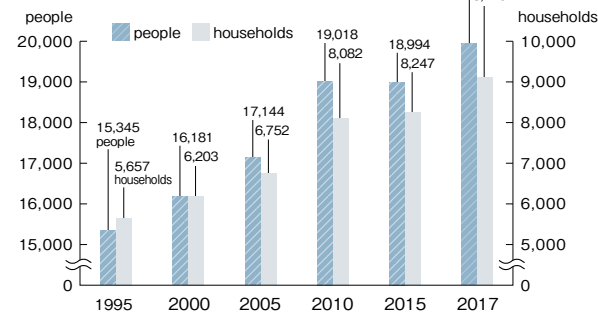


### ►Area



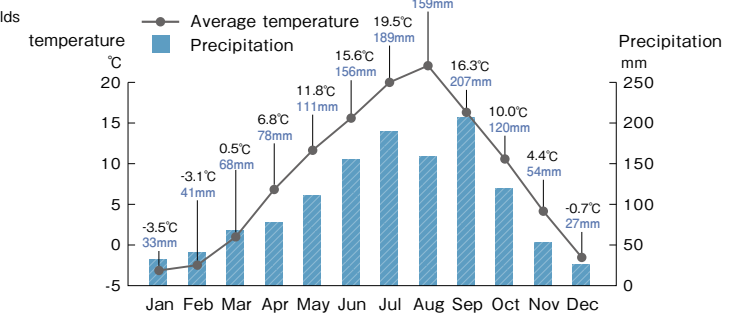
Distance from east to west : 12.5 km  
Distance from north to south: 14.0 km  
Circumference: 58.7 km

### ►Population and number of households



Data source: National Census - Data for 2017 from Monthly Survey on Demographic Changes, Nagano Prefecture

### ►Climate Data (1981-2010 averages)



Data source: Nagano Local Meteorological Office



*Nourishing streams flow through the forests.  
People and nature live together  
in harmony, creating a healing space.*

**Karuizawa's charm as a health resort is rooted in its beautiful natural environment.**

Karuizawa Town is located in a highland which spreads out through the foothills south of Mt. Asama, 900 meters above sea level. Abundant water flows out here and there from underground springs and flows down the foothills, creating views of breathtakingly beautiful waterfalls and streams. The streams give life to the woods and the woods give life to the various species of creatures which live there.

Karuizawa National Wild Birds Sanctuary Forest to begin with as well as the surrounding area is known as one of the finest habitats for birds in Japan, and many small animals like monkeys and squirrels inhabit in the woods.

One of Karuizawa's charms is the way in which people's lives and nature co-exist so closely that we feel in harmony with the environment and nature of Karuizawa. Just by strolling along one of the town's easy trails, you can enjoy seeing the mountain streams and falls, and also meeting little birds and small animals. The beautiful nature and the animals living there forms its charm as a health resort and attracts people in search of healing.



Morning Mist on a Pond



Shinanojishizenyuhodo Trail



Sengataki Falls



Ryugaeshi Falls



The garden of Muro Saisei Memorial Hall



Blue-and-white Flycatcher (Karuizawa National Wild Bird Sanctuary Forest)



Seseraginomichi Trail



*Asama Negoshinosanshuku (three post towns) on the foothills of Mt. Asama were crowded with people travelling to and from Edo and Kyoto.*



#### A spirit of hospitality developed in the mountain pass stations

In the Edo period, in Karuizawa, there were three post towns along “Nakasendo (also called Kisokaido)” which connected Kyoto and Edo (now called Tokyo). These post towns, Karuizawa, Kutsukake and Oiwake were called “Asama Negoshinosanshuku” as they were on the cool southern foothills of Mt. Asama. Coming through a toughest part of the journey, Usui Pass, this area was the gateway to Shinanonokuni (present Nagano pref.). In the western part of Oiwake, the stone monument of “Wakasare” can still be seen which marked the turn-off from the “Nakasendo” to the “Hokkokukaido” route leading to the Japan Sea. Located at this important junction, these three post towns were always bustling with lots of travelers. Karuizawa is a town that has been welcoming many travelers since Edo period. This long tradition of “hospitality” led to a pleasant welcome for foreign visitors since entering the modern era and became base of the today’s prosperity.



The turn-off from the “Nakasendo” to “Hokkokukaido” route



Shinano Oiwake Magouta Dochu Festival



The old facades of some travelers' inns still remain in Kyukaruginza Street



Kumanokotai Shrine at the top of old Usui Pass

Wood block prints of the Three Post Towns on the foothills of Mt. Asama from “The 69 Post Stations of the Kisokaido”. From the top, Kutsukake (Eisen), Oiwake (Eisen), and on the right, Karuizawa (Hiroshige).



## Discovered by Rev. A.C.Shaw in 1886 Becoming an International Health Resort

### “A Hospital without a Roof” – Being attracted by the beautiful village

In 1884, by opening the New Usui Road (former R18) Karuizawa ended its days as a post station town, but it also brought Rev. Alexander Croft Shaw, a Canadian-born the Anglican Church missionary to the town. In the summer of 1886, on visiting Karuizawa, he praised its beautiful, refreshing surroundings and cool climate as “A hospital without a roof”. Then he recommended it to his family and friends. In 1888, he built a simple summer house in Kyukaruizawa. It marked the start of Karuizawa’s new history as a health resort.

At first, foreign missionaries and their families built their summer houses, followed by writers, people of culture, politicians and business leaders. Later, modern hotels were also built to accommodate the visitors who came for relaxation. Large scale development took place before and after World War II, and the town flourished as a health resort where one can enjoy sports such as golf, tennis and skating. The town’s original spirit of maintaining “the good public manners and the pure environment” which the missionaries expected has been kept up to this day.



1897 - In front of a haiku monument to Matsuo Basho



1913 - Kyukaruginza Street



1971 - Kyukaruginza Street



Shaw Memorial Church and Monument to Rev. A.C.Shaw



Rev.A.C.Shaw's first summer house (now moved and restored),  
A.C.Shaw Memorial House



National Important Cultural Property, Former Mikasa Hotel



A Gathering Place for Writers

*Fresh winds blowing across the highlands  
stimulate our intuition, creating a stage  
for the imagination and a space for art*

**Writers and Poets who Loved Karuizawa**

From the Taisyo Era to the beginning of the Showa Era and in the years after World War II, many writers and poets visited Karuizawa. Among them were the husband and wife, Yosano Hiroshi and Akiko, Kitahara Hakushu, Muro Saisei, Akutagawa Ryunosuke, Kawabata Yasunari, Hori Tatsuo, Tachihara Michizo, Nakamura Shinichiro... the list includes many prominent names representative of modern Japanese literature. Some of these writers first stayed in hotels and inns, then later built their own mountain villas and visited Karuizawa almost every year. Karuizawa appears as the background of many of their works. Many fans enjoy tracing the steps of the writers by visiting the literary monuments dotting the town as well as the houses of Muro Saisei and Hori Tatsuo which are open to the public as commemorative museums.

Art lovers also enjoy Karuizawa, due to the astonishing number of art galleries and museums offering a wide variety of permanent and temporary exhibitions throughout the year. It is a place where the harmony between nature, art and people's lives fosters the creation of literature and works of art.



Hori Tatsuo Museum of Literature



The Literary Museum of Karuizawa



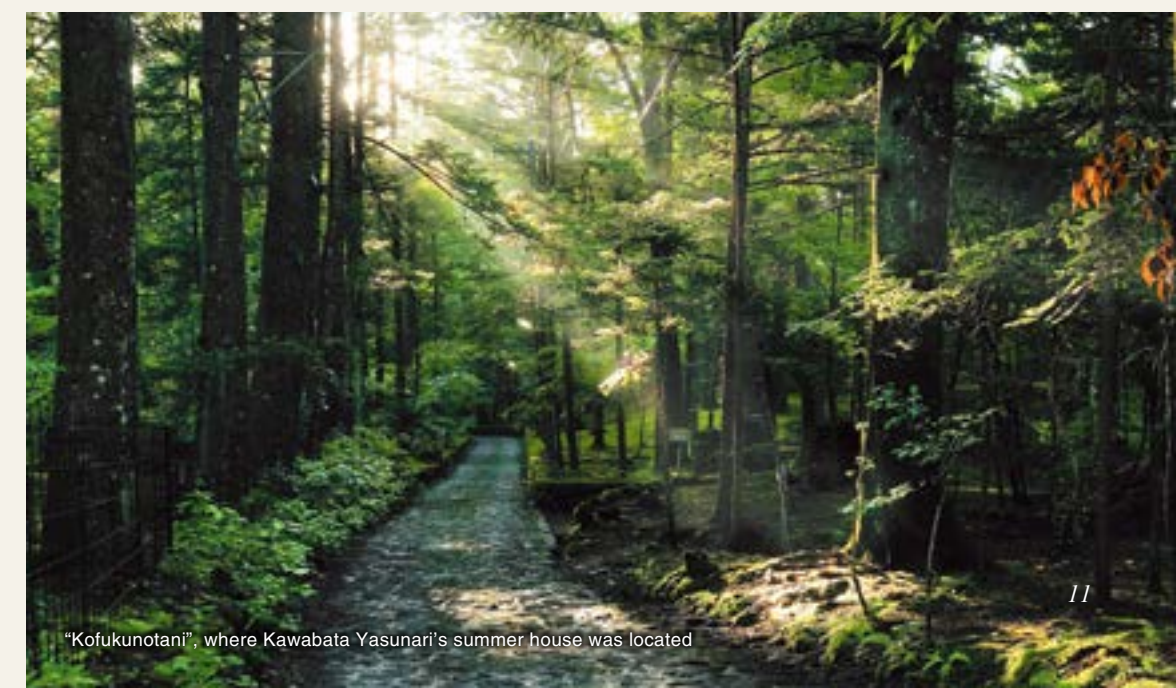
Poem Monument to Kitahara Hakushu



Hiroshi Senju Museum Karuizawa  
Photo: Ano Taichi © Hiroshi Senju Museum Karuizawa



Sezon Museum of Modern Art





## 2 Olympic Games, the G7 and G20 Ministers' Meeting... Becoming a Town that Warmly Welcomes the People of the World

### A Resort Conference Town where People from Throughout the World Get Together

As far back as the Meiji Era, foreigners were already attracted to Karuizawa as a health resort, although it was quite rare to find such an internationally welcoming local town in those days. After World War II, in 1951, "Act on Construction of Karuizawa as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism" was proclaimed which was applied only to Karuizawa. Many people from throughout the world gathered here as the town hosted the Equestrian competition of the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games in 1964 and the Nagano Winter Olympic curling competition in 1998.

