

What's New?

Niihama City

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150th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Switzerland

Hans Dummermuth

150 years before February 6, 2014 on February 6, 1864 Japan and Switzerland signed a treaty of friendship and trade-agreement. At the same time they also took up diplomatic relations. Before that time only powerful nations like France and Russia had relations with Japan. Since then the friendly and diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland have constantly developed and deepened. Further agreements like free commerce and social security followed. They all contribute to stronger and mutual economic relations.

The Japanese exports to Switzerland consist first of all with cars, precious metals, pharmaceutical products and machines. Switzerland in turn export watches, pharmaceutical, medical and chemical products to Japan.

A perfect example for the close relationship between both countries is the number of Japanese citizens living in Switzerland. At the present there are about 9.300 Japanese people in Switzerland and the wonderful Swiss country side shown in the animation film "Heidi-Girl of the Alps" from Isao Takahata is very popular in Japan. Every year there are about 300.000 Japanese tourists who visit Switzerland.

Japan also is provided with a beautiful landscape and unique culture. In the present age about 15.000 Swiss visitors visit Japan each year.

Since February 6, 2014 there were all over Switzerland different festivities and events like Japanese movies, Japanese and Swiss cooking courses, Kabuki Dance

and Joruri Music. Before the closing of these different activities from their society, there was the Bunraku theatre, which came with 35 people for the first time to Switzerland. Creating this classical puppet theatre was enormous. Seven workmen prepared parts of the scenery already in Japan.
This is the end of part one! Part two follows within about one hour.

The narrator spoke in the old Japanese language and during the puppet-show the stories were blended in English and German language above the stage. They showed the following three plays with different sceneries:

- Tsubosaka kannon reigenki (Sawaichi uchi yoriyama no dan)
- Honcho nijushiko (Okuniwa kitsunebi no dan)
- Hidakagawa iriai zakura (Watahiba no dan)

In June, 2014 due to the festivals Prince Naruhito also visited Switzerland.

Switzerland compared to Japan is a small country with a population of about eight million people. It consists of 24 districts with four languages, German, French, Italian and Romanic (a mountain part of Switzerland). As a neutral country, Switzerland has survived the two world wars without damage, even though Switzerland is surrounded by Germany, France, Italy and Austria.

Hans Dummermas lives in Switzerland. He has been to Japan many times. He visited Niihama in 2012. At that time SGG members showed him around the city and he had a good time. He promised to come again and he came in May, 2014.

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>

December Events

- ☆12/7 (Sun): **Study Class of the History of Besshi Copper Mine** at Minetopia Besshi 13:30-15:00 by Takahiro Sogabe
Admission free. No reservation needed. For further information TEL: 090-9450-0753
- ☆12/13 (Sat): **Bird Watching** 9:00-11:00 at Ikeda-ike Koen Park. Admission free. Please gather at Ikeda-ike parking lot. Wear clothes suitable for outdoor activity. Bring water bottle, towel, writing materials and binoculars if you have.
To apply: Call Niihama City Office TEL: 0897-65-1512
- ☆ 12/20 (Sat) ~ 12/23 (Tues) **Xmas Events at Ehime Science Museum:** Night Museum, making Xmas wreaths and Jazz Concert in the Planetarium. Please check the website for further information.
- ☆12/1 (Mon)~1/12 (Mon) **Minetopia Besshi** illuminated with 15,000 bulbs, 17:00-22:00. The old hydroelectric power plant will be lighted up. Admission free.

City Gym Exercise Class

If you need some exercise for health, how about dropping in at the city gym, which offers as many as 13 kinds of classes for an hour every day from around 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. except Sundays and national holidays \200/class. No reservation needed. Check the City News Letter, "Shisei Dayori", for details.

More Low-priced Inns Opening in Dogo, Matsuyama

(from Ehime Shimbun, September)

Several Backpacker hostels where people can stay in low-cost accommodation have recently opened in Matsuyama City. The Backpacker hostels located in Dogo, one of the leading tourist districts in Ehime, have shared bedrooms, which allow visitors to enjoy friendship and exchange information among themselves easily. And as a result they are attracting increasing numbers of new visitors especially younger travelers.

