

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ⑧ Omotenashi (Hearty Hospitality) with Soka (Floral Decoration)



Masaru Akai

He calls himself "Kajin" (floral artist). He is a talented flower designer. In addition to flower arrangement lessons for some ambassadors' wives in Japan, he plays an active part inside and outside of Japan, such as participating in government-organized events including the "Hokkaido Toyako Summit", and has presented a bouquet to the Pope. He was born in Osaka in 1965. <http://www.akaimasaru.jp>

Did you know that a flower object installation representing the four seasons has appeared at the Ark Karajan Plaza in Ark Hills? It is the work of Mr. Masaru Akai, "Kajin" (floral artist) who arranges everything from daily table flowers to large objects for events. We visited Mr. Akai's atelier in Roppongi 1-chome.

He told us that his head-to-toe dressing in black is meant to represent the black clothes of a judge who judges 'space', as well as a "Kurogo"* slaves behind the scenes. Mr. Akai's decision is always based on his own sensibility and intuition. Even piles of iron bars and bundles of lightweight steel frames that have attracted his attention at a DIY shop are used as flower vases, if he thinks they are right. When it comes to people and also for flowers, he highly values the intuition that tells him, "This is it!".

He had been inspired to take up this line from the floral decorations he saw in the mass media when Queen Elizabeth visited Japan. He was shocked by the floral art that was completely different from the flower arrangements he had been used to seeing in his family's flower shop. Some years later, he had the opportunity to learn floral art from the artist who had arranged the floral decorations for Queen Elizabeth, through an introduction by a customer in his flower shop. He was fascinated by the expansive use of space, and created his own style of "Soka" that fuses Japanese flower arrangement and Western floral art. He started arranging "Soka" at events held by corporations, embassies and/or consulates, and gained the opportunity to be involved in a variety of activities, such as presenting a bouquet to the Pope and offering flowers in "Shikinen Sengu" (transfer of a deity to a new shrine building) at Ise Jingu Shrine.

Some years ago, he also established

an activity base in Tokyo. Now, he travels between Tokyo and his hometown, Osaka. He told us that the activity base in Azabu, where his work place is located near to his residence, holds a great appeal that he cannot find in Osaka, such as the complicated and strong topography with different elevations and traditional low buildings that remain at the foot of modern high-rise buildings. Unusual spaces appear when you go up a slope and turn onto a road. The heart of "Kajin" beats faster when he sees a powerful dandelion flower in a crack on a paved street, regardless of the completely urban landscape. It gives him an example of how he could express the most within a limited time and space. He is very inspired by this town.

In art this is expressed through the mutability of flowers, by the way their blossoms change from moment to moment, which can only be captured by an image. However, for better or worse, the color tones and aura cannot be the same as that of living flowers. In this season just before Christmas, large Christmas flower arrangements are displayed at the north entrance of Osaka Station. When you visit the Kansai area in this season, admire the Christmas "Soka" up-close only during this limited period.



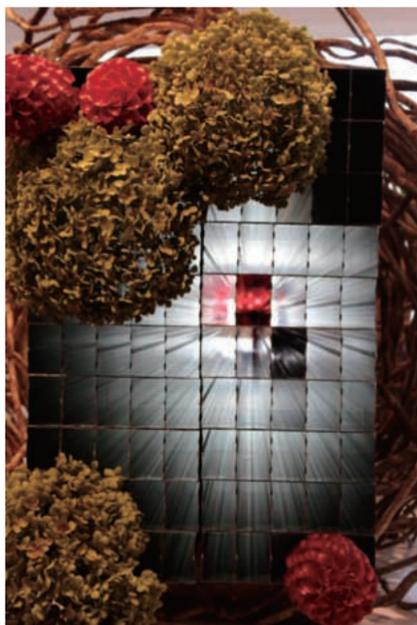
It is the custom to present a certificate of course completion to each of the ambassadors' wives who were students of the course, when they return to their country. In the lesson, Mr. Akai also learns a lot from them, with their liberal ideas that are not common among the Japanese people, so both parties take away something from the lessons.



Soka in the Frank Muller Exhibition (In the old mansion of Seiho Takeuchi in Kyoto)



Soka in the "ARK Hills Autumn Fair 2015"



An object that was used to bundle aluminum construction material has become a wonderful flower vase in this way!



Flowers offered in "Shikinen Sengu" at Ise Jingu Shrine



Soka in the "ARK Hills Sakura Fair 2015"

* A stage assistant dressed in black who assists Kabuki actors during a performance.

