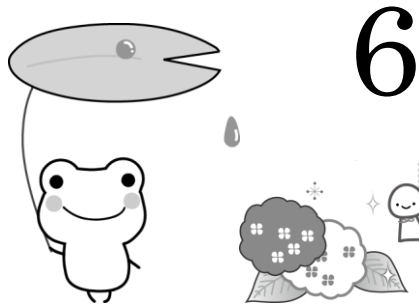


What's New?

Niihama City

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Summon up courage and take your first step

By Cheng Pengcheng

It would be exciting and daunting for anyone to leave their familiar hometown and move to an unfamiliar country. In spite of the difference in region, language, culture and custom, we can experience some novel and interesting things and make some new enthusiastic friends who have different cultures and customs. At the same time, it is also hard, stressful and lonely, just because of the language and culture shock.

I came to Niihama one year ago and started living my new life in Japan. It has been novel, interesting, moving, confused, nervous and lonely... How rich and colorful a year was!

This winter, it snowed rarely and the mountains were covered with snow. My husband took me to the Saijo Ishizuchi ski resort. Believe me, that was my first time to ski. I'm particularly fond of snow, but because of my cowardice, I have never tried to ski before. Finally, with the encouragement of husband and friends, I took courage and tried to ski for the first time.

I was so happy to see the snowy mountain and very much excited all the way. Until putting on a ski suit and standing on the beginner ski runway. Then I realized that I came to ski. I became nervous when I began the first try, after my husband's simple explanation about ski tricks. Standing on the smooth snow with clumsy ski boots, I couldn't control my body. Suddenly, I began to move uncontrolled along the slope and the speed became faster and faster. I was so afraid and cried "Help!... Help!... I'm going to die!" In the end, I fell on the snow heavily. Ha, what a breathtaking moment that was! Fortunately, people around

me didn't understand what I was yelling (you know, I was speaking Chinese), otherwise it would have been an embarrassing moment.

I have to admit that I was coward and had really wanted to give up. But, my husband and friends encouraged me. "If you give up now, you will never enjoy the pleasure of skiing. It's not as difficult as you think. Take courage!" Then I continued to practice. Many times I fell down and stood up. Finally, I could stand and not fall down again, although I still couldn't control the direction and speed well. Countless falls made my body painful for several days. But I was so grateful that I could take courage and took my first step for skiing. It made me enjoy the real fun of skiing. Now, I think, I have already come to like skiing.

It makes me remember a story named "How a Colt Crossed the River", which I learned in my primary school.

One day, a colt wanted to go to the opposite side of the river. But he worried about whether he could cross the river or not. Then, a cow told him "The river is not deep, it's just up to your knees." But a little squirrel told him "Don't cross it, you will be drowned. Yesterday one of my friends was drowned in this river." The brave colt not knowing how to cross, finally decided to try himself. He tried his best and crossed the river carefully. After crossing the river, the brave colt saw beautiful scenery and realized that the river was neither as shallow as the cow said nor as deep as the squirrel told him.

So, the moral is you never know what you can do until you try. So it is in our life, isn't it?

Leaving our hometown and moving to Japan, there are varieties of unknown things waiting for us. Those unknown experiences will make our life become more interesting just by trying over and over again. It will actually open our broader field of vision.

Don't worry about cultural or language differences. As long as we can summon our courage and dare to take our first step, I believe that we will get more unexpected surprises in the journey of life.

Let's enjoy the rich and colorful exotic life in beautiful Japan!



Ms. Cheng comes from China. She came to Niihama one year ago. She is working as the International Advisor in the Niihama City Office. She loves travel, movies, and studying Chinese cuisine. Now she is enjoying life in Niihama with her husband.

June Events

Niihama City Pool

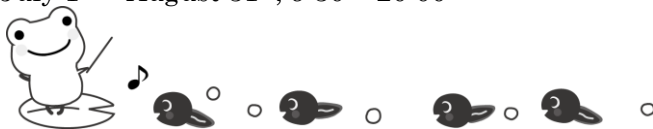
Open from June 20th to August 31st

Fee: 60 yen/2 hrs for adults, 10 yen /2 hrs for children

Time; June 20th to June 30th, 12:30 -17:30 except Sunday

Sunday, 9:30 – 17:30

July 1st – August 31st, 9:30 – 20:00



Saturday Evening Market

Every Saturday until July 19th, 18:00 – 21:00 at Kikoji Shopping Arcade.

Monthly Special Sunday Market (100 yen Sun-sun Market)

Sunday, June 22, 9:00 – 15:00 at Noborimichi Sun Road



Good Old Days of Besshi Copper Mine Shown with CG (from Ehime Shimbun April 1)

Niihama City Office has made a 3D CG, “Tonaru, the town in the sky” to promote the history of Niihama. Tonaru is a tourist spot known as the Machu Picchu of the Orient. The video depicts the way the copper ore was sorted and the everyday life of the people in those days. You can see this presentation at the Tonaru History Museum. Tonaru stands 750m above sea level and was the head office for mining copper from 1916 to 1930 and as many as 3800 people lived there at the operation’s peak time. Nothing remains now except the copper ore storage facilities and the administration office. The CG was made to show tourists how the people once lived.

