

What's New?

Niihama City

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

Chinese Mid-Autumn Day

by

Donna Huang

China is composed of 56 Nationalities, and Han nationality has the most population in China. Today I am going to give a short introduction on one of the most big and important traditional festival of Han Nationality—Mid-Autumn Day.

As you know China has centuries-old culture history. Nowadays Han Nationality still have Spring festival, The Lantern Festival, The pure-brightness day we also called Tomb-sweeping Day, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Day after thousand of years evolvement. But near-by these years young people have less attached importance to China's traditional culture and traditional festivals. We found that Saint Valentine's Day and Christmas Day from Europe are more popular in China instead of our own festival. So China government made a decision in 2008 of adjustment holiday off for feast. They inserted 1 day off each of those 3 traditional festivals for all of the people. Because of this we can combine the feast stipulated by government with old traditional culture very well.

In old time even now Chinese people make a living in agriculture. So we think all of the hard working can get a very good pay in Autumn. Autumn means harvest. It is celebrated on the 15th day of 8th month of the lunar calendar. When the Mid-Autumn Festival is near, shop windows are beautifully decorated. Many "moon cakes" are displayed for people to buy. People send presents such as wine, fruits and "moon cakes" to their friends and relatives. In the evening of the day, we will have a very big feast. After the feast, Adults will usually indulge in

fragrant mooncakes of many varieties with a good cup of piping hot Chinese tea in garden to look at the Moon and the little kids will run around in street with their brightly-lit lanterns.

In China, Mid-autumn Day is considered to be a symbol of family reunion just like Christmas Day in Europe And New Year in Japan. On that day, all the family members will congregate and enjoy the full moon-an auspicious symbol of abundance, harmony and luck. Normally the people who cannot come back on that day will be very homesick. And we also know our mom will prepare one piece of moon-cake or watermelon for us even we are not at home. We also can image that our family members will get up very early in that morning. Buy hen, fish, pork etc. from market. They will also Prepare red candle, incense burner table, apple, watermelon, moon-cake, Chinese alcohol etc. For sacrificing the god of moon in night before sky turns dark. And most of T-V shows on that night will repeat to introduce history of Mid-autumn Day or have excellent performance regarding this special festival by CCTV(just like NHK in Japan). Some times we will have fireworks shown by our government. Anyway on that day we will go out together and enjoy harmonious atmosphere. We cannot sleep all night.

It is believed that the moon is at her brightest on this night. Many poems have been written about it, and poets are never tired of reading and writing such poems. In Chinese literature, the moon of the Mid Autumn Festival has been compared to a good looking-glass round plate, and we were told by our parents that we can see a fairy and a rabbit on that night. It seems that Chinese literature takes far more interest in the moon than in the sun.

Donna is from Shanghai China. She has been residing in the Niihama area for two months as housewife.



Information about Garbage and Trash Collection

To be more environmentally friendly and do more recycling, Collection of Garbage by type is going to be changed beginning Oct. 1st.

We will inform you of the main changes in the October issue of What's New in Niihama?.

As it is a bit complicated, if you have questions about how to classify, please ask your neighbors or friends, or call Division of Garbage Reduction, Niihama City Hall.

0897-65-1252 (Japanese only)

We appreciate your cooperation.

As we are working on the English translation, we will try to have it available as soon as possible.

September Events



Events such as Acoustic Live Contest, Fashion Show, Various Group Exhibitions in Niihama and so on by Niihama Junior Chamber of Commerce

Date: Sep. 12th and 13th from 10:00 to 17:00

Place: Aeon Shopping Mall

Sunday Flea Market at the Niihama Central Park

Date: Sept. 20th from 7:30 to 12:00.

It will be called off when it rains.

Respect-for-the-Aged Day Date: Sept. 21st

Free Japanese Drum Lessons (TAIKO)

Date: Sep. 29th and Oct. 6th from 19:30 to 21:00

Place: Niihama Bunka Center (Entrance is at the back of the large hall there.)

Please come with loose clothes and sports shoes.