In September 2016, the ministers from Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the UK, the USA and the EU met in Karuizawa for the G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting, and the "G7 Karuizawa Nagano Transport Ministers' Declaration" was issued from here to all over the world. "G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth" is also scheduled to be held here in 2019.

Many people now come to Karuizawa from overseas as well as within Japan for rest and relaxation, but the town is also becoming a popular venue for resort conferences. The town is expected to further flourish by people both domestically and internationally.



1964 Tokyo Olympics Equestrian Competition



1998 Nagano Winter Olympics Curling Competition



1936 - Many foreigners joined a commemorative parade held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the development of Karuizawa



2016 G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano



# Sister City Relations

Canada / Brazil



Whistler

Canada

Karuizawa established a sister city tie in 1999 with Whistler, a city with a population of around 9,800, situated in the western part of Canada. Blessed with beautiful natural surroundings, Whistler is a world-famous resort that attracts some 2.50 million visitors annually. Every year, student home-stay exchanges and other programs are taking place between our two cities.



Campos do Jordão

Brazil

Karuizawa joined hands with Campos do Jordão which is situated on a highland in Brazil as sister cities in 1968. Having a 1600m altitude, it is an international resort with a cool climate, despite Brazil having an image as a hot country.



Concerto of the Winds, the 2nd Movement - Andante Cantabile

Sowing the Seeds of the Future – Interviews

## Preparing a Rich Harvest for the Town in 100 Years!

The small summer house that Rev. A. C. Shaw built in Karuizawa in 1888 was the initial seed for the international health resort that is our town today. The main influences include the former Mikasa Hotel that used to host prominent figures from the worlds of business and politics, the renowned writers of modern literature who loved Karuizawa, and the summer and winter Olympics venues we provided. It could be said that Karuizawa is now enjoying the ripened fruit of trees planted long ago.

What can our generation leave to the citizens of Karuizawa of 50 or 100 years from now? Sowing the seeds which will bring rich harvest in the future... Then what kind of seeds can we sow now?

To find out, let us interview some people who are playing active roles here in a variety of fields and Mayor Fujimaki.







Sowing the Seeds of the Future – Interviews  
①The Potential of Music

*Even the most delicate sounds can be heard in Ohga Hall.  
There is some music that can't be played anywhere but there.*

*Violinist Ms. Senju Mariko*

**—Tell us about your relationship with Karuizawa, your memories and the impression you have been left with?**

The first memory is when I was 13, in my second year of junior high school. I played the violin here with the New Japan Philharmonic in which Mr.Yamamoto Naozumi conducted. It was an open-air concert at a summer music festival and I have a very impressive memory partly due to the atmosphere Mr.Yamamoto created. For me, Karuizawa is a town filled with music, and a place where classic music can be heard here and there... I, who was a junior high school student then, got that kind of image.

**—What do you think of Oga Hall as a place to perform?**

Ohga Hall is a wonderful concert hall that has its own unique atmosphere. The seats surround the stage and the number of seats is just right. Its sound effect is wonderful. My impression is... That's Mr. Ohga for you.

Especially, when I play there I can hear my own music clearly. That is the most important point for music players. There are some music halls where performers can't hear our own sounds well because the sounds get scattered or are absorbed inside. Because the main target is set on how the audience hears the music, how it is heard on the stage is regarded as secondary importance in the designing stage for those halls. So that we have a challenging time even at halls which have good reputations. In that sense, Ohga Hall is a very good hall

not only for the audience but also for us, music performers. In this way, we can give good musical performances to the audiences. In fact, I once recorded a CD there.

The reason I chose Ohga Hall for recording was not only the sound quality but also the easy access which was quite a big element. I want to feel Karuizawa air, the breath of nature, and take the power of this nature into my sensibility. There is a kind of air here that helps me get ready for the performance without intention. In that sense, Karuizawa is a very good place.

**—Does it suit your Stradivarius?**

The Stradivarius is a very difficult violin to get the best out of. In other words when things go well, I can express very exactly what I imagine. That's the Stradivarius.

Ohga Hall and the Stradivarius violin go so fantastically well together. Ohga Hall's acoustics convey the most subtle shifts and nuances of the music which I succeed in expressing exactly as I want to audiences.

**—What kind of influence does the atmosphere of Karuizawa give to creative activities such as arts?**

When I performed in Karuizawa for the first time at that outdoor concert in my junior high school days, the relaxing and fun atmosphere of the audience left a deep impression on me... perhaps the warmth of Mother Nature? I guess that's when the bond between nature and music started becoming a part of the way I think. Nature really does give birth to a great amount of art.

Karuizawa is not only about nature. It's an easy place to live in and there are a lot of arts, too. It's a good size and well-balanced town. I can see why artists love to come and live here while they develop a desire to continue their artistic activities.



**Senju Mariko**

Born in Tokyo in 1962, she started playing the violin when she was just 2 years old and made her professional debut at the age of 12. In 1977, she became the youngest first prize winner at the Music Competition of Japan and two years later, the youngest prize winner at the International Violin Competition Premio Paganini. In 2002 she had a momentous encounter with the Duranti Stradivarius violin. She vibrantly engages in a number of different types of performances as a violinist both within and outside Japan, and positively participates in social activities. Her brothers are Senju Hiroshi, a Japanese painter and Senju Akira, a composer.

**— Do you have any suggestions or advices to make music culture root in Karuizawa?**

I think it'll take root thanks to Ohga Hall. The hall is very popular among musicians and high-quality concerts have been taken place there. Unlike big cities, the town has so many other enjoyable things to complement the music. For example, some people who come for a concert may drop in on one of the many little galleries and museums. Karuizawa can offer visitors a nice environment to enjoy the arts.

**—What kind of activities do you expect to happen in order to utilize Ohga Hall well?**

Ohga Hall has wonderful sound effect and it is especially good at bringing out the resonance of string instruments. So, I would like audiences to hear a lot of string music concerts here. I personally would love to do a joint concert with a harpsichord here. In a concert hall like Ohga Hall with good sound effect, even the most sensitive sounds of instruments like the harpsichord would be thoroughly picked up and be delivered vividly to audiences.

I think there must be a lot of interesting things that could only be done at Ohga Hall. Try them one by one and more and more music lovers will come.



Mr. Ohga Norio (passed away in 2011) Former chairman of SONY Corporation and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. An honorary citizen of Karuizawa Town.

Karuizawa Ohga Hall  
Mr. Ohga built and donated it to Karuizawa Town in 2004 with the purpose of promoting the music culture in Karuizawa.







Sowing the Seeds of the Future  
② Sports Culture

*I want to spread the curling culture throughout Japan from Karuizawa and contribute to the training and development of our athletes.*

SC Karuizawa Club Mr. Morozumi Yusuke

—It seems that you got interested in curling while watching the Nagano Olympics.

I was so impressed when I saw curling for the first time at the Nagano Olympics in 1998 that I joined Karuizawa Junior High School curling club that autumn. I was in the second grade at the time. Although the club was only one year old, its members were quite good at throwing stones. Being a real beginner, I found curling much more challenging than I had expected.

—About when did curling become popular in Karuizawa?

Some people had already played curling 10 years before the Nagano Olympics. This means that Karuizawa has a curling history of more or less 30 years. Based on this, a curling rink was built, which led to the town standing as a venue candidate for the Nagano Olympics, I think. My teammates and I grew up watching the process, then formed SC Karuizawa Club and eventually went on to the PyeongChang Olympics. It's all the legacy of the Nagano Olympics, don't you think?

—What makes curling so interesting?

In curling, players perform distinct roles like throwing stones and sweeping the ice with a broom. As the skip, I also direct the team according to our strategy. Curling is often called "Chess on Ice". The positioning of the stones has meaning. It is also very exciting to watch. Unlike ice hockey which doesn't give you any time to think, in curling the both players and the spectators have time to think about the match together. I think this is one of the

interesting aspects of curling and it's why the sport is said to be like Chess and *Shogi*. When you're watching a curling match on TV, you can even hear what the players are saying to each other during the breaks.

—The number of people interested in curling has been increasing after the PyeongChang Olympics, hasn't it?

Many trial lessons are being held at Karuizawa Ice Park these days. Partly due to our easy access from Tokyo - about one hour by bullet train - many people who want to try curling for the first time are visiting Karuizawa. You can reach the point where you are able to throw a stone with about an hour's practice and you will also enjoy the speed at which you can reach a higher level. I can recommend curling to many people as a relaxing and enjoyable sport. I hope that some of them will go on to develop into competitive athletes.

—Curling seems to be suitable for everyone regardless their gender and age.

In Canada, where curling is popular, I often saw matches being played by seniors. Athletes can play competitively until around their 40s, so the length of their athletic careers is long. As this is a sport you can enjoy regardless of your physical strength or condition, I hope many people will enjoy it as a life-long sport.

—What role does Sport Community Karuizawa Club play in promoting sports in Karuizawa?

Sport Community Karuizawa Club is a comprehensive

#### Morozumi Yusuke

Born in Karuizawa in 1985. In 2005, he established SC Karuizawa Club, a men's curling team, which has now won the first place in the Japan Curling Championships 8 times. After winning 4th place at the World Championship in 2016 and 7th place in 2017, they were selected to represent Japan in curling at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics - the first time in the 20 years since the Nagano Games that Japan qualified - and took 8th place. Within the team, he serves as the "skip" while his younger brother Kosuke is the "lead". He works for NPO Corporation Sport Community Karuizawa Club.



SC Karuizawa Club at the PyeongChang Olympics.  
(Photo courtesy of Enrico Calderoni/AFLO SPORT)



SC Karuizawa Club. From the left: Morozumi Yusuke, Shimizu Tetsuro, Yamaguchi Tsuyoshi, Morozumi Kosuke and Hirata Kosuke



A scene of a public viewing

local sports association which was established as a NPO corporation in 2004. People who love a variety of sports such as curling and futsal work together to develop the town's sporting culture. I was lucky enough to get a job with Sport Community Karuizawa Club. I'm grateful that they have been supporting my athletic activities such as going to the Olympic Games.

—What would you like to accomplish from now on as an athlete?

I was born in Karuizawa and my athletic activities have always been based here. Through the experience of representing Japan in the PyeongChang Olympics, however, I have realized that Japanese teams will not

improve unless a curling culture like ours takes root all over Japan. The history of curling in Japan is short, and you can't really say that the conditions for curling to continue developing in Japan are good. Karuizawa is Japan's most advanced curling venue, which has the facilities and know-how needed to develop competitive athletes. Making full use of this environment, I would like to keep on competing in events such as the World Championships. I will be very pleased if the curling culture in Karuizawa flourishes through my activities and spreads throughout Japan led by Karuizawa, and as a result, this helps national representative athletes develop.



