

What's New?

Niihama City

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

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



Brokeback Fish Extravaganza

By Alexa Benson

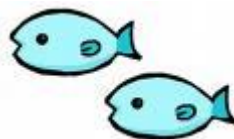
I consider myself a relatively well-traveled person, and through my experiences abroad, have picked up a list of “favorite things” to do in each country, such as: watch sunsets, compare soft-serve and coffee qualities, take pictures of the little walking men at traffic intersections, but (most of all) I love to attend festivals. Of all of the countries I have lived or traveled, I have to say that Japan has the largest variety of festivals and celebrations to attend.

I've been lucky enough to attend the Taiko festival in Niihama, New Years in Kyoto, the snow festival in Hokkaido, the naked man festival in Okayama, I've enjoyed picnics under the cherry blossoms, and what I appreciate most is the energy put into each festival. There is so much variety in each celebration. I especially love running into students at said festivals, and seeing them out of their shirt and tie...and usually drunk in the streets (a nice change from the taciturn pupils I've gotten to know and appreciate).

Most recently, I attended the Tateboshi-Ami festival at Kawarazu Bay in Saijo City. Being an avid Californian, I have three main rules to live by: Don't waste natural resources, animal rights should be respected, and one should fight for the right to have a well-researched opinion. In other words, I wasn't sure what to think of the idea of putting non-native fish and clams into a netted area, only to be trapped, killed, and eaten. I was actually thinking of not participating solely because of the possible long-term negative environmental repercussions of said activity...but like most things, a decent amount of peer-pressure changed my mind, and like everyone else, I was competing for fish with my teeny-tiny net.

Forty minutes went by with no catches made on my part what so ever. What started as a light-hearted, fun-in-the-sun activity quickly became a competition: Me against the world. Every time I heard an exclamation from a friend, I congratulated them with a smile and "WOW!! Great job!!!...You stupid..." (The latter said under my breath, of course). There are so many things that I am: obnoxious, unable to shame; a "good sport", however, I am not. My temperament only declined as the tide receded and everyone and their mother were catching fish after fish...except me, OF COURSE. A friend, Emily was just catching fish and letting them go (which was a very kind thing to do), but I found myself getting closer to her in hopes of catching her newly freed friends.

Eventually I found some friends who were experiencing the same luck as I was, and together we formed a little bitter circle set on catching something. Even that comfort was taken away when Katie caught a barracuda-like fish, shortly followed by Jac, then Ashley...and once again I was on my own, more bitter than ever. Luckily, (thanks to the receding tide, and exhausted fish) I caught three by the end of the day. I may have (at that point) been wading in two feet of water, but I won the secret competition I had against a seven year old boy...and, when it comes down to it: isn't that all that really matters?



Alexa Benson is from California. She's been residing in the Niihama area for the last 11 months working as an English teacher. She enjoys running through fields, and hates spiders.

JULY EVENTS

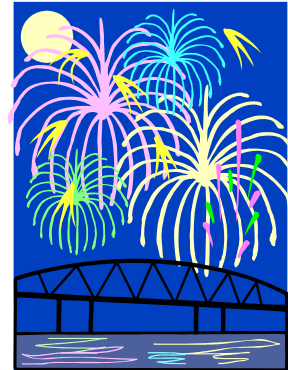
☆July 8~August 1 **Saturday Evening Market**
19:00~21:00 at Noborimichi

☆July 31 (Fri) **Niihama Firework Festival**
19:30~21:00 at Kokuryo-gawa River-bed
In case of rain, it is postponed to August 3 or 4 or 5

☆August 1 (Sat) **Tea Ceremony Class**
10:00~15:00 at Bunka-shinko-kaikan.
Adimission: ¥300 for a student ¥500 for an adult.
Application should be up to July 22 ☎36-0874

☆August 2 (Sun) **Niihama Summer Festival**
15:00~21:00 at Showa-dori.
You can enjoy Yosakoi bon-dance and two Taiko floats.

☆August 2 (Sun) **Bamboo Toys**
10:00~12:00 at Yamane-koen Park Torimu-hiroba
You can make bamboo toys by yourself such as bamboo stilts, a cup and ball and a water pistol and play with them. Admission free. First-come-first-served basis up to 30 persons. Application should be sent up to July 24. e-mail: hozen@city.niihama.ehime.jp
In case of rain, it is postponed to August 8(Sat).