(Interview by Kyoko Ideishi and Kumiko Omura: written by Kyoko Ideishi)

Special
contribution

Mr. Chiune Sugihara

About Mr. Chiune Sugihara in the Diplomatic Archives in Azabudai

During WWII, Mr. Chiune Sugihara, who served as Acting Consul in the Japanese Consul in Lithuania, issued visas to many Jewish people who were being persecuted by Nazi Germany. The year 2015 marks a milestone: the anniversary of Mr. Sugihara's 115th birthday, 75 years after the visa issue and 70 years after the war. The "Sugihara List – A record of the numerous transit visas through Japan issued by Mr. Sugihara in 1940 that helped refugees, evidence of his spirit of humanity and philanthropy," has been selected as a Japan candidate for UNESCO's "Memory of the World" to be registered in 2017. The application was submitted by Yaotsu-cho, the birthplace of Chiune Sugihara. We asked Mr. Masaaki Shiraishi, staff of the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan who has studied Chiune Sugihara at length, for a special contribution to this paper.



Mr. Chiune Sugihara (1900–1986)
(Collection of the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

Actor Toshiaki Karasawa plays the lead role as Sugihara Chiune in the film "Sugihara Chiune," to be released in December this year. In real life, Chiune Sugihara (hereinafter, "Mr. Sugihara") had been a true diplomat, and is highly appreciated not only in Japan but also around the world for saving the lives of thousands people in Lithuania during WWII. Perhaps there are quite a number of people who know about him, because an article in Azabu Vol. 30 introduced the Embassy of Lithuania in Moto-azabu, where Sugihara had played an active role. However, few may know about Mr. Sugihara's permanent exhibition corner in Moto-azabu, the only one in Tokyo.

After a ten-minute walk through Gaishi Dori from Roppongi Station to Tokyo Tower, and past the Igarakamachi Crossing, you arrive at the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan(*). This organization has compiled, archived and provided diplomatic records from the Tokugawa Shogunate, mainly for research purposes. However, this facility also displays materials to spread knowledge about the history of diplomacy. Set up in 2000, the lobby of the main building displays accurate copies of important historical materials about Mr. Sugihara, together with

the commemoration plate for his 100th birthday (Mr. Sugihara's birth date is January 1, 1900). If you are interested, visit the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and have a look at this display corner. In this paper, some items from these exhibits that best illustrate his work are introduced, as well as examples of his activities in Lithuania.

In August 28, 1939, Mr. Sugihara and his family arrived at Kaunas in Lithuania. It was at that exact moment when the world headed into a very turbulent period. On his way to Lithuania from the Japanese mission in Finland where he had formerly been posted, the momentous German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact was concluded. Adolf Hitler was leading Germany at the time, and he was fervently anti-communist. People

believed that this was why Germany had concluded the Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan. However, Germany then joined hands with the Soviet Union, of all countries, which was also the "headquarters" of communism! On the very day when Mr. Sugihara and his family arrived at Kaunas, the cabinet of Kiichiro Hiranuma, the Prime Minister of Japan at the time, resigned with the comment, "The situation in Europe is complicated and strange." A few days later on September 1, 1939, the German army invaded Poland. As England and France had friendly relations with Poland, they declared war on Germany on September 3. It is said WWII began on this day. Moreover, on September 17, 1939, the Soviets invaded Poland from the eastern border. As a result, by the end of September, Poland was completely occupied.

Before WWII, Poland had the largest Jewish community in Europe. Consequently, there were many Jewish people among the refugees who escaped to the neighboring country of Lithuania.

One of the historical materials collected in the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is the "Visa List," which is a list of names of those who were issued visas. When this list is examined, we find that the majority of the people who received visas were of Polish nationality, and refugees who had barely escaped with their lives from their motherland. Because Lithuania, where they had last escaped from, was to be annexed by the Soviet Union the next year in 1940, they needed to find a new destination. In Western Europe at that time, Nazi Germany had advanced with such great vigor that even the powerful nation of France had surrendered. Therefore, it was impossible for them to escape to Western Europe. There was no choice for them except to pass through the Soviet Union, acquire transport to Japan, and finally escape to the U.S. Because of this, a visa issued by Japan was an essential condition for their survival.

Mr. Sugihara was very distressed to see the people surrounding the Japanese Consulate, desperately requesting transit visas. The necessary conditions were to obtain permission from the final destination country, and to have sufficient money to cover transportation fees. However, the refugees from Poland only had the clothes on their backs, so few satisfied these conditions. The former Soviet Union armies had entered Lithuania and were mercilessly arresting government officials and Polish Jews one after another. If Mr. Sugihara had not issued visas, the people who had surrounded the Japanese Consulate would have suffered a cruel fate. Other than Mr. Sugihara, no one could have saved their lives.

For several days, Mr. Sugihara considered the situation, and finally decided that he would issue the visas even to refugees who did not satisfy the conditions. It was a moment when the people surrounding the Japanese Consulate shouted for joy. The day is believed to be July 26, 1940 based on the above-mentioned "Visa List". When the list was examined closely, I found that the number of visas issued increased suddenly from that day on.

The Soviet Union annexed Lithuania and forced diplomats of every country to depart.



Former Japanese Consulate in Lithuania where Mr. Sugihara continuously issued visas. Today, it is the Sugihara Memorial Hall. The person in the photo is the director of the hall.



Former Japanese Consulate in Lithuania where Mr. Chiune Sugihara had served as Acting Consul



Visa List (Collection of Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

ra, and specifically on the exhibits about him of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Masaaki Shiraishi

Staff of the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. Sugihara continued to issue visas until the final days in Lithuania at the end of August. However, Mr. Sugihara received a telegram from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan instructing him to follow the rules for the issuance of visas. This was the No. 22 telegram to Mr. Sugihara from Mr. Yosuke Matsuoka, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan at the time, and which is one of the exhibited items. In this telegram, it says that there were many refugees who had come to Japan with the visa, but who did not have permission from the final destination country or enough money to cover transportation fees, so they could not leave Japan. He ordered Mr. Sugihara to follow the rules for visa issuance.

Nevertheless, Mr. Sugihara continued to issue visas to the refugees. He did not reply to the telegram and continued to issue visas earnestly until the Japanese Consulate was closed. On the visa passport pages, he stamped a message explaining that this person had promised him to complete entry formalities for the final destination country and arrange to have the travel money before arriving in Vladivostok, making it a special issue visa. He then sent the displayed No. 67 telegram after the Japanese Consulate in Lithuania closed, reporting that he had issued visas only to the people who promised as above, because their situation deserved sympathy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan immediately replied with a telegram that such treatment was troublesome, and that "from now on", he should follow the rules. He responded by extracting the words "from now on", and succeeded in making all the visas issued before the date formally valid.

Mr. Sugihara had a great love of mankind as well as a careful strategy, which enabled him to save thousands of precious lives. It is said that the number of descendants of survivors assisted by Mr. Sugihara is 200,000 or more. Mr. Sugihara's name will undoubtedly continue to spread across the world, as more than just a diplomat.



One of the many visas issued by Mr. Sugihara (Collection of the Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall in Yaotsu-Cho in Gifu Prefecture)



Monument in Cherry Park in Vilnius: On the left side, Mr. Chiune Sugihara's sculpture in relief, and on the upper right, the explanation presented on a plate from Waseda University. On the center right is a monument to Mr. Sugihara's visas. Ten cherry trees are planted by the monument. In 2007, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited here.

*** Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan**

Address : 1-5-3, Azbudai, Minato City, Tokyo
 Tel : 03-3585-4511
 Opening hours : Mon ~ Fri (10:00am ~ 17:30pm)
 Closed : Sat, Sun, National Holidays, End and Beginning of year (12/28 ~ 1/4), and temporary closing dates announced officially (Please contact us by phone to check).
 Admission : Free
 HP : www.mofa.go.jp/mofal/annal/honsho/shiryo/

Masaaki Shiraishi

Born in Tokyo in 1963. Completed the Doctoral Course of Historical Science at Sophia University Graduate School. In 1989, in the middle of his course at the Graduate School, he started working at the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan where he presently works. In addition, he taught students at Tokyo International University and the Graduate School of Keio University. He conducts research into the History of Diplomacy and Intelligence System Theory. In particular, his postgraduate research had been based on the theme of Chiune Sugihara. His many books include "Choho no Tensai Sugihara Chiune" (A Man of Genius and Intelligence; Chiune Sugihara) Shincho Sensho, "Sugihara Chiune Joho ni kaketa gaikokan" (Chiune Sugihara, A Diplomat makes a bet on Information) pocket edition, and "War and Intelligence Diplomacy" Kadokawa Sensho.

The comments in this paper are the personal opinions of the author and do not represent the organization that the author belongs to.

Image Source: Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall, Masaaki Shiraishi (Special contribution by Masaaki Shiraishi, edited by Yukiko Takayanagi)



Osteria NAKAMURA
 Chef
Mr. Naoyuki Nakamura

After studying the culinary arts at various locations in Italy, Mr. Nakamura opened the Italian restaurant "Osteria NAKAMURA". He runs the restaurant together with his wife, and they have many loyal repeat customers.

