

Insect Repellent Products on Sale in China
(Ehime Shimbun: July 22, 2026)



Shikoku-chuo City cleaning and sanitary goods manufacturer AIMU Corporation has started selling wet wipe style insect repellent products in China, where demand for them has been increasing.

In China, outdoor activities have become popular as more people are interested in health, and the Chinese government must take infection prevention measures against mosquito-borne dengue fever and Chikungunya fever, which spread mainly in Guangdong Province last year.

According to the company, its local subsidiary in Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province started developing the products in 2019. Companies need to obtain authorization for insecticides in order to sell insect repellent products in China. AIMU Corporation is the first company selling wet wipe style insect repellent products in China.

The company started selling the products on major shopping sites and discount stores in May. Their key selling point is that unlike spray-type products, wet wipes pose a lower risk of insecticide inhalation and are also easy to carry. The image-boosting characters of “MICAN” and “KOMICAN” are printed on the package. They offer plural line-ups from 12 to 90 sheets. The price ranges from about 240 to 1,560 yen. The products are not available in Japan.

Ishikawa Kentaro, the company’s president said, “We spent much time developing the products, using the technologies which we had improved on in Japan. We hope we can sell more in Southeast Asian markets in the future.”



ONE POINT JAPANESE
「～ない ことは ない」の 使い方
(How to use “I can do”)

A : あれ？ お弁当の ^{べんと う}梅干し、^{うめ ぼ}食べないんですか。
Are? Obentō no umeboshi, tabenaindesu ka?
(Wait...you don't want the pickled plum on your bento?)

B : ^た食べられない ^{に が て}ことは ないんですが、ちょっと 苦手です。
Taberarenai koto wa naindesu ga, chotto nigate desu.
(I can eat it, but it's not my thing.)

^{からだ}身体に ^たいいから ^{ほう}食べた ^{ほう}方が いいんでしょうが、すっぱくて…
Karada ni ikara tabetahō ga īndeshō ga, suppakute..
(I know that it's good for my health, but it just tastes too sour ...)

A : ^すだれにでも ^{きら}好き嫌いは ^すありますよ。
Dare ni demo sukikirai wa arimasu yo.
(Everyone has their likes and dislikes.)

A : ^{しゅうまつ}Bさん、^{じ かん}週末 ^い時間が あったら、カラオケに ^い行きませんか。
B-san, shūmatsu jikan ga attara, karaoke ni ikimasen ka?
(If you have free time this weekend, would you like to go to karaoke?)

B : カラオケですか。Karaoke desu ka.
(Karaoke?)

^いうーん、^い行けない ^いことは ^いないんですが、^{ふる}古い ^{うた}歌しか ^し知らなくて ^{だいじょうぶ}も 大丈夫ですか。
Ūn, ikenai koto wa naindesu ga, furui uta shika shiranakutemo daijōbu desu ka?
(I can go to karaoke, but I only know old songs. Is it okay?)

A : ^{くるま}Bさん、^{めんきょ}車の ^も免許を ^も持って ^もいるんですね。
B-san, kuruma no menkyo o motte irundesu ne.
(B-san, you have a driver's license, right?)

B : ^{ある}ある ^{ある}ことは ^{ある}あるんですが、^{ある}ペーパー ^{ある}ドライバー ^{ある}なんです。
Aru koto wa arundesu ga, pēpā doraibā nandesu.
(Yes, I do. But I don't really drive.)

What's New?

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I stopped comparing myself to others, my life became easier, and I grew up Stronger than ever.
SOK SARET

My life journey began as an innocent young boy living in a small village in the Cambodian countryside. Surrounded by simplicity, my world was small, yet my dreams were vast. After finishing high school, I took a major step forward by moving to Phnom Penh to attend an engineering university. The capital city was a stark contrast to my quiet village—fast-paced, overwhelming, and filled with brilliant peers who seemed infinitely more capable than I was.

It was during my time at the university in Phnom Penh that I started comparing myself to others. This unhealthy habit slowly eroded my self-esteem, turning every academic challenge into a measure of my self-worth. The constant pressure and comparison drained my energy, making me lose my confidence and pushing me to the brink of wanting to give up entirely.

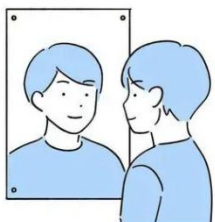
Despite the internal struggle, I persevered and eventually won a prestigious scholarship to study in Japan. I spent three transformative years living and studying in Niihama, an experience that expanded my horizons and tested my resilience in an entirely new environment.

It was also during my time in Niihama that I met SGG, someone who would leave a lasting mark on my perspective. Even after leaving, I often consulted with her whenever I felt lost. One precious thing I learned from her was a piece of wisdom that changed everything:

<by Niihama Nihongo no Kai>
NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.
Feel free to contact us at:
Niihama Kokusai Koryu Kyokai (Niihama International Center)
Tel:0897-65-1579 E-mail:niihamashikokusai@gmail.com

“You are more than enough, you are already great. Just believe and continue doing what you love. People love to help each other and grow. When in trouble, just be honest and ask for help. One day you will become stronger than ever and can help others too.”

Her words became a steady anchor. Real transformation finally happened when I made a conscious choice to truly absorb that advice and stop comparing myself to others.



The moment I released the heavy burden of measuring my worth against someone else's, my life instantly became easier. By focusing inward on my own growth and learning to lean on others honestly when times were tough, I grew stronger than ever.

Today, I prioritize my mental and physical health, recognizing that true success is not a race against the world, but a commitment to my own well-being and personal progress.

At last, I am doing well, walking forward with genuine confidence and a peaceful mind, ready to help others just as I was once helped.

Assigned to the Cambodian factory since January 21, 2025.

Accompaniment Support for Non-Japanese-Speaking Patients

We provide volunteer accompaniment support for non-Japanese-speaking patients visiting medical facilities.

Our volunteers can help explain how to complete forms, guide patients through the medical visit process, and, to the best of their ability, provide interpretation support when needed. Contact: email: yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp

Tel: 090 9454 9688



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 Okame Yasumi & Ono Hitomi



ETC Support Lane Helps Drivers

Who Accidentally Enter ETC-Only Toll Gates

(Ehime Shimbun : June 12, 2026)

At expressway toll gates in Japan, there are ETC-only lanes and regular lanes for vehicles that are not equipped with an ETC on board unit. However, the number of toll gates with strictly ETC-only lanes has been increasing.

What should you do if you accidentally enter an ETC-only lane without an ETC onboard unit, or if your ETC card has not been inserted? According to the expressway operator's website, you should proceed to the lane marked "Support" or "ETC/Support" and follow the instruction of the toll booth staff.

In fact, many ETC-only toll gates have introduced a Support Lane in place of the former regular lane. According to a staff member, drivers can pay the toll at the ticket machine installed in the lane and then continue their journey even without an ETC onboard unit. However, staff emphasizes that this system is intended only for drivers who accidentally enter an ETC-only lane. Drivers without an ETC onboard unit are expected to use toll gates that still have regular lanes.

At the Smart Interchanges in To-on and Nakayama, only vehicles equipped with ETC on board units are allowed to enter. Since there are no toll payment machines or ticket dispensers, drivers without ETC cannot use these interchanges.

More than 90 of Japan's approximately 440 toll gates are now ETC-only, and the number is expected to increase to about 200 by fiscal 2030. As of the end of March 2026, the ETC utilization rate reached 94.4%, and it has not caused any major disruptions.

The ETC-only system is increasing rapidly nationwide for the purpose of maintaining the toll gate function, easing congestion and offering flexible pricing as staffing shortage are becoming more severe.



October Events

Autumn Festivals

Experience the traditional autumn festivals of two neighboring cities.

☆ **Saijo Festival**
October 10–17



☆ **Niihama Taiko Festival**
October 15–18



More than 150 magnificent danjiri floats at the Saijo Festival and 54 taiko-dai floats at the Niihama Taiko Festival parade through the streets, filling the air with the powerful sounds of taiko drums backed with ritual chants.

Dating back centuries, these festivals are held to give thanks for a bountiful harvest and to honor local guardian deities.

Come and enjoy the rich traditions and festive atmosphere of Japan's autumn season.

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/>

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