

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## THE SUMO DREAM

Akshay Varshney

It was about 2 years ago I came to Japan. On the "Things to do in Japan" list I had, one of my dream was to meet a Sumo wrestler. Although it would be an exaggeration to call myself a Sumo aficionado, I have always had an unusual sense of curiosity about it.

Finally, one fine day, I got a chance to pacify this curiosity. I was on a business trip to Tokyo along with my colleagues. On the way back, having ample spare time, I asked my colleagues if they had any plans for the day and as everybody did not have anything good to do, I invited them to accompany me to meet the Sumo wrestler. They got very excited about this plan and asked me who we were going to meet. I replied "I really don't know". Their excitement soon melted away when they came to know that I had no appointment with any Sumo wrestler whatsoever and that I was just trying out my luck with no idea where I was headed to. Within seconds, everybody came up with different excuses...shopping, sightseeing, etc.

So, here I was, all alone, on my mission to meet a Sumo wrestler. I headed straight to Ryogoku, the Sumo district of Tokyo. There I asked a passerby, "Excuse me, could you please tell me where can I find a Sumo wrestler?". He asked me "Which one exactly?". I said "Anyone would do". At this, he gave me a "You gotta be crazy dude!" look quite similar to what I had received from my colleagues. In a country where everything works on appointment, where even outings with friends are decided 2-3 months ago, here I was,

having no idea where to go.

To my bad luck, I was told that it was the off season and all Sumo wrestlers have gone back to their native places and meeting one was beyond the realms of possibility. As I realized I had nothing much to lose, I continued on my search. After trying my luck at different Sumo houses, I finally managed to receive a reply. A voice on the speaker system asked me "What do you want?". I said politely, "I want to meet a Sumo wrestler". The reply came "今だれもいない、後で(Nobody is here, come later)". With my dream just a heartbeat away, I had no option but to force myself in with a blatant lie. I said "Sir, I have come all the way from India to meet you". This was a lie, but not exactly. "I had come all the way from India (to Japan)" is true and so is "I have come to meet you". It is only when you combine these sentences it becomes a lie. The subtleness of the language worked in my favor. Surprised with my reply, he said "2階へどうぞ!(Come to the 2nd floor)". Bingo!!! I rushed to the 2nd floor to find a Sumo coach, who I later discovered was Asahikuni Masuo, popularly known as "The PhD of Sumo" and was the head coach of the Oshima stable. His highest rank was Ozeki, immediately below Yokozuna in the ranking system. He then led me to the Sumo arena and introduced me to the Sumo wrestlers practicing there. I was amazed to see them from so close. I guess they were equally amazed to find me in the arena with them. I was as thin as a toothpick, as tiny as a grain of sand between them. We had a generous photo session after which we enjoyed some breakfast and coffee. On the way back, the coach gave me some Sumo souvenirs as well, which I later boasted about among my colleagues.

It was a dream come true for me. I will surely cherish this till doomsday!

Akshay Varshney is an Indian living in Japan for 2 years. He is a chemical engineer working for Sumitomo Chemical. He is also a passionate tennis player and enjoys singing Japanese songs at Karaoke.

## The 22nd Niihama Global Party

“Just One world”

If you are looking for a party with a lot of fun, please join the Global Party, where you can have a good time talking, tasting various sweets, enjoying performances on stage and meeting people from different cultures.

Please don't miss this chance, come and find the fun.

Let's have a wonderful time !

This is a tea party. Please come after you finish your lunch.

**D a t e** : Sunday, 12th February, 2012

**T i m e** : 13:00 to 15:30

**V e n u e** : Niihama Women's Plaza

Address : 4-4-9 Shonai-cho , Niihama-shi

Phone : 0897-37-1700

**Admission** : ¥500/person to be paid at the reception.

Free for children of 6-year-old and under.

Volunteer help in preparation of various sweets is warmly welcomed. If you are interested, please contact the people below.

**Organized by** : The Global Party Association  
& SGG Niihama

**Sponsored by** : Niihama City Office  
& Niihama Board of Education

**Enquiry** : Ms. Okame 0897-34-8914

[yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp)

Ms. Miki 0897-43-0843

[yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

Exploring Restaurants: Western – style

No.4

### Cooks Café



by Michael Newlin

Surprisingly, they serve a variety of bagel sandwiches with seasoned French fries. Very country and relaxing atmosphere. Directions: Starting at the main police station, if you cross the road diagonally, it is on this road one half block down on the right side.

## January Events

### \*1/1: New year's Day

Many people pay a visit to shinto-shrines to pray for happiness and good health. Department stores sell lucky bags full of valuable goods.

### \*1/8 - 15 (Sun): Sunday Market 7:30-12:00 at Chuo-Koen Park

### \*1/15(Sun): Flying Kite Match 13:00~at Marine Park

Admission free. You apply on the day.

Your kite must be handmade with a thread shorter than 150m. Metal is not allowed to use.

TEL: City Hall 65-1300

### \*1/15(Sun): Besshi-yama Snow Festival 10:00-15:00

Boar-meat lunch is ¥1500. Booking is required TEL: 64-2018

Please take the Besshi-yama community bus, "Hana-guruma", because of the icy roads.

### \*1/22(Sun): Hamasai Market 10:00-16:00

at Noborimichi~Domu Niihama~Showa-dori You can enjoy big Tanabata Decorations, fresh vegetables, meat and fish market and . lots of vendors for local fast foods.



