

What's New?

Niihama City

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11



Japan and I

Zakir Khan

Engaging in small talk here in Japan I'm often asked, "How many years have you lived here?" Knowing how they'll react, I laugh to myself and reply "oh, just last month", and their response is "no way!" or a stunned silence, either way they have the most surprised look on their face. They then ask how long I've studied Japanese and I'm not sure how to respond.

Japan has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember; I grew up watching anime such as Dragonball and Pokémon, playing games like Street Fighter folding origami in primary school. It was only a few years afterwards that I learnt where my favourite cartoons and games came from.

In my last year of secondary school I caught up with the English dubbed versions of Naruto and Bleach and, though the thought of having to read subtitles put me off somewhat, I decided to watch them in their original language. I needed to know what happened next! After I watched a few seasons I realised I ended up picking up a few words and phrases, so I thought "why not" and started learning Japanese. It's been about

eight years since then and I'm currently studying for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (日本語能力試験). Though I've taken some classes, most of what I've learnt has been from just enjoying my hobbies, watching anime and playing games.

Language has a very close relationship to culture, through studying Japanese language I ended up learning so much about Japanese culture; I was amazed to find the similarities between it and my own Bangladeshi culture. Although both countries are part of the Asian continent, I never expected the cultures to be so alike. To name a few examples; the profound respect for ones elders, how it's impolite to call one's elder siblings by name and the concept of “おもてなし” (omotenashi) - taking care of one's guests. Even finding the smallest similarities between two countries such as the same staple of rice, the love of tea or taking ones shoes off when entering the house piqued my interest further of other cultures and the unlikely commonalities they may share.


The aspects of Japanese culture I have been fortunate enough to experience have enriched my life profoundly and I thought working as a teacher in Japan would give me the opportunity to introduce Japanese students to other cultures in the same way I was introduced to theirs. I hope I can share with them my enjoyment for learning about different cultures and motivate them to pursue this knowledge outside of school hours.

My name is Zakir Khan; I was born and raised in London to Bengali parents. I'm currently teaching English at schools in Niihama alongside 10 other ALTs. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

Visit  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

[Clair:*Multilingual Living Information](http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html)

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

**Volunteer Help for The 27th Niihama Global Party
to be held next Feb.**

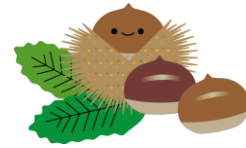
Volunteer help in preparation for the 27th Global Party is warmly welcomed.

First meeting: Dec. 11 (Sun)

Time: 10:00~12:00

Place: Niihama Women's Plaza

If you are interested, please contact the Niihama Local Community Section: 0897-65-1218



Information

2017 Sightseeing Calendar “The Four Seasons of Niihama” is on sale.

Price: 500 yen

Contact: Niihama Tourist Association: 0897-32-4028

English Library

Check out the English Library in the library at Women's Plaza. Feel free to borrow a book, or drop off any books you are willing to lend.

Hint for your Life

(from Ehime Shimbun September 27, 2016)

Creative Activity Relieves your Stress

You can relieve your stress greatly when you do your favorite creative activity such as painting pictures or making handicrafts with kneading clay. Whether your completed works are good or bad does not make any difference.

According to research carried out in the U.S.A., about 75% of people decreased the secretion of a hormone which responds to stress after doing a creative activity. It doesn't matter whether you are an expert or a beginner, but the younger you are, the greater the reduction. Creative activity is good for the body and mind. You can relieve your stress pleasantly by creating what you like.

Workers at Small Manufacturing Factories are Cool

(from Ehime Shimbun June 29, 2016)

When I go around Niihama by car, I find so many small factories, not only in the industrial zones along the coast but also in the residential areas, that I cannot help but feel that manufacturing is deeply rooted in our city. The factory workers are very particular and meticulous about small details such as a tiny screw and a pin scratch and they are proud of the way they deal with their own work, which supports Japan's industry. But labor shortages all over Japan including Niihama are a serious problem. Those who are involved in the industry are struggling with this problem.

