

What's New?

Niihama City

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The Missing Post Office (from Ehime Shimbun, March 28, 2015)



"A father wrote postcards addressed to his 11 year-old son who had passed away 19 years ago.

He wrote them every time he thought of his son, remembering the days they had spent together and all his son's expressions.

Every time he wrote a postcard he would put it in the post. He would write as many as 45 postcards in just half a year."

..... When I read this story I couldn't help but feel sad.

Those postcards can never be delivered, but fortunately "the missing post office" does exist and can accept such postcards that have no delivery address.

It can be found on Awashima Island in the Seto Inland Sea (Located in Mitoyo City of Kagawa Prefecture) The post office on Awashima Island was opened by Ms. Saya Kubota, a contemporary artist. A lot of drift wood and general flotsam is cast ashore on Awashima Island.

Ms Kubota perceived that on such an island, "We human beings are also part of a larger scale current".

She took advantage of the Setouchi International Art Festival as an opportunity to renovate the former post office building.

Mr. Katsuhisa Nakata who had worked at the post office for 45 years is now working there as the post master.

The addressees of the postcards delivered to the post office vary widely.

For example, family members who have passed away, lovers who have drifted apart or been split up, the oneself of past or future, and the tools they had used before but not used now anymore. The number of them has reached 3346 in a little more than one year.

They are kept in a tin box so that anyone can freely read them and a great number of people visit the post office from all over the country.

After identifying the postcards which had been delivered to 'the missing post office' the father of the 11 year-old said with a smile, "I feel that I can accept the situation now".

Similarly, one wife feels at ease now, believing that the postcard she sent to her husband who had passed away was surely delivered because it has never been returned as "Address Unknown".

Deep sadness may be consoled through the acceptance of others. Writing a postcard may help them move forward without realizing instead of drifting aimlessly.



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>

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

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

Zuio-ji Temple



You can even borrow a monk's skirt to try on.

At Zuio-ji Temple it is possible to take part in a Zazen meditation session.

ピラッ



Wow!

I really look the part in this cool monk getup.

There we are.



monk's head

RRRIPI!!
粉砕



ええ!!

Looks like I have to go back on a diet.

Sizes only go up to XL, but if you still wish to participate, ask at the temple.



NPO法人新居浜まちゆり隊&黒鳥望沙&English Press

More information: join NPO法人新居浜まちゆり隊 facebook page or visit Machuri's homepage at <http://machuri.com>

Zuio-ji Temple

Zuio-ji temple, built in 1448, is one of the main temples of the Soto sect of Zen Buddhism. The Zen training center of the temple grounds was opened in 1897. It is the only such facility in this region of Japan, and so many apprentice monks come there from far and wide to progress in their studies. They can be seen walking along the street in Winter as part of their training program.

Visitors can participate in Zazen meditation sessions very early or late every day and accommodation is available to those wishing to stay overnight. For more information about the sessions or accommodation details, visit Zuio-ji temple website.

In the temple grounds is a large ginkgo tree believed to be about 1000 years old. It has been designated a natural monument by Ehime Prefecture. In the building behind the temple, there is a special revolving bookcase containing a complete set of the sacred Buddhist sutras. It has been designated a tangible cultural asset by Ehime Prefecture.

"Terakoya", the Learning Facility in Cambodia

(from Ehime Shimbun, March 10 2015)

In order to contribute to the improvement of elementary education in developing countries, the Niihama UNESCO Association established Rohal Terakoya, a learning facility in Cambodia in cooperation with Japan UNESCO Association. Children can learn there for free from September.

Rohal Village where they built the facility is in the northern state of Siem Reap state which is the poorest region of Cambodia.

The literacy rate for villagers 15 years old and over is 74%.

Although there are public schools, there are many children who cannot go to school because of family problems or because they have been forced to quit school.

The total cost of the facility construction is 5 million yen.

Niihama UNESCO Association contributed part of the founding cost, about 1 million yen as the project commemorates the 10th anniversary of the organization's foundation.

Other UNESCO associations and some enterprises in Japan also made contributions supporting them.

The facility is a one-story house made of steel frame and bricks and has a ground area of 810 square meters.

It has 2 classrooms and a library. Local residents run the school and plan to open a class for children who aim to return to school and also a literacy class targeted at adults.



SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.
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*The editors for this month are M.Fukumoto & Y.Amano.

MOVIES



TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| June 20 ~ | Mad Max : Fury road (R15+) | 2D English |
| July 4 ~ | Marvel Avengers: Age of Ultron | 2D English / Dubbed |
| July 10 ~ | Terminator: Genisys | 2D English / 3D Dubbed |
| July 18 ~ | Inside Out | 2D Dubbed |
| July 31 ~ | Minions | 2D Dubbed |
| August 8 ~ | Jurassic World | 2D English |
| August 28 ~ | ted 2 (R15+) | 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.

