

What's New?

Niihama City

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The dozing of the Japanese in public works as a cloak of invisibility

(from Ehime Shimbun September 6)

Japanese people often doze on trains or in meetings, even in the Diet.

This is a peculiar phenomenon seen in Japan that is never seen in Europe or North America, says Brigitte Steger, associate professor of cultural anthropology at the institute of east Asian Studies at Cambridge.

She has given a lecture on sleep, which she has been studying for about twenty years.

She said "In Europe, I have never seen any persons who dozes in a sitting position on the train, and much less a person who dozes leaning against the person sitting next to them. This shows one aspect: that people can doze feeling at ease as security level is high in Japan.

But everything about dozing cannot be explained by safety alone when we try to analyze the reason they can doze."

"It is because it is socially allowed." She said, emphasizing the necessity of considering a social rule and cultural meaning.

"On trains where there are no acquaintances sat all, dozing is 'a social magic cloak' which can erase the existence of human beings. This is like being intoxicated. In many cases, when someone is under the influence of alcohol, usually unacceptable behavior can 'sometimes' be acceptable."

"Once their eyes close and they doze off, the person does not socially exist anymore. This recognition enables people to avoid conflict with the surrounding passengers."

She wrote a book entitled "Japanese dozing on the train" known to many people in the world, has some social significance." It was published by Hankyu Communications
For ¥1836.

November Events

Nov.9 (Sun.) Fire Fighting Fair

Time: 11:00 ~ 15:30

Place: Aeon Shopping Center

Emergency supplies, fire-fighting vehicles, etc., on display

Fire hose use experience

Nov. 22 (Sat.) Trumpet and Piano Concert

Time: 14:00~

Place: Middle Hall (chu-horu) next to the Bunka Center

Admission Fee: 500 yen for adults, 300 yen for high school students and younger

Nov. 23 (Sun.) Morning Market

Time: 10:00 ~ 16:00

Place: Around Dome Niihama and Noborimich Sunroad Arcade

Fruits and vegetables for sale

Volunteer Help for The 24th Niihama Global Party to be held next Feb.

Volunteer help in preparation for the 25th Global Party is warmly welcomed.

First meeting; Dec. 7 (Sun)

Time: 10:00~12:00

Place: Niihama Women's Plaza

If you are interested, please contact one of the people below.

Enquiry: Ms. Okame 0897-34-8914
yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp

Mr. Nakamura 080-3403-3351
qq4k8q39k@hyper.ocn.ne.jp

Legal Affairs Q & A

SOS Mini Letter

(from Ehime Shimbun August 25)

Q: My child who is in first grade brought home from school a flyer written "SOS Mini Letter".

What is this?

A: "SOS Mini Letter" is the activity using a letter to protect the right of children of elementary and junior high school. This is an all-in-one letter with an envelope and a letter paper.

If children have any problems, they can write them in letters and send.

They need not put stamps on letters.

The letters will reach the Matsuyama District Legal Affairs Bureau.

Civil Right commissioners or the staff members of the office will answer them.

Problems concerning children, such as bullying, physical punishment, child abuse, and others are committed in places where it is difficult to observe them.

And in most cases, children hesitate to consult grow-ups around them.

So a considerable number of the cases has not come to the surface until they resulted in critical and serious situations.

In order to solve the problems of the rights of a child, it is essential to consult someone reliable about them rather than worrying alone.

Therefore the Legal Affairs Bureau delivers "SOS Mini Letters" to the students at elementary and junior high schools and grasps what they are worried about and tries to solve those human rights problems in cooperation with schools and school affiliated institutions.

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

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

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

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

“Good- Tasting Sake Taken with a Wineglass”

(from Ehime Shimbun May 28)

Yamatan Masamune won the Grand Gold Medal two years in a row. 227 sake breweries submitted 492 varieties of sake to this competition.

Yamatan Masamune, the brand name of *ginjoshu of Yagi-Shuzo-bu Co. Ltd in Imabari, has won the Grand Gold Medal in the main category of “Good-tasting Sake taken with a wineglass Award”.

Eight other brands of sake have won the medal, too.

This brand and two others will be served to first-class passengers of international air flights on ANA for a limited period from the coming July.

