

What's New?

Niihama City

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iJapan

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I admit it. I'm addicted to my iPhone. Before coming to Japan, I was perfectly happy with a phone that did nothing more than make calls and text message. After all, what more would I need in a phone? The pictures it took were too small and blurry to make out, but I figured that's what cameras were for. Besides, at every event I attended, there seemed to be at least one person glued to their phone browsing Facebook. I firmly believed that Facebook browsing was best left to when you are home alone with nothing better to do.

So what happened to turn me into a full-fledged hypocrite, you ask? Well, I moved to Japan and found out what an incredibly valuable resource an iPhone (or any Smartphone) can be for living in a foreign country. I lived in Japan six years ago, and having an iPhone this time around has made many things an entirely different experience. My trusty phone has stepped in as translator, navigator, train timetable, and link to friends and family back home.

First and foremost, if you have not progressed past "konnichi wa" in your Japanese studies (as sadly, I haven't), the iPhone's translation abilities will improve your daily life immensely. I use not only apps (such as Google Translate), but also bookmark helpful websites to my home page, which then act as apps (for example, jisho.org). You'll get some wacky translations for full sentences, but the translating apps are especially helpful when you're struggling with that one word

your taxi driver just keeps repeating over and over.

Also along the lines of language, Japan Goggles has been an especially beneficial app when it comes to reading kanji. With this app, you can take a picture of kanji (whether a sign or a food product label) and translate it. It will give you multiple readings for each kanji. I will often use the information from this app to then type the entire sentence (in Japanese) into one of the translators. (If you are really motivated, you can even add the new kanji to flashcards in the iAnki app to study!)

Second to translation, an iPhone can be quite instrumental for finding your way around. The maps have been useful not only when I am lost (usually embarrassingly close to home), but also in sending/receiving locations from other people (such as restaurant suggestions, for example). I would highly recommend using Google maps rather than Apple's (as they are more detailed), which means you'll need to add the website to your home page as a bookmark if you have a newer operating system. Also, hyperdia.com is quite useful for looking up train timetables and intervals, as well as even listing departure/arrival platforms for many journeys. I'm especially grateful for this during times when I only have a few minutes to make a train connection.

Of course, in addition, there are numerous resources for learning language (simply searching for an app to learn Japanese will come up with almost endless choices, both free and not), keeping in touch with family and friends back home (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and just passing time on the train. Living in a foreign country is exciting, but does come with its share of stress. Luckily, becoming a newly converted iPhone addict certainly makes my day-to-day life easier. And if all else fails, there's always Angry Birds.

Velika Patterson moved to Niihama in July of 2012 with her husband and two children. You can usually find her sampling treats from various bakeries while drinking coffee, reading a good book, and of course, playing on her phone.

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/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

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

The 23rd Niihama Global Party

If you are looking for a party with a lot of fun, please join the Global Party, where you can have a good time talking, tasting various sweets, enjoying performances on stage and meeting people from different cultures.

Date : Sunday, 17th February, 2013

Time : 13:00 to 15:30

Venue : Niihama Women's Plaza

Admission : ¥500/person to be paid at the reception.

Special Opportunity!

Experience an earthquake simulator and building a smoke simulator. Try using a fire extinguisher.

Organized by : The Global Party Association & SGG Niihama Sponsored by:
Niihama City Office &
Niihama Board of Education

Imabari Toastmasters Club

Imabari Toastmasters club is part of Toastmasters International, an international non-profit organization for learning and improving communication, public speaking and leadership skills. Its members come together from diverse backgrounds, workplaces, and age groups to collaborate on improving their skills, making friends and expanding their networks. In each meeting, two or three speakers who have prepared ahead of time make a five to seven minute speech and receive a two to three minute evaluation of their presentation.

Imabari Toastmasters is a bilingual club (The first session is held in English followed by a Japanese session). There is also a section called "Table Topics" in which everyone has the chance to answer a variety of impromptu speech questions.

The club meets once a month, usually on the 1st Saturday of the month (5:20 ~ 7:30). To join, there is a one time registration fee of ¥5000 and then it is ¥6000 for six months of membership. All guests are most welcome.

For further information, Contact

Mr. Colin Lacy: e-mail: mandclacy@yahoo.co.jp

Also: <http://www.toastmasters.org>

<http://www.district76.org/ja/about/> Location: <http://iciea.jp/>

January Events

☆1/13・20 (Sun) **Sunday Market** 7:30-12:00

On the street east of the Bunka Center

☆1/20 (Sun): **Kite Flying Competition** 13:00~

At Marine Park Niihama. Admission free. No reservations necessary. Kites must be handmade without using any metal. The string must be shorter than 150m.

☆1/27 (Sun): **Making Paper Dragonflies** 9:00-15:00

On Noborimichi Street. Admission free. First 100 are served.

☆1/27(Sun): **Hamasai Market:** 10:00 – 16:00

On Showa-dori Street, Domu, Noborimichi Street.

You can enjoy various kinds of vendors, fresh foods and a mini zoo. Every shop will have a big bargain sale.

