

What's New?

Niihama City

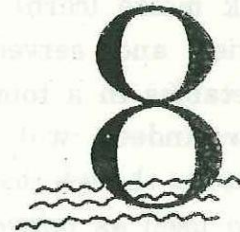
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MALAWI THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA

By

Ponyadira Kabwadza



I thought of writing something small to introduce Malawi. I once met someone to whom I introduced myself and said that I come from Malawi. They gave me a surprised look and asked "Malawi? Where is that?" They thought it was some island in the Atlantic Ocean. I did some bit of explaining to have them get a picture of Malawi.

Malawi is located in southeast Africa, landlocked between Mozambique to the east and south, Zambia to the west, and Tanzania to the north. Malawi is separated from Mozambique and Tanzania to a large extent by Lake Malawi, which lies on the country's eastern edge. Lake Malawi accounts for 20 percent of Malawi's 118,480 square kilometers (45,745 square miles). The capital City of Malawi is Lilongwe, is roughly in the center of the country.

Malawi is often called the "warm heart of Africa." because of the warmth and friendliness of the people. Malawian's in rural areas typically live with their extended families in huts that are grouped together in villages. She has a population of about 13,000,000 (2008 est.), with about 90% of the population living in the rural areas. Malawi is an

agrarian country and agriculture contributes about 35-40% of the GDP, 90% of foreign exchange earnings and employs 85% of the work force.

English is the official language and is very widely spoken, particularly in the main towns. Chichewa on the other hand is the common national tongue. Apart from these, there are also many other languages that are spoken by people depending on the part of Malawi where they come from.

FOOD

The staple food in Malawi is *nsima* (nsee -ma), which is a thick maize (corn) porridge. The porridge is molded into patties and served with either beans, meat, fish or vegetables in a tomato-and-onion sauce, collectively called *ndiwo* (ndee -wo). Malawians also eat rice, cassava, and potatoes, though rice is considered a luxury and potatoes are often used as *ndiwo*. Malawians consider food essential to hospitality and go out of their way to feed a guest, even if they have very little to offer. If it isn't a regular meal time, they'll get some nsima and ndiwo to the guest to have an early (or late) meal. Nsima is normally eaten with hands.

ART

Malawian curios are known for being intricately carved. At every possible tourist location, dozens of stalls line the streets selling ebony, mahogany, and teak wood carvings of African scenes, masks, furniture and random ornaments. Paintings are also one of the most popular art forms. Figures are generally highly stylized, and common themes are village life and nature.

In conclusion, there is also a lot of diversity in the Malawian culture and this is mostly driven but the tribe to which one belongs. The tribes are mostly regional in nature i.e. the northern, central and Southern region of the country and each tribe has its own cultural beliefs. However, thought this is the case, there is also a lot of common culture in Malawi like some of the issues highlighted in this write up.

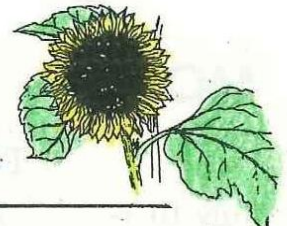
Written by Ponyadira Kabwadza, Ehime University international Student. Malawian.



You can read What's New? on the web.

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

ONE POINT JAPANESE



A : やっと 梅雨が 明けましたね。
Yatto tsuyu ga akemashita ne.
(The rainy season is over at last.)

B : ええ。いよいよ 本格的な 夏が 始まりますね。
Ee. Iyoiyo honkakuteki na natsu ga hajimarimasu ne.
(Yes. Summer will finally start for real.)

A : Bさんは 活動的だから、あちこち 出かけるんでしょう。
B-san wa katsudoteki dakara, achikochi dekakerundeshō.
(You are very active, so you will go here and there, won't you?)

B : ええ、もちろん。Aさんは?
Ee mochiron. A-san wa?
(Of course! How about you, A?)

A : わたしは 人ごみも 苦手だし、暑さにも 弱いので、
うちで のんびり しようと思っ ています。
Watashi wa hitogomi mo negate da shi, atsusa nimo yowai no de,
uchi de nonbiri shiyō to omotte imasu.
(I just don't like crowds and I am sensitive to heat, so I think I'll relax at home.)

A : 夏休みに 国へ 帰りますか。
Natsuyasumi ni kuni e kaerimasu ka.
(Are you going back home during the summer vacation?)

B : ええ。2週間 ほど 休みが とれましたから。
Ee. Nishukan hodo yasumi ga toremashita kara.
(Yes. I was able to take about two weeks of vacation.)

A : それは よかったですね。
Sore wa yokatta desu ne.
(That's great.)

ところで、お土産は もう 買いましたか。
Tokorode, omiyage wa mo kaimashita ka.
(By the way, have you bought presents?)

B : いいえ、まだ 買って いません。
Iie, mada katte imasen.
(No, I haven't bought any yet.)

これから 準備するんですが、何か おすすめのものは ありませんか。
Korekara junbi surun desu ga, nanika osusume no mono wa arimasen ka.
(I'm getting ready to, so is there anything you recommend?)

A : タコ焼き器は どうですか。Takoyaki ki wa dō desu ka?
(How about a 'TAKOYAKI-KI'?)

B : タコ焼き器? Takoyaki ki? (TAKOYAKI-KI?)

A : 使い方も 簡単だし、結構 おいしく できますよ。
Tsukaikata mo kantan da shi, kekko oishiku dekimasu yo.
(It is easy to use, and you can make really delicious TAKOYAKI with 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). e-mail : pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp

Midnight Pediatric Care Service Launched at Pediatric Emergency Center

(Niihama Doctors' Association)

(from Shisei-dayori published by Niihama City)

Suppose one of your little children suddenly gets a fever or has a fit at midnight. Most likely it would cause you to panic and hurriedly look for a hospital that would immediately accept your sick child. Have you ever had such a bitter experience yourselves?

Since April 1, a midnight emergency care service has been operated by the Pediatric Section of the Niihama Doctors' Association. It was opened so that infants requiring primary emergency care for sudden fevers, colds or other light-symptom health problems could receive primary outpatient care.

Children can receive treatment from pediatricians between 23:00 pm and 6:00 am, Monday to Saturday at the pediatric Emergency Center. This service covers most of the emergency medical treatment needs of infants, providing a welcome sense of relief to parents.

However, please keep in mind that the primary aim of the service is after all, emergency treatment.

As far as infants' ordinary health problems are concerned, please try to consult your family doctors during working hours if at all possible. (For more information, contact The Hoken Center, Tel 35-1070)

August Events

★August 5-9 Photo Exhibition of Atomic Bomb

9:30-16:00 Location: Koreisha Yasuragi-no-ie Yamane. (Nakanishi-cho16-20)

Free admission. Tel(☎) : 41-0104

★August 8 Konga Dance Festival

17:00-21:00 Location: Kikoji Shopping Mall. Tel(☎) : 41-5420

★August 2 & 9 Sunday flea market

7:30-12:00 Location: Chuo Park, north of City Hall.

★August 16 Somen Nagashi-eating noodles

10:00-15:00 from flowing water.

Location: Ikatazu Sanso.

Fee : ¥500 Tel(☎) : 64-2018

★August 23 Shimin Ongakusai-music festival

first session 14:00- second session 18:30-

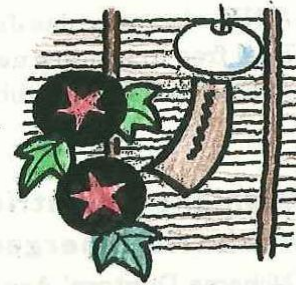
Admission fee: ¥500 Tel(☎) : 33-2180

Location: Shimin Bunka Center.

-Music will be performed by senior and junior high school students and others hoping to be professional musicians.

The installation of a subsidized Solar Power Generation System

(from the monthly City News 2009/7)



Q: What is the cost of installation?

A: Solar power generation costs about 700,000 yen per 1kW of capacity. As the average household system has a capacity of 3.6 kW the cost would amount to approximately 2.5 million yen. The combined subsidies from both central and municipal governments would be 360,000 yen.

Q: Can the system be installed on preexisting houses?

A: At the moment installations on preexisting houses outnumber those on newly-built houses by a ratio of 7 to 3.

Q: What if the generated power falls short of or exceeds household electricity consumption?

A: The connection between the solar power generation system and the power company is designed so that both the purchase and sale of extra electricity supplies are handled automatically and appear on the regular billing.

Q: What is the life of the system?

A: The life of solar power generation panels is estimated at more than 20 years and the various other components should last 10 to 15 years.

Q: What percentage of household electricity consumption can be covered by the system?

A: The system can provide 50 to 100% of a household's electricity needs depending on weather conditions.

For further information:

City Hall 4F Kenchiku-shido-ka (65-1273)

MOVIES

TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

July 10 ~	Knowing	English
July 11 ~	Monsters vs. Aliens	Dubbed
July 15 ~	Harry Potter and the half-blood prince	English/dubbed
July 25 ~	Ice Age : Dawn of the Dinosaurs	English
August 1 ~	Bolt	Dubbed
August 8 ~	Hachiko A Dog's Story	Dubbed
August 15 ~	Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian	English
August 22 ~	Taken	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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This month's editors ; K. Shimamura & K. Takahashi