

What's New?

Niihama City

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9



A Ride in a Taxi

Ian Mbeya

As I step out into a hot summer afternoon outside the JR-Niihama station, a wave of humid air blasts my already drenched temple. Immediately, I hail one of the black あかがね (Akagane) taxis at the front of the station. The vehicle diligently approaches and promptly pulls over right in front of me. Pleasantly surprised, the left back door opens automatically to allow me in.

The driver, genteel and proper, offers to assist me with my luggage. Naturally, he is young and sturdy, neatly dressed in a pressed white shirt, shined shoes with a clean cut appearance.

I eagerly hop into the cool air-conditioned car. We then set off in the aptly named Toyota Crown Comfort. En route, in addition to its flawless exterior, I can't help but be impressed by the impeccably clean interior. A subtle grey dashboard with the fare meter clearly legible from the back, all white knitted lace seat covers, sufficient head and leg room even for the occasional lanky individual.

As we cruise across the city, I find myself sheepishly staring at the drivers' white gloves. Why is it that they are so hypnotizing? Is it the skilful manner in which he holds the wheel? Like a conductor to an orchestra he manoeuvres the car with utmost poise and grace. I soon learn that white gloves are associated with transport here in Japan. These gloves give off a vibe of proprietary and professionalism.

No sooner I begin to imagine myself a typical 'salaryman', who ever so often procure the service of a taxi such as this one. Dawning a sharp power suit, comfortably seated in the back left contemplating my next meeting, or was it a presentation for the company? Off on a business trip! Nothing gives me more pride.

Unfortunately, my delusions of grandeur are cut short when the driver politely notifies me that we have arrived at the destination. He politely gestures for the fare. Composing myself, I promptly place the amount on the tray. 「ありがとうございました。」 (Arigatou Gozaimashita) he politely utters. We then part ways as the taxi disappears off to the end of the street. Off to pick another fare perhaps... Though it may have been a short fleeting experience in a taxi, it was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

I'm Ian Mbeya from Kenya, Nairobi. I'm currently living in Niihama on an internship. Thank you for reading!



Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

Visit  <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>

Please Note When You Sort Your Garbage

Garbage Reduction Section, City Office, TEL:0897-65-1252

(from Monthly City News June Issue, 2016)



*Recyclable Plastic Containers & Packing

Please slightly rinse them with water. Dirty ones can't be recycled.

Plastic packages not printed with the “プラ” mark are to be collected as “burnable”.

*Bottles and Cans

Please put bottles directly in the container and cans in the net without plastic bags. Do not leave plastic bags there because they can make it difficult to keep garbage station clean or to collect garbage.



Information

Free Poster of Niihama Taiko Festival

9/5(Mon) 8:30~18:00 City Hall 4F Tel 65-1261

The poster will be given to the first 1000 people for free.



“Omotenashi”, the Sprit of Hospitality, in an island of Oshima

(from Ehime shimbun June 21, 2016)

"The service to make use of a vacant house as a “Goodwill Inn” has started in Oshima island, which is attracting much attention. Though previously open only to pilgrims, the present version of the house is unique in that it is

also open to students and tourists. Its reputation has spread by word of mouth. It is part of Oshima's traditional culture, which is well known as Shima Shikoku (small scale version of the 88 temples of Shikoku) and has been passed down over generations."

The free lodging is at Taura, Yoshiumi-cho in Imabari. There is a main house and two cottages separated from the main house and a store house. The main house has six rooms whose size is more than 30 tatami mats, equipped with a bath, toilet, refrigerator, and washing machine. You can stay at the two cottages as well. In the yard you can enjoy a barbecue party. The sandy beach near the building commands a fine view.

A local NPO, Action Island, which is involved in the local reactivation movement, started the project in May 2015, by exchanging a contract with the owner of the house living in Osaka. The house was cleaned and repaired, and you can use a chest of drawers and tableware which had been used there previously. Futon were donated by NPO members. Users can use tap water, electricity and gas free of charge. Use of the facility is trusted upon the good faith of users. There is no sitting caretaker, but most users clean the house before leaving. One year has passed since the service started. The reputation has spread by word of mouth. More than 150 people have stayed so far.

Oshima has had the tradition of making use of part of their house as free lodging for pilgrimages of Shima Shikoku. But nowadays most pilgrimages go by car so they do not stay at the free lodging. President Yano has this to say, "This project aims to pass down the good local culture and to solve the problems of unoccupied houses. We hope that this place will become the place for local residents and tourists to get together."

For further information : please call President Yano

TEL: 090-7572-4956

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

August 11 ~ The Jungle Book	2D • 3D Dubbed
August 11 ~ The Secret Life of Pets	2D Dubbed
August 11 ~ X-Men Apocalypse	2D English /2D Dubbed
August 19 ~ Ghost Busters	2D English /3D Dubbed
August 26 ~ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows	2D English
September 1 ~ Now You See Me 2	2D English
September 9 ~ Gods of Egypt	2D English
September 10 ~ Suicide Squad	2D English
September 17 ~ The BFG	2D English
September 22 ~ The Beatles: Eight Days A Week – The Touring Years	2D English
September 24 ~ Sully	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.



September Events

★Taro Stew on the Kokuryo River bed

9/3(Sat)~10/10(Mon) 18:00~21:00

At the river-bed of the Kokuryo River, west of the City Gym.

\1600/person if you reserve, \1800 on the day.

For further information Tel 33-3920 (9:00~17:00)

★Wakaba Charity Bazaar 9/22(Thu) 10:00~14:00

All things are sold at a 50% discount because this is the last Bazaar.

Niihama Bunka Center Lobby

For further information Tel 44-7025



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

Email: kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

The editors for this month are K.Shimamura & K.Kumata

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“予”のつく言葉

- A** : 台風が近づいているようですね。
Taifū ga chikazuiteiru yō desu ne.
(The typhoon seems to be coming closer.)
- B** : 天気予報によると、四国に上陸するおそれがあるそうですよ。
Tenkiyohō ni yoru to, shikoku ni jōriku suru osore ga arusō desu yo.
(According to the weather forecast, it may strike Shikoku.)
- C** : ええ一つ、どうしよう。週末、旅行する予定なんですが・・・。
Eē, dō shiyō. Shūmatsu, ryokō suru yotē nan desu ga.....
(What? What shall I do? I'm planning to take a trip this weekend.)
- A** : ホテルはもう予約しているんですか。
Hoteru wa mō yoyaku shiteirun desu ka.
(Have you reserved the hotel yet?)
- C** : はい、人気のホテルなので。
Hai, ninki no hoteru nanode.
(Yes, because it's a popular hotel...)
- B** : 早めにキャンセルしたほうがいいかも。
Hayameni kyanseru shita hō ga ii kamo.
(It might be best to cancel it right away.)
- C** : 進路が変わるってことはないでしょうか。
Shinro ga kawarutte koto wa nai deshō ka.
(There's no chance that its course will change?)
- A** : 台風の予想はほとんどはずれたことがないですからね。
Taifū no yosō wa hotondo hazureta koto ga nai desu kara ne.
(Typhoon forecasts seldom turn out to be wrong.)
- C** : そうですか。残念だけど、今回は諦めます。
Sō desu ka. Zannen da kedo, konkai wa akiramemasu.
(Is that so? It's too bad, but this time I'm going to give it up.)

- A** : あれ？リモコンの電池が切れちゃったみたい。
Are? Rimokon no denchi ga kirechatta mitai.
(Oh! The battery of the remote seems to be dead.)
- B** : 大丈夫！予備の電池、買ってあるから。
Daijōbu! Yobi no denchi, katte aru kara.
(No problem! I have bought some extra batteries.)

予定 予約 予報 予想 予備 予・・・ in advance, beforehand

< 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