

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## **A Story From My Mother**

My name is Jeremy and I was born in Canada to a Japanese mother and a Canadian father. I grew up near Vancouver, where I spoke only English as a child. My mother spoke only English in the house, but sometimes I would hear her speaking Japanese to our relatives on the telephone. I wish I could have learned Japanese as a child.

I think I had a unique childhood. I was able to have a typical Canadian life outside of my house, but at home we did things a bit different than most other Canadian families. The food that we ate and the manners my mother taught us were more Japanese than Canadian.

My mother, (her name was Toshiko), was born in Machida City in Tokyo. My grandparents were both employed by the public sector – my grandmother worked at the mint – that’s where they print money – before she was married. My grandfather was a police officer and he worked in a koban.

One morning, when my grandfather was on duty, an English-speaking foreigner came into the koban asking for directions. He couldn’t speak much Japanese, but he was in a hurry and needed to get to a hotel quickly.

Of course my grandfather couldn't speak English but he took the foreigner to the hotel. The foreigner was very grateful to my grandfather for his help. My grandfather went back to the koban.

The next day, the foreigner came back to the koban. He had brought a big box of chocolates for my grandfather. My grandfather was very happy to receive these, and so using as much simple English and gestures as he could, he invited the foreigner to his house for dinner. The foreigner accepted my grandfather's offer.

My mother, who was a high school student at the time, was quite strong with English and was able to translate for the foreigner during dinner. The foreigner was from Canada, and he was the owner of a steel company in Toronto. He was in Tokyo on business. He was impressed with my mother's English ability, and promised her a job at his company in Toronto after she graduated from school. He gave her his business card and said good night.

A few years later when my mother was 21, she decided to take the Canadian's offer and move to Toronto to work. She stayed and worked for the foreigner's company for a few years. Later, after she moved west to Vancouver, she met my father and got married.

I like this story because it makes me think about how such small things have such big effects. Perhaps if that foreigner in Tokyo had woken up just 10 minutes earlier and wasn't in such a hurry that morning, he wouldn't have needed my grandfather's help. My mother probably wouldn't have had the chance to move to Canada and I probably wouldn't have been born.

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## The 20<sup>th</sup> Niihama Global Party

### “Hello Again”

Niihama’s 20<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL PARTY was held at Women’s Plaza on February 14 with the theme of “Hello Again”. About 364 guests and organizers took part in the party. People had a good time talking, tasting various ethnic sweets, enjoying performances on stage and meeting people from different cultures. On stage there were Salsa Band Performance, Indonesian Folk Music and Dance, Niihama Nishi Senior High School ESS Yes/No Quiz, Japanese Small Drum, Piano and bamboo Flute Performance. At the end of the party, a lot of people danced Salsa dance.

People also enjoyed Pressed-flower art, Origami, Calligraphy, wearing Yukata and so on.



### The number of the participants

| Nationality     | male | female | Total |
|-----------------|------|--------|-------|
| Australia       | 1    | 6      | 7     |
| Canada          | 4    | 4      | 8     |
| China           | 15   | 5      | 20    |
| Cuba            | 2    |        | 2     |
| India           | 2    |        | 2     |
| Indonesia       | 15   | 28     | 43    |
| Korea           | 2    |        | 2     |
| Malaysia        | 14   | 5      | 19    |
| Mexico          | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Mongolia        | 3    |        | 3     |
| New Zealand     | 2    |        | 2     |
| Peru            | 2    |        | 2     |
| The Philippines |      | 2      | 2     |
| Romania         |      | 1      | 1     |
| USA             | 11   | 5      | 16    |
| Vietnam         | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Japan           | 230  |        | 230   |
| Total           |      |        | 364   |

## Five Industrial Heritage Sites in Niihama have been registered as Tangible National Cultural Properties. (3)

(from the monthly City News 2009/8)

This time we will introduce another remaining site.

### ⑤ Old Senjutei

Senjutei was built as a guest house in 1937 on the site where the City Library is now located. The name Senjutei comes from the following meanings.

Sen means spring, ju means celebration, tei means house.

In 1991 it stopped playing the role of guest house and part of Senjutei was moved to Minetopia Besshi. Only honored guests were allowed to stay in the special room where they could enjoy its quiet and refined atmosphere.

