

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

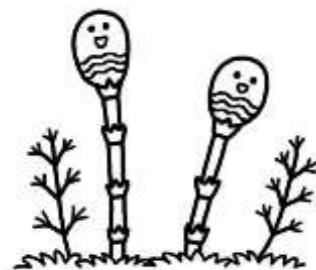
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|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| January 7 ~ | Spider-Man No Way Home | Dubbed |
| January 21 ~ | Coda (PG12) | Sub |
| February 4 ~ | The 355 (PG12) | Sub |
| February 4 ~ | Ghostbusters: Afterlife | Dubbed |
| February 11 ~ | West Side Story | Sub |
| February 18 ~ | Uncharted | Sub / Dubbed |
| February 25 ~ | Death on the Nile | Sub |
| February 25 ~ | Cyrano | Sub |
| March 8 ~ | Sing 2 | Sub / Dubbed |
| March 25 ~ | Nightmare Alley | Sub |

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service

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

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



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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*The editors for this month are Hada Michiko & Matsuoka Toshio

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「ことになっています」の使い方

A: お客様、すみません。こちらに お立ちください。
 Okyakusama, sumimasen. Kochira ni otachi kudasai.
 (Excuse me, Ma'am. Please stand here.)

B: はい。何を するんですか。
 Hai. Nani o surun desu ka?
 (OK. What are you going to do?)

A: 店に 入る 方、ここで 体温を 測る ことになってるんです。
 Mise ni hairu kata wa, koko de taion o hakaru koto ni natterun desu.
 (Everyone entering the shop must have their temperature taken here.)

B: わかりました。
 Wakarimashita.
 (I see.)

A: 36度。はい、大丈夫です。
 Sanjū roku do. Hai, daijōbu desu.
 (36 degrees Celsius. You are OK.)

A: 来月、友だちの 結婚式で スピーチを するんです。
 Raigetsu, tomodachi no kekkonshiki de supīchi o surun desu.
 (Next month I'm going to make a speech at my friend's wedding.)

B: いいですね。スピーチの ルールを 知って いますか。
 Ī desu ne. Supīchi no rūru o shitte imasu ka?
 (That's great. Do you know wedding speech rules?)

A: ええ？ ルール？
 Ē? Rūru?
 (What? Rules?)

B: 「切る」とか「終わる」とかは 使わない ことになって いるんですよ。
 "Kiru" toka "owaru" toka wa tsukawanai koto ni natte irun desu yo.
 (You're not supposed to use words like "cut" and "end.")

A: 知りませんでした。
 Shirimasen deshita.
 (I didn't know that.)

× 切る × 終わる
 × 別れる

< 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

What's New?

Niihama City No.319 March 2022

Published by SGG Niihama



Leaks in the System

by Barbara Ito

Last fall, I made a trip home to the U.S. From preparing to go, to preparing to return, to getting back into Japan, the experience was nerve-racking, but it revealed a lot about Japanese project planning and bureaucracy.

Leaving Japan required a PCR test within 72 hours of departure, with the results on a government form, signed and stamped by a physician. It was only available at one clinic in Niihama, for ¥44,000.

Once on the plane, I relaxed. I had copies of the government form for the return flight PCR, my "vaccine passport" from the City, and a multi-page questionnaire downloaded from the Japanese Immigration website. All set.

On landing, there was no COVID check at all. No one asked to see the results of the PCR test or whether I was vaccinated. Free to go.

I enjoyed visiting my family and allowed several weeks to arrange my return PCR test. It took almost the entire time, plus dozens of phone calls, to make the arrangements. Tests are available everywhere, but samples are sent to central labs, which were backed up. The best estimate, 3-5 days, would be too late. Plus, results are reported online. No doctor to sign the government issued form.

I finally found a friendly, flexible lab department in a nearby hospital. They put me in the system as a pre-surgery patient who needed a PCR. It worked, and I had my test results, on the proper form, signed by a doctor, within an hour. Just in time.

Boarding the international flight back to Japan, airline representatives asked to see our PCR test result forms. Without those, we wouldn't be allowed on the flight. The plane was quite empty since not many people were travelling to Japan.

We landed at Haneda early, and even with few arriving passengers it was a circus. From plane to Immigration took over 4 hours. First, a preliminary check of PCR papers at a makeshift table set up in a walkway near the plane, then on to successive checks at successive desks and tables and counters. Each station asked basically the same things: "PCR form? Vaccination proof? Questionnaire?" My questionnaire was not on the latest form, so I rewrote it.