Sowing the Seeds of the Future – Interviews  
③ The Forest of Creativity



Two of her books are set in Karuizawa

*Connection with people created in life with nature  
There is climate and culture for comfortable life here.*

Novelist Ms. Yuikawa Kei

—Why did you move to Karuizawa?

15 years have passed since I moved to Karuizawa. The reason for the moving was... well, I had a St. Bernard we couldn't keep in Tokyo. Shinkansen was already available then and it was only less than an hour away from Tokyo. I used to think Karuizawa was very far but found with a surprise that it was cool in summer, although it was very near from Tokyo. I decided to move here.

Now I'm very comfortable and often thank my dog for having brought us here.

—What is your impression now after living here for some time?

Summers are cool and pleasant, but the winters are colder than I expected. At first, I wasn't sure if I could live here all year round. But if you asked me now which season I like best, I would say winter! Winter is beautiful in Karuizawa. When it snows the evergreens all look like Christmas trees. My hometown, Kanazawa, has a lot of snow and is beautiful too. But the snow here is different. It sometimes seems almost transparent, more like ice than snow.

And what could be more beautiful than a sunny day in winter? The sky is blue, the town and countryside are white, and the views of Mt. Hanareyama and Mt. Asama in the distance are clear. I am moved just looking at the scenery.

—How is the environment here for writers?

Above and beyond all else I must mention the beauty of the nature first, that's the most attractive thing for me. You know, when I write I'm kind of in another world. If I stop for a moment to stare out the window, and then come back to the real world, the first things I see are the

trees and the birds. I love it. I think it's so charming to be able to look upon such a scene.

When I was in Tokyo what I heard was only artificial sound or vehicle horns. But here all I hear is produced in nature. It's very pleasant and is a good environment for writing.

—Has your way of life changed?

In Tokyo I was a night person. Here the shops close by ten, so I usually go to bed around ten and get up at five. It's very healthy! When I'm in Karuizawa, it seems easy to adjust to the natural rhythm of life. Thus, I feel relieved and also appreciate somewhere deep in my mind what living in the nature means as a human being.

—How about your relationships with other people?

You could say that Karuizawa is a "grown-up" town. The local people know how to make visitors feel at home. They keep a comfortable distance, and we can all get along quite naturally. It doesn't matter if you're a writer, actor/actress, politician or business person at restaurants or bars. Everyone enjoys good drink or some fresh highland vegetables, and that kind of togetherness is very nice. I know, because I'm the type who enjoys going out for a drink in the evening after a hard day's work.

In fact, the number of our friends has increased since I moved to Karuizawa. As I get to know the faces of people I meet in the local shops and bars, I start to sit next to each other, get to talking, become closer and before long begin visiting each other's homes. It has been a nice surprise to find these kinds of relationships since I moved to Karuizawa.

**Yuikawa Kei**

Born in Kanazawa City in 1995, and after graduating from Kanazawa Women's Junior College (present Kanazawagakuin Junior College), she worked as an office worker for 10 years. In 1984 she made her debut as a writer with "Umiro no gogo", and received the Shueisha Cobart Novel Taisho Prize for it. She later won the Naoki Prize for "Katagoshi no koibito," which became her most well-known novel and was even made into a TV drama. She has lived in Karuizawa since 2003, and there are novels set in Karuizawa among her works.



At Nakakaruizawa Library



A special section in the library devoted to writers with a connection to Karuizawa

I have also come to be friendly with other writers who live in Karuizawa. One of them is Mr. Hase Seishu who has a very different writing style to me and therefore I was thinking that there would be nothing to talk about with him. However, we now climb mountains together. If I had continued living in Tokyo, we wouldn't have had such a relationship.

—Do you have any hopes or wishes for Karuizawa?

Well, I feel a little sad that due to overdevelopment it is becoming more and more difficult to enjoy Karuizawa's nature including the loneliness at nights. I miss the old



At Mt. Kurofu, a peak on the outer ring of Mt. Asama's caldera

mountain cherry tree that used to stand near my house but was cut down due to area development. It is not so easy to find trees which have been growing for several hundred years. I hope a system that would enable us to protect the precious treasures that the land has given us will be established.

Karuizawa is a special brand. I think it's vital that we don't allow this brand to be damaged and we must endeavor to continue protecting it. I feel I don't want to lose what the residents have worked hard to protect.



Sowing the Seeds of the Future – Interviews  
④ Weddings and Tourism



*Karuizawa becomes the origin of families who have their wedding ceremony here. We would love to let people living overseas know about the charm of our highland resort as well.*

*Karuizawa Tourism Association Vice President Mr. Suzuki Takeo (Kyu Karuizawa Hotel Otowa no Mori)*

—When did people start having weddings in Karuizawa?

It probably started about 70 years ago at St. Paul Catholic Church and the present-day Karuizawa Kogen Church (previously known as the Hoshino Yugakudo). Originally, foreign missionaries came to Karuizawa, liked it and stayed. From then Karuizawa Town developed as a summer resort. In those early days a lot of foreign people lived here, including Christians, so it was natural that they would start to hold their weddings in the town.

As the resort developed, along with summer houses and hotels, many churches were built.

Speaking of weddings, in the old days it was common in many local places to invite a lot of guests, but in Karuizawa, weddings with only the bride and groom or small weddings with only the family and close friends were more the norm.

From around 1990s, highland weddings held by TV personalities or newlywed couples appearing on a horse and wagon were broadcast or reported, and as a result many people wanted to hold their weddings here as well. The peak was around 2000 when 6,500 couples married in a year. Recently a level of around 5,000 marriages per year is sustained.

— I can imagine that with the decreasing population and the tendency to marry later, it is difficult to maintain the number of weddings.

There are roughly 630,000 marriages per year in Japan.



Among the couples that get married, just under 70% hold a ceremony and the remaining 30% only register their marriages. I think it's necessary to communicate to couples who don't want a wedding ceremony why weddings are important and that it's nice to have even a small wedding with just their family and close friends.

Ten years ago, in order to inform people about the significance of wedding ceremonies and the benefits of getting married in Karuizawa, we set up the "Karuizawa Wedding Association". 13 facilities now belong to this association.

—What's the charm of a Karuizawa wedding?

It is said that the largest number of wedding ceremonies in Japan are now being held in Okinawa, and the number of couples married there exceeded 15,000 in fiscal 2016. For many, it's a good substitute for a tropical resort wedding in Hawaii. Karuizawa, on the other hand, is a summer resort that was first opened by missionaries. It is a place where people can have a wedding with a sense of history and a real church ceremony. That is the most attractive point.

Access from the capital is excellent in terms of both time and cost. Actually, there are many couples who come back to the church which is filled with their wedding memories and reconfirm their love. Some couples show it to their children after they start their family and take family photos in front of the church.

**Suzuki Takeo**

The CEO of Otowanomori Co., Ltd., a prestigious old hotel in the Kyukaruizawa district. Having worked for the hotel since 1997, he assumed his present position after having served as its general manager. Mr. Suzuki has been captivated by Karuizawa's beautiful natural surroundings, and he holds important positions in a number of the citizens' groups in the town. He also leads a voluntary cleaning activity for the town with the company members once a month. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, he has also been actively helping the restoration support as the representative of the Karuizawa Otsuchikai, a volunteer group that supports Otsuchi Town in Iwate Prefecture.



A Karuizawa Wedding

There are families for whom two generations have had their wedding ceremonies at our hotel. It is even possible that three generations of the same family have gotten married at St. Paul Catholic Church. Karuizawa is a charming highland resort that bonds families from generation to generation. It is a great place for people to invite their guests, since it has lots of places to enjoy sports, shopping and so on. Some of these guests stay overnight and then become big fans of Karuizawa themselves.

The number of couples from overseas having their wedding ceremonies here is increasing, and we would especially like to promote the charm of having a wedding in Karuizawa to people from other Asian countries. In most Asian countries except for Hong Kong, however, church-style wedding ceremonies are not so popular yet. For this reason, we would like to offer non-religious weddings and winter weddings in which snow is used as a special effect.

—How do you picture the future of tourism in Karuizawa?

I think inbound tourism is important. I would like to promote Karuizawa to European people as a resort where originality and high culture are alive and well. Why not have an extended stay and take side trips to Tokyo or Kanazawa. For that, it is important for our hotels and inns to ensure that quality services are available, focusing on longer stays.

We should not make Karuizawa an ordinary tourist destination but keep it a special place which people admire and would really like to visit. For example, it should be a very clean town where tourists won't find any rubbish in the street. One thing we would like to do soon is develop a system of combination transportation. For example, like in

European countries, taking your bicycle on a bus with you, then getting off and cycling for a while before finally getting back on the bus for your return. I expect that Karuizawa will become an even more popular international highland resort if that kind of plan is put into practice.



Town office marriage registration reception desk

St. Paul Catholic Church







Karuzawa Town's Mascot,  
RUIZA-chan

Sowing the Seeds of the Future – Interviews  
⑤ Developing the Town and its People

*Let's unlock the potential of Karuzawa and  
make it a town we can be proud of throughout the world.*

*The Mayor of Karuzawa Town Mr.Fujimaki Susumu*

**—In your term of office, Karuzawa hosted a G7 ministerial meeting, and Hotchi Ichiba has opened and is doing well. First of all, could you tell us about your basic attitude towards town development?**

I have been trying to discover the possibilities and potential Karuzawa possesses and to find ways to make these resources of the town its treasure. For example, Karuzawa was originally renowned for its highland vegetables, but the natural attractiveness of this became hidden behind our tourist industry. Now, however, the Hotchi Ichiba is revealing this charm and the production of highland vegetables is once again, being recognized as one of the town's real treasures.

Following G7, the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transition and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth will also be held here in 2019. Who could imagine that a small town of this size with a population of only 20,000 would host such a world ministers' conference? However, both the national and prefectural governments backed us when we stood as a candidate. I think that the ability to host events such as this is also one of Karuzawa's potential strengths.

**—So, you mean that Karuzawa has a lot of supporters and fans?**

If I look at the fact that Karuzawa is a town in Nagano Prefecture with a population of 20,000 as a denominator, the numerator would be the fact that the name of the town is known to most Japanese. Our town is blessed with a beautiful natural environment and lots of greenery. This makes it a place where even their Majesties, the Emperor

and Empress, as well as important politicians, business figures, noted writers and intellectuals visit to have a relaxing time. We cannot maintain and promote this image only by ourselves, however. We need outside help. In April 2018, we were able to start a series of projects in cooperation with Tokyo and Shinshu Universities designed to tackle the problems of medical care and other regional issues. This should make our town an even more pleasant place to live. If we can keep on sharing various information, I expect that our denominator will further increase.

