

Joylife Yusuvara : 4. A cold challenge to me

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When I was told that Yusuvara had cold, hard winters, I was excited – I'm a New Zealander, I'm used to cold temperatures and mountains of snow! How bad could winter in Yusuvara really be? "Bring it," I thought.

And Yusuvara brought it.

Winter in Japan and winter in snowy regions of New Zealand are two completely different beasts. Lately, every day in Yusuvara has been consistently under - 0C (This is something I have not felt since my childhood of growing up in Europe!). Compared to my winters spent in New Zealand and other European countries, that's not too much different in comparison. However, in



A unique formation of icicles came with water troubles. I wasn't able to use for a couple of days!

Yusuvara, **the cold cannot be escaped**. Buildings don't use central heating and are not insulated, which adds some challenges to life in the mountains.

Never the less, I have enjoyed the winter days for the most part. First of all, the snow-covered scenery adds a different but no less beautiful dimension from the usual shades of green. Second, I have felt the town of Yusuvara become stronger in its sense of community as the townspeople appeared to help each other out during the snow-covered days. Soon enough, the temperatures will return to more hospitable positive numbers and spring will be knocking on the door! I look forward to this very much but at the same time I also look forward to my next winter as I will be more prepared to deal with the conditions!