

What's New?

Niihama City

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My happy ways to Japan

Hans Dummermas (Switzerland)

I grew up with two sisters and a brother in a small village in the German part of Switzerland. My parents ran a small bakery and that was the reason why I felt obliged to learn the profession as a baker/pastry-cook.

In 1957, at the age of 22, I left my parents' home and went to Geneva (in the French part of Switzerland) in order to change my profession and to learn French. I found a job in a department store where I was employed as an office clerk for import/export business. Two years later I was lucky enough to find a job, with a work permit as a pastry-cook in a large confectioner's shop in London. The English language was important for my future.

After one year London, I was lucky to get a job on a large passenger liner. The SS ORONSAY was one of 12 P&O Orient Lines vessels weighing 28'000 tons and taking 1'700 passengers with 680 crew members. Besides cruises to most Mediterranean ports, all ships were always on regular 6 months trips around the world (about 40 ports/out via Suez, back via the Panama Canal). Therefore, over 3 years I arrived several times via Hong Kong in Kobe and Yokohama before going on to Honolulu and Vancouver etc. I was responsible for 350 first class passengers, to serve them Swiss pastries at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. As we always stayed overnight, I could also go ashore. Even in some afternoon, if the passengers didn't come back for tea. Compared with today, information in English was very rare and conversation with people was almost impossible.

After several years back in Switzerland I changed from bank business (Letter of Credits Department) to a Swiss/Japanese Import/Export company which was established in Japan in the year 1865. It has survived the earthquakes of 1923 and 2011 and is even today, with 300 employees (including 3 Swiss) the oldest foreign company in Japan. Therefore, with my daily contact with several Far East countries I got also closer to Japan and its people.

1987 was again a year of big change for me! After a divorce and one year working as an assistant manager in a new hotel in the South of Thailand, I was back again in Tokyo. My first trip went via Aomori to Sapporo and back via

Noboribetsu to Tokyo. It was a good experience including sleeping on futons in Ryokans.

1997 was the start of a new life for me, which means that at the age of 62 I became a pensioner.

In 2001, after a long journey to Alaska and a visit to my sister in Seattle I started my 2nd trip in Moscow via the Trans Siberian Railway through Irkutsk, Ulan Bator to Peking and by ship from Shanghai to Osaka. As in September the temperature in Kyushu is supportable, I started my journey in Nagasaki. With my travel book "Lonely Planet" it was easy to get around. I went on to Miyazaki by bus and then via train through Hiroshima, Shirahama (beach town in southern Kansai), Takayama (central Honshu) to Toyko. As a most fascinating city, Tokyo is always worth a stay even if only for one week.

Several years passed before I went on my 3rd trip to Japan via Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle and Honolulu to Tokyo. As my final destination I chose Sapporo again, where I arrived by train via Morioka (Tohoku) and Hakodate (Gateway to Hokkaido).

The northern most of Japan's main islands has the same climate as Switzerland and is with its sweeping vistas and amazing wildlife a special attraction for me. My journey went back to Tokyo via Sendai and Niigata.

In September 2011 I started my 2 month journey via Kyoto, Nara to Osaka. The sightseeing spots in Kyoto and Nara are amazing, whereas Osaka seems to be the place to meet people from all over the world. As I have never been on the island of Shikoku, I booked hotels for 4 destinations for 2 weeks, including the corresponding train tickets.

I started with Takamatsu, the convenient starting point for exploring Shikoku Island. Niihama was the 2nd city. With Toshiko and Mayumi as guides I visited the Besshi copper mine memorial museum, the mine railway and several temples. Matsuyama, the capital of Ehime Prefecture was also very interesting. Especially, it was worth to walk up the hill to the old castle. According to a prospect, Uwajima is the castle town, where the mountains meet the sea. I also remember the Saturday market in the shopping mall, where all kinds of district food specialties were presented.

Unfortunately, there was no time to do a pilgrimage on Shikoku. Via Osaka my journey went on by plane to Sapporo and finished 3 weeks later on November 2, 2011, when I had a flight back to Switzerland.

Many people believe that Japan is one of the world's most expensive countries. In fact, it's cheaper to travel in Japan than in much of North America, Western Europe and parts of Oceania.

Summer Japanese Language Intensive Course in Niihama-city

1. Application guidelines

- ◇ Eligibility : Residents in Ehime Prefecture, whose mother tongue is NOT Japanese. Those who are over the age of 16.
- ◇ Notes : The course is designed for the beginners
Please refrain from bringing children into the classroom
- ◇ Date : August 20th (Mon) ~ August 31st (Fri) , except Sunday and Saturday.
- ◇ Venue : Niihama Community Welfare Center (*Fureai Plaza*)
Address : 2-60 Takagi-cho, Niihama-city
- ◇ Lesson fees : Class I : 1000yen
- ◇ Class composition : Beginner level I class
10:00 ~ 12:00 , 13:30 ~ 15:30
4 hr. lessons/day including break

2. How to apply

The application form is available on the EPIC website at <http://www.epic.or.jp/epic/dl.html>

- ◇ Due date : July 31st, Friday.
- ◇ Where to submit : "Niihama Nihongo no Kai" (Japanese language teaching group)
E-mail / global28@shikoku.ne.jp
TEL / 090-5275-9659(Ms.Doi),
0897-34-3025(English line, Ms. Miki)
FAX / 0897-37-6652 (Ms. Nagano)
Office address : c/o Ms. Michiko Doi, 3-7-10
Kitauchi-cho, Niihama-city 〒792-0842

3. Information for the new JETs.

(1) If you wish to attend the course, fill out the application form and submit it to "Niihama Nihongo no Kai". The registration due date is August 8th, Wednesday.