**—How about the development of human resources?**

There is a limit to what an administration can do, but we are working not just to improve students' grades, but to bring up children who are strong. We want them to develop the kind of strength that enables them keep moving forward, even in the face of a strong headwind, never giving up on their future dreams or goals. That is our "Kobushi Education".

As a town, we also strongly support the Karuzawa Prefectural High School and the private "United World College ISAK Japan" (UWC ISAK). UWC ISAK students come from around the world and they actively participate not only in exchange activities with other schools in the town, but also in town events. These children are spending their impressionable young days in Karuzawa and will flourish in their home countries after they return. This will lead to increasing number of Karuzawa fans worldwide. This is just the beginning, but I look forward to our future.

**Fujimaki Susumu**

Mayor Fujimaki was born in Karuzawa in 1951. He has served in a variety of posts such as Chairman of the Literary Museum of Karuzawa, Chairman of the Karuzawa Junior Chamber International, Vice-chairman of the Karuzawa National Trust, President of the Karuzawa Tourism Association and Representative of the Karuzawa Wedding Association. He had been a member of the Karuzawa Town Council from 1995 to 2007. He became the Mayor of Karuzawa Town in 2011 and is now in his second term. His hobbies are reading and watching movies.



Community Farmer's Market "Karuzawa Hotchi Ichiba"

**—In 2014, "The Karuzawa Grand Design" was announced, imagining the town 50 and 100 years in the future. Would you tell us your thoughts about the future?**

Looking back at the 100-year history of our town and thinking about how and why it could achieve its present status, we can clearly see how the efforts of each generation built on those of the ones before.

For example, the SC Karuzawa Club was chosen to go to the PyeongChang Olympics not because the administration asked for it, but because the citizens all continued supporting them in every way they could. This enabled the club to reach their goal 20 years after the Nagano Olympics. It also demonstrates the strong public spirit of our citizens.

This public spirit is the real potential of the town. Until now, many people have lived in Karuzawa and helped spread a good image of the town. But that is not only the reason our brand has become so well-regarded. I think another reason is that both the citizens and owners of holiday houses have faithfully followed our regulations including the Nature Conservation Outline that sometimes requires us to put up with inconveniences. In other words, it is the citizens themselves who have developed the town.

Karuzawa is a well-known summer resort in Japan, but from a global point of view, it still has a long way to go. Due to our active public relations efforts, we have attracted many visitors from Asian countries in recent years. However, I also want to let Westerners know about the appeal of Karuzawa as well. I'd like to call on all of the citizens of Karuzawa to use their public spirit to help with the continued polishing of its brand image as a "special town" that we can be proud of throughout the world.

**G20** : The summit of 20 countries and regions. It will be hosted by Japan for the first time in 2019. Along with the summit conference, "G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth" will be held 15 – 16 June 2019 in Karuzawa.

**UWC ISAK** : A private boarding school established in 2014 with International Baccalaureate accreditation. ISAK became a UWC member school in August 2017. UWC is a non-profit organization head-quartered in London.

**SC Karuzawa Club** : NPO Corporation Sport Community Karuzawa Club. It runs a local comprehensive community sport club in Karuzawa.

**Kobushi Education** : The philosophy of the education of Karuzawa Town. Bringing up children who are spiritually rich and also have strength.

"KO" stands for "KOKORO" = "HEART" Be spiritually rich. We make efforts to cultivate spiritually rich people who are warm-hearted towards others, things and the environment.

"BU" stands for "BUNKA" = "CULTURE" Nurture Culture We make efforts to cultivate people to be worthy citizens for a "Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism".

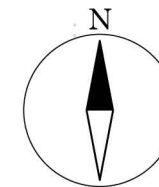
"SHI" stands for "SHIZEN" = "NATURE" Love Nature We make efforts to cultivate people who love the nature of Karuzawa and will continue to preserve its natural environment.

The Grand Design depicting Karuzawa in the future (Painted by Imai Katsumi)





# KARUIZAWA MAP



## Major Public Facilities

### Administrative Facilities

Karuzawa Town Office	2381-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8111 (Main)
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### Tourism-related Facilities

Civic Center "Kutsukake Terrace"	3037-18 Nagakura	TEL.0267-41-0743
Karuzawa Tourist Center	739-2 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-5538
Karuzawa Station Tourist Information	1470-3 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-2491
Nakakaruzawa Station Tourist Information	3037-18 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-6050
Kyukaruzawa Parking	207-1 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-3107
Karuzawa Tourism Promotion Center	470-3 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-41-5001
Karuzawa Tourism Association	470-3 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-41-3850
Community Farmer's Market "Karuzawa Hotchi Ichiba"	2564-1 Hotchi	TEL.0267-45-0037

### Education-related Facilities

Karuzawa Tobu Elementary School	1249 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-2684
Karuzawa Chubu Elementary School	3734 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-5189
Karuzawa Seibu Elementary School	1136 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-1052
Karuzawa Junior High School	2447-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-6180
Karuzawa High School	1323-43 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-2390
UWC ISAK Japan	5827-136 Nagakura	TEL.0267-46-8623
Karuzawa Kindergarten	786-1 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-3071
St. Paul Kindergarten	3324-3 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-5262
Nakakaruzawa Library	3037-18 Nagakura	TEL.0267-41-0850
Hanareyama Library	2112-118 Nagakura	TEL.0267-42-3187
Karuzawa Museum of History and Culture	2112-101 Nagakura	TEL.0267-42-6334
Oiwakejuku Museum of Local History	1155-8 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-1466
Hori Tatsuo Museum of Literature	662 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-2050
Former Mikasa Hotel	1339-342 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-7072
Karuzawa Botanical Garden	1166 Hotchi	TEL.0267-48-3337
Chuo Community Center	2353-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8446
Karuzawa Kataezome Museum	1178-1233 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-6064
Former "Konoe Fumimaro Besso" (Ichimura Memorial Museum)	2112-21 Nagakura	TEL.0267-46-6103
A.C. Shaw Memorial House	57-1 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-45-8695
Muro Saisei Memorial House	979-3 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-45-8695
Karuzawa Ohga Hall	28-4 Karuzawa-higashi	TEL.0267-42-0055

### Water and Sewage-related Facilities

Water Supply Control Center	2328-22 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8657 (Water Supply Administ. Section)
Karuzawa Waste water Purification Center	918-4 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8592 (Sewage Facility Section)
Karuzawa Nishi Waste water Purification Center	4861-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8592 (Sewage Facility Section)
Hotchichiku Agricultural Community's Drainage Facility	2506 Hotchi	TEL.0267-45-8592 (Sewage Facility Section)
Sugirichiku Agricultural Community's Drainage Facility	2840-36 Hotchi	TEL.0267-45-8592 (Sewage Facility Section)
Mozawachiku Agricultural Community's Drainage Facility	874-3 Mozawa	TEL.0267-45-8592 (Sewage Facility Section)

Mt. Asama  
(2568m)

Mt. koasama  
(1655m)

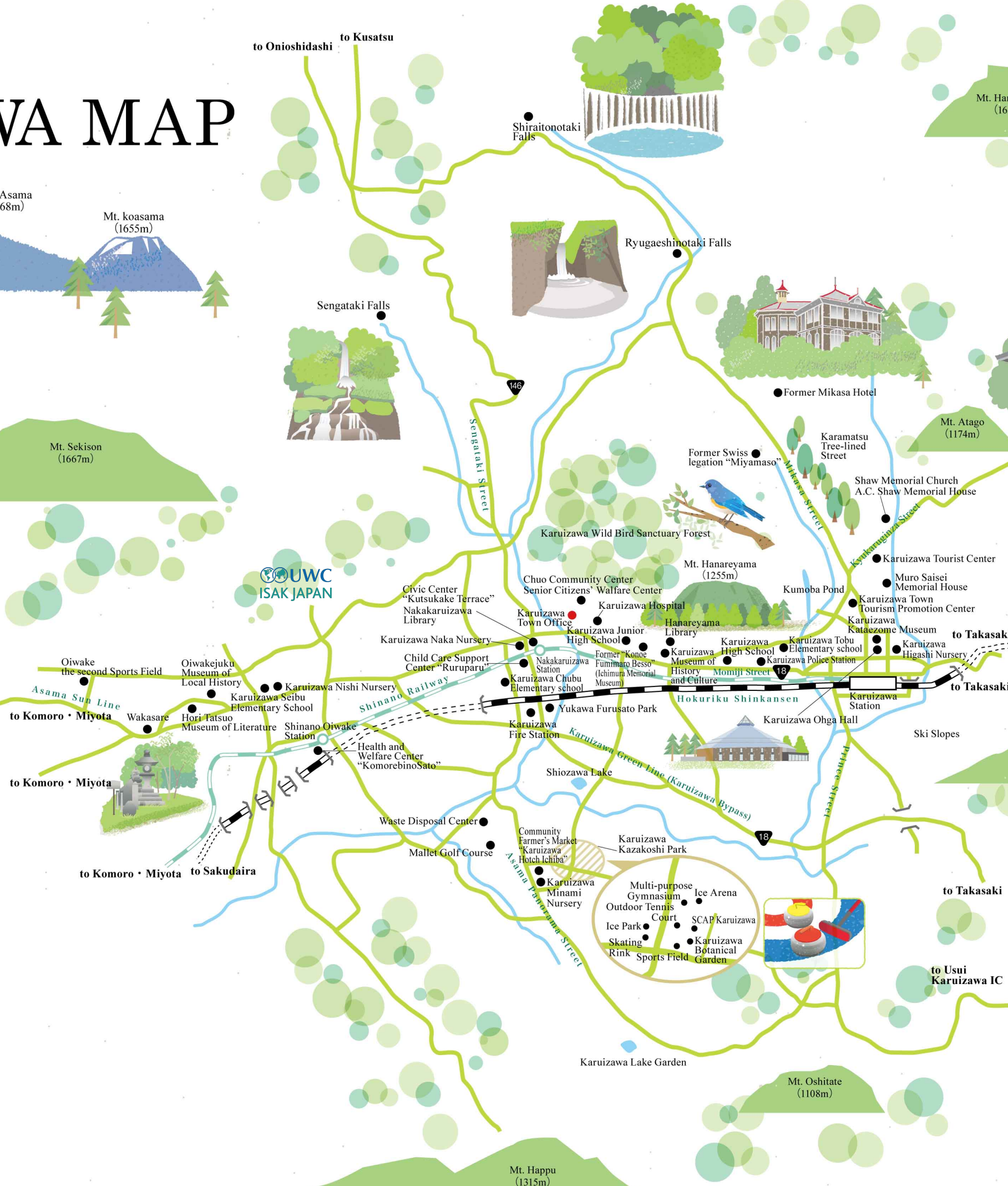
Mt. Sekison  
(1667m)