Guest House Matsuyama



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HP: <http://www.sophia-club.net/guesthouse/>

(All rooms are booked until July 17 as of June 9)



Legal Q and A: Matsuyama Regional Legal Affairs Bureau

(from the Ehime Shimbun :2009.4.25)

How to register your marriage to your foreign partner.

What is required?

Q: I recently found that I am pregnant with my Slovakian boyfriend and we have decided to get married and register our marriage at City Hall. Will you tell me what is required to get married legally?

A: When you get married to a foreigner in Japan, your prospective spouse is required to hand in a “Freedom to Marry Document” certificated by his or her own country and an official form of identification. The “Freedom to Marry Document” is issued by their mother country to verify that according to the laws of his or her own country the person is legally allowed to get married.

(Please Note - Not all countries issue this certificate.)

The Slovak Republic does issue this certificate, so ask the Slovak Embassy or the Consulate in Japan about it.

If the “Freedom to Marry Document” shows their nationality, they don't have to present any additional form of identification. If it doesn't show their nationality, they can use a valid passport to show their nationality.

If either document is unavailable, the laws of the foreign country and the legal status of the applicant must be carefully examined until it is proven that there is nothing which prevents them from legally getting married. Once this has been confirmed your registration of marriage will be accepted.

Matsuyama Regional Legal Affairs Bureau ☎089-932-0888



English Library

Check out the English Library at Women’s Plaza.

Feel free to borrow a book, or drop off any books you are willing to lend.

MOVIES



TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

~July 11	ANGELS & DEMONS	English/Dubbed
~July 18	I COME WITH THE RAIN	English
~July 18	The Reader	English
June 13 ~	Terminator Salvation	English
June 20 ~	Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen	English
July 10 ~	Knowing	English
July 11 ~	Monsters vs. Aliens	Dubbed
July 15 ~	Harry Potter and the half-blood prince	English/dubbed
July 25 ~	Ice Age : Dawn of the Dinosaurs	English

Information Service

Tape (24hours) : 0897-35-3322

Internet: <http://toho.co.jp>



<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 A.Akiyama & Y. Amano.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

A : どうしたんですか。Dōshitan desu ka. (What's wrong?)
顔色が悪いですね。

Kaairo ga warui desu ne.

(You look pale.)

B : ええ。ちょっと吐き気がするんです。

Ee. Chotto hakike ga surundesu.

(Yes. I feel a little nauseous.)

A : 熱は? Netsu wa? (Do you have a fever?)

B : 熱はないようですが、頭がくらくらしてきました。

Netsu wa nai yō desu ga, atama ga kurakura shite kimashita.

(I don't seem to have a fever, but I feel dizzy.)

A : それは いけませんね。Sore wa ikemasen ne. (That's bad.)

涼しいところでちょっと横になつたらいかがですか。

Suzushi tokoro de chotto yoko ni nattara ikaga desu ka.

(Why don't you lie down for a bit in a cool place?)

B : すみません。じゃ、ちょっと休ませていただきます。

Sumimasen. Ja, chotto yasumasete itadakimasu.

(Thank you. OK, I'll take a rest for a while.)

A : かんぱーい! Kanpāi! (Cheers!)

B : 夏はやっぱり、冷たいビールですね。

Natsu wa yappari, tsumetai biru desu ne.

(In summer cold beer is best after all.)

ううっ! Uu. (Ow!)

A : どうしたんですか。Dōshitandesu ka. (What's the matter?)

B : 最近、冷たいものが歯にしみるんです。

Saikin, tsumetai mono ga ha ni shimirun desu.

(Recently cold things hurt my teeth.)

A : 早めに歯医者へ行ったほうがいいですよ。

Hayame ni haisha e itta hō ga ii desu yo.

(You had better go to the dentist soon.)

A : 毎日暑いですね。

Mainichi atsui desu ne. (It's hot every day.)

B : ええ、本当に。Ee, hontō ni. (Yeah, that's for sure.)

週末、海に行って来ましたよ。

Shūmatsu, umi ni itte kimashita yo.

(I went to the beach for the weekend.)

A : 泳いだんですか。Oyoidan desu ka. (Did you swim?)

B : ええ。Ee. (Yes.)

サーフィンもしました。

Safin mo shimashita. (I also surfed.)

白焼けで、背中がひりひりして痛いんです。

Hiyake de, senaka ga hirihiri shite itai desu.

(My back hurts because of sunburn.)

< 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