

## MOVIES

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- November 1 ~ IT R15+ English  
 November 8 ~ Terminator Dark Fate R15+ English  
 November 15 ~ Brightburn PG 12 English  
 November 15 ~ Wings Over Everest English  
 November 22 ~ Frozen 2 English & Dubbed  
 November 22 ~ Zombieland Double Tap English  
 November 29 ~ Doctor Sleep R English  
 November 29 ~ City Hunter French & Dubbed

#### Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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## ONE POINT JAPANESE

言葉の意味を聞く (kotoba no imi o kiku)

Asking the meaning of a word

A: すみません。この漢字の読み方を教えてください。  
Sumimasen. Kono kanji no yomikata o oshiete kudasai.  
(Excuse me. Please tell me how to read this kanji.)

B: ああ、これは「駐輪禁止」と読みます。  
Aa, kore wa "chūrin kinshi" to yomimasu.  
(Oh, it reads "chūrin kinshi.")

A: 「駐輪禁止」って、どういう意味ですか。  
"Chūrin kinshi" tte, dōyū imi desu ka.  
(“Chūrin kinshi”? What does it mean?)

B: 「ここに自転車を置いてはいけない」という意味ですよ。  
"Koko ni jitensha o oite wa ikenai" to yū imi desu yo.  
(It means “Don’t park bicycles here.”)

A: そうなんですか。ありがとうございます。  
Sō nan desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.  
(Oh, really? Thank you.)

A: すみません、この「クレカ OK」というのは、何ですか。  
Sumimasen. Kono "kureka OK" to yū no wa, nan desu ka.  
(Excuse me. What does this "kureka OK" mean?)

B: 「クレジットカード OK」の略ですよ。  
"Kurejitto kādo OK" no ryaku desu yo.  
(It’s short for “Kurejitto kādo OK.”)  
ここでクレジットカードが使えます。  
Koko de kurejitto kādo ga tsukaemasu.  
(You can use credit cards here.)

A: スマートフォンはスマホ、生ビール中ジョッキは生中……。  
Sumātofon wa sumaho, namabiru chūjokki wa namachū...  
(Smart phone is “sumaho,” a medium glass of draft beer is namachū...)  
何でも省略するんですね。  
Nan demo shōryaku surun desu ne.  
(You abbreviate almost anything, don’t you?)

B: 新しい言葉が多くて、私も時々わかりません。  
Atarashī kotoba ga ōkute, watashi mo tokidoki wakarimasen.  
(There are so many new words that sometimes I don’t even understand them.)

< 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).

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# What's New?

Niihama City No. 291 November 2019

Published by SGG Niihama

## 11月

“It was not I who chose Japan, it was Japan who chose me”

Noor Farahnaz Abu Mansor

Two years ago, I had the pleasure of escorting Diane Kichijitsu, an English *Rakugo-ka* based in Osaka, when she came to perform the Japanese art of comic story telling in my home country, Malaysia. Diane, originally from Liverpool, England, first arrived in Japan while backpacking back in 1990. After having journeyed to over 40 countries all over the world, she decided to call Japan as her home. When asked the reason why, she simply answered 「私が日本を選んだのではなく、日本が私を選んだ」 which means “It was not I who chose Japan, it was Japan who chose me”. Her answer left me speechless as it felt as if she was voicing out my inner thoughts. I, too, felt the same. I, too, was one of the lucky ones to be “chosen by Japan”.

I was about 12 years old when I first saw “Beautiful Life” aired on TV back home. I remember being awed by everything I saw on the screen; the people (especially the incredibly charming Takuya Kimura, of course), the lifestyle portrayed in the story, and the Japanese language. The Japanese language, or *Nihongo*, sounded like music to my ears. The soft intonations, the lively and animated expressions, were nothing like my 12-year-old self have ever heard or seen before. From that moment on, I wished not only to be able to speak and understand, but also to be around the people who spoke such beautiful melodies. I knew that Japan is where I wanted to be.

Half a decade after that fateful encounter, in spring of 2007, I found myself in an airplane heading to the bustling city of Tokyo. I was 17. Against all odds, I somehow managed to enroll into Teikyo University to pursue my undergraduate studies in Sociology. I was exploding with excitement of finally being able to live and study in my dreamland. Sakura trees were blooming along the streets, J-drama was on when I switched on the TV, and J-pop was playing in the department stores. It was everything, and at the same time, nothing like I've ever imagined before. And just like that, four years passed in a blink of an eye.

But just like any other story, there was bound to be conflicts and twists. It was when I pursued my postgraduate studies in Hitotsubashi University, that I learned the limits of my abilities. I found myself unable to improve further in my Japanese, and my language incompetency began to affect my studies. I couldn't keep up. What was once my passion and strength, became my weakness, and because of that, I constantly felt inferior to my Japanese peers. Mentally exhausted, I found myself began counting the days to go home.

After a total of six years in Tokyo, with much help from my *sensei* and course mates, I graduated and finally came home. Still unable to shake the inferiority feeling off, I tried to stay away from anything related to Japan, but destiny had other plans for me. Only after three months of working in an IT company, I received an offer to work at the Embassy of Japan in Kuala Lumpur. I initially turned it down, but the offer came back for a second time. I thought, this can't be a coincidence. Could it be, that Japan is calling for me? So, I pushed my fears away, took the leap, and accepted the offer. Only six months after coming home, I was back in the Land of the Rising Sun. Well, technically, that is.

The years that followed have been a roller-coaster ride. As part of my duties, I had the opportunity to visit schools to talk about my experience and introduce the Japanese culture to local students. Over the years, I also had the pleasure to send over a hundred Malaysian students to further their studies in Japan. Throughout my service at the Embassy, I had a taste of how it's like to connect two countries, Malaysia and Japan together, and I began to discover my sense of purpose. It was then, when

I stumbled upon the advertisement for Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) under the JET Programme. It felt like fate. Again, it felt as if Japan was calling me.

Fast-forward to summer 2019, there I was again, on an airplane back to Japan. Only this time, I wasn't heading to the busy streets of Tokyo, but instead, for the land of *mikan*, Ehime. As I took a step out of Matsuyama Airport, I was greeted by two smiley faces, my supervisors, who then took me to the city where I would call home for a few years from now -- Niihama. This time around, it wasn't excitement that I felt, but rather, an overflowing sense of nostalgia and belonging. Though it was my first time in Niihama, it immediately felt familiar. "*Tadaima*", I whispered to myself. I'm home.

I've been asked on many occasions by family members, friends, and even strangers, on why I chose Japan. I never really could provide a clear answer. To say that a TV drama I saw at 12 was the main factor that shaped my life sounded ridiculous when said out loud, even to me, especially during interviews. But over the years, I began to realize, that it wasn't my love for all the dramas or the music or the language that made me chose Japan. It wasn't even the great Takuya Kimura. Looking back, I began to understand, that it wasn't I who actually chose Japan -- it was Japan who chose me.

#### Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆Garbage Rules:

Go to: [city.niihama.lg.jp](http://city.niihama.lg.jp)



Search: How to sort and put out your trash and garbage”

☆What's New? in English & Chinese



Go to: [city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2019.html](http://city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2019.html)

#### Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

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

### **November EVENTS**

#### **Global Cafesta SanSan at the Global Café**

Date: Nov. 10 (Sun.)

Time: 11:00 a.m.~4:00 p.m.

Place: 来んかい屋 (Konkai-ya) on Route 11

Tel: 0897-47-4307

It takes about 10minutes from Nakahagi St.

Enjoy eating and talking in your native language and Japanese across countries and regions. For foreigners, 50% discount on street food and drinks.

#### **Niihama Technical College School Festival**

Date: Nov. 9 (Sat.) and 10 (Sun.)

Time: 10:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

You can enjoy various food, activities, shows and exhibitions.



#### **Volunteer Help for the 30<sup>th</sup> Niihama Global Party to be held next Feb.**

Volunteer help in preparation for the 30<sup>th</sup> Global Party is warmly welcomed.

First meeting; Dec. 15 (Sun)

Time: 10:00~12:00

Place: Cooking Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Niihama Women's Plaza

If you are interested, please contact below.

Enquiry: Chiiki Community Ka (Local Community Section)

Tel: 0897-65-1218

Mail: [h12603@city.niihama.lg.jp](mailto:h12603@city.niihama.lg.jp)