In many parts of Japan, local governments are beginning to introduce attractive young men who are working in the factories. Niihama City Office also started to follow suit as well last June. They are showing photos on their website of young men working seriously in their workplaces. When I talked with a man in charge, he repeatedly said, "I don't try to attract prospective workers by showing good looking young workers." What counts most is to show how enthusiastic they are when they are making their own products.

Young female workers are playing active roles as well. When a young female worker at ironworks gives a briefing about her job at company information sessions, the number of girl students who join increases. A person in charge says, "They can make them understand better than men can." As the first step to support industry, it is necessary to get people interested in their companies by talking to them face to face. Without knowing the faces behind the products we use, there exist factory workers devoting themselves to their work. Showing these serious factory workers with technology makes the products more attractive.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

September 24 ~	Sully	2D English
October 7 ~	Jason Bourne	2D English
October 21 ~	Star Trek Beyond	2D English
October 28 ~	inferno	2D English / 2D Dubbed
October 29 ~	BRIDGET JONESS	2D English
November 11 ~	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	2D English
November 23 ~	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	3D Dubbed

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs.): 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

November Events

* Niihama Technical College School Festival

Date: Nov. 5th (Sat.) ~ 6th (Sun.)

Time: 10:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Place: Niihama Technical College

* The 39th Niihama Agricultural Festival

Date: Nov. 20th (Sun.)

Time: 9:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Place: Aeon Shopping Center

Agricultural Products Fair and Sal



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

email: kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

The editors for this month are H. Yano & Ms. Y. Okame.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「復」のつく言葉 No.2

A : 来月 東京へ 行くそうですね。Raigetsu tōkyō e iku sō desu ne.
(You are going to Tokyo next month, I hear.)

B : ええ、できるだけ 安く 行きたいんですが・・・。
Ee, dekiru dake yasuku ikitain desu ga...
(Yes, I want to go as inexpensively as possible.)

A : それなら、夜行バスで 往復すれば いいですよ。
Sore nara, yakō basu de ōfuku sureba ii desu yo.
(Then, you should go round trip by night bus.)
ちょっと 疲れるけど、若いから 大丈夫でしょう。
Chotto tsukareru kedo wakai kara daijōbu deshō.
(You'll get a little tired, but you're young so you'll be all right.)

A : どうしたんですか。 Dōshitan desu ka. (What's wrong?)

B : 銀行の ATMが 使えなく なって いるんです。
Ginkō no ATM ga tsukaenaku natte irun desu.
(The bank's ATM can't be used!)

A : 復旧の 見通しは? Fukkyū no mitōshi wa?
(When does it look like it will be available again?)

B : 全然 わからないそうです。 Zenzen wakaranai sō desu.
(They can't say at all.)

A : くまモン、可愛いね。 Kumamon, kawaii ne. (Kumamon, very cute!)

B : 可愛いだけじゃ なくて、熊本の 震災の 復興シンボルにも なってるよ。
Kawaii dake ja nakute, kumamoto no shinsai no fukkō shinboru ni mo
natteru yo.

(He is not just cute, he has become the symbol of recovery from the
earthquake disaster in Kumamoto.)

C : 1 か月に 260回も イベントに出て、頑張ってるんだって。
Ikkagetsu ni 260 kai mo ibento ni dete, ganbatterun datte.
(He attends events 260 times a month, doing his best!!)

B : くまモングッズも すごく 人気があるし。
Kumamon guzzu mo sugoku ninki ga aru shi.
(Kumamon goods are also very popular.)

A : イベントや ツイッターを 通じて、復興支援の 輪が 広がるといいね。
Ibento ya tsuittā o tsūjite, fukkōshien no wa ga hirogaru to ii ne.
(Through events and Twitter, I hope recovery support will spread.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp