

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## Beautiful Ehime

By

Kristina Celli

I've been living in Japan for just over a year now and in that time have had the chance to meet some really wonderful people. I often find myself being asked a common question: "Why would you come to Saijo? Why not go to Osaka or Tokyo?!" To be honest, I did not pick to come to Saijo, and had I been given the choice I probably would have chosen a big city, but now having been here, I am so grateful that this was the place that I ended up. Maybe it's just me, that I'm a sucker for that small town feel, but I think Ehime, and particularly Saijo, is the perfect place to feel the whole Japanese experience.

Yes this area is rural, and by some people's standards not even half as exciting as many big cities, but Ehime has enough sightseeing locations and events to keep anyone busy all year. If there's not an art show, or a music concert on a weekend, it can almost be guaranteed you will find some other sort of event going on. Get together at the beach in Niihama, or the river in Saijo, meeting friends in Imabari or going to some really cool café's like World's End in Saijo, there is always something to do. Ehime proudly boasts the largest mountain in Western Japan, if you get bored, go climb Mt. Ishizuchi and 'challenge' the chains. It's also close enough to so many famous places: you can get to Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kyushu (to name a few) within a matter of hours.

The most memorable part of living in Saijo is, besides the obvious Danjiri festival, is the people. The people here were so lovely and seem to still be in touch with so much of the culture that has made Japan what it is today. I'm not going to say there weren't any hiccups along the way trying to adjust to the cultural differences but now, looking back, those hiccups made the experience so much better. The friends that I made, and the people that I met have all been the best 'teachers' of Japan that I could ever hope for. Everyone is very concerned that you learn the language as it should be spoken and experience the culture of Japan. Luckily for us, there are some great groups in Shikoku that put a great deal of effort into making many cultural activities available to foreigners like dressing in Yukatas and Kimonos, experiencing tea ceremony and many more.

This is only scratching the surface, as there are so many more unmentioned events. Now whenever someone asks me why would I choose Ehime, I can't help but think, why not?

She's from Penticton Canada. She lived in Saijo for 14 months working as an English conversation teacher. She's now in her hometown and back at work. She really enjoys traveling to new places and experiencing different cultures. She hopes to one day visit Japan again.



You can read **What's New** on the Web.

Click <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>



## Shichi-go-san

### 7-5-3-year-old Children's Festival

In Japan, there are several kinds of children's celebrations or festivals held at certain ages as they grow praying for their happiness and healthy growth. SHICHI-GO-SAN (literally meaning 7-5-3), held for the 3-5- and 7-year-old children on November 15<sup>th</sup>, is one of the important rites. On the Shichi-go-san day, 3- and 5-year-old boys and 3- and 7-year-old girls dressed in their finest clothes visit their ujigami-sama (the guardian shrine of a village or a town), or a big, famous shrine accompanied by their parents and grandparents. They also celebrate their Shichi-go-san by taking photographs, licking chitose-ame (a kind of charm candy for good luck and longevity), and enjoying a feast with members of their family at home or at a restaurant.



Recruitment of volunteers  
For the 20<sup>th</sup> Global Party

The Global Party association is recruiting volunteers for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Party (Sunday, Feb, 14, 2010). It is planning to prepare different sweets, dancing, music, and other events. If you are interested, please contact either Mr. Yamamoto, [harutoshiyayoi@ybb.ne.jp](mailto:harutoshiyayoi@ybb.ne.jp) or # 0897-55-8808 Ms. Okame, [yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp) or # 0897-34-8914 The first meeting : Fureai Plaza, 10:00 Nov 15<sup>th</sup>



# MOVIES

## TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

- October 9 ~ FAST & FURIOUS English
- October 9 ~ MY SISTER'S KEEPER English
- October 28 ~ THIS IS IT English
- November 9 ~ November 13 CLOSED
- November 14 ~ A CHRISTMAS CAROL English
- November 20 ~ INGLOURIOUS BASTARDS English