Organized by Niihama Sightseeing Association

Free Posters of the Niihama Taiko

Festival will be available on September 10th.

Posters for the 2009 Niihama Taiko Festival have now been made and you can get one for free at Niihama City Hall. They will be given out to the first 1000 people, but there is a limit of only one per person.

Date: from 8:30 till 18:00 on Sep. 9th

Place: City Hall (4th FL, Unyu-Kanko Ka)

Tel: 0897-65-1261

English Library

Check out the English Library at Women's Plaza. Feel free to borrow a book, or drop off any books you are willing to lend.

What is an NPO?

(from the Niihama Shisei Dayori)

You may have seen or heard the acronym "NPO" somewhere in the newspaper or on TV. It stands for a nonprofit organization. In most cases, it refers to a group organized by citizens, the purpose of which is to carry out activities for the benefit of society. Nonprofit here means that a profit shall not be shared among the members of the organization. However, NPOs can make a profit by carrying out fund raising activities though this profit is for the purpose of supporting the goal of the organization. While the individual aspect is emphasized in the expression "volunteer", the group or organizational aspect is emphasized in an NPO. NPOs have full legal status according to the Designated Nonprofit Activity Promotion

Law. If an application for establishing a nonprofit organization is filed with the required papers, it is generally accepted. However, this doesn't mean that there is any guaranty from the government regarding a NPO's activities. The members of an NPO are responsible for its legal actions, are expected to regulate themselves and are governed by the freedom of information act.

Approval for NPOs can be obtained at Shimin Katsudou Suishin-ka (Citizen Activity Promotion Section) of the City government.

Information and consultations about how to set up an NPO is available at Machizukuri Kyodo Office (Niihama City Joint Office for City Development), too. Please feel free to call 65-3158.

MOVIES

TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

~September 12 Harry Potter and the half-blood prince
English/dubbed
~September 12 Hachiko A Dog's Story Dubbed
August 15 ~ Night at the Museum:
Battle of the Smithsonian English
August 22 ~ Taken English
September 4 ~ THE TAKING OF PELHAM123 English
September 11~ X-MEN ORIGINS:WOLVERINE English

Information Service

Tape (24hours) :0897-35-3322

Internet: <http://toho.co.jp>



Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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The editors for this month are XXXX & XXXX

ONE POINT JAPANESE

- A : Bさん、いつ日本へ来ましたか。
B-san, itsu Nihon e kimashita ka.
(When did you come to Japan, B?)
- B : 一ヶ月前に来ました。
Ikkagetsu mae ni kimashita.
(I came one month ago.)
- A : Cさんは?
C-san wa?
(How about you, C?)
- C : わたしは先週きたばかりです。
Watashi wa senshū kita bakari desu.
(I just came last week.)
- A : そうですか。Sō desu ka. (Is that so!)
わからないことがあったら、何でも聞いてくださいね。
Wakaranai koto ga attara, nandemo kite kudasai ne.
(If there is something you don't know, please ask me anything.)
- B : ありがとう ございます。
Arigatō gozaimasu.
(Thank you.)
- C : よろしく お願いします。
Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.
Literally: (Please give your favors to me.)
(Please help me in the future. / Please remember me.)
-
- A : これ、旅行のお土産です。どうぞ。
Kore, ryokō no omiyage desu. Dōzo.
(This is a present from our trip for you. Here you are.)
- B : ありがとう ございます。何ですか。
Arigatō gozaimasu. Nan desu ka?
(Thank you. What is it?)
- A : とても人気があるお菓子で、お店の前にいつも行列ができていますよ。
Totemo ninki ga aru okashi de, omise no mae ni itsumo gyōretsu ga dekiteirun desu yo.
(It is very a popular sweet; there is always a queue in front of the shop to get it.)
- B : それは、めずらしい物を、どうも。
Sore wa, mezurashi mono o, dōmo.
(That's a very unusual thing! Thank you.)
- A : お口に合うか どうか わかりませんが、召し上がってください。
Okuchi ni auka dōka wakarimasen ga, meshiagatte kudasai.
(I don't know whether it will suit your taste, but please try it.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori).

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