

What's New?

Niihama City

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Facing Myself Wei Min

I have lived in Japan for 15 years. If you ask me for the greatest achievement of those 15 years, my answer is learning to face myself.

The expression “Get away” (退いて) made me begin to learn Japanese. It was just the end of the year when I came to Japan, the busiest period for business, and I was lucky to find a job in a Chinese restaurant through an introduction by a friend, even though I couldn't speak Japanese. Although I was doing only simple jobs such as washing dishes in the kitchen, I was satisfied because of the much higher wages I could get than in China. As a result, my husband's advice that I should learn Japanese went in one ear and out the other. Yet no matter how hard I tried, one Japanese apprentice always found fault with my work. For example, wiping the water on the dishes, drying hands before bringing water and meals to guests, etc. - trivial matters in my opinion. I wanted to have a talk with him, but because of my poor Japanese, all I could do was pour forth to my husband after work. One day, it was especially busy. Because he was unable to communicate with me very well, the apprentice said angrily “Get away” and then proceeded to work alone. A Chinese workmate told me that “退いて” means “Get away.”

The apprentice's words “Get away” made me sober. I decided to learn Japanese well in the near future, and aspired to reason with him in fluent Japanese in order to work off my anger. Pressure gave me an impetus and made my Japanese progress quickly. Then I talked with him more and more frequently, though only in Ehime dialect. Although he was only 20 years old, he worked conscientiously and carefully. I learned a lot of hospitality etiquette from him, and realized many of my own deficiencies. Soon he moved to Matsuyama. Unfortunately, I could no longer discuss with him about his “bullying” (いじめ) of me so far. But I

appreciated his “bullying.” Thanks to him, my Japanese progressed quickly and I gained confidence. Then I was able to experience a valuable six years of college life.

Let students escape from the classroom

After graduating with my Master’s Degree, I teach Japanese and Chinese as a part-time teacher. The students of my Japanese classes are mostly international students including Chinese living in Japan. The students of the Chinese classes are mainly Japanese company employees who are going to China for short-term training. Three years ago, I applied for a job teaching a support class as a part-time Chinese teacher at a local high school. The headmaster warned me that the teaching was difficult. I was determined to make some “achievements” and beat the difficulty.

At first, the students were interested in me, a Chinese teacher, and the Chinese pronunciation of their names. But with the acceleration of the teaching process, there were fewer and fewer students in the classroom. When I came into the classroom through the front door, the students left quietly one by one from the back door. In a few minutes, there were few students left in the classroom. I felt frustrated, but I came to realize that the purpose of the teaching was not for my own benefit. My previous students were mostly adults, and their learning goals were very clear, so there was no significant relationship between my teaching achievements and teaching ability.

Since then, I have actively communicated with other teachers to learn about the students and I have also learned from the experience of my predecessors. I have changed the content of my lessons from exam-oriented education to interest education and added more courses that students are interested in. Also I began to read some books about psychology.

I have lived in Japan for many years. During these years, I have experienced a lot and learned gratitude. I sincerely want to thank the apprentice and my students. The apprentice’s words “Get away” gave me the motivation. Through learning Japanese, I came to understand Japanese “hospitality” (おもてなし) culture. My students made me straighten out my mind and correct myself-aggrandizing psychology. I know I still have much to do for my teaching, but I believe mutual support and trust will make it better and better.

Wei Min lives in Imabari city. She first came to Imabari in 2000. She is teaching at a college there.

The Japanese Mandarin Juice faucet

(from Ehime Shimbun, February 25, 2015)

The Hotel Takara-so at Dogo Sagidani-cho in Matsuyama has an interesting feature, when you turn on a faucet, Japanese mandarin juice comes out.

When guests arrived at this hotel they are greeted by Mican, a heartwarming mascot-like character of Ehime Prefecture and an illustration of sightseeing spots in Dogo.

They are drawn to a special faucet where they can try Ehime's own Mikan juice.

The basin is made of Tobe Pottery and is decorated with floral patterns. In addition many other specialties of Ehime are drawn on the basin to attract public attention.

The hotel has recently changed the unit to a new style, the 3rd one since introducing the concept 6 or 7 years ago.

Guests can see the unit in the lobby on the day before a holiday and throughout the tourist season.

If the unit is on the lobby, anyone can try the juice from the faucet from 3pm.

Tourists from outside of Ehime look amazed to know that they can actually experience "Ehime's Urban Legend".

Caution about SFTS caused by Ticks

(from monthly City News)

Cases of SFTS (Severe Fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome) caused by tick infections have recently been reported in Ehime.

Ticks inhabit forests and fields and are between 3-8 mm in length before sucking blood but afterwards increase in size to between 10-20 mm.

If you are bitten by a virus-carrying tick, you may develop a fever or stomach disorders such as vomiting, diarrhea or aches and pains which can occur 6 days to 2 weeks after being bitten. In some cases, it can be serious and lead to death.

The best protection against ticks is to avoid being bitten. They are active from spring to fall so please keep the following in mind when you go into the bush or bamboo groves.

*Avoid exposing your skin as much as possible by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, gloves, and shoes which cover your feet completely.

*Use spray-on insect repellent on your bare skin.

*Lay a mat on the ground, do not lie or sit directly on the grass.

*Shake out your clothes before entering the house and check in case ticks are on them.