Scenes of the Tonaru school, amusement facilities and workplaces have been reproduced. Seeing these images and photos on the screen allows you to look back on the history of Tonaru. Interviews with former residents are also shown. The video takes 16 minutes and 30 seconds and is narrated by Mizuki Nana, a popular singer and dubber. She is entrusted to advertise Niihama,

Mr. Hiroshi Ito was born in Tonaru and worked for the Sumitomo Metal and Mining Company until 1968 when the mining was closed. He has this to say, “I was moved very much to remember the good old days. The video reproduces life in those days. I am sure that tourists can easily understand what kind of life we had.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

March 13 ~ FROZEN 2D/3D Dubbed
April 25 ~ The Amazing Spider-Man 2D English/3D Dubbed
May 16 ~ Thomas & friends: King of the Railway 2D Dubbed
May 24 ~ June 6 NY LIVE! 2D English
May 30 ~ X-Men: Days of Future Past 2D English / 3D Dubbed
May 30 ~ June 5 Police Story :Hong Kong Police Cantonese
June 6 ~ Police Story 2013 Cantonese
June 7 ~ Pompeii 2D/3D English
June 13 ~ Noah 2D English
June 13 ~ 19 Rain man 2D English
June 21 ~ NY ANNIVERSARY LIVE!
Billy Joel at Shea Stadium English
June 28 ~ TRANSCENDANCE English/Dubbed

Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.



A Bicycle Train Has Started Operations

(from Ehime Shimbun April 20)

A train for cyclists, the “Shimanto-go”, which allows cyclists to travel with their bikes, has been operating between Uwajima and Kubokawa on the JR Yodo Line since April 19, 2014.

On April 19, 14 cyclists, who were planning to enjoy cycling along the Shimanto River, departed Uwajima Station with their bikes. After a ceremony at JR Uwajima Station, the first train from cyclists left the station at 9:39 a.m.

Mr. Hiroki Akamatsu from Oura in Uwajima, a beginner cyclist, said “I am thinking of coming back to Uwajima from Kubokawa by bike.

I want to admire the beauty of the scenery, relax and enjoy my holidays.” He got his rental bike on the train. “Shimanto-go” is a train of two carriages; one is for cyclists only and the other is the “Kaiyodo Hobby Train.

This service is provided once a day on Sundays, Saturdays and national holidays from April 19 to May 25 (spring season), and from September 20 to November 3 (autumn season)

The JR Yosan Line also started a bicycle train service between Matsuyama and Imabari on April 19.



Japanese Speech Contest

Date: Sunday, July 13th Time: 13:30 – 16:00

Place: *Sogo Fukushi* Center (Fureai Plaza) 2F

Please come and enjoy listening to the contest. The speakers are all non-Japanese living in and around Niihama and learning Japanese. They will give speeches about their experiences, opinions and thoughts,



Summer Japanese Language Intensive Course In Niihama City

Dat : August 18th (Mon) – August 29th (Fri)

Except Saturday and Sunday

Place: to be announced, tentatively in Fureai Plaza

Class Composition: Beginner Level I: 2 hrs in morning
2 hrs in afternoon

Beginner Level II: 2 hrs in morning

Lesson fees: Level I class: 1000 yen

Level II class: 500 yen

For more details, please contact Niihama Nihongo no Kai (Japanese Language Teaching Group) at:

Email: global28@shikoku.ne.jp

Phone: 090-5275-9659(Ms. Doi)

0897-34-3025(English line, Ms. Miki)

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

***Information on living in Niihama**

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

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

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

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, and ideas for monthly articles.
email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

*The editors for this month are A. Akiyama and M. Miki.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“空いている”

A : Sさんがスピーチコンテストに出るのを知っていますか。

S-san ga supīchi kontesuto ni deru no o shitte imasu ka.

(Do you know Ms.S is going to enter the speech contest?)

B : えー、本当ですか。すごいですね。応援に行かないと…。

Ee, honto desu ka. Sugoi desu ne. Ōen ni ikanai to…
(Really? Great!! We should go to cheer her on.)

C : いつですか。Itsu desu ka.

(When is it?)

A : 確か7月13日だったと思いますが、行けそうですか。

Tashika shichi gatsu jūsan nichi datta to omoimasu ga, ikesō desu ka?

(I think it's July 13. Do you think you can go?)

B : 私は、今のところ空いています。

Watashi wa ima no tokoro aiteimasu.

(As far as I know now, I'm free.)

C : 私は、午前中は、無理ですが、午後は空いています。

Watashi wa, gozenchū wa muri desu ga, gogo wa aiteimasu.

(I can't make it in the morning, but I'm OK in the afternoon.)

A : ちょうどよかったですね。始まるのは、1時半からだから。

Chōdo yokatta desu ne. Hajimaru no wa ichijihan kara dakara.

(That's perfect. It starts at half past one.)

(コンテスト会場で) (Kontesuto kaijō de) (At the contest location)

A : すごく込んでいますね。座れないかも…。

Sugoku konde imasu ne. Suwarenai kamo…

(It's very crowded. We may not be able to sit down…)

B : あそこは1つしか空いていないし…。

Asoko wa hitotsu shika aiteinaishi…

(There's only one seat vacant – over there…)

C : 前まえの 方ほうの 席せきが 3つ 空あいている ようですよ。

Mae no hō no seki ga mittsu aite iru yō desu yo.

(There seem to be three vacant seats up front.)

A : じゃ、あそこすわに 座すわりましょうか。

Ja, asoko ni suwarimashō ka.

(Then, let's sit over 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).

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