E-mail / global28@shikoku.ne.jp
TEL / 090-5275-9659 (Ms. Doi),
0897-34-1058(English line, Ms. Miki)
FAX / 0897-65-1009 (NiihamaVolunteer-center)

Japanese Speech Contest

Date & Time : July 8(Sun.)13:30-16:00

Location: Sougou Fukushi Center (Fureai Plaza)2F

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

July Events

★July 1(Sun.) – August 31(Fri.)

Swimming at “Marine park”

Location : Marine Park Niihama

Phone : 46-4100

-The Marine Park Beach is officially open for two months. If you want to rent a tent, barbecue grill or goods for camping, please contact the number above.

★July 20(Fri.) - August 26(Sun.)

9:30-17:30 Ghibli Animator’s Picture Exhibition

Location : Niihama Kyodo Museum

Admission fee : ¥500

¥400 (advance ticket)

Free Admission : junior high school students and under

Phone : 33-1030

-Over 200 pictures drawn by a Ghibli animator, Kondo Katsuya from Niihama, including drawings from “Kiki’s Delivery Service”and "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea" will be on display.

★July 22(Sun.) Shikoku Island League Baseball Game

14:00-17:00 Location : Niihama Municipal Stadium

Fee : ¥1000(senior high school students and over)

¥500(junior high school students and under)

¥800/400 (advance ticket)

Phone : 089-914-8102(Ehime Kenmin Kyudan)

-The Ehime Mandarin Pirates will play against the Kagawa Olive Guyners. The stadium will be open from 13:00.

★July 27(Fri.) Niihama Fireworks Festival

19:30-21:00 Location : Kokuryo-gawa riverbed.

Free admission.

-In case of rain, it will be postponed to July 30, 31 or August 1.

★August 3(Fri.) – 5(Sun.)

Niihama Summer Festival

Location : Domu Niihama, Showa Dori and

Nobori-michi shopping arcade

Phone : 37-6677/niihama@n-akindo.com

-Visitors will be able to enjoy an oldie music show, catching fish game, seeing 10 taiko-dai and foods available at various food stands, and have a chance to purchase fresh local products.

If you want a detailed schedule of the festival, please contact the number or e-mail address above.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

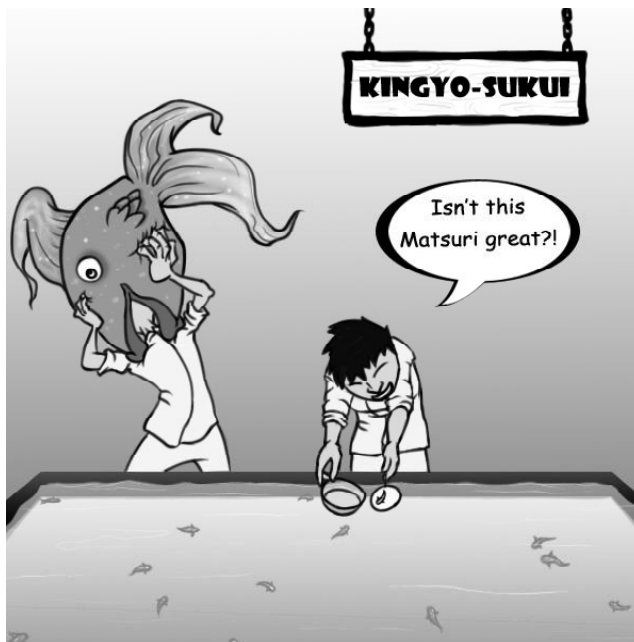
May 25 ~	MEN IN BLACK III	English/Dubbed
June 8 ~	WE BOUGHT A ZOO	English
June 15 ~	SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN	English/Dubbed
June 30 ~	THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN	English/Dubbed
July 7 ~	MAN ON A LEDGE	English
July 21 ~	BRAVE	Dubbed
July 28 ~	The Dark Knight Rises	English

Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

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

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*The editors for this month are XXXX & XXXX

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな“悪い”その1

A : 毎日 天気が 悪くて、いやに なりますね。

Mainichi tenki ga warukute iya ni narimasu ne.

(The weather is bad every day, so it is getting us down, isn't it?)

B : ええ、何となく 体の 調子も 悪くなりそうです。

Ee, nantonaku karada no choshi mo waruku narisō desu.

(Yeah, somehow I feel like I'm physically in bad shape too.)

A : 早く 梅雨が 明けると いいですね。

Hayaku tsuyu ga akeru to ii desu ne.

(I hope the rainy season will be over soon.)

B : どうしたんですか。

Doshitan desu ka.

(What's wrong?)

顔色が 悪いですよ。

Kaairo ga warui desu yo.

(You look pale.)

A : Cさんに キツイこと 言われたんです。

C-san ni kitsui koto iwaretan desu.

(C said something critical of me.)

B : そうですか。Cさんは、口が 悪いけど、とても 優しい人ですよ。

Sō desu ka. (Is that so?)

C-san wa, kuchi ga warui kedo, totemo yasashi hito desu yo.

(C has a sharp tongue, but is a very kind person at heart.)

A : そうなんですか。ちっとも しりませんでした。

Sō nan desu ka. Chitto mo shirimasen deshita.

(Is that so? I didn't know at all.)

A : Cさんと Dさん、仲が 悪いんですか。

C-san to D-san, naka ga waruin desu ka.

(C and D don't get along with each other, do they?)

B : どうして?

Doshite? (Why?)

A : 二人が 話しているのを 一度も 見たことが ないんです。

Futari ga hanashiteiru no o ichido mo mita koto ga nain desu.

(I've never seen them talking to each other even once.)

B : そう いえば、そう ですね。

Sō ieba sō desu ne.

(Come to think of it, that's true.)

< 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