August Events



7/18-8/30(Sun.) "Exhibition displaying how an art museum plan has been developed to Akagane Museum for 40 years" at Exhibition Room No.1 & Citizens' Gallery, Akagane Museum, Phone: 65-3580

8/1(Sat.)-8/30(Sun.) "Photo Exhibition of Tobe Zoo", at City Library (Main), Phone: 32-1911

8/1(Sat.),8/2(Sun.) "Niihama Summer Festival", at Showa Dori, Noborimichi-Sunroad, Band Parade, Competitive Performance of Taiko-Dais etc. held Phone: 37-6677

8/1(Sat.) 14:00- Baseball Game, Ehime Mandarine Pirates vs. Kagawa Olive Guyners, at Niihama Baseball Stadium, Gourmet Stalls etc. available, Phone: 089-914-8102

8/2(Sun.),8/9(Sun.),8/23(Sun.),8/30(Sun.) 8:00-12:00 "Morning Market of Fresh Vegetables" at Kikoji Event Place, Farm-fresh available, Phone: 41-5420

8/8(Sat.)-8/16(Sun.) "Kanokoyuri (Showy Lilies) Festival", at Minetopia Bessi, Thousands of Kanokoyuri in full bloom, Phone: 43-1801

8/15(Sat.),8/16(Sun.) 2 times each day Public Performance for the opening "Niimonogatari" of Theatrical Company Shomu, at Multipurpose Hall of Akagane Museum, Full-scale Drama, Advance Ticket ¥1,000, Day Ticket ¥1,300, Phone: 65-3580

8/22(Sat.) 14:00- Baseball Game, Ehime Mandarine Pirates vs. Kochi Fighting Dogs, at Niihama Baseball Stadium, Gourmet Stalls etc. available, Phone: 089-914-8102

8/23(Sun.) 10:00-15:30 "Summer Festival in Minetopia Bessi", at Minetopia Bessi, Nin-iku-men Squadron Show, Experiencing Japanese Drum, Drum Performance, Dancing, Bingo Game etc. held, Phone: 32-4028

ONE POINT JAPANESE

夏なつに使う表現つかひょうげん いろいろ Expressions for summer

A : 毎日暑いですね。Mainichi atsui desu ne.

(Every day is very hot!)

B : ええ、今日も 猛暑日になりそうですね。Ee, kyō mo mōshobi ni narisō desu ne.

(Yeah, today looks like it will be a ‘mōshobi’ too, doesn’t it?)

A : 猛暑日って何ですか。Mōshobi tte nan desu ka. (What’s ‘mōshobi’?)

B : 最高気温が 35℃以上の日です。Saikō kion ga sanjūgo do ijō no hi desu.

(It’s a day with a high temperature over thirty-five degrees celsius.)

A : へえ、そういえば、最近熱中症になる人ひとが多いおおいですね。

Hē, sō ieba, saikin netchushō ni naru hito ga ōi desu ne.

(Really! Come to think of it, recently there are many people getting heat stroke.)

B : ええ、毎日 こまめに水分補給しないとね。

Ee, mainichi komame ni suibun hokyū shinai to ne.

(Right. We have to make sure we stay hydrated.)

A : 何か 暑さ対策をしていますか。

Nanika atsusa taisaku o shiteimasu ka.

(Are you doing anything to fight the heat?)

B : ええ。家の前に 打ち水をしたり、ゴーヤを植えて “緑のカーテン”を作ったりしています。

Ee. Ie no mae ni uchimizu o shitari, gōya o uete “midori no katen” o tsukuttari shiteimasu.
(Yes. I sprinkle water on the street in front of my house, and we’ve planted goya to make a “green curtain.”)

A : 私は エアコンの効いた部屋にずっといるせいか、体がだるくて...

Watashi wa eakon no kita heya ni zutto iru sēka, karada ga darukute...

(Maybe because I stay in an air-conditioned room all the time, I feel sluggish...)

B : 冷房病かも しれませんね。Rēbōbyō kamoshiremasen ne.

(You may have “airconditioner sickness.”)

何か 元気が出るものを食べていきませんか。

Nanika genki ga deru mono o tabe ni ikimasen ka.

(Shall we go out to eat something that will make us feel better?)

A : いいですね。焼き肉？ステーキ？Ii desu ne. Yakiniku? Sutēki?

(That would be good! Korean barbecue? Steak?)

B : やっぱり 夏バテには ウナギが一番でしょう。

Yappari natsubate ni wa unagi ga ichiban deshō.

(Still, grilled eel is the best for summer fatigue!!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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