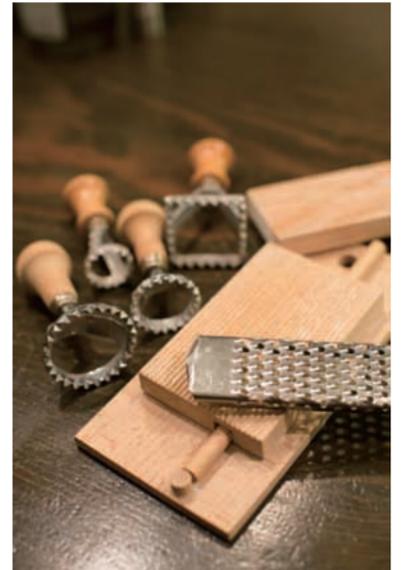
Osteria NAKAMURA
 Roppongi Sakae Bldg. 2F, 7-6-5, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo
<http://www.osteria-nakamura.com>



The story of how a chef became a "food" professional, and the skills that are important for survival



Mr. Nakamura showed us old pictures from his training in Italy. In his early twenties, even though he could not understand English or Italian well, he bravely asked a restaurant owner to employ him without a salary, and the owner accepted.



Tools for making handmade pasta

This time, we visited Osteria NAKAMURA in Roppongi. Two Azabu Gakuen Junior High School second grade students interviewed Mr. Naoyuki Nakamura, chef of the restaurant, and listened to the story of his life till now.

◎ Why did you become a chef of Italian cuisine?

I entered a cooking college more than 30 years ago. At that time, the courses were divided roughly into "Chinese", "Japanese" and "Western," or mainly French, cooking. While studying, I also had a part-time job, and this was by chance in an Italian restaurant. As a result, I became very interested in Italian food. This experience opened the door to the world of

Italian cuisine for me.

◎ To begin with, why did you choose to become a chef?

It was because of advice from my father. He told me that I should acquire the knowledge and skills important for survival. Specifically, he meant the knowledge and skills needed to acquire "food, clothing and housing"—the basic things that are necessary to our lives. Therefore, he told me that becoming a chef was perfect. A chef does not go hungry as there would always be something to eat. I thought that it sounded like an interesting job. It has worked out well in the end.

◎ Is there anything you realized after you became a chef?

When you are hungry, you become impatient and irritable. However, when you are full, you become happy. Therefore, I want my customers to have delicious food and be happy. It is a great pleasure to me when they say that they are glad to have come to my restaurant. I want my customers to feel good.

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

KIDS! Hello Work



Special Training in Bread Making



The fragrance of freshly baked bread filled the restaurant, at the perfect timing just as the interview concluded, thanks to the chef's expert direction.

(Interviewed and written by Hiromasa Saito and Masaya Harano : Interview Support by Kumiko Omura)



Ms. RASOAMANARIVO Rosette Lalatiana,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim



Republic of Madagascar
 Area: 587,041 km²
 (1.6 times bigger than the area of Japan)
 Population: 23,570,000 (As of 2014, UNFPA)
 Capital City: Antananarivo
 Head of State: President Hery Rajaonarimampianina
 Legislature: Bicameral System (Upper House (164 seats) and Lower House (365 seats)), Term of Office: Five Years

From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/madagascar/>

The embassy is located in the residential area of Moto-Azabu. There is an installation with the design of a map at the side of the entrance.

Interviewed with the Cooperation of the Madagascar Embassy in Japan

Visiting Embassies 33
From the "World" of Azabu

MADAGASCAR

A Country of People mutually sympathetic to the Japanese People, with a high value on Peace, Social Bonds and the Love of Rice

Madagascar is an island located in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa, with an area 1.6 times larger than that of Japan. Ms. RASOAMANARIVO Rosette Lalatiana, Charge d'Affaires ad interim (hereinafter called "the Ambassador") came from the capital, Antananarivo, and is quite young (born in 1980). She sometimes speaks Japanese, which helped greatly in creating a relaxed interview atmosphere.

A Spirit in Common with the Japanese

She knew "The Azabu" and welcomed us warmly, saying with a smile, "I was very excited to have an interview". She is a dainty, gentle-mannered lady. She studied law in Madagascar University with the plan of becoming a judge, but was very impressed by the international diplomacy class and became a diplomat instead. She came to Japan in 2011 and took up her present post in March 2015.

In the training courses about the Japanese language and Japanese culture before she was assigned to be an Ambassador, she was influenced the most by "Ikebana" (Flower Arrangement). "Ikebana's unique philosophy with the design and surrounding arrangement is great, and I think I gained an understanding of the spirit of the Japanese people who highly value cooperation and good manners". Her flower arrangements are casually placed on tables and in corners of each room. Her feminine touch is evident everywhere.

Then, when we asked about her impression of Japan, she answered that she has found something in common between the people of Madagascar and Japan. "First, the people place a high value on "Peace" and "Social Bonds". Madagascar won independence from the colonial rule of France in 1960, and we settled all our domestic problems using our common Malagasy language. Also, we have a spirit of living together in cooperation with each other". She also added that the reverence toward ancestors is similar. "We respect our ancestors. We believe that the spirit survives after the body dies". In the first place, in Madagascar, there are 18 races and diverse cultures; the people believe in Christianity, Islam and their traditional religion. In particular, the influence of the people who had come from Southeast Asia around the 5th century (including many of Indonesian or Malayan origin) is strong.

What she was surprised to see in Japan is that "children of 6 to 8 go to school alone". She is not referring to the high level of local safety, but rather, "I feel that the Japanese people gain independence at an early age because children go to and come back from school without their parents' help". She is probably saying this from the viewpoint of a mother.



You can see lines of baobab trees along the street and unusual small animals.

Madagascar is known as a country that has an abundant natural environment. In particular, it should be mentioned that there are unique animals and plants in this country. For example, the "Aye-Aye" monkey mentioned in a popular children's song is a lemur with large eyes. Also, there are many unique and somewhat funny animals, including the Astrochelys Radiata tortoise with its splendid shell, and exotic chameleons. The baobab trees give tourists a special impression of Madagascar. This tree appears in the book "The Little Prince". Many are big trees that are more than hundreds of years old. We heard that the picture created by their remarkable silhouettes changes dramatically with the movement of the sun. Currently, there are 51 nature reserves, and they make great effort to conserve the environment in cooperation with international environmental conservation groups. In some nature reserves, we can visit and touch the animals, and these are popular with tourists. "We have a wide expanse of land and each district has its unique characteristics. We have beautiful beach resorts. Various marine activities such as diving and whale watching are enjoyed in our country".

Their Special Products are Vanilla, Rice and Beef.

Moreover, we were excited to talk about food. The representative agricultural specialty of Madagascar is vanilla beans. They boast the world's No. 1 quality, as well as production and export volumes. We saw an actual sample of a black pod closely packed with beans and smelling sweet. These are used not only in cakes or ice cream; "it is recom-

mended to put sugar and vanilla in your tea. Also, vanilla is good in yogurt".

Rice is their staple food. Although their population is just 23 million, their rice consumption is about two times more than in Japan. As farmers account for 70% of the population, "Physical strength is required for farming, so they need to eat a lot to be energetic", says the Ambassador with a touch of humor. A high quality beef called "Zebu cattle" beef is also one of their special products. It is high-grade and expensive, so is regarded as a food for wealthy people. When I said, "In Japan, we like beef, but to some extent we feel it is a luxury. In this sense, we resemble each other", she was a little surprised and asked us "Don't you like fish the most in Japan?" The Japanese cuisine that the Ambassador likes the most is sushi and sashimi. We have something in common in our food culture, which unexpectedly drew us closer.

After the interview, we visited Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park where the "Madagascar Fair" was being held. We had their traditional boiled and stewed meat dish called "Hena Ritra" recommended by the Ambassador. It was great with spicy seasoning and perfect with rice.

We now have a strong desire to visit fascinating Madagascar some day.

- 1 The Capital, Antananarivo, with a somewhat nostalgic atmosphere
 - 2 Rows of majestic baobab trees along the street
 - 3 Colorful panther chameleon
 - 4 A lovely ring-tailed lemur
 - 5 Astrochelys Radiata tortoises. How old are they?
 - 6 They say that the closely packed vanilla beans produced in Madagascar are No. 1 in the world.
 - 7 Bracelet made of Zebu cattle horn, a popular souvenir item
 - 8 Zebu cattle beef steak dish with white rice. It will probably be a favorite of the Japanese people.
- (Photos Nos. 1 through 5 and No. 8 provided by Air Madagascar)



Madagascar Festival

Japan's first "Madagascar Festival" was held in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park on October 25, 2015 (Sun), to support the close relationship between Madagascar and Japan. Their food, fashion, music and handicraft works were introduced at the fair. Many visitors experienced the charms of Madagascar.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

- This slope was named for the most famous of the long-established families from the Age of Civil Wars in Japan. - Hojo-zaka (Hojo-zaka Slope)

The name Hojo-zaka comes from the fact that the Hojo Sagami-no-kami (Governor of Sagami Province) Family's suburban residence was located there. "Sagami-no-kami" is the name of a government post, but the word "Sagami" might bring something to mind.

