

What's New?

Niihama City

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From comfort zone to open doors

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I was born in Manila in the Phillipines, and lived there all my life. Although I grew up in the city, I have always lived a simple life. By that I mean I went to school and studied, then went home. After I graduated from college, I worked in the same university for 10 years. I worked each day for 8 or 9 hours, went to graduate school in the evening, and went home. That was my life. Leave the house, go to work, and go home. Sometimes I got together with friends for coffee, for a movie, or just to hang out to chat. Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of places to go to in Manila, a lot of different things to do, but I chose to stay with what I was familiar with. I liked living in my simple little world. It's easier that way.

Four years ago, I felt the urge to work in another country. I

thought it was best to do that while I'm still single. I chose to work in Japan because I have a brother who lives in Osaka, and I thought that will make things easier because I have family here.

Well, I thought wrong. First, I couldn't speak Nihongo at that time. Not that I can speak well now, but I can say more things than, "konnichiwa", "kore wa nan desu ka?" or "nan ji kara nan ji made desu ka?" I remember during my first year, when I went to the supermarket, or the city hall, or the hospital, and I couldn't understand what the person I am talking to was saying, I would call my brother and have him speak to that person. I also couldn't read any Kanji. So, when I needed something from the store, and I wasn't sure if what I found was what I needed because I couldn't read the package, I would call my brother. He was my lifeline. After awhile, that got old. He was always patient with me, but I didn't want to bother him anymore. And continuing to do that meant I wasn't learning anything. So, I decided to try to do things on my own.

I've lived here three years, and although things got a little easier, living each day is still a bit of a challenge. I still get nervous every time I go into a new store, or a restaurant I haven't tried before with a menu I can only partially read, or a classroom full of new students. It's still stressful to be in a new train station, to walk into a local shop, or to get a haircut in a salon. I find it hard whenever I have to walk through a door because I don't know what is on the other side. And when I

actually open the door and go in, I don't know what will happen. I don't know if the other person will understand what I am saying, and vice versa. I don't know if I will be able to accomplish what I went there for. I just never know what will happen. I've never been challenged cognitively, psychologically, physically and spiritually as much as I have been in Japan. And it has been a truly wonderful experience!

Living in my comfort zone was good because it was easy. I knew what to expect because it was the same thing I had seen and experienced over and over. But a new door, although frightening, is always an opportunity to learn, to meet people, to challenge myself, and to grow in character. Every new door I have opened has made my life richer, and my world bigger. Difficult as it may seem at the time, I will continue to open every new door!



Owen Legaspi is an English instructor for Language House Inc. She lived in Kagawa-ken for one year, and has been in Niihama for two and a half years.



You can read on the Web

*** What's New?**

*** Garbage and Trash Collection Calendar**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english>

July Events

- ★ 7/3~7/24: **Saturday Evening Market**
19:00~21:00 at Kikoji-shoten-gai
- ★ 7/25 (Sun): **Clean Niihama** 7:00~9:00
Streets, parks, plazas, rivers and sea shores are cleaned
by volunteers. Anyone is welcomed.
- ★ 6/4~9/26: **Experiment Show to See the Wonder of Firework**
on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & holidays at Science Museum. Ticket
for permanent exhibition is required.
- ★ 7/14 (Weds): **Healing Concert** 13:00~15:30
at Bunka Center Admission free
- ★ 7/18 (Sun): **Somen Noodle Floating** 10:00~15:00
at Ikatazu-sanso You can eat as much as you like.
¥300 for 12 years old and under ¥500 for over 12
- ★ 7/30 (Fri): **Niihama Firework Festival** 19:30~21:00
at Kokuryo-gawa River-vbed
In case of rain, it is postponed to August 2 or 3 or 4.
- ★ 7/20~11/21: **Trecking along Old Besshi Copper Mine**
You can learn industrial heritage on the spot.
Admission ¥10500 ~ ¥11500 (1 night, 2 days, 3 meals, guide and
insurance) up to 10 people a day
Booking is required. ☎64-2252 Yuragi-no-mori
- ★ 7/25 (Sun) 8/1 (Sun): **Pottery Making for Parent and kid** 10:00~12:00
Admission ¥1500
Booking is required. ☎33-2180 Bunka Center



★ 7/31 (Sun): **Tea Ceremony Class for parent and kids**

10:00~11:30 at Bunka-shinko-kaikan

Admission ¥500 for an adult ¥300 for a kid

Booking is required. ☎33-2180 Bunka Center

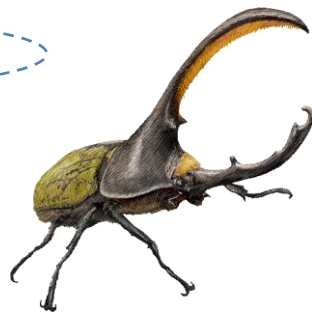
★ 8/1(Sun): **Cruising around Oshima Island**

9:00~12:00 13:00~16:00 from Marine Park

Admission ¥300 Booking is required by July 26.

☎46-5636 Marine Park Niihama

Are you Fond of Insects?



The Ehime University Museum has one of the greatest insect collections in Japan and even the world. It has 1.2 million insect specimens, which Ehime University has collected over the last half century. Its collection of beetle specimens is especially good and boasts a large number and variety of specimens.

Looking at the colors, shapes and sizes of the insects, we cannot help feeling the wonder of life.

The Ehime University Museum opened to the public in November 2009 so that everyone, especially the young, can learn more about science and the research work carried out by the university.

The museum is divided into four sections: "Space & the Earth in

progress", "The history of Ehime University and Ehime Prefecture", "Diversity of life", and "Daily human lives". Everyone can enjoy the museum, and will find their intellectual curiosity stimulated by the informative displays.

Muse Cafe next to the museum serves you freshly brewed coffee and light meals such as hot dogs and curry rice. You can also use the student cafeteria at lunch time.

Special Exhibitions:

★ 5/29 2010(Sat) - 7/26 2010 (Mon)

The Allosaurus is here!

A life-size dinosaur specimen (7m in length 2.5 in height) is from the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo.

☆ 8/5 2010 (Thurs) - 8/10 2010 (Tues)

Insect Exhibition This will help you with your summer homework. The popular annual Insect Exhibition is here again this summer and you can enjoy more insects in addition to the permanent exhibition.

Ehime University Museum

Address: Matsuyama-shi Bunkyo-cho 3

TEL: 089-927-8293

Admission: Free

Open: 10:00-16:30

Closed: Tuesdays

<http://www.museum.ehime-u.ac.jp/>



MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

June 4 ~	SEX AND THE CITY II	English
June 11	IRON MAN 2	English/Dubbed
June 19 ~	THE BOOK OF ELI	English
June 19 ~	THIS IS IT	English
July 10 ~	TOY STORY 3	Dubbed
July 10 ~	PREDATORS	English
July 23 ~	INCEPTION	English
July 31 ~	SALT	English

Information Service

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

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



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp
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* The editors for this month are E. Okada & Y. Amano.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“あがる”

A : あっ、雨が **上がりました** ね。A, ame ga agarimashita ne.
(Ah, it has stopped raining.)

B : ええ。でも **また降りそう** ですよ。Ee. Demo mata furisō desu yo.
(Yes, but it's likely to rain again.)

A : **じゃ、今のうちに、早く帰**りましょうか。
Ja, ima no uchi ni hayaku kaerimashō ka.
(Well then, shall we go back right away while we still have time?)

A : **スピーチコンテスト、緊張** しましたか。
Supichi kontesuto, kinchō shimashita ka.
(Did you get nervous at the speech contest?)

B : ええ。Ee. (Yes.)

あがって しまって、**ずっと足が震**えていました。
Agatte shimatte, zutto ashi ga furueteimashita.
(I got totally nervous, and my legs were trembling the whole time.)

A : **堂々** としていて、**あが**っている ようには **見え**ません でした よ。
Dōdō to shiteite, agatteiru yōni wa miemasen deshita yo.
(You looked dignified and didn't look nervous.)

B : **あがる** と、**頭の中** が **真っ白** になるん です。
Agaru to, atama no naka ga masshiro ni narun desu.
(When I get nervous, my mind goes blank.)

でも、途中 から **落ち着**いて **話**せたので、**ホッ**と しました。
Demo, tochū kara ochitsuite hanaseta node, hotto shimashita.
(But because I was able to speak in a relaxed manner from the halfway, I was relieved.)

A : **すばらしい** **スピーチ** でした よ。
Subarashi supichi deshita yo. (It was a wonderful speech!)

A : **花火大会** は **いつ** です か。Hanabi taikai wa itsu desu ka.
(When is the fireworks display?)

B : **確か** **今月** の **30日** だ と **思**います。
Tashika kongetsu no sanjūnichi da to omoimasu.
(I think it's the 30th of this month.)

A : **たくさん** の **花火** が **上がる** そう です ね。
Takusan no hanabi ga agaru sō desu ne.
(I hear a lot of fireworks will be set off.)

B : ええ、**種類** も **多く** て **きれ**い です よ。Ee, shurui mo ōkute, kirēdesu yo.
(Yes. There are many kinds and they are beautiful.)

特 に、**最後** に **上がる** **花火** は **迫**力が **あ**って、**すば**らしい です。
Toku ni, saigo ni agaru hanabi wa, hakuryoku ga atte, subarashi desu.
(In particular, the last fireworks are impressive and splendid.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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