

What's New?

Niihama City

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Change

Grace Liew

Everything in life and everything in the world changes. In fact, changes is the only constant in the world. Many people are afraid of changes, but change is a big part in life and we learn from our mistakes and change to be better every day.

The human beings are the best examples. Life is one big change after another. We are born as helpless babies, but as we grow older, we learn to stand, walk and eventually talk. We change, we grow, into much bigger, stronger and independent individuals. As we grow up, life changes for us. From being children we move into our teens and then become adults. We get a job, get married and start family. We move from a smaller house to a bigger house or even drive a better car. Then we wind down as we grow old. In the meantime, our babies grow up, and become strong leaders in the future. The cycle of change continues from birth to death for every individuals.

This cycle is not limited to just human beings. It applies to all living things. Mighty trees grow from seeds. The season changes and as the sun rises from the east, it also sets in the west. There is no stopping it. Always, the change is constant. That's the beauty of living. Every day is a different day. We learn new things, see new places and also meet new people. All of those changes become beautiful memories that everyone can keep dearly in their heart.

The entire history of mankind has been a story of change too. Primitive man moved from being a hunter and gatherer to a farmer. He discovered fire and invented the wheel. From being a nomad, a man set up homes and established villages. From villages to cities, from inventing writing and setting up schools, from painting on walls to developing culture, arts and music, was only a small step. Today, man is the most advanced species on earth.

This means that we are constantly inventing things and making our lives more comfortable. It also means that we are exploring the edges of the universe by sending spaceships. Surely one day, we will visit other planets

in the galaxy. This is definite to happen since man is constantly changing, constantly seeking.

Of course, not all change is for the better. Today, man is more sophisticated and more demanding. He can send a rocket to the moon. At the same time, he can make superior weapons that destroy entire populations. Creating war that kill many innocent people and destroy homes. He makes fertile farmlands out of swampy or arid lands. Then, he destroys the environment with his greed and stupidity. He builds luxurious homes and then destroys them when marriages fails and families come apart. As the ice in the north pole melts and the seawater level rises, the earth become even hotter by the day. The Amazon which is the biggest forest in the world is now being cut down and its size becomes smaller every day. Changes are very important in life, but as there are pros to everything there are also cons and consequences we have to deal with when we make a wrong decision on what we hope to change.


Nevertheless, change is a necessary part of life. All thing change. Nothing can stop evolving. However, for certain things such as quality of life, we can guide its path of change. For that we, man, women, children and societies, have to be the change we want to see. Most importantly, in everything we do, we have to put Mother Earth in mind, we have to protect our planet before it is too late. Be the better change, act now because even a small act could make a big difference in changing our future and also our beloved planet.

My name is Grace Liew. I am a student from Malaysia that is currently studying in Niihama. I came here to gain knowledge and experience so one day when I go back home, I can make some good changes in my country and also to experience different cultures of Japan that I can use to improve myself and my surroundings.

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>

Thousand Years of Nails

(from Ehime Shimbun June 8, 2017)

The sound of striking iron echoed in the tool-filled workshop. The flare fueled by the strong wind in the furnace burned violently. I remember that my hands were gripping the interview camera firmly when I saw the red-hot face of Mr. Shirataka.

Mr. Shirataka Yurinori, a blacksmith in Matsuyama, has recently passed away. He was famous for his “Thousand Years of Nails.” He worked hard to make nails which would connect the lumber of one thousand-year-old Japanese cypress and would never rot when he rebuilt Yakushi-ji Temple in Nara. He himself forged the nails one by one.

His encounter with the late Joichi Nishioka changed his life. Mr. Nishioka was a master carpenter specializing in temples and shrines, who perfectly completed the major restoration of Horyu-ji Temple in Nara. At that time, Mr. Shirataka scrutinized the old lumber of the Asuka era (592-710) and studied the traces left on the lumber and restored “Yari-ganna”, the tool was used in the old days. He kept talking with the ancient blacksmiths in his heart and intended to pass his thoughts to people in a thousand years.

In order to connect the life of “one thousand-year-old trees”, a special nail is needed. It should not be too strong and it must be resilient. An ideal nail should not penetrate into the knot forcefully and it must not break. It should curve a little and fit itself between the grains to connect two pieces of lumber. He said, “It is exactly like a human.”

He usually talked to us calmly, smiling with his white beard. Nails will never be seen when the building is completed. He said, “I am satisfied if people a thousand years from now value my work and admire the blacksmith who forged such wonderful nails when they repair the temples.”

Matsuyama-jo Castle, Ozu-jo Castle and castles in other regions are supported by his nails. The “Culture of wood” can exist only when humble people protect nature and love it. Now it is our turn to hand down his wish to the future.

A Hint for Your Life:

Shoes in your bedroom

(from Ehime Shimbun September 1, 2017)

You never know when you'll be hit by a disaster such as an earthquake, fire, or landslide. It may happen at night. If it happens while you're sleeping, you'll have to get up and evacuate in a hurry. During the evacuation, you may have to walk across broken glass and tableware on the floor of the house, or on the ground covered with debris outside. For such a case, you should keep a pair of shoes ready by your bedside. It is recommended that you use shoes without laces because they are easier to put on in the dark. If you wear ordinary sneakers, you might step on a nail or broken glass and injure the sole of your foot. So, you should put inner soles in your shoes to prevent this from happening.

**Volunteer Help for The 28th Niihama Global Party
to be held next Feb. 11th.**

Volunteer help in preparation for the 28th Global Party is warmly welcomed.
First meeting: Dec. 10 (Sun)
Time: 10 a.m. ~ 12 noon
Place: Niihama Women's Plaza

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

Rent-a-cycle bicycle

Place: Bicycle Parking Space at Niihama Station
Reception hours for rental: 7a.m. ~ 7p.m.
Hours for return: 7a.m. ~ 9p.m.
Fee: 500yen / day (Up to 10 days)
Contact: 32-0310

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

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

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

October 20 ~	Atomic Blonde (R15+)	2D English
October 21 ~	BARRY SEAL	2D English
October 27 ~	Blade Runner 2049	2D English
November 3 ~	THOR: RAGNAROK	2D English
November 11 ~	JIGSAW (R15+)	2D English
November 18 ~	Logan Lucky	2D English
November 23 ~	JUSTICELEAGUE	2D English

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

★Flea Market, Dance and Music

Date and Time: 11/ 25 (Sat.) 10a.m. ~ 3p.m.

Place: Around Kikohji Event Hiroba

★Japanese Drum Class for elementary school students and parents

Date & Time: 11/ 28 (Tues.) 7:30 ~ 9p.m.

Place: Bunka Center (Enter at the back of the hall.)

Application Deadline: Nov. 24th (Fri.)

Contact: 65-3158 Machizukuri Office

Note: Bring a towel and drink

★Juggling Competition

Date & Time: 12/3 (Sun.) 10a.m. ~ 3:30p.m.

Place: Akagane Museum

For inquiries: 65-1301

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな“ちょっと” No.1

A : そろそろ 出かけましょうか。Sorosoro dekakemashō ka.

(We should get going.)

B : ちょっと 待って! Cさんが まだ 来てないんです。

Chotto matte! C-san ga mada kitenain desu.

(Just a second! C-san is not here yet.)

D : あっ、来た 来た。

Aa - kita kita. (Ah, here she is.)

C : すみませーん、ちょっと 寝坊して しまって・・・。

Sumimasēn, chotto nebōshite shimatte・・・

(Sorry! I overslept a little bit....)

A : 今度の 土曜日、紅葉を 見に 行きませんか。

Kondo no doyōbi, kōyō o mini ikimasen ka.

(Next Saturday, how about going to see the fall colors?)

B : 土曜日は ちょっと・・・。日曜日なら 大丈夫なんですけど・・・。

Doyōbi wa chotto... Nichiyōbi nara daijōbu nan desu ga...

(Saturday is a little... If it were Sunday, it would be OK.)

A : 日曜日は ちょっと お天気が 悪くなる みたいで・・・。

Nichiyōbi wa chotto otenki ga waruku naru mitai de・・・

(Sunday, the weather looks a little bad, I'm afraid...)

B : そうなんですか。残念ですが、また 今度 誘って ください。

Sō nan desu ka. Zannen desu ga, mata kondo sasotte kudasai.

(Really? That's too bad. Please invite me again next time.)

楽しんで 来て くださいね。

Tanoshinde kite kudasai ne.

(Please have a good time.)

A : 試験勉強、順調に 進んで いますか。

Shiken benkyō, junchō ni susundeimasu ka.

(How are you coming along with your study for the examinations?)

B : この間の 模擬試験の 結果は、65%でした。

Kono aida no mogishiken no kekka wa, 65 pāsento deshita.

(My result on the recent practice test was 65%.)

A : もう ちょっとで、合格ラインに 届きそうですね。

Mō chotto de gōkaku rain ni todokisō desu ne.

(Only a little more and you'll reach the passing line!

頑張ってください。Ganbatte kudasai. (Hang in there!!)

< 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).

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