

Timber for the Grand Roof Ring of the Expo



(Ehime Shimbun: December 12, 2025)

Two wooden benches sit in front of JR Niihama Station (2 chome, Sakai-cho, Niihama). At first glance, they look quite ordinary, but they are made from timber that was originally intended to be used for the Grand Roof Ring of the Osaka-Kansai Expo.

Timber for the Expo was ordered from multiple companies. Sanno Housing, a wood processing company, handled about 600 pieces of lumber. Most of them were shipped to the Expo. But a little extra material was given a new life at the end of November thanks to a proposal by the Ehime Architects Association, Niihama Branch.

The Grand Roof of the Expo drew widespread attention when it was certified as “the world’s largest wooden structure” by Guinness World Records. According to a representative of Sanno, “The surplus wood is of high quality. They were simply not used.”

It is sad that they were not used in the spotlight, but they have been repurposed as benches for the people to sit and rest outside Niihama Station. An information board has been installed next to the benches explaining their background. “They look brilliant after hearing the story” said a woman in her thirties. Why not take a seat and reflect on the Expo and the Grand Ring? (Takaoka Taisei)



Keep Disaster Prep Supplies in your Car

(Ehime Shimbun: January 22, 2026)

Disaster might strike when you’re driving your car. If you keep disaster prep supplies in your car, you’ll feel safe in case of an emergency.

Whether you stay in your car for a short time during evacuation or get stuck and trapped in your car, you will need drinks, food, a portable toilet, warm clothing and lights. Your car’s cigarette lighter socket can supply electricity, so keep a connecting device to charge your smartphone.

If you have a disaster prep backpack in your car, it will be useful on the way to your home or evacuation center on foot. During a disaster, gas stations may be crowded, so be sure to fill up with fuel when you’re at half full.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「ぶっ+verb」の使い方

(How to use “adverb+verb”)

A : どうしたんですか。眠そうですね。

Dō shitandesu ka? Nemusō desu ne.

(What’s wrong? You look sleepy.)

B : 夜中の12時から今朝6時まで、ぶっとおしで勉強したんです。

Yonaka no jūnji kara kesa rokuji made buttōshi de benkyō shitandesu.

(I studied all night from midnight until 6 this morning without a break.)

A : え？6時間もですか？ E? Rokujikan mo desu ka?

(What? For 6 hours?)

B : ええ、漢字の勉強がおもしろくて、つい……。

Ē, kanji no benkyō ga omoshirokute, tsui……

(Yes. I was deep into studying kanji...)

でも、急に眠くなってきました。

Demo, kyū ni nemuku natte kimashita.

(But now I feel sleepy all of a sudden.)



A : Bさん、Bさん、大丈夫ですか。起きてください。

B-san, B-san, daijōbu desu ka? Okite kudasai.

(B-san, B-san, are you alright? Wake up!)

B : え？わたし、今、何かしましたか？

E? Watashi, ima, nanika shimasita ka?

(What? Did I do something just now?)

A : 大声で「ぶっとばすぞ」って、言っていましたよ。

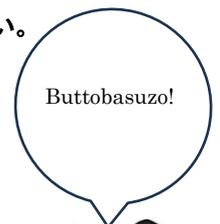
Ōgoe de ”buttobasu zo” tte, ittemashita yo.

(You shouted, “I’ll knock you out!”)

B : ああ、寝言です。すみません、居眠りしていました。

Ā, negoto desu. Sumimasen, inemuri shite imashita.

(Ah, I was just talking in my sleep. Sorry, I must have dozed off.)



A : 大雪のせいで、ガレージの屋根がぶっこわれちゃったよ。

Ōyuki no sē de, garēji no yane ga bukkoware chatta yo.

(The heavy snow totally destroyed the garage roof.)

B : 雪ってきれいだけど、積もるとこわいよね。

Yuki tte kirē dakedo, tsumoru to kowai yo ne.

(Snow is beautiful, but when it piles up, it gets dangerous, huh?)



< 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

No.366 March 2026

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The 34th Global Party

The 34th Niihama Global Party was held at Niihama Women’s Plaza on February 8th under the theme of “Just One World!” A total of 252 guests and organizers from 16 countries took part in the event.

Guests wearing colorful traditional outfits enjoyed meeting people from different cultures and tasting various handmade sweets.

Participants not only watched “Yosakoi” dance by Hamakko Dan Dan, a Japanese Drum performance by Onishi Shachu, a magic show and other acts by Matsubakawa, but also took part in the Ceilidh Dance, Dancing Hero Bon Dance and Bamboo Dance.

This year, a European cultural booth was added, and international students from the Japanese language school performed dances and songs. A solo acoustic set was also added to the program.



Dancing Hero Bon Dance

Various booths & Corners & Stages



Minami H.S. H.E.Club
Storytelling Picture Show



Sri Lankan Dance



Kenichi Matsubakawa
Performing Artist Show



Niihama Int'l Center Booth



Yukata Dressing Corner



Bonsai Corner

A Global Party for a Global Community

James Whittle

I had a great time at the 34th Global Party. It wasn't my first time attending, but this year I was honored to be the English language MC, which allowed me a close view of all the events and people. What struck me the most was the atmosphere of global camaraderie and teamwork. If an extra mic or set of hands was needed, someone was there to help without hesitation. The mood remained positive and uplifting throughout the entire day. At this time when issues like "anti-immigration" gradually appear more and more in the media, I thought that Global Party was a perfect showcase of what a true global community can look like. Locals and foreign residents got together with a common purpose of community and positivity. I'm looking forward to future Global Parties!



MC (Chris & James)



Myanmar's Dance



Pressed Flower Art



Japanese Sweets



Indonesia Intro.Booth



'Yukata' Girls & Hair Styling Staff

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

email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp hayatine@nbn.ne.jp

* This month's editors are Naomi Negoro & Taeko.Oishi.

March Events

- ☆ **Disaster Prevention Work Shop in Niihama**
(By Niihama International Center)

Disasters can happen at any time. You must be prepared. You can join us with little knowledge of Japanese.

Date: March 22nd (Sun) 13:00~16:30

Venue: Niihama City Fire & Disaster Management Bld.
5F, located next to City Hall.

(Niihama-shi Shōbō Bōsai Gōdō Chōsha 5-Kai)

Up to 20 people

Please come in comfortable, easy-to-move-in clothing.

Admission free (Apply through the application form by March 9.)

TEL: 0897-65-1579

<https://forms.gle/cVXKPUFBvwnVYFmQ9>



- ☆ **Sansan Market**
Date: March 23rd (Sun) 9:00~12:00

Venue: Noborimichi Arcade

There are fresh food sales and various events.

Online Information in English from Niihama City

- ☆ **A Guide for Living in Niihama**



- ☆ **The Niihama Medical Institution Map**



Trash & Garbage Sorting Information

- ☆ **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 am~10:00 pm

Multilingual Your privacy will be protected.

Nationality	The Number of Participants
China	3
Indonesia	19
Korea	3
Myanmar	8
Nepal	12
The Philippines	1
U. S. A.	5
UK	4
Vietnam	3
Mongolia	1
Finland	1
Bangladesh	1
Peru	1
Sri Lanka	9
Ireland	1
<Subtotal>	72
Japan	180
<Total>	252
Online	367
<Grand Total>	619