Yamatan Masamune has a fruity, gorgeous, light and smooth taste. You can enjoy more fragrance if you taste it in a wineglass. And it is well suited to Western food, such as pasta and cheese. It costs ¥1404 for 720 ml.

*Ginjoshu is a type of sake brewed at low temperature from 60% white rice.

Information

Nov. 28 (Fri.) at 11:00

Neighborhood associations and community centers will carry out simultaneous nationwide test broadcast of the emergency warning system.

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

The content: This is a test from Niihama City Office.

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.

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas
for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp
kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp
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*The editors for this month are K. Kawabata & Y. Okame

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

September 19 ~	DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES	2D English
October 24 ~	The Legend of Hercules	2D English / 3D Dubbed
October 31 ~	Dracula Untold	2D English
November 1 ~	THE EXPENDABLES 3	2D English
November 1 ~	La Belle et la Bete	2D French
November 7 ~	Sabotage R15+	2D English · Dubbed
November 7 ~ 13	Life is beautiful	2D Italian
November 14 ~ 20	Wheels On the Meals	2D Chinese
November 22 ~	Interstellar	2D English
November 28 ~	FURY	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.

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp
kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp
sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

Won't you join our "Get Together" as a speaker?

SGG regularly has "Get Together" once a month. It is held to deepen the mutual understanding among people with different cultures. Around 15 people take part in it and talk with the guest speaker.

Usually it is held:

Place: Women's Plaza

Time: 10:30—12:00, the 3rd Sunday of the month

You can speak about anything you want in English or in Japanese for about an hour and then everyone will chat over tea. SGG can pay you some thank-you money for your talk.

If you need a projector, we can provide one.

If you are interested, please contact Ms. Okada or Ms. Okame, well in advance.
e-mail: e3ko.mog.okada@kne.biglobe.ne.jp
yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“旬のもの”

A : 最近、ダイエット番組が多いですね。

Saikin daietto bangumi ga ōi desu ne.

(Recently there are many diet programs on TV.)

B : ええ、“食欲の秋”ですから。Ee, “shokuyoku no aki” desu kara.

(Yes, it's because “Fall is the best season for eating.”)

C : 新米が出ると、つい食べ過ぎてしまいますね。

Shinmai ga deru to, tsui tabesugite shimaimasu ne.

(Newly harvested rice comes, and we tend to eat too much.)

B : “旬のもの” が次々と出てくるし・・・。

“Shun no mono” ga tsugitsugi to detekuru shi...

(“Shun no mono” (‘Shun’ things) come out one after another...)

A : “旬” って何ですか。“Shun” tte nan desu ka.

(What is “shun?”)

B : 野菜や果物、魚など、たくさんとれる時期の事です。

Yasai ya kudamono, sakana nado, takusan toreru jiki no koto desu.

(It's the season when a lot of a vegetable, a fruit, a kind of fish, etc., can be harvested.)

C : “旬” になると、安くなるし、とても美味しいんですよ。

“Shun” ni naru to, yasuku naru shi, totemo oishin desu yo.

(When it's ‘shun,’ they become inexpensive and are very delicious!)

A : へえ、今はどんなものが“旬”ですか。

Hē, ima wa donna mono ga ‘shun’ desu ka.

(Really! What things are in their ‘shun’ season now?)

B : そうですねえ、果物なら柿やみかん、リンゴですね。

Sō desu nē, kudamono nara kaki ya mikan, ringo desu ne.

(Well, for fruit, it's persimmons, mandarin oranges, and apples.)

C : 魚介類なら、サンマ。これからカキも美味しくなりますよ。

Gyokairui nara sanma. Korekara kaki mo oishiku narimasu yo.

(In seafood, it's pike. Soon oysters will be getting tasty.)

B : 野菜なら、大根や白菜、ホウレンソウかなあ。

Yasai nara, daikon ya hakusai, hōrenso ka nā.

(As for vegetables, daikon, Chinese cabbage, and spinach, I think.)

A : なるほど。それでおでんや鍋(料理)が美味しいんですね。

Naruhodo. Sore de oden ya nabe (ryōri) ga oishin desu ne.

(I see. That's why oden and pot dishes are so delicious.)

C : 何だか急にコンビニのおでんが食べたくなってきました。

Nandaka kyū ni konbini no oden ga tabetaku natte kimashita.

(For some reason, I suddenly feel like eating convenience store oden.)

< 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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