

Last summer, I had the misfortune of dealing with a broken water heater in my apartment. For about three weeks, I had no hot water coming out of any of my pipes no matter what I tried. I was told that the building was old, and it was being knocked down this year, so the water heater wouldn't be replaced (but it started working again miraculously a few weeks later). I was so surprised.. my building was being knocked down? But it wouldn't be until April 2008, they said. It seemed so far away. If only I knew how fast that time would go by, I would have started preparing to move a whole lot earlier!

Now I have less than a week to prepare for moving, and while I have been cleaning, organizing and getting ready to move for the past few weeks, I still have a lot to do! While it is a hassle to move now (especially as I will be moving to a new apartment again when I start my new job this summer), I am trying to look at the positive side of things. This is giving me a good chance to take stock of all the things I have accumulated in Japan. I am a sentimental person so I often save things like ticket stubs, pamphlets and of course pictures of the things I have done since I came to Japan. But three and a half years of this stuff is too much! I am taking an active approach to cleaning and getting rid of a lot of things I don't need. It would be much harder to go through my things and get rid of these memories if I was moving away from Japan. But since I am just moving down the street, it is easy to clean and reorganize, thus making it that much easier for myself when I move home.

This is also a good experience for me to learn how to do more administrative tasks in Japan. I'm not really looking forward to going to the police station to change the address on my driver's license, but these kinds of tasks, when completed successfully in Japanese, always give me energy and confidence that I can live on my own in Japan!

Luckily I have the help of some kind teachers and office staff at my school that are helping to smooth all the details of the move. I would be a lot more stressed out if I needed to deal with everything myself. But as it is, I am mostly just responsible for packing up my things. It sounds easy but that alone is taking a lot out of me! Once everything is packed, I am really looking forward to the move. The new apartment, while I haven't had a chance to look inside yet, seems bigger and nicer than where I live now. Hopefully there won't be many mukade or other creepy-crawlers around there as my current location. I will only be there for a few months, but I know that moving and adjusting to the new apartment will be a fun experience nonetheless. Now if I could only get my apartment to pack itself!