☆2/11 (Sun): **Niihama Marathon** 9:30~ At Kasenjiki Park

Entry is required by February 3. For further information TEL 0897-37-0436 (Mr. Tanaka)

Tokyo Public Law Office Foreigners and International Service Section (FISS) (Ehime Shimbun November 19, 2012)

The Legal Assistance for Foreigners Section (SLAF) was founded in November 2010 as the first group of professionals who specialized in providing legal assistance to foreign residents in Japan. Subsequently, in October 2012, the Foreigners and International Service Section (FISS) was established near the Tokyo Immigration Bureau in Minato-ku,.

Cases involving foreigners require special knowledge and expertise. Staff have to be aware of special conditions such as the situations in many refugees' home countries and what is required to make it possible for illegal residents to get residence status here in Japan?

What about the procedures for divorce for international married couples?

Lawyers must be well versed not only in the interpretation of laws but also in business practices so that they can

give appropriate advice and there is always a need for more lawyers. Lawyers and staff members who can deal with problems in English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese are available and there is also an arrangement with the Tokyo University of Foreign Languages to provide interpreters in other languages.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

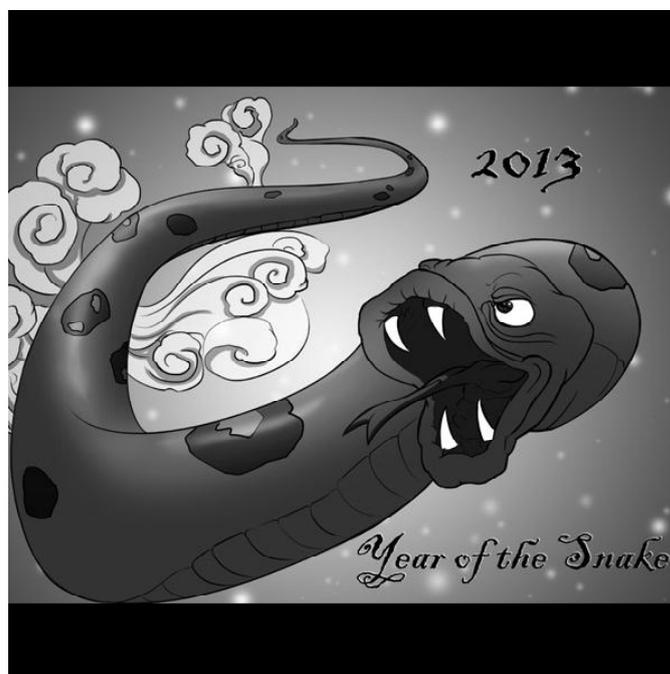
December 1 ~	SKYFALL	English / Dubbed
December 14 ~	THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY	2D English / 3D Dubbed
December 15 ~	FRANKEN WEENIE	3D, 2D Dubbed
December 21 ~	LES MISERABLES	2D English
January 11 ~	TAKEN 2	English
January 18 ~	ted	English / Dubbed
January 19 ~	LIFE OF PI	3D • 2D English, 3D Dubbed

Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.



<Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

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

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*The editors for this month are A. Akiyama & H. Yamamoto

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“～んですが…”

- A :** お正月休みは 国へ 帰ったんですか。
Oshōgatsu yasumi wa kuni e kaettan desu ka.
(Did you go back to your country during the New Year holiday?)
- B :** いいえ。Iie. (No, I didn't.)
帰りたいんですが、仕事が 忙しくて、
休みが とれませんでした。Aさんは？
Kaeritakattan desu ga, shigoto ga isogashikute,
yasumi ga toremasen deshita. A-san wa?
(I wanted to go back, but I was busy working and I wasn't able to get leave.
How about you, A?)
- A :** 旅行する 予定だったんですが、子どもが インフルエンザに
なってしまって・・・。
Ryōkō suru yotē dattan desu ga, kodomo ga infuruenza ni
natte shimatte
(I was planning to go on a trip, but my children got the flu ...)
- B :** それは 残念でしたね。Sore wa zannen deshita ne.
(That's too bad.)
- A :** ええ。みんな 楽しみに していたので。
Ee. Minna tanoshimi ni shiteita node.
(Yes. We were looking forward to it, so)
-
- A :** レポートは もう 書けましたか。Repōto wa mō kakemashita ka.
(Have you finished writing the report yet?)
- B :** 実は、まだ 書けていないんです。Jitsuwa, mada kaketeinain desu.
(Actually I haven't finished yet.)
今日 書こうと 思っていたんですが、急用が できて、
さっき まで 出かけていました。
Kyō kakō to omotteitan desu ga, kyūyō ga dekite,
sakki made dekakete imashita.
(I was planning to write it today, but urgent business came up, so I was
out till a little while ago.)
- A :** えーっ、締め切りは 明日ですよ。Eē! Shimekiri wa ashita desu yo.
(Oh, my! The deadline is tomorrow!!)
- B :** 今晚 徹夜して 仕上げる つもりです。
Konban tetsuya shite shiageru tsumori desu.
(I am going to complete it by pulling an all-nighter.)
- A :** よかったら 手伝いしましょうか。Yokattara tetsudaimashō ka.
(If it's alright, shall I help you?)
- B :** えーっ、本当ですか。助かります。
Ee, hontō desu ka. Tasukarimasu.
(Wow! Really? That'll be a great help.)

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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