*If you find a tick sucking your blood, don't pick it off by force or squeeze it because part of the tick may remain under your skin. The bite can get infected and become very dangerous so go to a hospital and ask for treatment.

There are other infectious diseases caused by ticks such as Japanese spotted fever and scrub typhus. If you have a fever after going to a hill or field, see a doctor as soon as possible.

For further Information:

Call 35-1070 Hoken Center (Health Center)

July Events

★July 18(Sat.)~20(Mon.) Akagane Museum

10:00 – **Grand Opening events**

Location : The northeast side of Niihama Station

- -Visitors will be able to enjoy taiko-dai performances, music live shows, dancing, a keynote lecture, and buy various products produced in Niihama.

- Phone : 0897-65-3580

- Website : <http://www.akaganemuseum.jp>

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★July 4, 11, 18 and 25(Sat.) Doyou-Yo-ichi, Market on

17:00 – 21:00 **Saturday evenings**

Location : Kikouji shopping arcade

Phone : 0897-41-5420

- -Visitors can enjoy foods available at various food stands and play games such as goldfish scooping, ringtoss and bingo, etc.

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★July 12(Sun.) Patrol Boat Cruise

11:00, 13:00, and 14:00

Location : Marine Park Niihama

-If you want to experience a 30-minute free cruise off Niihama Port, please apply at the Marine-mura reception desk on the day. It's a first-come-first-serve event. The 6th Summer Festival will also be held, so children can enjoy various attractions such as water slides and a watermelon splitting contest.

★July 18(Sat.) J. League Division 2 Soccer Game

19:00 –

Location : Ninjinia Stadium (next to Tobe Zoo)

Phone : 089-970-0700(Ehime FC) / 0897-65-1303 (Niihama City Office)

- The Ehime FC will play against the Mito HollyHocks. If you live in Niihama, discount tickets are available at the City Office, so please contact the number above.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

April 25 ~	CINDERELLA	2D Dubbed
June 5 ~	The Hunger Games : Mockingjay – Part 1	2D Dubbed
June 6 ~	Tomorrowland	2D Dubbed
June 20 ~	Mad Max : Fury road (R15+)	2D English 3D Dubbed
July 4 ~	Marvel Avengers: Age of Ultron	2D English
July 10 ~	Terminator: Genisys	2D English
July 18 ~	Inside Out	2D Dubbed
July 31 ~	Minions	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.

Fireworks festivals

★ Niihama

Date : July 31(Fri.), 19:30 – 21:00

Location : Kokuryou-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-65-1261 / 33-5581

★ Imabari-Onmaku Festival

Date : August 2(Sun.), 20:00 –

Location : Imabari Port

Phone : 0898-23-3939(Imabari Chamber
of Commerce)

★ Shikokuchuo – Doi Summer-Festival

Date : August 15(Sat.), 20:00 –

Location : Doi-machi furusato hiroba, Seki-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0896-28-6187(Shikokuchuo Tourist Association)

★ Saijo

Date : August 17(Mon.), 20:00 –

Location : Kamo-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-56-2605 (Saijo Tourist Association)

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

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*The editor for this month is K. Takahashi.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

かたづ せいり わ かさ なら
"片付ける" "整理する" "分ける" "重ねる" "並べる"

- A : 2、3日前に 片づけたのに、もう 散らかって しまいました。
Nisannichi mae ni katazuketa no ni, mo chirakatte shimaimashita.
(2 or 3 days ago I tidied up, but it's already in a mess.)
- B : 整理の しかたを 工夫したら どうですか。
Seiri no shikata o kufu shitara do desu ka.
(How about adapting how you keep things in order?)
どこに 何を 置くか、決めて いますか。
Doko ni nani o oku ka, kimeteimasu ka.
(Have you decided where to put what?)
- A : ええ、もちろん。 Ee, mochiron.
(Yes, of course.)
- B : 引き出しの 中は? Hikidashi no naka wa?
(How about inside of the drawers?)
- A : ハンカチ、靴下…と、種類ごとに 分けて 整理して います。
Hankachi, kutsushita...to, shurui goto ni wakete seiri shiteimasu.
(Handkerchiefs, socks... I separate items according to kind and organize them.)
- B : 上下に 重ねないで、前後に 並べて 整理すると いいですよ。
Jōge ni kasanenaide, zengo ni narabete seiri suru to ii desu yo.
(Don't stack things, and it's good if you line them up front to back.)
- A : なるほど。ひと目で 何が 入って いるか わかりますね。
Naruhodo. Hitome de nani ga haitteiru ka wakarimasu ne.
(I get it! You can see what's in there at a glance.)
- B : とにかく、使ったら 元に 戻す、これが 片づけの 基本です。
Tonikaku, tsukattara, moto ni modosu, kore ga katazuke no kihon desu.
(Anyhow, if you use something put it back. That's the core of tidying up.)
- A : あー、それが 一番 苦手なんです。
Aa, sore ga ichiban negate nan desu.
(Ah, that is my weakest point!)

- A : 他に 意見は ありませんか。Hoka ni iken wa arimasen ka.
(Any other comments?)
- B : ありません。Arimasen. (No.)
- A : では、今までに 出された 意見を 整理して みます。
Dewa, ima made ni dasareta iken o seiri shite mimasu.
(OK, I'll try to sort out opinions so far.)
賛成意見は…、反対意見は…。
Sansei iken wa..., hantai iken wa...
(Opinions in support are... and opinions against are ...)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.
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