

What's New?

Niihama City

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One game, one quarter, one minute

Peong Khay Tze

I got enrolled at NIIHAMA College of Technology last spring, and since then I've been training with the school's basketball club. Having not been in an actual sports team before, I was lucky enough to get a chance to experience it during my stay in Japan.

Although my father was the coach of a handball team, I was never into sports as a kid. In fact, I was too weak and too skinny for any sports and was especially awful at ball sports. In my first year of secondary school, during a house practice for the upcoming cross-country race, me and a few friends would just walk casually for the entire course. We were so slow to the point where teachers and my house captain had to go look for us.

It was not until I started taking Taekwondo classes that I see improvements in my stamina. Through Taekwondo, I built up strength and coordination gradually. A lot changes when you're physically better. And so, in my third year, I started getting into football (soccer). Though never any good at it, I was almost always present whenever my friends were playing. This marked the start of my interest in sports. Then, in the fifth and final cross-country race of my secondary years, I was in top-10 of my year. An achievement considering how bad I was in my first year. Eventually, I got my black belt in Taekwondo. By then, I've won quite a collection of medals from competitions, representing my club and school. But even then, ball sports were still not my thing. I just couldn't be good at one.

So why join the basketball club? You'd ask.

I started basketball a year after I enter the Japanese preparatory course (we had to take two years of Japanese lessons before continuing our studies in

Japan). It was after the inter-programme sports event (there were other preparatory courses for various countries such as the UK, US and Germany) where the Japanese programme team has won first place in basketball. It was a first in previous years from what I've heard and what mesmerized me the most was the chemistry and the togetherness of the team. The moment they've won it, the atmosphere was unbelievable.

As most of the winning team members were graduating the following year, there was a big gap to fill in the team. So, one of my friend who was in the team invited me to play almost every evening, hoping that I will be good enough by the next sports event. I was so bad at first that I got a ball in my face after a failed catch attempt. After a year of mentoring from my friend, I finally got a hang of the basics. Or so I thought. We did win the event the following year, however, I wasn't really involved.

At the end of the two-year course, I came to Japan and started school life in Niihama. To have a taste of what it feels like to be in an actual team, I decided to join the school's basketball club. Training was completely different, and the intensity was on a whole new level for me in the beginning. I couldn't catch up with their training at all. It is true that I used to play almost every evening, but that was casual, and no proper training was involved. I had to redo all the basics from page one and rebuild my stamina. Even after a year, I still feel that I have the weakest stamina of all the club members. Sometimes, training is just too tough to go on, but with everyone else working hard, you just had to bear with it and keep going.

All these harsh trainings just motivate me more to be a better player. My starting point was 5-10 years behind most of the other club members in terms of basketball age. For me to catch up with them, I'll have to put in extra effort. I'd wake up early almost every morning for morning practices in hopes that one day I'll be good enough to play for my school. Even if it's just one game, one quarter or even just one minute.

My name is Peong Khay Tze. A Malaysian student studying Electronics Control in Niihama National College of Technology.

MOVIES

TOHOCINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

March 21 ~	Tomb Raider	2D English
March 30 ~	THE PENTAGON PAPERS	2D English
March 30 ~	Valerian	2D English
March 30 ~	RED SPARROW	2D English
March 30 ~	The Commuter	2D English
April 6 ~	Jumanji : Welcome to the Jungle	2D English
April 13 ~	PACIFIC RIM UPRISING	2D English
April 20 ~	Ready Player One	2D English
April 27 ~	Marvel Avengers : Infinity War	2D English

Information Service
Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>
Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

April Events

Spring Cultural Festival at Niihama Bunka Center

Date : 4/7 (Sat.) 13:30- Koto, Western-style Dance, etc

4/8 (Sun.) 13:30- Japanese Drum, Japanese Songs, etc

4/15 (Sun.) 14:00- Niihama Brass Band Performance

4/21 (Sat.) 13:00- Koto, Japanese Dance, etc

4/22 (Sun.)13:30-Western- style Dance, Japanese Songs

Fee: Free

For further information: TEL 0897-65-1554

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

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*The editors for this month are M.Shimamura & Y. Miki

A Film Is Shot Entirely in Niihama

(from Ehime Shimbun, February 15, 2018)

Shooting on a film called “Two Yesterdays and My Future” began on February 14th. This film will be shot entirely in Niihama. Lead actors Gaku Sano and Itsuki Sagara got off to a smooth start with director Kenichi Omae (42), from Tobe, Ehime.