Next was a 1.5 km hike through airport corridors for another PCR test. The results took about 45 minutes, then back to put tracking and health reporting programs on my phone. Last, a final interview to determine my destination and mode of transportation from the airport. No public transportation, including taxis, was allowed for two weeks after arrival. I told the interviewer I'd be staying at my son's apartment in Tokyo. He didn't ask if I could self-isolate there. When I told him I'd arranged to be picked up by "hired taxi," he didn't ask for any proof. I've since heard that some people have walked 5-10 km. through the city to get home, or just used the trains.

Finally, Immigration, where they wanted to see...my PCR form! Once actually in the country, I retrieved my luggage, passed through Customs, and then – out into the mass of people moving through Haneda Airport! No isolation. No separation.

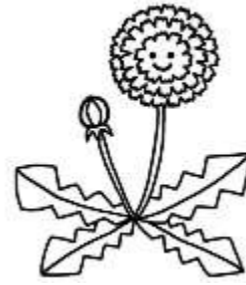
So, what does this whole experience show about Japan? In a nutshell: lack of project management skills, poor organizational communication, and a tendency to think people will do what you tell them to do. And a love of paper-based information.

The procedures clearly showed a lack of project management skill. No one had thought through the entire process to make sure it would achieve its purpose. And they hadn't provided an overview to their staff, so many workers seemed confused about where to send people next, as if trying to figure out the system as they did their jobs. At each station the workers were diligently collecting similar information.

Without cross-communication, though, no one knew what the people at the next desk were doing.

Overall, they didn't seem to have in mind the purpose of the procedures – not to make sure things were on the correct forms, but to keep new arrivals from spreading the virus. So they checked papers repeatedly, and then released the new arrivals to move through thousands of locals as they made their way to their "isolation" locations. Truly a wasteful and ineffective system.

Barbara Ito is a cultural anthropologist from the U.S. specializing in Japanese society. She has lived in Niihama for over 30 years and runs the Boston English Company conversation school for adult learners.



New Playground Equipment at Takinomiya Park

(Ehime Shimbun: January 15, 2022)

Niihama city has been developing Takinomiya Park, a city park located in Takinomiya-cho, Niihama. New large compound playground equipment has just been completed, becoming the centerpiece to the park.

This equipment is designed to combine an 11-meter-high tower reminiscent of a big tree where a huge hawk lives, along with athletic nets. It also includes slides, various kinds of ladders and bouldering grips. It was newly built on a 1,600 m² slope in the northwest part of the park at a cost of about 91 million yen.

Some children were ready to begin playing on the equipment as soon as it opened at 10:00 AM. They fully enjoyed the new equipment which they had been anticipating for a long time. Mayo Morita (31) from Iioka in Saijyo city brought her son, Daichi (2) saying, "I'm surprised at the big equipment. I want to come here again with my son who loves to play outside."

According to the Niihama City Planning Division, they are investing in Takinomiya Park over a ten year period starting in fiscal 2019. From that year until 2023 they are working on developing the entrance to the park and the esplanade surrounding the big pond in addition to this new large compound playground equipment.

Niihama city decided that all 6,200 elementary school students in Niihama should give their votes on choosing the new playground equipment. After the vote, this equipment won the most votes out of five options.

(Hasegawa Yusuke)

March Event

"Heavenly Music Festival"

in Memory of

30 Years Anniversary of Minetopia Besshi

by Kariyushi58 & Japaharinet AC

March 20 (Sun) 1:00 PM(open) 2:00 PM(start) rain or shine

Place: Lawn open space Minetopia

Fee: Advance Ticket: ¥4,000, Day Ticket: ¥4,500

Lawson Ticket; L code 63036

Further Information: Heart Network: tel 32 7777

Art of Niihama Collection 2021

Curators' Session

Until March 21(Mon) temporarily closed since Feb 1

Place: Niihama City Museum of Art

Tel: 65 3580

<http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/bijutu/>

Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆ A Guide for Living in Niihama



☆ The Niihama Medical Institution Map



☆ How to Sort Your Trash and Garbage



☆ What's New? in English



☆ Niihama Tourist Information

<https://niihama.info/>



☆ A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals