

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## Smart Phones are killing the art of conversation

**David Blair**

Good day to you. I'd like to point out that since the arrival of the Smart Phone in our lives, it seems that many people are communicating less and less.

Time and time again I see groups of people together young adults, teenagers, business men in coffee shops all of them in silence staring at their Smart Phone screen, a couple on a date sitting at a table across from me together both using their phones and their child playing a 3DS, not a word was spoken between them.

Smart Phones are useful, informative and in some cases necessary, but on a day to day basis, Smart Phones are taking away people's social time together instead of talking to each other.

When I grew up as a child my family would play board games together all of us around the table enjoying a game in which we can all join in.

Now children have hand held devices which they play by themselves without speaking a word for hours a day.

Social interaction with people is a vital tool to help people throughout their lives.

People should make time for each other and actively engage with one another.

It seems the more interactive our gadgets and computers become digitally, the less interactive we become as people.

Food for thought in the upcoming new year sales.

I'm David Blair from the UK, Manchester now currently living in Saijo thank you for reading.

## The 26th Niihama Global Party

### "Just One World"

Niihama's 26th Global Party was held at Women's plaza on February 21 with the theme of "Just One World". 370 guests and organizers from 16 countries took part in the event. The party started with a Yosakoi Dance performance. People were able to meet people from different cultures and eat various sweets.

On stage various countries' dances were performed. Japanese traditional performances, such as Shigin, Kenbu and Wadaiko drumming were also performed.

At the end of the party Yosakoi Dance group asked the participants to join in the dance together, and they began to go with a swing. Unesco Club and Chinese club of Niihama-Minami Senior High displayed their activities.

People enjoyed pressed-flower art, copper craftsmanship, calligraphy, and tried on traditional outfits..

**Number of Participants**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>male</b>	<b>female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Australia	1		1
Cambodia	2	1	3
China	6	8	14
Ecuador		1	1
France	1		1
Indonesia	4	17	21
Jamaica	1	1	2
Korea	4	1	5
Laos	2		2
Malaysia	1	1	2
Mongolia		1	1
The Philippines	1	3	4
Russia	1	2	3
Taiwan	2	2	4
The USA	6	1	7
	32	39	71
Japan	299		299
<b>Total</b>			<b>370</b>

## MOVIES

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

December 18 ~	Star Wars: The Force Awakens	2D English • Dubbed
February 4 ~	The Martian	2D English, 3D Dubbed
~March 4	Dragon Blade PG12	2D Dubbed
February 19 ~	SHERLOCK: The Abominable Bridge	2D English
February 20 ~	Point Break PG12	2D English
February 27 ~	The Finest Hours	3D English
March 4 ~	The Big Short	2D English
March 12 ~	the Good Dinosaur	2D, 3D Dubbed
March 25 ~	Batman vs Superman : Dawn of Justice	English

#### Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

### March Event

#### Doll's Festival

Hinamatsuri(Doll's Festival) is an occasion to pray for young girls' growth and happiness. Hinamatsuri is celebrated each year on March 3. Most families with girls display dolls for the Doll's Festival called Hina-ningyo.

The dolls depict the imperial court. A set of dolls includes the Emperor(odairi-sama), the Empress (ohina-sama), three court ladies(sannin-kanjo), five court musicians (gonin-bayashi), the minister of the left(sadaijin), the minister of the right(udaijin) and three servants (sannin-jougo).

Today, we eat traditional dishes like Scattered sushi (chirashi-sushi), clam soup, sweet white sake(shirozake), rise cake cubes(hina arare) and diamond-shaped rice cakes(hishimochi) for the Doll's Festival.

## Interesting Goods —YAMAKI Dashi Soup Bag

(From Ehime Shimbun October 12, 2015)

"Washoku", Japanese cuisine, is becoming more popular as it is low in calories and healthy.

"Dashi", soup stock, is the basis of Washoku. It does not sound nice to rely only on chemical seasoning.

But it is too much bother for many people to make Dashi (soup stock) from dried bonito and kombu at home every day.

A "Dashi Pack", a bag that looks like a tea bag, which contains several blended materials is favored among consumers because you can easily make genuine Dashi.

YAMAKI in Iyo City started selling "Katsuobushi-ya no ajiwai dashi" packs last August. It is a blend of four different characteristic ingredients such as dried bonito, kombu, dried ago (a small fish) and others. In addition it is flavored with seasoning to bring out the "Umami" of Dashi. You can make soup stock by using it and you can cook good vegetables or Takikomi-gohan (rice cooked in stock with various ingredients) just by adding some seasoning.

The price is ¥572 (manufacturer's suggested retail price). One plastic bag contains 10 individual Dashi packs.



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

email: [kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

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

\*The editors for this month are K. Shimamura & T. Kashimoto



## From an ALT's blog

One day after school, I was invited to attend tea ceremony club. I'd been to tea ceremony demonstrations before, where I drank matcha and ate sweets —two of my favorite things! — so I agreed. When I showed up, though, I was handed a fukusa and told I would learn the art of tea.

At first, I was excited: I would be able to learn how to do something uniquely Japanese! What a great way to understand my host culture better! But quickly, it became apparent that tea ceremony was more difficult than I expected.

The high schoolers neatly tucked their fukusa into their school uniform skirts. I had worn pants to work that day. Pants with no pockets, too. The sensei had to find a belt for me to wear around my waist. I tucked my fukusa into the borrowed belt and bowed with the other students, unable to understand the Japanese instructions.

The rest of the practice went just as poorly. Kneeling made my feet fall asleep, and I fell out of position. It took me several tries and demonstrations by my senpai to fold my fukusa, and even when I managed to follow the steps, it looked like it had been crumpled up by a 3-year-old.


Overall, my tea ceremony experience was a mild disaster.

Despite all this, I left tea ceremony practice eager to try again. I've realized that you can't beat yourself up for every cultural blunder you commit as a foreigner. Yes, you should try your best to adapt and blend in, but your best efforts don't always work. And when that happens, you have to laugh it off and continue trying. There's no other way to learn the rules.

**Information in English & Chinese on the Web**

**\*What's New?**

**\*How to sort garbage and trash**

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

**[Clair: \\*Multilingual Living Information](http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html)**

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

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## ポカポカ・ワクワク・ウキウキ・ルンルン

A : 今日<sup>きょう</sup>は ポカポカ いい 天気<sup>てんき</sup>ですね。

Kyō wa pokapoka ii tenki desu ne. (Today is nice and warm, isn't it?)

B : ええ、やっと 春<sup>はる</sup>らしく なってきましたね。

Ee, yatto harurashiku natte kimashita ne. (Yes. It finally looks like spring!)

A : 近く<sup>ちか</sup>に きれいな 菜<sup>な</sup>の花畑<sup>はなばたけ</sup>が あるので、見<sup>み</sup>に 行き<sup>い</sup>ませんか。

Chikaku ni kirena nanohana batake ga aru node, mini ikimasen ka?  
(There's a beautiful mustard flower field nearby, so how about going to see them?)

B : いいですね。青<sup>あお</sup>い 空<sup>そら</sup>と 一<sup>いち</sup>面<sup>めん</sup>の 菜<sup>な</sup>の花畑<sup>はなばたけ</sup>!

Ii desu ne. Aoi sora to ichimen no nanohana batake! (Nice! Blue sky and mustard flowers all around!) 素敵<sup>すてき</sup>な 写<sup>しゃ</sup>真<sup>しん</sup>が 撮<sup>と</sup>れそうで、ワクワクします。

Suteki na shashin ga toresō de, wakuwaku shimasu. (I think I'll be able to take wonderful pictures - I'm excited!)

A : 息子<sup>むすこ</sup>さん、東<sup>とう</sup>京<sup>きょう</sup>の 大<sup>だい</sup>学<sup>がく</sup>に 合<sup>ごう</sup>格<sup>かく</sup>されたそうですね。

Musuko san, Tōkyō no daigaku ni gōkaku sareta sō desu ne.

(Your son has passed a university in Tokyo, I hear.)

おめでとう ございます。

Omedetō gozaimasu. (Congratulations!)

B : ありがとう ございます。ホッとして しました。

Arigatō gozaimasu. Hotto shimashita. (Thank you very much. I'm relieved.)

A : 4月<sup>しがつ</sup>から 寂<sup>さび</sup>しく なりますね。

Shigatsu kara sabishiku narimasu ne. (You will be lonely after April.)

B : ええ、でも、息子<sup>むすこ</sup>は 一<sup>ひとり</sup>人<sup>り</sup>暮<sup>ぐ</sup>らしが できるので、ルンルン気分<sup>きぶん</sup>ですよ。

Ee. Demo musuko wa hitori gurashi ga dekiru node, runrun kibun desu yo.

(Yes, but he's in a happy mood because he'll be able to live alone.)

A : どうしたの? ウキウキして。 Dōshita no? Ukiuki shite..

(What's up? You're awfully cheerful.)

B : 実は、今日<sup>けふ</sup>、彼女<sup>かのじょ</sup>と 初<sup>はつ</sup>デートなんです。

Jitsuwa kyō, kanojo to hatsu dēto nan desu. (Actually, today is my first date with "her.")

< 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