The shooting began with a scene with the two actors talking in a car at Niihama City Hall. The day was warm and sunny. They rehearsed repeatedly and spoke their lines carefully. Director Omae talked to them and arranged the shot. The venue was filled with a calm and enthusiastic atmosphere.

The film is about a young man named Kaito, played by Sano, who works for the city office and struggles with anxiety. Throughout the film he matures as he meets himself from the past and receives encouragement from Marino, played by Sagara.

The two had acted together before. Sano said, “I tasted ‘Fuguzaku’, the specialty of Niihama, last night.” and added, “It has become one of my favorite foods.” Itsuki also showed her interest in the local cuisine and said, “I have not tasted it yet, but I will try it tonight by all means.” Director Omae nodded saying, “The two have good chemistry and we had a nice start. I have a feeling that we can produce a good film.”

A Hint for Your Life

About Laundry’s Plastic Bags

(from Ehime Shimbun December 10, 2017)

When you pick up your clothes at the dry-cleaner's, they are usually put into a plastic cover or bag. If you put them in your dresser or closet without first removing them from the plastic, you may run into trouble. The laundry wrapping should be removed. The plastic covers are for protecting the clothes from dirt, not for preserving them properly. If you leave your clothes in the plastic cover, they may get moldy or lose their color because of humidity. It is better to put them in the closet after drying them in the shade of the sun for several days. If you want to keep them with the cover on, it is recommended that you use the non-woven fabric bag that is on the market or used cloth

**“Gacha Gacha” Capsule Toy Vending Machine
is Getting Popular**
(from Ehime Shimbun, January 17 2017)

Capsule toy vending machines, known as "Gacha Gacha", are increasing in number on the shopping streets in the center of Matsuyama and at Matsuyama airport because of an increased number of visitors thanks to low cost flights. Recently, these machines are quite popular among tourists inside and outside Japan. One reason for the machines' increase is that, for proprietors, these machines are not so expensive and can be a convenient way to fill up an empty space.


They are also getting more popular because of the unique goods contained inside the capsules, such as a miniature model of the "Dogo Onsen Main Building", or "Mikyan", Ehime prefecture's character mascot.

People who were once obsessed with collecting trinkets such as plastic erasers with anime characters on them play an important role for installing and buying. So, Gacha Gacha toys are getting popular not only among kids but also people of another generation.

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>

ONE POINT JAPANESE

4 月は (花見/入学/花粉症) シーズン

A : お花見に きましたか。 Ohanami ni ikimashita ka.

(Did you go to see the cherry blossoms?)

B : まだです。 Mada desu. (Not yet.)

ネットで調べたら、八分咲きでしたよ。

Netto de shirabetara, hachibuzaki deshita yo.

(I checked on the internet and found the cherry are 80% in bloom.)

A : じゃ、今週末は満開ですね。

J, kon shmatsu wa mankai desu ne.

(Then, at the end of this week they will be in full bloom!)

B : よかったら、一緒に行きませんか。

Yokattara, isshoni ikimasen ka.

(If it's alright, how about going to see them together.)

A : 駐車場が 込まないうちに、早めに出発しましょう。

Chshaj ga komanai uchi ni, hayame ni shuppatsu shimash.

(Let's leave early, before the parking lot gets crowded.)

A : (大学の) 入学式は どうでしたか。

(Daigaku no) nygakushiki wa d deshita ka.

(How was the (university) entrance ceremony?)

B : 知っている 人が誰も いなくて、ちょっと緊張しました。

Shitteiru hito ga dare mo inakute, chotto kinch shimashita.

(There wasn't anyone I knew, so I was a little nervous.)

A : サークルの勧誘が すごかったでしょう。

Skuru no kany ga sugokatta desh.

(Recruiting by members of activity clubs was really something!)

B : ええ、たくさん声を かけられました。

Ee, takusan koe o kakeraremashita.

(Yes, I was approached by many people.)

(新居浜弁 Niihama ben) (in Niihama dialect)

A : どしたん、マスクして。 Doshitan, masuku shite.

(What happened? You're wearing a mask!)

B : 花粉症なんよ。 Kafunsh nan yo. (It's hay fever.)

A : それは いかんね。 Cさんも? Sore wa ikan ne. C-san mo?

(That's bad! You too, C?)

C : 私は鼻炎 。 Watashi wa bien. (I have nasal inflammation.)

鼻水が出て、カッコ悪いけん。 Hanamizu ga dete, kakko warui ken.

(My nose is running - it looks awful!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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