### Clair: Multilingual Living Information

Information about daily life necessary for foreigners to live in Japan is included on this homepage in multiple languages, 13 languages as of November 2011.

Clair: <http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

It gives information in 17 areas as follows:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A: status of residence  | J: Education                   |
| B: Alien registration   | K: Japanese language education |
| C: Marriage/Divorce     | L: Tax                         |
| D: Other notification   | M: Housing/Moving              |
| E: Work and training    | N: Transportation              |
| F: Medical              | O: Other daily life issues     |
| G: Pensions             | P: Emergencies/Disasters       |
| H: Childbirth/Childcare | Q: Consultation                |
| I: Other welfare        |                                |

## MOVIES

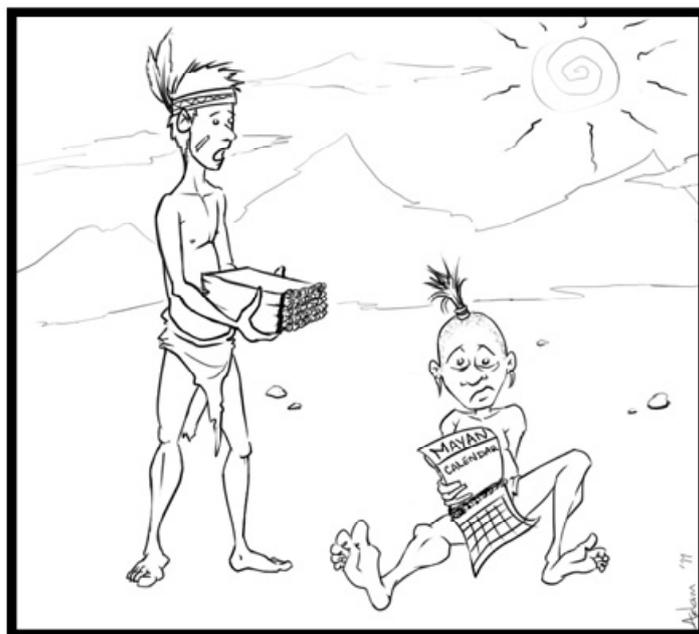
### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

December 9	REAL STEEL	English/Dubbed
December 16 ~	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-	
	GHOST PROTCOL	English/Dubbed
January 7 ~	FLIGHT NIGHT 3D	English

#### Information Service

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

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



- November 2011, December 2011... How many more of these do we have to do?  
- Just finish this year and we'll make something up.  
- Like what? Is the world gonna end?

<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

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\* The editors for this month are Ms.Akiyama & Mr.Yamamoto

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いろいろなオノマトペ

(Onomatopoeia in Japanese)

- A :** お正月は いかがでしたか。  
Oshōgatsu wa ikaga deshita ka. (How was your New Year's holiday?)
- B :** ずっと 家で ゴロゴロしていました。Aさんは？  
Zutto uchi de gorogoro shite imashita. A-san wa?  
(I didn't do nothing special at home. How about you, A?)
- A :** 年末年始は、いつも バタバタしています。  
Nenmatsunenshi wa, itsumo batabata shite imasu.  
(I'm always hurriedly doing things at the end and the beginning of the year.)
- B :** どうして そんなに 忙しいんですか。  
Dōshite sonnani isogashin desu ka. (Why are you so busy?)
- A :** 年末は、年賀状を かいて、大掃除を して、おせち料理を つくって・・・  
Nenmatsu wa, nengajō o kaite, ōsoji o shite, osechi ryōri o tsukutte...  
(At the end of the year I write New Year cards, do major house cleaning, cook New Year's dishes...)
- C :** お正月は？ Oshōgatsu wa? (How about the New Year Days?)
- A :** 遠くに すんでいる 家族が かえるつぎつぎに かえるので・・・。  
Tōku ni sundeiru kazoku ga tsugitsugi ni kaette kuru node・・・.  
(My family who live far away come home one after another, so...)
- B :** ワイワイ、にぎやかで たのしいでしょうね。  
Waiwai nigiyaka de tanoshideshō ne.  
(You have a very lively, noisy, pleasant time, I suppose.)
- A :** ええ、でも 毎日の しよくじづく 食事作りで、くたくたに なりました。  
Ee, demo mainichi no shokujizukuri de kutakuta ni narimashita.  
(Yes, but I became exhausted cooking meals every day.)
- B :** そうですか。それは たいへん 大変でしたね。Cさんは？  
Sō desu ka. Sore wa taihen deshita ne. C-san wa?  
(I see. That's terrible. How about you, C?)
- C :** わたしは、毎日 たべて過ぎて、ふと 太って しまいました。  
Watashi wa, mainichi tabesugite, futotte shimaimashita.  
(I ate too much every day and got fat.)
- B :** ところで、しんねんかいで、たべ放題の みせ 店に い行くんですが、いかがですか。  
Tokorode, shinnenkai de, tabehōdai no mise ni ikun desu ga,  
Ikaga desu ka.  
(By the way, we are going to an all-you-can-eat restaurant for a New Year Party. Won't you join us?)
- C :** 今回は、えんりよ 遠慮して むね おきます。胸が ムカムカして きました。  
Konkai wa, enryo shite okimasu. Mune ga mukamuka shite kimashita.  
(Thanks, but not this time. I am feeling a bit sick to my stomach.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp