

## Meeting Yoko and Mariko



With another man also hitchhiking! His partner with him took the photo



Yoko

January 20, 2009: **Yoko** and **Mariko**, two ladies in who appeared to be in their 20s, picked me up near downtown Niigata. Yoko lives in Toyosaka and so it was out of the way for her to take me to Akiha Ward, but she did so anyway. Yoko first took Mariko to where she parked her car, dropped her off and then took me home. They work at the Okura 5 star hotel next to Bandai Bridge in Niigata City. Business is much worse this year than it was last year they said. "But" I replied, "the year has just begun!"