A Pioneer who Dominated the Whole Kanto Area

This "Hojo" is the name of the great and long-established family, generally known as the Late Hojo Family. Soun Hojo, a pioneer in a turbulent age when the lower classes were rising up and supplanting the high-and-mighty, finally dominated the whole Kanto area and established the family. The "Sagami" province (the present Kanagawa Prefecture) was at the time surrounded by the territories of well-known warlords (called "Daimyos" in the age of civil wars) such as the Takeda, Uesugi and Imagawa families, in the midst of a truly turbulent period. The Hojo family overcame such difficulties and expanded their territory to the whole Kanto area mainly through the efforts of an unprecedented great commander, the third head of the Hojo Family, Ujijasu Hojo, from Odawara castle, renowned far and wide. In the age of the fourth head of the family, Ujimasa Hojo and the fifth head of the family, Ujinao Hojo, their territory had become the largest in their history and dominated the entire eight provinces of Kanto. However, this in turn led to the conquest and siege of Odawara by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, and the Hojo family was overthrown.

It is quite surprising that after the decline of the Hojo family, the name that originated from their suburban residence still remains in Azabu.

Their Family Name Continued into the Meiji Era.

The family maintained a "suburban residence", which means that they had a feudal domain.

What happened to the Hojo Family after the conquest and siege of Odawara?

Based on my investigation, this "suburban residence" was discovered to be for the Sayama Domain in Kawachi Province.

The Kawachi Province is the present Osaka Prefecture. "Osaka" was the home territory of Hideyoshi Toyotomi. This means that the very person who had "conquered" Hojo, had then invited them to a location close to his. This finding gradually drew my interest towards what had happened to the Hojo Family after the conquest and siege of Odawara.

There was a person who had suffered a curious fate during the Civil War period, and carried the name of Hojo as a feudal lord of Sayama Domain up to the Meiji Era. His name was Ujinori Hojo, the younger brother of the fourth head of the Hojo Family. He had been a child during the middle of the age of rival warlords and the peak period of the Civil War Era in Japan. The Hojo Family had also been in cutthroat competition for the dominance of the Kanto area. He was sent to Yoshimoto Imagawa, the lord of an adjacent land, Suruga Province (present Shizuoka Prefecture), as a hostage (In those days, a "hostage" was essential to close a nonaggression pact with an adjacent province).

At the time, Motoyasu Matsudaira (later Ieyasu Tokugawa) had also been leading a life as a hostage, together with Ujinori. A deep friendship developed between them. This changed his later life greatly.

The role of Ujinori was to become an advocate for the Hojo Family. He excelled in diplomacy and had the wisdom and power of foresight. His elder brother, Ujimasa, the fourth head of the Hojo Family, must have realized Ujinori's capability. Actually, Ujinori did well in taking charge of public relations and negotiating with the neighboring provinces represented by all the great powers. He played an important part in the domination of the Kanto area by the Hojo Family. On the other hand, he quickly saw the trend of the times after the death of Nobunaga Oda, and entered into friendly relations with Hideyoshi Toyotomi at an early stage.

However, his sincere diplomacy was not rewarded. His ideas were opposed by the clan members, which unfortunately brought about the siege of Odawara. Even in this situation, he was not discouraged, but stayed holed up in his Nirayama-jo Castle (present Nirayama, Izu-no-Kuni City) together with a small army of about 3,000 soldiers. He fought very well and endured the siege for about four months against a large enemy force of 40,000 soldiers, more than ten times that of his own. Eventually, he was persuaded to surrender the castle by Ieyasu Tokugawa. After the fight, Hideyoshi gave Ujinori the Kawachi



First Head of the Hojo Family, Soun Hojo



Third Head of the Hojo Family, Ujijasu



Fourth Head of the Hojo Family, Ujimasa

The three pictures above are from the collection of the Odawara Castle Tower

Province, avoiding punishment.

Just before the Battle of Sekigahara in February 1600, which changed the course of Japanese history, Ujinori died of an illness. His own son, Ujimori, took over the leadership of the family and with the support of Ieyasu Tokugawa, the chief of Gotairo (five administrators) in the Toyotomi regime, he was able to show himself at his best as the first lord of the Sayama Domain.

As Ujinori had made the acquaintance of those in power at the time and excelled at diplomacy, the destiny of the Hojo Family and of Ujinori himself changed eventually.

In this way, his name and the name of the Hojo Family lived on as important historical figures in the history of Japan until the Meiji Restoration.