In 2008, Mr. Atsushi Nishiguchi opened "Fujiya" for business, using an old private house at 1-chome Dogo-cho. It costs two thousand yen per night to stay in a dormitory-style shared room with bunk beds set in a row. He says, "I wanted to create a comfortable inn where I could also relax". By arranging items like manga and CDs in the dining area he has created an original atmosphere. Visitors and their friends can sit around a table in the evening and enjoy exciting conversations about their travels and life stories with other young people who they have never met before.

In 2009, Matsuyama Youth Hostel opened the two-story wooden "Imaichi Share House" at Dogo Imaichi. It has 22 private rooms of about 3 to 4.5 tatami mat size. On the average about 10 people including foreign students and tourists stay there for 30,000 yen a month. In the dining room, people from various cultural backgrounds can often be seen having a good time together.

A new kind of inn targeting foreign tourists appeared in 2012 when Mathew and Noriko Aiairaron opened "Sen Guest House" at Dogotako-cho. It has a starting charge of 2,700 yen per night. And they are helping to widen the knowledge of English guides in Matsuyama. About 3,000 visitors stay there per year and half of them come from abroad. Noriko says with a smile, "We want to help people from abroad enjoy a safe and fulfilling pilgrimage around Shikoku."

Bars and restaurants run by young people are also increasing around the Dogo district to meet the needs of this new type of tourists.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

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
November 21 ~ JOURNEY TO THE WEST:
Conquering The Demons 2D Chinese/ Dubbed
November 22 ~ Interstellar 2D English
November 28 ~ FURY 2D English
December 12 ~ GONE GIRL R15+ 2D English
December 13 ~ The Hobbit : The Battle of the Five Armies
2D English
December 20 ~ BIG HERO 6 2D Dubbed

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
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*The editors for this month are K. Kaida & T. Masuda

Hot Items ~ Useful goods in the bathroom

(from Ehime Shimbun September 8)

Very useful and unique goods for the bathroom are becoming popular. One of them is a soap dish from Ryohin Keikaku. It is made of Urethane foam, and has a sponge-like structure. The water in this soap dish drains well, so it is more likely to dry faster, which prevents the soap from melting. The soap dish is easy to wash, so it is easy to keep it clean. You can also use it to scrub away stains and clean your bathroom.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

- A** : 忘年会のシーズンになりましたね。
Bonenkai no shizun ni narimashita ne.
(It's the season of year-end parties!)
- B** : ええ、今週は同僚と、来週は友達と忘年会です。
Ee, konshū wa dōryō to, raishū wa tomodachi to bonenkai desu.
(Yeah, this week I have a year-end party with my colleagues and next week one with my friends.)
- C** : クリスマスは? Kurisumasu wa? (What about Christmas?)
- B** : 彼女もいないし、別に予定はありませんが・・・。
Kanojo mo inaishi, betsu ni yotei wa arimasen ga...
(I don't have a girlfriend, and I don't have any special plans...)
- C** : じゃ、どこかでパッと飲みませんか。
Ja, dokoka de patto nomimasen ka.
(Well, how about having a drink somewhere and forgetting our cares?)
- B** : いまからだと、もう予約できる店はないでしょうね。
Imakara dato, mo yoyaku dekiru mise wa nai deshō ne.
(By now, there won't be anywhere we can make a reservation.)
- C** : じゃあ、鍋でもしませんか。Ja, nabe demo shimasen ka.
(So, why don't we make a one-pot dish?)
- A** : 私はちょっと・・・。Watashi wa chotto...
(Well, I'm not really...)
- C** : 体の調子でも悪いですか。
Karada no chōshi demo waruin desu ka.
(Are you not feeling well?)
- A** : いいえ、今年は手書きの年賀状を出そうと思っているんです。
Iie, kotoshi wa tegaki no nengajō o dasō to omotte irun desu.
(No, this year I'm thinking of sending handwritten New Year's cards.)
- B** : へえ、すごいですね。Hē, sugoi desu ne.
(Really! That's awesome.)
- A** : いつもメールばかりなので、1年に1回ぐらいはね。
Itsumo mēru bakari na node, ichinen ni ikkai gurai wa ne.
(I always email, so once a year I'd like to send handwritten cards.)
- C** : でも、クリスマスが終わってからでも間に合うでしょう。
Demo kurisumasu ga owatte kara demo maniau deshō.
(But even after Christmas is over, you'll still have time to write.)
- A** : 100枚書くんですよ。Hyakumai kakun desu yo.
(I'm going to write 100 cards!!)
- C** : ひえー! そんなに? Hiē! Sonnani?.
(Wow!! That many?)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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