Senjutei →



### Minetopia Besshi is refurbished.

(from the Ehime Shimbun 2010/1/12)

Minetopia Besshi, the theme park in Tatsukawa of Niihama and based on Besshi Copper Mine, has started the renovation of the sightseeing mining tunnel. It is the first major renovation since it opened in 1991. **Modern Zone** and **Let's Try Zone** will be added. In the **Modern Zone**, you can learn what Besshi Copper Mine was like after the Meiji Period. The renovation costs 120 million yen. It will open on April 3. In addition to the diorama showing how miners leading their lives in the copper mine in the Edo Period(1691-1868), another diorama ( 3.5m in height, 5m in width ) will be added, showing Old Besshi District in the periods of Meiji (1868-1912), Taisho(1912-1926) and Showa(1926-1989). In the diorama, you can see miniatures of the copper mine, mine railways, school, and theater. You can also see documentary films of the early Showa.

In the **Let's Try Zone**, you can experience sucking water in the mine and use a ropeway. You can enjoy using mining tools such as a jackhammer.

Mr. Funakoshi, executive director of Minetopia Besshi said, "We have a great opportunity this year. Shikoku is attracting a lot of attention because of some TV programs. I do hope that more people will have fun and learn a lot through this renovation."

# MOVIE

## TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

|               |  |                |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| December 23 ~ | AVATAR   | English/Dubbed |
| January 22 ~  | OCEANS   | English        |
| February 5 ~  | INVICTUS   | English        |
| February 19 ~ | IT'S COMPLICATED                                     | English        |
| February 26 ~ | PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS:<br>THE LIGHTING THIEF | English        |
| March 5 ~     | THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG                            | Dubbed         |
| March 12 ~    | SHERLOCK HOMES                                       | English        |
| March 12 ~    | DID YOU HEAR ABOUT<br>THE MORGANS?                   | English        |
| March 19 ~    | CIRQUE DU FREAK:<br>THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT          | English        |
| March 19 ~    | NINE   | English        |

Information Service

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



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## ONE POINT JAPANESE

### いろいろな「さっぱり」(2)

A : Cさんと知り合ったきっかけは何ですか？

C-san to shiriatta kikkake wa nan desu ka.  
(How did you come to meet C?)

B : 共通の友人の紹介なんです。

Kyōtsū no yūjin no shōkai nan desu. (A mutual friend introduced us.)

A : どんな人ですか。

Donna hito desu ka? (What kind of person is C?)

B : 明るくて、さっぱりした人です。

Akarukute, sappari shita hito desu. (She is cheerful and frank.)

A : Bさんと気が合いそうですね。

B-san to ki ga aisō desu ne. (She seems to be compatible with you.)

B : ええ、気をつかわなくてもいいので、楽なんです。

Ee, ki o tsukawanakute mo ii no de, raku nan desu.  
(Yes, I don't need to put up a front with her, so can relax.)

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A : 今回の試験はどうでしたか。

Konkai no shiken wa dō deshita ka.  
(How was the examination this time?)

B : 前回より簡単でしたよ。

Zenkai yori, kantan deshita yo. (It was easier than last time.)

C : そうですね。Sō desu ne. (Well...)

前回ほど難しくなかったような気がします。

Zenkai hodo, muzukashiku nakatta yō na ki ga shimasu.  
(I feel as though it wasn't any more difficult than last time.)

D : えー！ Ee! (What!)

わたしは難しすぎて、さっぱりわからなかったんですけど...

Watashi wa muzukashisugite, sappari wakaranakattan desu kedo...  
(It was too difficult for me - I couldn't understand it at all.)

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A : 新居浜弁、わかる？ Niihama ben, wakaru?

(Do you get Niihama dialect?)

B : うん、ちょっとだけわかる。 Un, chotto dake wakaru.

(Yeah, a little.)

C : さっぱりわからん。 Sappari wakaran.

(I don't get it at all.)

## One Point Niihama-ben

わからん...わからない (わかりません) = don't understand

しらん...知らない (しりません) = don't know

<sup>い</sup>行かん...<sup>い</sup>行かない (<sup>い</sup>行きません) = don't go

<sup>た</sup>食べん...<sup>た</sup>食べない (<sup>た</sup>食べません) = don't eat

<sup>こ</sup>来ん...<sup>こ</sup>来ない (<sup>き</sup>来ません) = don't come

せん...しない (しません) = don't do

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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