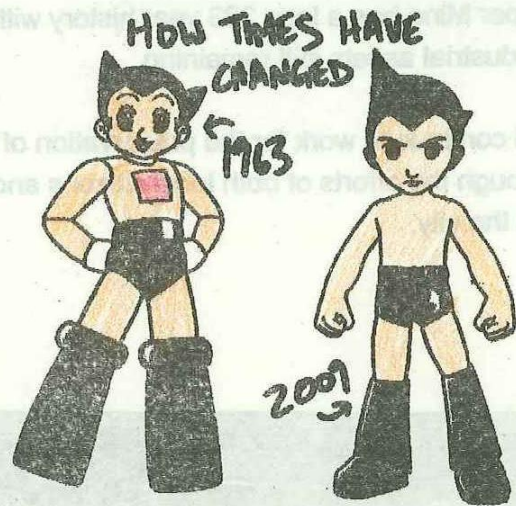
Niihama Toho Plex will be closed for five days from Nov. 9 to Nov. 13 for remodeling. The name will be changed to TOHO CINEMAS NIIHAMA. It will open again on November 14.

### Information Service

Internet:

<http://niihama-aeonmall.com/index.jsp>

Tape (24hr): 0897-35-3322 (Japanese)



Contributed by Adam Schartup

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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The editors for this month are XXX & XXX.

## ONE POINT JAPANESE (Various kinds of "dasu")

- A: ちょっとゴミを出してきます。  
Chotto gomi o dashite kimasu.  
(I'm just going to put the garbage out.)
- B: 今日は燃えるゴミの日ですか。  
Kyō wa moeru gomi no hi desu ka.  
(Is today "burnable garbage" day?)
- A: ええ。でもリサイクル出来ないプラスチックゴミも出せますよ。  
Ee. Demo risaikuru dekimi purasuchikku gomi mo dasemasu yo.  
(Yes. But you can also put out unrecyclable plastic.)
- B: リサイクルの表示があるものは?  
Risaikuru no hyōji ga aru mono wa?  
(How about plastic with the recycle mark?)
- A: ああ、それはプラスチックゴミの日に出したほうがいいですよ。  
Aa, sore wa purasuchikku gomi no hi ni dashita hō ga ii desu yo.  
(Ah, that you should put out on "plastic garbage" day.)
- 
- A: 日本語能力試験が近づいてきましたね。  
Nihongo noryoku shiken ga chikazuite kimashita ne.  
(The Japanese Language Proficiency Test is just around the corner.)
- B: ええ。Ee. (Yes.)
- A: 準備は順調ですか。  
Junbi wa junchō desu ka.  
(Is your preparation going well?)
- B: いいえ。Iie. (No.)  
勉強することが多すぎて、間に合わないかもしれません。  
Benkyō suru koto ga ōsugite, maniwawanai kamoshiremasen.  
(There is too much to study; I'm likely not to be in time for it.)
- A: あきらめないで! Bさんなら大丈夫ですよ。  
Akiramenaide! B-san nara daijōbu desu yo.  
(Don't give up! You can make it.)  
元気(を)出して下さい。  
Genki (o) dashite kudasai. (Cheer up!)
- B: はい、頑張ります。  
Hai, gambarimasu. (Thank you. I'll do my best.)
- A: 実力が出せるよう祈っています。  
Jitsuryoku ga daseruyō inotteimasu.  
(I'm praying for you to be able to show your real ability.)

- ★ ゴミを出す...to put trash out
- ★ 元気を出す...to cheer up
- ★ 実力を出す...to show real ability

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at ~Tel: 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori). e-mail: pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp

## Tangible National Cultural Properties (from the monthly City News 2009/8)

Five industrial heritage sites connected to Besshi Copper Mine have been submitted to the Director General of the Agency for Cultural Affairs to be registered as tangible national cultural properties by the President of the Council for Cultural Affairs, Suzuko Nishibara.

Yamane Stand, Ashitani-gawa Railroad Bridge, Old Besshi Mine railway tunnel, Old Yamane Refinery Chimney and Old Senju-tei Teahouse were submitted.

The Besshi Copper Mine has been closely related to the history of Niihama and played a major role in the industrial revolution in Japan and is known all over the world.

The enthusiasm of Niihama citizens to preserve and make use of Besshi's heritage has contributed greatly to the high evaluation of these sites as national assets.

Besshi Copper Mine has a long 283 year history with over 80 important industrial assets still remaining.

Niihama will continue to work for the preservation of its industrial heritage through the efforts of both local citizens and companies operating in the city.