Mt. Hanamagari  
(1655m)

Mt. Atago  
(1174m)

Mt. Oshitate  
(1108m)

Mt. Happu  
(1315m)



### Welfare-related Facilities

Health and Welfare Center "KomorebinoSato"	4844-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-44-3333
Karuzawa Higashi Nursery	42 Karuzawa-higashi	TEL.0267-42-3808
Karuzawa Minami Nursery	2560-1 Hotchi	TEL.0267-45-6516
Karuzawa Nishi Nursery	1341-78 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-1984
Karuzawa Naka Nursery	3522-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-5557
Higashichiku Children's Center	1256-3 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-3809
Nakachiku Children's Center	3743-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-0990
Nishichiku Children's Center	1341-78 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-3050
Nagakurachiku Children's Center	1629-11 Nagakura	TEL.0267-46-2187
Minamichiku Children's Center	2300 Hotchi	TEL.0267-48-1231
Nakakaruzawa Children's Center	15-9 Nakakaruzawa	TEL.0267-45-6515
Community General Support Center	4844-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-3269
Senior Citizens' Welfare Center	2363-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-7021
Community Activities Support Center (Community Workshop)	4844-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8422
Child Care Support Center "Ruruparu"	2859-3 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-5744
Health Center	4844-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8549
Karuzawa Town Social Welfare Council	4844-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-8113

### Sports Facilities

Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Multi-purpose Gymnasium	1157-6 Hotchi	TEL.0267-48-0077
Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Ice Arena	182-3 Nagakura	TEL.0267-48-3626
Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park "SCAP Karuzawa"	(Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Sports Field / Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Outdoor Tennis Court / Pool/Training Room)	1157-6 Hotchi
Karuzawa Ice Park (Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Curling Hall / Karuzawa Kazakoshi Park Skating Rink)	1154-1 Hotchi	TEL.0267-48-5555
Oiwake the Second Sports Field	1550-4 Oiwake	TEL.0267-45-8456
Kazakoshi Meotaiwa Mallet Golf Course	957-1 Nagakura (Sports Promotion Section)	TEL.0267-45-7772

### Other Facilities

Karuzawa Hospital	2375-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-5111
Karuzawa Fire Station	1706-8 Nagakura	TEL.0267-45-0119
Karuzawa Police Station	1323-485 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-42-0110
Karuzawa Town Public Promotion Agency	1157-6 Hotchi	TEL.0267-48-3800
Karuzawa Town Facility "Sawayaka Hat"	1178-1186 Karuzawa	TEL.0267-41-1177
Waste Disposal Center	1140-2 Hotchi	TEL.0267-46-0354
Silver Human Resources Center	2363-1 Nagakura	TEL.0267-46-0722
Karuzawa Town Chamber of Commerce	9-3 Nakakaruzawa	TEL.0267-45-5307





*Concerto of the Wind The 3rd Movement Allegro Vivace*

*The Present Status of  
our Town Development*

## *The Present Status of our Town Development “Karuizawa, a harmonized town of Nature and Culture”*

Karuizawa has been a leading Japanese health resort since it was introduced to the world by Rev. A. C. Shaw in 1886. In 1923, the town of Karuizawa was formally established with a population of 5,000 and 95 years have passed since then.

During this time, the town has protected its clean environment and nurtured its sophisticated culture, based on the set of development regulations we call “the Karuizawa Rules” and the high principles laid out in Karuizawa Citizen’s Charter. Since fiscal year 2013, our town development has been based on the Fifth Long-term Development Plan for 10 years along with the slogan “Karuizawa, a Harmonized Town of Nature and Culture”.

The first part of the plan has already been completed and we are now working on the latter half, which is targeted for completion by FY 2022.

In the following pages, we would like to tell you about the present status of Karuizawa’s development, including various activities specific to Karuizawa and the achievements of the past 5 years, which is proceeding according to the basic policies outlined in our town development plan.

### **The Fifth Long-term Development Plan of Karuizawa Town**

#### **Basic Policy**

- Pleasant environment of forests and highlands
- Smooth transportation system which promotes the citizens’ interaction
- Safe and secure town, resilient against disasters
- Town enjoyable for exchanges utilizing the Karuizawa brand
- Health and Welfare town where people enjoy their life with peace of mind
- Educational and Cultural town that nurtures people
- Town planning initiated by its residents based on civic cooperation
- Town with sustainable self-governance



## Passing on a healthy environment where people co-exist with nature to the next generation

Larch forests were once planted on the slope of Mt. Asama at an altitude of 900m. From the late 1800s, people were attracted by this cooling environment and started building holiday houses in the area. In the years since then, Karuizawa has developed into an international health resort with its own unique characteristics. The comfortable environment created by our highlands and forests is our most precious asset.

We make efforts to protect and nurture the environment in which nature and people co-exist. We also aim to create the beautiful town landscape that is attractive to our citizens and visitors alike and is worthy of being called a “health resort”. In addition to that, our efforts to reduce the environmental burden include the thorough waste sorting and maximum use of natural energy. Simultaneously, we promote the development of comfortable residential environment and living/social environment that are appropriate to the environmentally conscious town. We will pass down the beautiful environment of which we are proud to future generations.



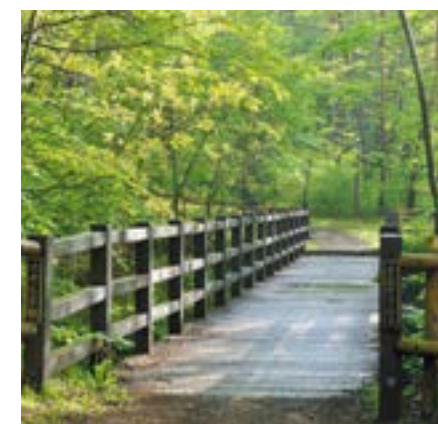
In Karuizawa, buildings taller than the trees cannot be seen



Yukawa Furusato Park



Ohga Street



Sengataki Seseraginomichi Trail



“Dongurigaeshi (Returning acorns)” program to grow broadleaf forests



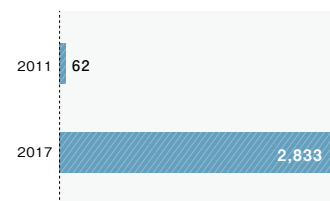
### I want to help preserve Karuizawa's natural environment

I want to gain a better understanding of wild animals, share it with others, and help preserve Karuizawa's natural environment. I have loved nature ever since I was a child. In my university days, I had the chance to see people getting in touch with nature in several National Parks in the USA, which are places of healing and learning. I joined Picchio with the hope of making such a site in Japan.

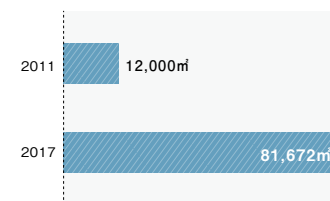
As Karuizawa is located in a forested area, many wild animals such as bears, flying squirrels, Japanese squirrels and wild boars live in close proximity to people. While they are a source of healing for us, human-animal conflicts can sometimes occur. By learning about the ecological situation of the wild animals and educating as many people as possible about it both within and outside of Karuizawa, and also investigating appropriate methods to separate wild animals and people, I would like to help protect the invaluable natural environment of Karuizawa.



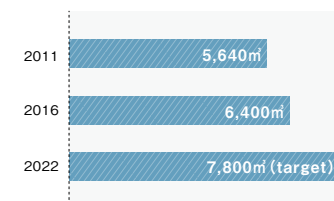
#### ►Number of LED Security Streetlights



#### ►Lawn Coverage at Public Facilities



#### ►Volume of Wood Chips Processed and Discharged



#### ►Principle Environmental Protection Measures

- To have 2 floors or less and be limited to 10m or less in height, and only in nearby commercial areas, 3 floors or less and limited to 13m or less in height.
- Requirement to consider the surrounding landscape in accordance with the town's Landscape Ordinance and Residents' Agreement on Landscaping.
- Building colors must match their surroundings, keeping the chromatic saturation value under 4.
- Store closing times must be before 11 p.m. to maintain quiet at night
- The posting of flags, movable signs and electric signboards is prohibited.



Smooth Transportation System which Promote Citizens' Interaction

## Creating a convenient town that people can enjoy on foot, through the development of efficient road system and public transportation network

The Joshin-etsu Expressway and Hokuriku Shinkansen dramatically improved access to Karuizawa from both the metropolitan area and the Hokuriku area. The town is now also directly connected to Narita via the Ken-O Expressway (Metropolitan Inter-City Expressway), and broad regional transportation is expected to become even more convenient when the Chubu Odan Expressway is completed.

Dealing with traffic congestion in and around Karuizawa during peak season has long been a challenging issue, given the town is inundated with the large number of visitors, especially during the Golden Week and summer holidays. Regionally and locally, we are taking steps to improve our road traffic network, aiming to provide safe and comfortable transportation without road congestion. We also promote a higher utilization of public transport in the town, by improving the convenience of the Shinano Railway through the addition of a new park and ride system, as well as by better bus services including loop routes.

In Karuizawa, we are striving to realize our own unique style of transportation, which is not so heavily dependent on private vehicles, by implementing a variety of measures including a significant improvement in our public transportation systems, the establishment of a very pedestrian-and-cyclist-friendly travel environment, and the creation of beautiful local landscapes.



Karuizawa Station

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪

Station Master,  
JR Karuizawa Station  
**Mr. Takehana Hiroomi**



To us, the station is sort of “the face of Karuizawa”  
We hope that our hospitality will make you feel like you want to come and visit us again

The average number of passengers who boarded a train at Karuizawa Station ten years ago was 2,800 per day. That number has now risen to around 3,600. The station has a long history of welcoming the Royal Family, as well as countless Japanese tourists. Nowadays, the number of foreign visitors is on the rise. Peak seasons were traditionally during the Golden Week and summer holiday periods, but now, the station is bustling with people year round. From January to March, for example, the station welcomes many visitors from across Asia, especially during the Lunar New Year holiday season. We are therefore, committed to ensuring the safety of our passengers.

We feel that for those who use railway services, Karuizawa Station is something like “the face of Karuizawa,” since it is the first thing that greets them upon arrival. Our staff all serve proudly and professionally at the station with true Karuizawa-style hospitality. Our sincere hope is that we can provide such warm welcoming atmosphere that visitors feel it is wonderful to visit here and are eager to return.



