

## Famous People with Connections to Shibetsu



Masako Izumi is one of Japan's leading actresses who has appeared in many films and television dramas. She is also known for her accomplishments as an explorer such as becoming the first Japanese woman to reach the North Pole. In 1986, her usage of Yamaha snowmobiles during her expedition to the North Pole led her to visit Shibetsu for the first time where she fell in love with the scenery and cold weather unique to the Northern Country. Later, in 1996, she would build a vacation home on top of a hill in the city where she still regularly spends time today. In addition to materials from her expedition to the North Pole, items from the indigenous people of the Northern Territories collected by Izumi herself are also on display here.



Koichi Wajima is a former professional world champion boxer. He was born in Karafuto in 1943 and migrated to Hokkaido after the war with the repatriation of Karafuto residents, spending his school years in Shibetsu. During his time as an elementary school student, Wajima built up powerful leg muscles by commuting 7 kilometers each way to and from school.