Past and Present of the Hojo-zaka Slope

The story has digressed from "Azabu" to "Sagami" and then "Kawachi", so we will get back to the original subject.

The present Hojo-zaka Slope stretches from the crossing in front of Aiku Hospital in the former TV Asahi Dori though the "Kogai Shougakkou Nishi" (Kogai Elementary School West) in the Gaien Nishi Dori, which is located from the border between the former Sangenya-cho, Kogai-cho and Hiroo-cho, to the border of present day Minami-Azabu 5-Chome and Nishi-Azabu 3-Chome.

First, take a look at the past and present pictures of Hojo-zaka Slope.

The picture on the right shows Hojo-zaka Slope in 1975.

The large building that emerges far back up the slope, in the center of the picture, is the Fuji Film main office building in Takagi-cho (presently the Nishi-azabu Headquarters Building). To be honest, it looks bigger than the actual 18-story building (if someone who did not know of the scenery at the time were to see this photo, they might think that it was a picture of "Roppongi Hills"). It is proof that there were no other high-rise buildings around there at that time.

The picture on the left shows the slope in 2013. It was shot from a position almost the same as above. However, we cannot see the Fuji Film main office building at all.

The street itself has been widened slightly. This slope has changed greatly only in the last 40 years.

Many historical dramas have taken place at the corner of Azabu.

There are many remarkable stories about Azabu: the abovementioned Hojo Family's suburban residence was replaced by (Masayuki) Naruse's Mansion designed by Josiah Conder, and Francis Brinkley's house was close to the above site (refer to "Azabu no Kiseki" (Trails of Azabu) on page 06). However, the introduction of such stories will be left for another occasion.

Digressing a little, a question comes to my mind. If the "suburban residence" of the Sayama Domain was located there, where was the main Edo mansion of the Sayama Domain?

As you can see from the old map from the Edo Period, the name "Kinoshita Bicchu-no-kami" (Governor of Bicchu Province) is indicated next door to the Hojo Family. This Kinoshita Family house was owned by the elder brother of "Kita no Mandokoro" (wife of Hideyoshi Toyotomi). These two houses were located in almost the same area. However, one is a "suburban residence" and the other is a "main Edo mansion". Based on the original social standing, it should have been the reverse.

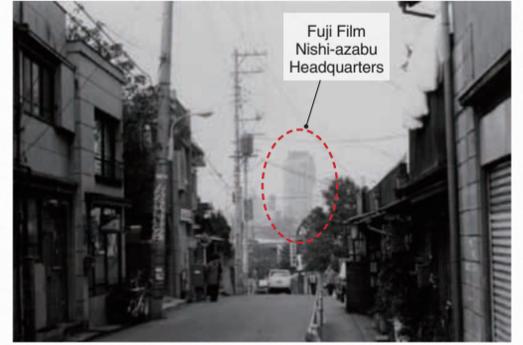
The positions of these families were ironically reversed in the Edo period.

Incidentally, the main Edo mansion of the Hojo Family had been situated on the present concert hall location in Hibiya Park.

Although the decision had been made by the Tokugawa administration, it was an ironic arrangement (the closer to Edo Castle you were, the more you were trusted, which meant higher social standing. In addition, they were also right next to each other).

History is sometimes ironic. It shows prosperity and decline, which in a sense, we could even say, is one of its charms. It is rare, and perhaps a salvation, that both family names have remained in history in such a visible form, right up to the Meiji Restoration.

It is by chance that the names of these two neighboring families were prominent in this historical period, but I feel a lingering affection for them, like finishing a fine wine. Although history holds its secrets, tracking such people may leave a lingering impression of the times in our minds. Many historical dramas have taken place at the corner of Azabu.



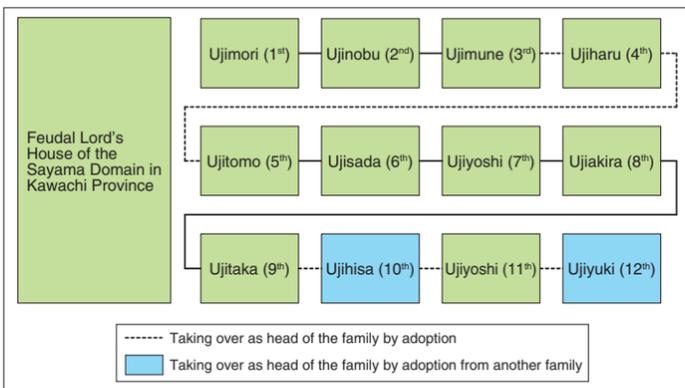
Close to the Hojo-zaka Slope Milepost in 1975



In 2013



The Hojo family mansion was really right next door to the Kinoshita family mansion. It may not be by chance that both the families had left their names in history. Source: Zoho Minato-ku Kindai Enkaku Zushu (Revised and Enlarged Edition of the Minato City Modern History Drawing Book, Azabu & Roppongi)



In addition to the persons above from the Sayama Domain, "Kira, Kozuke-no-suke" (Governor of Kozuke Province) who gained notoriety in "Forty-seven Ronin" and Tadasuke Oooka, famous in samurai dramas with "Oooka Sabaki" (for his wise and humane judgment), were descendants of the Hojo Family.

