

# Celebrating 100 Years of Skiing in Japan

## Join us for the party!

In 1911, Major Theodore Edler von Lerch of the Austrian army taught Japanese soldiers skiing at Mt. Kanaya, just a few kilometers from Myoko. This was much more than just military training—it was the first time skiing had ever been done in Japan! Skiing soon moved beyond the soldiers, as civilian ski clubs soon sprung up in the area. The resorts followed quickly afterwards, as everyone started to join in the fun. Major von Lerch is almost unknown in his native Austria today, but everyone in Japan knows the man who is seen as the father of skiing in the country. Now, join us for the special events to remember him, and 100 years of skiing in Japan with a special party on January 15 and 16!

But don't worry if you're not coming during that period—there's always a party going on somewhere in Myoko!

### 100 Years of Skiing Events

**Main event: Saturday, January 15, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

#### Delicious Niigata *Yatai*

Taste some of the flavors of western Niigata, with *yatai*—food carts—from Joetsu, Itoigawa and Myoko cities.

#### Dondon Yaki

This giant bonfire of huge towers of straw and wood has some religious connections, as items such as good-luck *daruma* dolls and other items are brought to receive a proper end to their service—but dondon yaki is also simply a lot of fun, as crackling fire illuminates the snow and warms faces.

#### Kamakura, Yuki Daruma and Snow Illuminations

*Kamakura* are massive igloo-like structures, big enough to hold dozens of people; *yuki daruma* are Japanese-style snowmen. Add on candlelight illumination (and some beverages) and you have a beautiful evening event.

#### Taiko Performance

A full-size stage will be set up as part of the evening, and will play host to the thundering sounds of Japanese *taiko* drums, a DJ, and other performances.

Hanabi (fireworks)

You can't close a big event in Japan without fireworks, and nobody does them like they do in Japan! Starting around 8:30.

**Sunday, January 16, 9 a.m. to noon**

#### On the Snow Events

Theodore von Lerch (at least his likeness) will be patrolling the area around the Sky Cable, as demonstrations of the original single-pole-style skiing, new ski demos and other events happen on the snow.



For up-to-date information and event locations, please ask your hotel to contact the Myoko Tourist Office at (0255)86-3911 (sorry, English not spoken)