

# Points of Interest

## Educational Institutions

(As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014)



### Imakane Junior High School

Principal: Mr. Masahiko Hagino

Vice-principal: Mr. Takeshi Oka

Teachers: 18

Students: 152



### Imakane Elementary School

Principal: Mr. Mitsunobu Taniguchi

Vice-principal: Mr. Tatsuya Sano

Teachers: 23

Students: 211



### Tanekawa Elementary School

Principal: Mr. Akihiro Yasuda

Vice-principal: Mr. Sakae Yoshioka

Teachers: 8

Students: 16



### Imakane Special Needs High School

Principal: Mr. Toshijiro Takashima

Vice-principal: Mr. Masato Sato

Teachers: 63

Students: 74

## Educational Institutions (cont.)



### Nintei KodomoEn Imakane (Kindergarten)

Director: Ms. Shigeko Kariya

Vice-director: Ms. Makiko Kakimoto

Teachers: 30

Students: 122



### Tanekawa Seasonal Nursery School

Director: Mr. Akihiro Yasuda

Teachers: 3

Students: 10



### Suzukane Seasonal Nursery School

Director: Mr. Katsuhiro Watanabe

Teachers: 3

Students: 12



### Child Development Assistance Centre

Director: Mr. Shun'ichi Tanaka

Teachers: 5

Clients: 51



### Gakudo Hoikusho (After-school Care Centre)

Director: Mr. Katsuhiro Watanabe

Teachers: 12

Students: 69

# Tourist Attractions



## Pirika Dam

After the flooding of the Shiribeshi-Toshibetsu River in August of 1962, construction of this multi-purpose Dam began in 1979. Opening in 1991, Pirika Dam is the longest of its kind in Japan at 1480m in length. A combination dam (concrete slab and rock fill), it serves four purposes; electricity production, flood control, supply of irrigation water, and maintaining natural water flow.



## National Historical Site Pirika

Discovered in 1978, this area was found to be rich in artifacts from the Japanese Paleolithic period (from 20,000 to 10,000 BC). As research and digging continued, it was recognized to be an important area to Japanese history, and as such, in 1994 it was declared a national historical site. Today, visitors can view artifacts found at the site in the Pirika Paleolithic Culture Center, as well as learn about life during the period through various displays and activities.



## Okupirika – Yama no Ie

Originally opening at the same time as Okupirika Onsen, Yama no Ie was owned and operated privately by Toshio Toujo until its closure in 1980. It wasn't until 1988 that it was re-opened by the town of Imakane, and with it the construction of the current structures. Located in the middle of a luscious forest and surrounded by mountains and several hiking trails, Yama no Ie is popular with those who are truly looking to "get away from it all".



## Kur Plaza Pirika

With the goal of increasing tourism to the area, Kur Plaza Pirika was conceived as a part of health and recreation facilities in the Pirika area. Opening in 1990, this hotel features spacious Japanese-style rooms, with washrooms located in common areas. Bathing facilities are available via the adjoining Pirika Onsen, and dining is available on the main floor in the restaurant Rera. Using local ingredients, the menu at Rera is popular with locals and visitors alike.



## Pirika Ski Hill

Located next to Kur Plaza Pirika, this ski hill features runs for all levels (from beginner to advanced), along with spectacular views of the unaltered surrounding nature. Popular with skiers and snowboarders of all ages, patrons can enjoy the powder snow from morning until night, and even take ski and/or snowboarding lessons from the Pirika Ski School. Pirika Ski Hill is open from December until March.

# Tourist Attractions (cont.)



## Shiribeshi-Toshibetsu River

Originating at Mount Oshamanbe and flowing across the Setana plain into the Sea of Japan, the Shiribeshi-Toshibetsu River has been ranked one of the cleanest rivers in Japan 14 times since 1987, the most of any river in the country.

At 80km in length, along with being the main source of fresh water for the town of Imakane, it's also a popular recreation destination for fishing and canoeing.



## De Molen Imakane

Built to be a new landmark for the town of Imakane, this windmill is located in the center of town in Holland Park and is surrounded by many tulips (the town flower) in Spring.

Constructed in 1993, De Molen (windmill in dutch) houses office space on the second floor, and an observation/conference room on the third floor. Holland Park is also host to many events and festivals year round.



## Immanuel Church

Originally built in 1896, this church is one of the oldest churches in Hokkaido. Looking to create a Christian Utopia in the wilderness of Hokkaido, Yukiyoshi Shikata and Youjiro Maruyama, along with several Christian followers moved to the area, naming it Immanuel ("God with us" in Hebrew). With the banning of foreign language use, the area was once again renamed to Kamioka, or "God's Land". Constructed in 1968, the current building is still in use today.



## Tokoyo no Matsu

Located in the Tanekawa area along national route 230, this tree was used as a route marker for settlers and early travelers. While the actual age of the tree is unknown, it is believed to be more than one thousand years old. Named as the town tree (Japanese Yew – *Ichii*), its hollow center and very tall stature continue to grow to this day. It remains as a symbol of traffic safety and is seen as a guardian to those who travel in the area.



## Aishirei Land

Located in the Kamioka district, Aishirei Land was conceived by Aishirei no Kai in 1991. Named after the 140° longitudinal line that runs through the park (a play on words), the group sought to create links of friendship among children that live along the 140° line. Featuring a whale pond, a "field of dreams" baseball field, as well as a stage and other facilities, Aishirei Land is host to many events year round.