

What's New?

Niihama City

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Memories of a Colombian in Japan

By Leonardo Ossa

I arrived in Japan on April 4th, 2001 and since then, I can say that my life here has been wonderful! I think that maybe 95% has been full of good experiences.

When I was 17 years old, I was a student at an institute of technology at my hometown in Colombia –South America, for those who don't know where it is, and the only things I can recall I knew about Japan were that “Japan is a rich country where the technology in every field of the sciences is advanced, that had samurais and ninjas, that all the people living there have almond-shaped eyes, some of them wear kimonos, and that they are very famous for Anime, Manga, Sumo and the Shinkansen”.I never dreamed of leaving my country and studying abroad.

I came from a lower - middle class family with 5 other brothers and it was impossible to ever think that some of us would end up living outside Colombia, and one of the reasons I choose this institute was because it was completely free-charge and it was not necessary for my father to help me with any school fees. But then something happened that I never expected nor crossed my mind and that is one of the big reasons I believe in destiny.

One day, while I was attending classes at the institute - I was studying to be a technician in the electrical and electronics field - one of my teachers suggested me to apply for a full-paid 4 year scholarship that the Japanese government was offering to ONE student of the institute, which at a national scale has 30 branches.

At first I had no big expectations, but when I applied for it, and was chosen from almost 100 people with 7 other students to do some exams and an interview at the Japanese Embassy in the capital city of Bogota, I thought, OK, my chances are more real.

On July-August of 2000 I went to Bogota and took the exams and the interview with the other 7 students of different cities around the country.

After we finished the selection process, the Embassy staff told us that they would check all the documents and evaluate the exams & interview results and that they would choose 1 or 2 students and let the chosen one(s) know at the beginning of the next year.

And then, a few days after 2001 started, on a beautiful morning, I received a phone call from the Japanese embassy telling me that I was granted the scholarship with another guy from the 8 students, and that I should prepare the passport and prepare to leave Colombia at the end of March.

That was the call that changed the life of this ordinary Colombian.

By the way, the scholarship was 1 year living in Tokyo learning the Japanese language and the basics of physics, math, chemistry, and English and the other 3 years studying at the Niihama National College of Technology.

Those 4 years as a student were full of wonderful experiences and the 3 years I lived in Niihama city, Ehime pref were amazing!

I had the great chance to meet many wonderful people who are still my great friends.

After I finished my studies in Niihama, I had the chance to work in Tokyo, and since then (April, 2005) I've been living a very happy life!!!

Leonardo Ossa is working as an IT field engineer for a company of the Mistubishi Electric Group and is living at Setagaya-ku, Tokyo. He likes to travel inside Japan, visit new places around the world, watch movies and spend time with good friends(Picnic, BBQ's, clubbing, etc).

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

***Information on living in Niihama**

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

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

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

Legal Matters Q & A

~ The nationality of babies born in a foreign country

(from Ehime Shimbun May 26)

Q: I am Japanese and I'm going to give birth in Brazil.
Could you tell me what to do to register the birth of my baby?
What points do I have to be careful about?

A: If you are Japanese and give birth in a foreign country, you must have the birth of your baby registered with the nearest overseas office of the ministry of foreign affairs within 3 months or have the child registered in your municipality office in Japan.

You have to be careful about the nationality of your baby as Japan applies *jus sanguinis* when judging the nationality of its citizens.

Jus sanguinis (Latin: for right of blood), is the principle of nationality law whereby citizenship is not determined by place of birth but by the citizenship of one or both parents. Therefore, as a Japanese citizen your baby will have Japanese nationality.

On the other hand, Brazil applies *jus soli* (Latin: for right of soil), which is the right of anyone born in the territory of a state to citizenship. Consequently, if your baby is born in Brazil, he or she will automatically be given Brazilian nationality.

This means your baby will acquire both Japanese and Brazilian nationality.

However, any baby who gets foreign nationality will lose their Japanese nationality unless a reservation of Japanese nationality notice is submitted retroactively after the date of birth.

If you want to your baby to get Japanese nationality, you must submit a reservation of Japanese nationality notice soon after having your baby.

For further information, call the Matsuyama Legal Bureau.

Tel: 089-932-0888

Payments for Recycling or Leasing

Nursery Items paid by City Office

(from Monthly City News, September issue)

Please make use of this subsidy offered for reusing or leasing parenting items.

*Description of the service

Re-cycling: We collect reusable items which are covered by this service and are no longer being used and offer them free of charge to families in need of them.

Leasing: We subsidize half the rental charge for caregivers who are going to lease the items.

The total of the subsidy is limited.

*Eligible persons (applicants)

Parents and guardians who live in Niihama-city and take care of pre-school children.

