

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

August 25 ~	The Meg 2 : The Trench	Dubbed
September 1 ~	Haunted Mansion	Dubbed
September 15 ~	Gran Turismo	Sub / Dubbed
September 15 ~	A Hunting in Venice	Sub
September 22 ~	John Wick : Chapter 4	Sub
October 20 ~	The Point Men	Korean
October 27 ~	Hypnotic	Sub

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

Information Service

Internet: niihama-aeonmall.com
Tape (24hrs) :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 Hitomi Yano and Yasumi Okame.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「~ところへ ~ところを」の使い方
(How to use when ~)

A : どう したんですか。会議に 遅れて。

Dō shitan desu ka? Kaigi ni okurete.

(What happened? You are late for the meeting.)

B : 部長、怒って いますよ。Buchō, okotte imasu yo.

(The manager is angry.)

B : 会議室へ 行こうと した ところへ 電話が かかって きたんです。

Kaigishitsu e ikō to shita tokoro e denwa ga kakatte kitan desu.

(When I was going to the meeting room, I got a telephone call.)

A : 取引先から だったんですか。

Torihikisaki kara dattan desu ka.

(Was it from a client?)

B : ええ、急いで いるようだったので、対応しました。

Ē, isoide iru yō datta node, taiō shimasita.

(Yes. He seemed to be in a hurry, so I dealt with it.)

A : ジェイさん、なにを 怒っているんですか。

Jei san, nani o okotte irun desu ka.

(Jay-san, what are you angry about?)

B : 田中さん、ひどいんですよ。Tanaka san, hidoin desu yo.

(Tanaka-san is awful!)

あくびした ところを 写真に 撮ったんです。

Akubi shita tokoro o shashin ni tottan desu.

(He took a picture of me when I was yawning.)

A : あら、それは ひどいですね。Ara, sore wa hidoi desu ne.

(Wow! That's awful.)

A : おばさん、こんにちは。Obasan, konnichiwa.

(Hi Auntie.)

B : あ、ちょうど いい ところへ 来たわ。ちょっと 手伝って。

A, chōdo ī tokoro e kita wa. Chotto tetsudatte.

(Oh, you came at the perfect time. Give me a little hand.)

A : いいよ。何を すれば いい? Ī yo. Nani o sureba ī?

(Sure. What can I do for you?)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at:

Niihama Kokusai Kōryū Kyōkai (Niihama International Center)

Tel: 0897-65-1579 E-mail: niihamashikokusai@gmail.com

What's New?

Niihama City

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Dragonfly Island ?!

Monteiro Noella

Butterflies, fireflies, cicadas, bell crickets and dragonflies...the appearance and unique sounds of the various insects that herald in the seasonal changes, delightfully enhance the appeal of Japan's seasons. Among them, it could be said that dragonflies are the most significant.

Dragonfly designs are the oldest known in Japan - having been found on the oldest discovered primitive property. In Japanese they are called tombo.

Although they aren't strictly autumn insects, dragonflies used to be called **aki-tsu-mushi** (autumn insects). In autumn, the evening skies are spotted with dragonflies swooping over endless golden carpets of swaying rice stalks. This scenery seems to possess a melancholic nostalgia, probably stemming from the fact that rice cultivation has continued over the ages for about 3000 years.

As the dragonflies prepare to lay their eggs in autumn, they also protect the crop from pests and so, dragonflies became a symbol of this season of abundance, a season of great importance to Japanese people in the past.

Dragonflies are also believed to be messengers of the gods, or souls and re-incarnations of the deceased, **that return to visit their families during the summer Obon (All Souls') period.** Most localities even have dragonfly folklore with sayings such

as, “If you capture a dragonfly you’ll lose your eyesight,” and “Dragonflies don’t fly during O-bon.”

The ancient books Kojiki and Nihonshoki both refer to Honshu as **O-yamato-toyo-akitsu-shima** (Great Dragonfly Island of Autumn) and to dragonflies as **Aki-tsu** (autumn insects). They tell of the first Japanese emperor Jinmu, who ascended a mountain some 2,600 years ago and declared that “the land resembled the loop-like shape of mating dragonflies.” This is how the name O-yamato-toyo-aki-tsu-shima is said to have originated. It can also be translated as Dragonfly Island). Other records tell of the 21st emperor, Yuryaku. While hunting one day on a plain in Yoshino (southern Nara) a horsefly landed on his arm and stung him. Before it could strike again, a dragonfly swooped down and snatched the horsefly away. The emperor was so impressed by this that he named the area **Akitsu-no** (Dragonfly Plain).

Dragonflies have long been an object of fascination, capturing the Japanese imagination with their iridescent wings and jewel-toned bodies. They have been depicted in kacho-ga (bird and flower) paintings, by famous artists like Kitagawa Utamaro and Katsushika Hokusai and have inspiring poets, [geishas](#), and warriors too.

Dragonflies were also known as katsu-mushi (victory insects). Probably because they can only move forwards, never backwards, and possess agility and determination which enables them to catch other small insects, mid-flight. Recent studies prove that they have 360° periphery vision and advanced color sensory abilities.

Dragonfly designs were popular among warriors too, appearing on armor and on military implements such as arrow quivers, in the hope that arrows would fly straight and fast. (They are often combined with iris designs, as the straight sword-like leaves of the iris represent a fast sword.) Samurai warriors also had metalwork dragonflies melded to their helmets.

In addition to strength, dragonflies had a gentle side too, and were cherished as protectors of babies as they exterminate any insect pests that might try to harm babies. They are loved by children, too and poet Rofu Miki wrote the song **Aka-tombo** (red dragonfly) which children learn at school, and which some towns even play over loudspeakers to signal the end of the workday.

The positive image of the dragonfly has led to the incorporation of their image or the word **tombo** in numerous brands, the most famous being Tombow Pencil Company.

Dragonflies are now called **tombo**, and Japan’s traditional style gardens and vast rice paddies provide the 200 plus recognized species with a perfect natural habitat.

While the well-loved **aka-tombo** (red dragonfly/scarlet dwarf) is the smallest of Japan’s dragonflies, with a wingspan of only 20mm, the revered **oni-yanma** (golden-ringed dragonfly, jumbo dragonfly), with a wingspan over 100mm is said to be the Insect or Dragonfly King, and like the actual insect itself, even recently available plastic replicas of an oniyama can be enough to instill fear in and repel other insects.

Before, I used to be awe-inspired by these dragonish-type of flying creatures, but Japan’s, or should I say Dragonfly Island’s take on them, has made me respect and admire them, all the more



Noella is from NZ. She has experience teaching at nursery, elementary and junior high schools in Ehime. She has car, boat and plane licenses and enjoys figure skating, SUP, running, calligraphy, and photography. She is also a citrus sommelier.

October Events

Niihama Taiko Festival will be held from October 16-18.
16 (Sun.) 4:00am-9:00pm / 17(Mon.) 9:50am-9:00pm /
18(Tues.) 9:00am-6:30pm

Saijo Taiko Festival will be held on October 7, and 15-17.

Taiko gatherings and competitions will be held various parts of each city.

According to local folklore, the Taiko-dai is said to date back to the Heian or Kamakura Period in the 12th century. As legend has it, at the time of the autumn festival, Taiko-dai as well as other floats were dedicated to local guardian gods after participating in a parade to express gratitude for a good harvest.

Over two hundred floats parade the streets of these neighboring cities in the two gorgeous and spectacular festivals. Come enjoy this unique and traditional experience!

When a big earthquake occurs while driving

(Ehime Shimbun: August 3, 2023)

If you feel strong tremors while driving, hold the steering wheel tightly and flash your hazard lights to caution the people around you that you will stop. Pull your car over to the left side of the road without swerving or breaking suddenly.

Find information about traffic and the earthquake through the car radio. Follow instructions carefully as expressways and major road can be closed to prioritize emergency vehicles.

In the event of an evacuation, move your car out of the road before leaving it. If there is no choice but to park it on the road, find a place where your car won’t obstruct traffic. Leave your car key in the car so that others can move it. Close the window and leave the door unlocked.

If you are able to keep driving, pay close attention to road conditions and traffic signals.

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/>



☆ Help with legal matters, discrimination, insurance, etc
Japan Life Guide

(Nationwide service) multilingual



☆ Yoriso Helpline for foreigners

[TEL:0120-279-338](tel:0120-279-338) 10:00 a.m.~10:00 p.m.

Multilingual Your privacy will be protected.