Shinano Railway Karuizawa Station, which made good use of the old JR Karuizawa Station building



Cycling in Karuizawa is filled with charm



The roundabout introduced to Roppontsuji Crossing

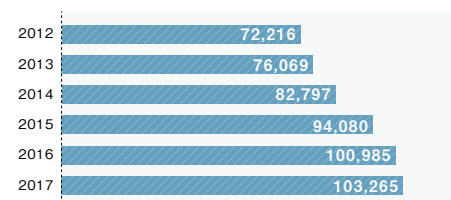


A town loop bus

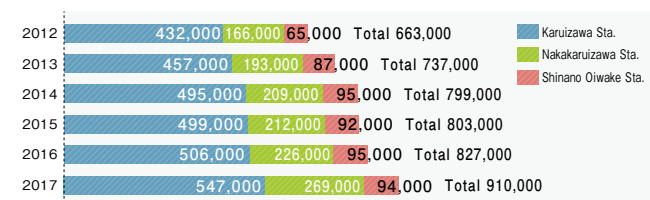


Park & ride for rail  
(Nakakaruizawa Station)

### ► Numbers of passengers using the Karuizawa loop buses

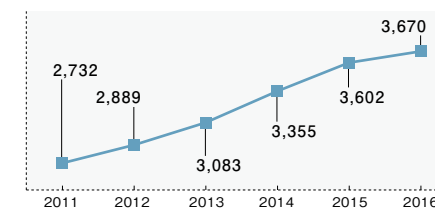


### ► Numbers of passengers using Shinano Railway (numbers of boardings)



Data provided by Shinano Railway Co., Ltd.

### ► Average numbers of passengers per day at JR (Japan Railway) Karuizawa Station



Data source: East Japan Railway Company  
Nagano Branch Office JR Karuizawa Station





Safe and Secure Town, Resilient Against Disasters

Protecting life against natural disasters, traffic accidents and crime, through cooperation with local citizens

Located as it is at the foot of Mt. Asama, an active volcano, Karuizawa is vulnerable to disasters caused by volcanic activity and torrential rainfall. We are working to ensure the safety and security of both local people and visitors against various large-scale disasters, through our well-developed disaster-prevention and crisis-management systems in accordance with the local disaster management plan, including emergency drills for various anticipated disasters, education of local voluntary fire brigades, and distribution of hazard maps and relevant information via websites and e-mails.

As a popular tourism destination, a relatively high number of vehicles flow into and around the town, leading to another problem - increased risk of traffic accidents. In response, the town has been putting both structural and non-structural systems in place, aimed at reducing accident frequency. These include holding traffic safety classes to improve public awareness of the issue, and improving road safety equipment such as curved mirrors at blind corners and intersections. We have also instituted a variety of measures to improve awareness of crime prevention, in cooperation with local groups and organizations from throughout the community.



Karuizawa Fire Department rescue training

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪

Leader, Karuizawa Town Volunteer Fire Corps  
Mr. Sato Yoshito



We assume responsibility for protecting our own community, 365 days a year

The Karuizawa Town Volunteer Fire Corps consists of 300 members, with 3 local chapters and 12 branches, as well as being a voluntary organization for disaster prevention. All of the members take part in a variety of volunteer activities with high recognition for protecting our community by ourselves. The disaster prevention awareness of Karuizawa's citizens is also very high. We are all determined to "protect our community 365 days a year."

A recent concern about the group is its declining membership. I myself joined at the age of 21, and I strongly hope that more young people will join us. Fire-fighting is without doubt a challenging undertaking, as the conditions can quite often be harsh, such as blizzards or the dark of night. We are, nonetheless, rewarded with a strong sense of accomplishment and it's even fun, because of the companionship we share with our colleagues. I believe the networks and friendships built through volunteer activities definitely become a valuable asset for our professional lives, too.

The fire corps always welcomes new members, both men and women alike. Please join us, and let's protect our town together.

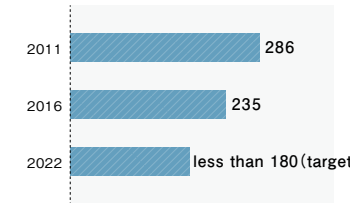


Karuizawa Volunteer Fire Corps' New Year's ceremony

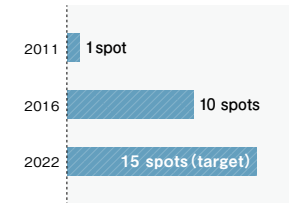


Nursery school traffic safety lessons

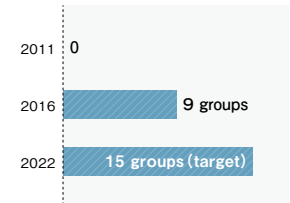
►Numbers of people injured in traffic accidents



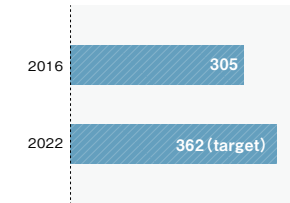
►Disaster prevention supplies allocations



►Numbers of disaster prevention voluntary organizations



►Numbers of volunteer fire fighters





Town enjoyable for exchanges utilizing the Karuizawa Brand ①

*Tourism, culture, industry, commerce and agriculture all working together to create the additional charm of Karuizawa*

The core industry of Karuizawa Town is tourism, with a focus on rest and relaxation in holiday houses and resorts, which has led to the development of a variety of other businesses. Based on this foundation, we seek for the possibility of comprehensive development of “the sixth industry” whilst strengthening the relationships among various sectors.

Regarding commerce and industry, we are supporting the development of unique local specialties labeled “Karuizawa Brand” in partnership with Karuizawa Chamber of Commerce. We are also tackling to improve the pedestrian areas and to create attractive local shopping streets.

Regarding our local agricultural industry which centers around highland vegetables cultivated under unique highland weather conditions, we aim to successfully market local products labeled “Karuizawa Kirishita Yasai®” (“Vegetables under the Mist”). We also promote a locavore lifestyle, making use of Community Farmer’s Market Karuizawa Hotchi Ichiba.

Also, we will continue offering a range of fascinating experiences to its visitors, including unique cultural events, eco-tourism, sports-tourism and weddings as well as making it an ideal host town for conventions and conferences.

We are working hard to ensure that visitors from across Japan and around the world name Karuizawa as a town they would like to visit any number of times, in any season.



Community Farmer's Market  
“Karuizawa Hotchi Ichiba”



“Karuizawa Kirishita Yasai ®” displayed  
at Hotchi Ichiba



Lively scene in Kyukaruginza Street



Karuizawa Half Marathon



Karuizawa Winter Festival



Holiday Walk



Mt. Asama observation point

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪  
.....  
Wedding Planner - Karuizawa  
Wedding Information Center  
**Ms. Koaizawa Naomi**



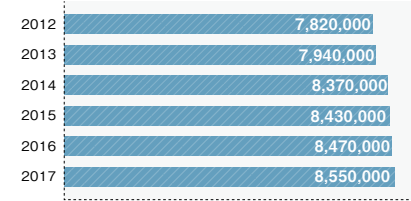
**Delightful weddings lead to repeat visitors to Karuizawa**

“How should we prepare for our wedding?” “What kind of a wedding can we have in Karuizawa?” ... These are some of the questions clients ask when they consult with us about their special day. We make customized proposals and recommendations for each couple after finding out things like why they want to have their wedding here in Karuizawa, who they most want to spend time with on the day, and their basic reasons for having a wedding ceremony.

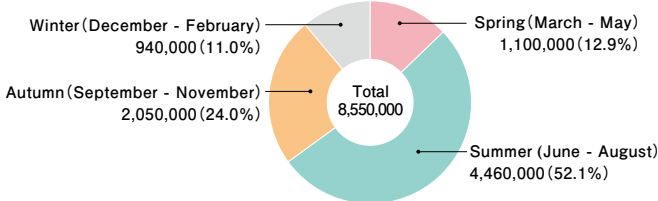
Many guests have never visited Karuizawa before, but once they have experienced a delightful Karuizawa wedding, they, not to mention the newlyweds themselves, fall in love with the town and will visit again. They tell their friends about the best features and aspects of Karuizawa and the town’s reputation spreads by word of mouth. I believe that our job helps to increase the number of Karuizawa fans.



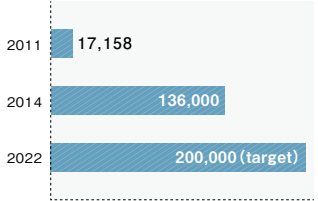
►Numbers of tourists  
visiting annually



►Numbers of tourists by season  
(2017 Japanese fiscal year)



►Numbers of overnight  
visitors from abroad





Health & Welfare Town Where People Enjoy Their Life with Peace of Mind

*Medical Care & Health Promotion,  
Childrearing Environment, Local Welfare...  
Working Together to Realize  
“Universal Society”*



Karuizawa Hospital



Children's Center



“Komorebinosato” aquatic sports facility

Karuizawa aims to be a “Health & Welfare Town Where People Enjoy Their Life with Peace of Mind”. Centered on Karuizawa Hospital, the town responds to the medical needs of residents and visitors alike. We also support improved health standards, comprehensive system including health promotion, disease prevention, rehabilitation and welfare, all based at Health and Welfare Center “Komorebinosato”.

Our local area actively enhances the nurturing of our children who are the key to the next generation, with Childcare Support Center as its base. We have established Children’s Centers, where after-school activities and classes for children are provided in every elementary school district. We have also realized our goal of making medical care free for all children up to 18 years old.

Another issue we are addressing is the fulfillment of a welfare system where every citizen can have longer healthy life expectancy and even those in need of nursing care and people with disabilities can live healthy and happy lives with peace of mind. In cooperation with various related organizations, Karuizawa Town is making efforts to realize an ideal support system covering both tangible and intangible aspects, to create “a universal society”, in which every citizen can lead a healthy fulfilling life.

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪  
.....  
NPO Corporation SHIKI  
Representative  
**Ms. Tsuchiya Kayo**



**A town where the physically and mentally challenged can lead normal lives**

We run a group home for people with disabilities and provide programs which support their employment and daily life. In cooperation with the town, we established the “Nijiirō Pocket (Rainbow-colored Pocket)”, a support facility for physically and mentally challenged children, in April, 2017. At present, 10 children are using its services.

Our goal is a local society in which the physically and mentally challenged can continue to work, finding their place in society as they choose, without discrimination or special treatment. We are already well on the way to bringing our welfare facilities up to our target levels and we intend to continue our efforts, in the belief that we can surely make Karuizawa an ideal town for everyone.

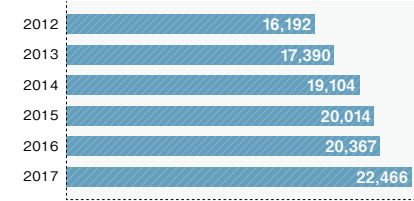


Health check-ups for infants

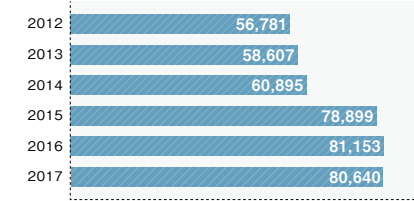


Nursery school sports festival

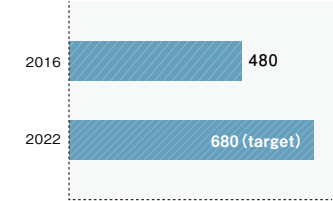
►Numbers of people using Senior Citizens’ Welfare Center



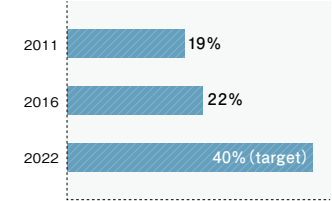
►Numbers of children using the Children’s Center



►Numbers of people registered at Child Care Support Center



►Percentages of people of receiving cancer screening





# Developing strong children with our “Kobushi Education” program and create a town where people can enjoy lifelong learning and sports

Our “Kobushi Education” program aims at fostering the development of children who are physically and mentally strong. In the town, we have 2 private kindergartens, 4 nurseries, 3 elementary schools, 1 junior high school, the Karuizawa Prefectural High School and the international boarding school UWC ISAK Japan. With a spirit of collaboration and human communication, we are working to nurture people by providing an improved education system that helps our children find their places in our globalized society and lead fruitful lives.

We are proud to be providing an environment in which learning and sports can be enjoyed by “anyone, anywhere, anytime”. Several examples include the Karuizawa Summer College, which began in the Taisho Era and now has a 100-year tradition, the Nakakaruizawa Library located in the Kutsukake Terrace which provides a venue for lectures on Karuizawa and other topics, and Kazakoshi Sports Park which contains a variety of sporting facilities and hosts international curling events. In this way, we are providing an environment which encourages citizens to engage in life-long learning and sports. Making good use of the town’s wide variety of cultural assets and its history of the health resort culture, we will further up-grade our potentials as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism.



The sports facilities of Kazakoshi Park



The outside views of Karuizawa Junior High School



Nakakaruizawa Library



Karuizawa Summer Collage



Stone guardian dog of Kumano Shrine, said to be the oldest in the prefecture



A prefectural cultural property “Mountain Pass Shinanoki Tree”

## ♪ People Playing Tunes ♪

In charge of immersion education at Karuizawa Junior High School  
**Mr. Thomas Randall**



## “Think globally, act locally!”

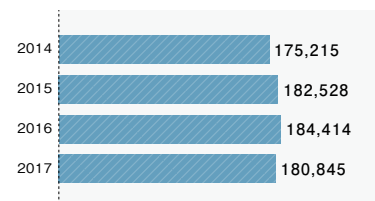
In an immersion education program, students study a variety of subjects in English.

In the beginning, we used Japanese sometimes to communicate with the students, but they soon got used to English-only conversation. Since the students tended to be shy in front of their friends, however, I tried to ask them questions individually. It might have been easier for them to respond in gym class and when I gave them quizzes during lunch, but in any case they learned to communicate on a deeper level and more and more topics could be discussed.

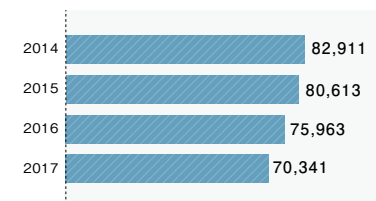
Before coming to Japan I traveled to many countries. The experiences I had there made me appreciate the concept of “Think globally, Act locally!”. I really want to pass this idea on to the children of Karuizawa.



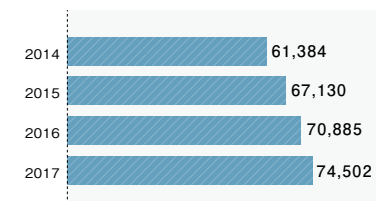
### ►Numbers of town library users



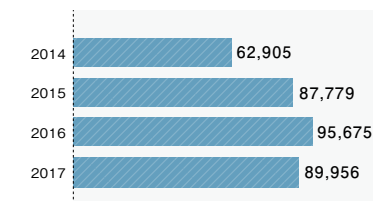
### ►Visitors to Former Mikasa Hotel



### ►Users of SCAP Karuizawa



### ►Users of Kazakoshi Park Multi-purpose Gymnasium





Town planning initiated by its residents based on civic cooperation

## By fostering local ties and sharing information, we strengthen the trust between the town and its residents

Maintaining a strong sense of community is becoming more and more important, especially through the experiences of natural disasters or similar events. Karuizawa Town has a lot of new people moving in, however, and it is sometimes difficult for us to make an integrated community. In response, we are promoting better social interaction by making good use of a variety of sporting and cultural events. We are also making progress in building a system in which the residents are encouraged to positively think about local issues for themselves and try to take lead in solving problems in cooperating with the town administration.

The foundation of this residents' participation is the provision of information related to the town administration. We are proceeding with town development in trust relationship between residents and the administration as its base by providing administration-related information through "Koho Karuizawa", the town government's web site and an e-mail distribution service, as well as listening to the voices of the people through our programs including "Letter to Mayor" and "Town Meeting with Mayor" and variety of questionnaires and conferences.



"Fill the town with flowers" program

Volunteer trash clean-up



Sawayaka Karuizawa Exchange Meeting

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪

A farmer in Karuizawa  
**Mr. Arai Yoshimitsu**



Try our Karuizawa vegetables - they look beautiful and taste great!

The great thing about agriculture is that you are able to work in nature, according to your own plan. On our farm, we are currently cultivating lettuce, red-leaf lettuce, cabbage, Chinese cabbage and other highland vegetables. Karuizawa's excellent "Kuroboku soil" is filled with organic matter and is permeable but with good water retention. On top of that, the climate in summer is cool, with a large difference between daytime and night time temperatures, so we can grow tender and really delicious vegetables. No matter who they are, everyone will enjoy our beautiful and delicious vegetables and will clearly know that they have been painstakingly grown in order to ensure that the highest quality has been attained.

In order to utilize our fields most effectively, after the summer and autumn harvests we plant a winter crop of onions that can be harvested the following spring.

In non-growing seasons, I also work as a ski instructor, making good use of my past experience as a ski technique championships competitor. I will continue to try my best to make a positive contribution to the community.

♪ People Playing Tunes ♪

Chairman of the Neighborhood Community Associations' Heads  
**Mr. Hagiwara Satoichi**  
(Head of the Oiwake District)



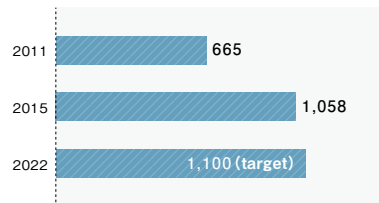
## Harnessing the power of the community to make Karuizawa an easy and comfortable place to live

There are 30 neighborhood community associations in Karuizawa and the residents of each are working together for the sake of the town's development, tackling landscaping and other issues. The associations all share some common issues, such as integrating new residents and holiday home temporary residents who don't register to become part of

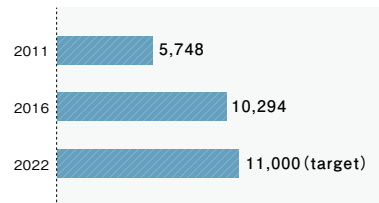
any community association. In response, we are trying to foster a greater sense of community togetherness and encouraging more social interaction through exchange events with holiday house residents.

In the Oiwake district, we hold an annual festival called the "Shinano Oiwake Magouta dochu", which has become the town's representative event. It was first planned when the Oiwake Museum of Local History was completed to help invigorate the local area. In the festival, a boy working as a traditional horse tender leads a horse carrying a mounted samurai or traveler along the old Nakasendo route while singing Oiwake Magouta that was composed here and then spread across the nation, just like in the old days. The festival helps to foster a sense of local community togetherness across the generations.

### ►Numbers of registered volunteers



### ►Numbers of people registered for the e-mail distribution service

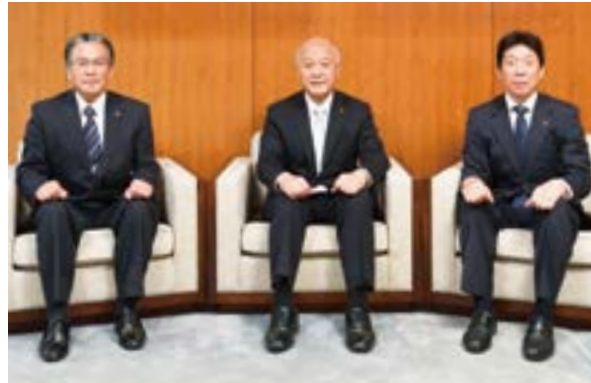


### ►Numbers of foreign residents (as of April, 2018)

Chinese	97	Vietnamese	25	Australian	11	Total 504
American	69	Canadian	21	Nepalese	10	
Korean	45	British	20	French	10	
Thai	34	German	14	Others	107	
Taiwanese	30	Indian	11			



## Proceeding with Effective Administration and Sound Fiscal Management



Vice Mayor  
Yanagisawa Hiroshi

Mayor  
Fujimaki Susumu

Superintendent of  
Board of Education  
Ogiwara Masaru

We aim to build a sustainable and autonomous town in an era of decentralization, actively implementing necessary administrative reforms and precisely addressing the increasingly specialized and diverse needs of the residents. With the purpose in mind, while maintaining sound control of our finances, we take positive steps to secure our own financial resources further and proceed with effective fiscal management. We will be working hard to create a solid foundation for the town from which we can move forward confidently into the next 100 years.

## The 16 members of the Council reflect the citizens' voices in the town policy

### Town Council

Karuizawa Town Council consists of 16 members. As we move toward our goal of creating a workplace with gender equality, five of them are now women. Since January 2011, the Council has implemented a year-round term to manage its schedule more effectively and to strengthen its oversight function. In order to respond to the mandate of the citizens who play the leading role in the town policy, we are working to make a council in which the citizens can participate. We have also enacted a "Council Basic Ordinance" to continue and further develop the council reforms so that the voices of the people are reflected in the town policy.



Chairman  
Ichimura Mamoru

Vice Chairman  
Sato Toshiaki



Karuizawa Town Council



# The course of Karuizawa's 95-year History

## A Prologue to the next century

<b>1923</b>	Higashi Nagakura Village becomes a town and officially changes its name to "Karuizawa Town" (population 5012 / 890 households).	<b>1971</b>	Usui Toll Bypass on Route 18 is completed.
<b>1925</b>	Karuizawa's first town report is issued.	<b>1972</b>	The Mayor and citizens meet for a public discussion. (twice monthly)
<b>1926</b>	Kusatsudenkitetsudo railway line from Shinkaruizawa Station to Kusatsu Station is completed.	<b>1973</b>	"Karuizawa Citizens' Charter" is established in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the town's establishment.
<b>1929</b>	The town's water works system is completed. Karuizawa Tourist Association is established.	<b>1974</b>	"Karuizawa National Wild Bird Sanctuary Forest" is opened.
<b>1935</b>	St. Paulo Catholic Church is established.	<b>1975</b>	Karuizawa Botanical Garden is opened.
<b>1936</b>	A festival is held celebrating the 50th anniversary of Karuizawa Town as a summer resort.	<b>1978</b>	The ice hockey competition of the 33rd National Winter Athletic Meet (nicknamed the YAMABIKO National Athletic Meet) is held in Karuizawa.
<b>1942</b>	Nishinagakura Village merges with Karuizawa Town, raising the population to 8746.	<b>1980</b>	Former Mikasa Hotel is designated as a national important cultural property. Karuizawa Museum of History and Culture is opened.
<b>1945</b>	Mikasa and Manpei Hotels are taken over by the US Army.	<b>1982</b>	Karuizawa Workers' Sports Center is opened.
<b>1949</b>	Some area in Karuizawa are designated as "Joshin-etsukogen National Park".	<b>1985</b>	Oiwakejuku Museum of Local History is opened. A monument to A.C.Shaw is set up (by Karuizawa Rotary Club). A native-speaking English teacher is employed to teach at the junior and senior high schools in Karuizawa Town.
<b>1951</b>	"Act on Construction of Karuizawa as a Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism" is proclaimed.	<b>1986</b>	A "Karuizawa 100" Ceremony is held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the town as a health resort. The World Sprint Speed Skating Championships are held.
<b>1952</b>	5 skating rinks are constructed (Karuizawa, Hanareyama, Hoshino, Amamiya and Sengataki indoor rink).	<b>1989</b>	1989 Karuizawa World Cup Speed Skating Competition is held.
<b>1958</b>	"Outline for Good Maintenance of Public Manners in Karuizawa" is enforced.	<b>1990</b>	The town's general accounting budget reaches 10 billion yen. Kazakoshi Park Arena is completed. 1990 Karuizawa World Cup Speed Skating Competition is held.
<b>1959</b>	The first International Karuizawa Goodwill and Friendship Party is held. It becomes an annual event.	<b>1992</b>	1992/93 Karuizawa World Cup Speed Skating Competition is held.
<b>1963</b>	Women's and Men's World Speed Skating Championships are held. (120 athletes from 20 countries participate)	<b>1993</b>	Joshin-etsu Expressway is opened to traffic (Fujioka IC - Saku IC, 89.5 km) The 70th commemorative ceremony of the establishment of Karuizawa Town is held Primrose and Magnolia are designated as the Town Flower and Town Tree. Kazakoshi Park is selected as the venue for the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics curling competition.
<b>1964</b>	Tokyo Olympic equestrian events are held in Karuizawa. (48 athletes from 12 countries participate)		
<b>1968</b>	The first Wakaba Matsuri (Festival of the New Leaves) is held. It becomes an annual event. Karuizawa Town and Campos do Jordao City in San Paulo State, Brazil become sister cities. The new Karuizawa Town Office is completed. The first Momiji Matsuri (Autumn Leaves Festival) is held. It becomes an annual event.		
<b>1969</b>	The first Kori Matsuri (Ice Festival) is held. It becomes an annual event.		

<b>1994</b>	The access road to Usui Karuizawa IC on Joshin-etsu Express way is opened to traffic.	<b>2012</b>	The new Shinano Railway Nakakaruizawa Station building is opened. The first "Sawayaka Karuizawa Exchange Meeting" is held. It becomes an annual event. The rapid-charging devices for electric vehicles is installed.
<b>1996</b>	A Tree Planting Festival (with 43 species from all over the world) is held at "Olympic Forest" in Kazakoshi Park.	<b>2013</b>	Civic Center "Kutsukake Terrace," is opened. Nakakaruizawa Library is opened within Kutsukake Terrace. Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park curling venue, "Karuizawa Ice Park," is opened. The town population reaches 20,000.
<b>1997</b>	'97 World Junior Curling Championships are held. Hokuriku Shinkansen, Shinano Railway and JR Bus started operations.	<b>2014</b>	The renovated SCAP Karuizawa is reopened. Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Multi-purpose Gymnasium is opened.
<b>1998</b>	The Curling Competition of the 18th Winter Olympics in Nagano is held at Kazakoshi Park Arena (Feb.9-15).	<b>2015</b>	Hokuriku Shinkansen service is extended to Kanazawa. Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Sports Field is reopened after renovation.
<b>1999</b>	A declaration establishing sister-city relations is signed with Whistler, BC, Canada. The former residence of Muro Saisei is opened to the public.	<b>2016</b>	Construction of the new Karuizawa Junior High School building is completed. Community Farmer's Market "Karuizawa Hotchi Ichiba" grand opening. G7 Karuizawa Nagano Transport Ministers' Meeting is held.
<b>2000</b>	Karuizawa Town's web site is established. The Karuizawa Olympic Commemorative Museum is opened. The first Karuizawa Shaw Festival is held.	<b>2017</b>	The ice hockey competition of the 72nd Winter National Athletic Meet (nicknamed Nagano Ginrei National Athletic Meet) is held in Karuizawa. An agreement for comprehensive cooperation with Shinshu University, the Research Center for Social Systems, Shinshu University and Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo is concluded.
<b>2001</b>	Karuizawa FM Radio starts broadcasting. "Karuizawa Apartment Method Declaration" is issued. A 400m skating rink in Kazakoshi Park is completed.	<b>2018</b>	Men's Curling Team SC Karuizawa Club represents Japan at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and got 8th place. "G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth" is decided to be held June 15 and 16, 2019 in Karuizawa Town.
<b>2003</b>	A ceremony commemorates the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Karuizawa Town is held. Japanese Brown Thrush and Japanese Squirrel are designated as Town Bird and Town Animal. Test runs of the town loop bus are conducted.		
<b>2005</b>	Grand Opening of Karuizawa Ohga Hall.		
<b>2006</b>	The town's Family Registration system is computerized.		
<b>2007</b>	Health and welfare Center "Komorebinosato" is opened. The former Swiss legation (Miyamaso) is purchased.		
<b>2009</b>	The name of "Kazakoshi Park Arena" is changed to "Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Ice Arena" and it reopens as a year-round ice rink.		
<b>2011</b>	Karuizawa is presented with a Natural Environment Award of Merit by the Minister of the Environment. "A Town Promoting the use of Renewable Energy" declaration is passed by the Town Council.		



## Seasonal Calendar of Featured Events



### SPRING | March - May |

Wakaba Matsuri (late April - early June)  
 Karuizawa Oga Hall Spring Music Festival  
 (late April - early May)  
 Dongurigaeshi (Tree Planting Festival, mid-May)  
 Kumanokotai Shrine Spring Festival (May 15)  
 Karuizawa Half Marathon (late May)



### SUMMER | June - August |

Shinano Oiwake Magouta Dochu (early July)  
 Sawayaka Karuizawa Exchange Meeting  
 (late July - early August)  
 Karuizawa Shaw Festival (early August)  
 Karuizawa Summer College (August 2-4)  
 Fireworks in various locations  
 (July - August)



### AUTUMN | September - November |

Momiji Matsuri (late September - early November)  
 Holiday Walk in Karuizawa (mid-October)  
 Kumanokotai Shrine Autumn Festival (October 15)  
 Karuizawa Resort Marathon (late October)  
 Town's General Cultural Exhibition  
 (early November)  
 Karuizawa Cultural Festival (late November)



### WINTER | December - February |

Karuizawa Winter Festival  
 (late November - early March)  
 White Christmas in Karuizawa,  
 skating • ice hockey • curling competitions  
 and wedding events  
 Kazakoshi Park Ice Skating Rink Opens  
 (December - March)  
 Ski slopes open (December - March)



## Basic Karuizawa Town Planning Ordinance

Karuizawa is a highland town blessed with lush green natural surroundings embracing magnificent Mt. Asama. Ever since the Canadian Anglican Church missionary Rev. Alexander Croft Shaw first visited in 1886 and introduced the town as a summer resort domestically and internationally, it has nurtured its history and culture as an international health resort.

The rich nature in Karuizawa Town have been protected and developed by our predecessors, and they are the source of the culture and history of the town. While protecting and developing the wonderful natural environment along with its culture and history as valuable assets of Japan, we must also maintain good living conditions for our residents. Our goal is to preserve an environment in which everyone can enjoy a healthy life with peace of mind that enriches people's minds, from both global and forward-looking points of view. It can be said that passing what we have now down to future generations is the duty imposed on us who live in this highland town.

Recognizing the above, we're determined to proceed with our town planning with the cooperation of all those who are related to Karuizawa whilst acknowledging roles and responsibilities we all should take and clarifying how to develop our town. For this purpose, we hereby establish the basic Karuizawa Town Planning Ordinance that serves as the basis for all ordinances related to our town planning.

Established on June 22, 2007  
 Revised on December 25, 2015



### Town Crest

This logo was designed in 1960 and is in the shape of the letter 'か' from Karuizawa. It also represents a bird - the symbol of peace - taking wing.



### Town Flag

The colors of Karuizawa's natural surroundings are used. The main orange color - yellow red - comes from the autumn leaves and the Mt. Asama volcano. The light blue color represents the air and the dark blue color stands for water. The white trim between each color comes from the original material of the flag.



**Town Flower:** Primrose / **Town tree:** Magnolia  
 Designated on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the town in 1993.



**Town bird:** Japanese Brown Thrush /



**Town animal:** Japanese Squirrel  
 Designated on the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the town in 2003.



Karuizawa Town's  
 Symbol designated on  
 the 90th anniversary  
 of its establishment in  
 2013.



**Karuizawa Town's Mascot:** RUIZA-chan  
 The cheerful and lively Karuizawa mascot is based on the mountains surrounding the town. Its head represents Mt. Asama and the town flower, primrose, while the body symbolizes the clear streams and wind in Karuizawa.