*Items covered by the subsidy

Crib, Baby buggy, Child safety seat

*How to apply?

Please apply for the subsidy at Kosodate-Shien-ka, The Child Rearing Support Section of Niihama City
Tel: 65-1242

*How much subsidy is given?

Half of the rental cost for a limited period.

And the subsidy has an upper limit.

*The Maximum payment of the subsidy

Item ~ Maximum amount per month /Allowable period

Crib 1000 yen for 6 months

Baby Buggy 1500 yen for 9 months

Child Seat 2000 yen for 12 months

The subsidy is not given when you buy the items.

For further information,
please contact Kosodate-Shien-ka, City Hall

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

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

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*The editors for this month are E. Okada & Y. Miki

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

July 25 ~	GODZILLA	2D English • Dubbed
August 8 ~	TRANSFORMERS: Age of Extinction	2D English
September 6 ~	Non-Stop	2D English
September 13 ~	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY	2D English / 3D Dubbed
September 19 ~	DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES	2D English / 3D Dubbed
October 10~16	Trainspotting	2D English
October 24 ~	The Legend of Hercules	2D English / 3D
October 31 ~	Dracula Untold	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.

October Event

< Niihama Taiko Festival Oct.15-18 >

Ojoin area Oct. 15-17

Main performance

15(Wed) 18:00-20:00 *10 taikos at M2 Ojoin

Jobu area Oct. 16-18

Main performance

17(Fri) 12:00-16:00 *19 taikos at Yamane Ground

Kawahigashi and Kawanishi area Oct. 16-18

Main performance

16(Thu) 18:00-19:30 *12 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Fri) 10:30-12:00 *12 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Fri) 16:00 *15 taikos in front of Takihama Station

18(Sat) 8:00-9:00 *11 taikos at Oe-hama

18(Sat) 14:00-19:00 *15 taikos at Hachiman Shrine

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“炊く、炊き～、～炊き”

A : 新米 (を) 買ってきたから、栗ご飯を炊いたよ。

Sinmai o katte kita kara, kuri gohan o taita yo.

(I bought newly harvested rice, so I cooked “kuri-gohan.” (rice with chestnuts).)

B : わあ、炊きたては特においしいね。Wa, takitate wa tokuni oishine.

(Yay! Just cooked, it's especially delicious.)

A : 明日はさつまいもときのこの炊き込みご飯にするよ。

Ashita wa Satsuma imo to kinoko no takikomi gohan ni suru yo.

(Tomorrow I'll cook rice with sweet potatoes and mushrooms.)

B : あさっては? Asatte wa? (How about the day after tomorrow?)

A : 今日炊いたごはんを冷凍して、チンして食べよう。

Kyo taita gohan o retō shite chin shite tabeyō.

(I'll freeze the rice I cooked today and let's microwave and eat it.)

A : 今度の土曜日、いも炊きパーティーをしませんか。

Kondo no doyōbi, imodaki pati o shimasen ka.

(This coming Saturday, how about having an Imodaki party?)

B : いも炊き? Imodaki? (Imodaki?)

A : ええ、秋の代表的ななべ料理です。

Ee, aki no daihyoteki na nabe ryōri desu.

(Yes, it's a special autumn dish cooked in ample stock in a pot.)

だしの中に、里芋や鶏肉、野菜などを入れ、煮て
(炊いて)

食べるんです。

Dashi no naka ni, satoimo ya kēniku, yasai nado o ire, nite (taite)

taberun desu. (Satoimo (taro), chicken, vegetables, etc. are put into soup stock and heated, then eaten.)

B : 美味しそうですね。Oishiso desu ne. (It sure sounds delicious!)

A : 河川敷に 行けば、簡単に 楽しめますよ。

Kasenjiki ni ikeba, kantan ni tanoshimemasu yo.

(If you go to the riverside, you can enjoy eating them easily.)

B : 道具や 材料は？ Dogu ya zairyo wa? (What about tools and ingredients?)

A : 全部 揃っています。早速 予約しましょうか。

Zenbu sorotte imasu. Sassoku yoyaku shimasho ka.

(Everything's ready. Shall I make a reservation right away?)

《いも炊き》 《Imodaki》

・ 日時 : 9/6~10/13 Date : 9/6 ~10/13

・ 場所 : 国領川河川敷 (市民体育館西側) Place: The
Kokuryo
riverside

・ 料金 : 予約 一人前 1600円 (当日 1800円)

Fee: With reservation: \1,600 W/out reservation: \1,800

(per person)

・ 問い合わせ先 : 0897-33-3920 Information:0897-33-
3920

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki) E-mail: manami-
m@js6.so-net.ne.jp