

What's New?

Niihama City

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My life in Japan

by Wenwen Zhang

I have been in Japan for about one and a half years. Over the past several months, I have discovered many fresh things. Take the garbage collection for example. I should classify and throw all of my garbage according to the garbage collection calendar in correct ways. At first, I thought it was difficult for me, but now I feel it's so easy, and it's also good for the environment. What's more, it makes me be more patient. As we all know, we cannot find any dustbins or garbage in the streets in Niihama because people here never throw garbage everywhere. Even dog droppings are brought back home by the dog's owner.

Since I came to Japan, I have learned much from the Niihama Japanese Language Association. I want to thank my Doi sensei, Nagai and Miki sensei. There is a proverb saying "gouni ittewa, gouni shitagae" (郷に入っては、郷に従え), which means "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Japanese people are always friendly, leaving the suspicion aside. Now, I can say "Ohayo gozaimasu, konnichiwa, konbanwa" to people I meet, without feeling shy, every day. I just want to "Do in Rome as the Romans do." Well...

Every time friends talk about the mystery of nature, the first scene that appears in my mind is the beautiful seascape in Japan. Even now, I can also remember the beautiful seascape in Imabari City. When we reached the top of the hill, a magnificent view of the sea greeted us. The seascape is so beautiful that I forgot all my unhappy memories at that time... And the hot spring, the drifting cherry blossom petals, the barbecue beneath the blooming cherry blossom trees, and on and on ...

I feel that life in Niihama City is so relaxing, but a little inconvenient because of traffic. So I attended Niihama Driving School and got a license after 3 months. The

instructors were very kind and took great responsibility. They can explain unknown words or driving ways again and again, until you understand them. It is really a long, but full of acquisition, journey.

I have many new friends here. They are friendly and always give me a hand when I need one. I also found that Niihama City has done many things to improve the relationship between people of Niihama and foreigners, like the organization SGG (Systematized Goodwill Guides of Niihama) with the aim of serving foreigners living in Niihama, Nihongo-no-Kai which provides Japanese lessons to foreigners free of charge, the council of 'Respecting Human Rights' with the aim of promoting the policy of human rights of foreigners living in Niihama, the Machizukuri-kyoudo office and so on...I can go on forever, the discoveries are so many that I can't say all of them at one time.

Now I am working in the Shimin-katsudo-suishin-ka of Niihama City office as an international adviser. If you need more information or want to make friends with me please contact me. I will be very glad to share my experience and hear your interesting stories.

Wenwen Zhang comes from Yichang, a very beautiful ancient city of Hubei Province, China. She is a sunny girl and has lots of interests, such as swimming, dancing, driving and so on. Karaoke is also one of her favorites. She is currently working in the Shimin-katsudo-suishin-ka of Niihama City Office.

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Refitted Wheel Chairs for Disaster-stricken Area!

From the Ehime Shimbun April 20, 2011

The members of VYS at Niihama Technical High school have modified 33 wheel chairs so that they can be used in places covered with debris and sent them to the disaster-stricken Tohoku region.

They have been working on the "Flying Wheelchair Project" for a number of years repairing unused wheelchairs and sending them to foreign countries. Every year they send about one hundred repaired wheelchairs they have fixed to foreign countries including the area stricken by the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake.

When they heard news reports that many elderly people had fallen victim to the earthquake and tsunami disasters and many wheelchairs had been washed away by the tsunami, their first reaction was, "We want to take our tools to Tohoku and repair their wheelchairs if it possible." Then they came up with an idea, "We can use tires filled with polyurethane rubber, which won't go flat." In no time they started replacing the tires of 30 wheelchairs in stock with the ones with polyurethane rubber in them. Installing a puncture-proof tire is several times as time consuming and laborious. "The hands of some club members were rubbed raw as they as they worked their fingers to the bone", said Keisuke Ide, leader of VYS. "We hope our wheelchairs will be used by as many people as possible, as soon as possible". Drenched with sweat, they worked tirelessly and finished modifying the wheelchairs in just three days and sent them up to Tohoku by truck.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

May 13 ~	BLACK SWAN	English
May 20 ~	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES 3D	English/Dubbed
May 27 ~	THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU	English
June 11 ~	X-MEN:FIRST CLASS	English/ Dubbed
June 24 ~	SUPRR 8	English/Dubbed

Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

The Event in June

Japanese Speech Contest

Date: June 12 Sun.

Time: 13:30 - 16:00

Place: Niihama Sougou Fukushi Center (Fureai Plaza) The 1st meeting
Room(2F)

Please come and listen to Niihama's Japanese Speech Contest. The speakers are all non-Japanese living around Niihama and learning Japanese language. They have been divided into three or four groups according to their Japanese speaking skills. They will be making speeches about their experiences, opinions and thoughts on Japan.



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

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

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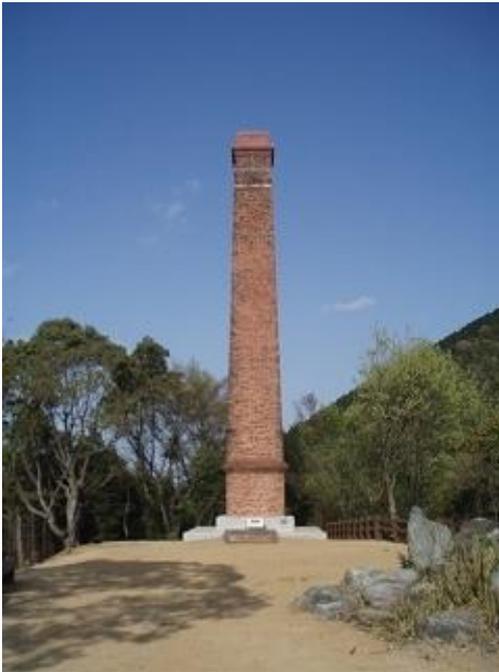
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* The editors for this month are Kazuko Kaida & Yukiko Miki

Entotsu-yama, the New Spot to Visit

From the Ehime Shimbun May 10 2011



The chimney of the Old Yamane Copper Refinery has been reinforced to make it earthquake-proof and the surrounding area has been given a face-lift.

It is located on the top of Shoji-yama, Sumino Shinden. The chimney is much loved by Niihama citizens and is known affectionately as "Entotsu-yama (Mt. Chimney)".

The "Entotsu-yama Club", a citizens' group of about 30 members, recently built a new path from Yamane Park. The 20m tall chimney was built in 1888 but the refinery closed in 1895 due to the dangers of air pollution. It has been

a symbol of Niihama's industrial heritage and was designated a tangible national cultural asset in 2009.

Niihama City started maintenance work in 2000. They reinforced the inside and base of the chimney with concrete and fixed bricks with pins so that they wouldn't fall down. New bricks were added to the upper 1.3m of the chimney. Benches and fences have been placed around the chimney. The total cost was 48.7 million yen.

Handrails and steps have been placed along the 300m path and a landing has also been built so that you can take a rest on the way. It takes about 10 – 15 minutes to walk up to the chimney. The head of the club Naono Sugao says "I hope that this path will be used and loved by many people when they have an outing or go for a walk."

ONE POINT JAPANESE

休み・休む・休める

A : 休みの日はいつも何をしていますか。

Yasumi no hi wa itsumo nani o shiteirun desu ka.

(What do you usually do on your day off?)

B : そうですね、たいてい家でゴロゴロしています。

Sō desu ne, taite uchi de gorogoro shiteimasu.

(Well, I usually loaf around at home.)

A : 出かけるのは好きじゃないんですか。

Dekakeru no wa suki ja nain desu ka.

(Don't you like to go out?)

B : ええ、家で のんびり 過ごすのが一番好きです。

Ee, uchi de nonbiri sugosu no ga ichiban suki desu.

(No. I like relaxing at home best.)

A : 見かけと全然ちがうんですね。意外でした。

Mikake to zenzen chigaun desu ne. Igai deshita.

(Completely different from what you look like. It's a surprise.)

B : ははは…。最近 身体を休めないと、疲れが取れないんですよ。

Hahaha…。Saikin karada o yasumenai to, tsukare ga

torenai desu yo.

((laughing) Lately, if I don't rest my body, I can't shake off my tiredness.)

A : ちょっとひと休みしませんか。

Chotto hitoyasumi shimasen ka.

(Won't you have a break for a while?)

B : そうですね。1時間も休みなしで歩きましたからね。

Sōdesu ne. Ichijikan mo yasuminashi de arukimashita kara ne.

(Good. We have walked for one hour without taking a rest.)

A : あっ、もう12時過ぎてる！

A, mō juniji sugiteru. (Oh! It's already passed 12 o'clock.)

もう寝ないと。

Mō nenai to. (If we don't sleep...)

B : 明日は6時起きでしたね。

Ashita wa rokuji oki deshita ne.

(Tomorrow we have to get up at six.)

じゃ、そろそろ休みましょうか。

Ja, sorosoro yasumimashō ka.

(Well, let's get going to bed.)

A : お休みなさい。

Oyasuminasai. (Good night.)

- ・ゴロゴロする…loaf around
- ・身体を休める…rest one's body
- ・疲れを取る…shake off fatigue
- ・～時起き…getting up at six

< 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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