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

Since 2009, the Azabu Regional City Office has been implementing Azabu Future Photo Studio activities in an endeavor to capture changes to the cityscape of Azabu, working together with local residents and businesses to collect old photographs of the Azabu region, as well as taking photographs at fixed-point locations.

Through the collection and preservation of Azabu region materials, these activities are aimed at preserving and passing down to future generations historical and cultural resources that are familiar to long-time local residents, as well as further expanding their utilization. At the same time, the project aims to make the history and culture of the town known to even more people, contributing to the deepening of their affection for the town.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu region that you feel should be preserved and passed on with a view to the future, please contact the Azabu Regional City Office. For details, please contact the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.
Tel: 03-5114-8812

Captain Francis Brinkley

“Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra” (Do what you must, come what may), in your own name

British Army Captain F. Brinkley (1841–1912) became the owner of an English-language newspaper in Yokohama, and his life's trajectory became part of the history of Japan in the Meiji Era. He was truly fascinated by Japan: he understood Japanese culture, loved the beautiful arts and people, and lived along the Hojo-zaka Slope until the end of his life. He did not set foot on the soil of his home country again, and with great conviction carried out his work in and outside of Japan. He received the Second Class Order of the Rising Sun.

His Life in Japan

F. Brinkley had come from a prestigious family in Ireland. He graduated from Trinity College, University of Dublin, with excellent grades in Mathematics and the Classics. He then entered the Royal Military Academy to become an artillery officer. In 1864, he arrived at his post as the Adjutant to his cousin, the Governor of Hong Kong. In 1867, he was sent to Japan as the assistant military attaché to the British Legation. His life after that is described in the approval request letter written by Kosai Uchida, the Foreign Minister, in October 1912, for the conferment of the Second Class Order to be given to Brinkley.

“...in 1871, he was invited by the Naval Academy to be an instructor, and after that also served as a teacher in the Imperial College of Engineering, engaged in teaching Japanese students. He wrote “Gogaku Hitori Annai” (a language self-study guide) and an English-Japanese dictionary. His eight books on Japanese arts, literature and history, were published by the J.B. Millet Company in the US... He wrote much on Japanese history and other aspects of Japan in the books published by the London Times... He also worked as the Tokyo foreign correspondent for the London Times, and reported the most up-to-date information on Japanese politics, finance and business to people overseas. His contributions and long distinguished service to Japan are truly great...”

The Hyobusho (Ministry of the Military in Japan) employed Brinkley as an instructor at the naval gunnery school after he retired from the Royal Army. Subsequently, he worked for the Naval Academy for 6 years as an English teacher and in other roles. Brinkley submitted an application for publication approval of his book “Gogaku Hitori Annai” to the Department of the Navy in 1875, and for the reissue of the same book in 1885.

The Naval Academy was located in Tsukiji, and Brinkley lived in the Navy staff residence at Shiba Sannai (present day Shibakoen 1-chome), and moved to Azabu Torii-zaka 3 Banchi (present day 5-11, Roppongi) in 1876. It is reported that in July of the next year, 1877, “Gogaku Hitori Annai”, and textbooks about ammunition, algebra, Euclidean Geometry, and other subjects were destroyed by fire. Then, he moved to Azabu Mikawadai 16-banchi (present day 4-2 Roppongi) in September the same year.

In 1877 when his term of employment contract had expired, Brinkley was picked up by a carriage and had an audience with the Meiji Emperor at the imperial palace. The Emperor praised him for his excellent contribution to Japan, saying, “We, the emperor, greatly admire your distinguished service and great efforts, and your instruction in gunnery and the art of war...” He was given 300 yen as a bonus for his special service, a Yamato Nishiki (Japanese brocade), a bronze vase and an incense burner as imperial gifts. After that, he was invited by the Navy to a party as the main guest at Hama-Rikyu Imperial villa.

In 1878, he became a mathematics teacher at the Imperial College of Engineering with the monthly salary of 350 yen. He retired from the college in 1880. Then, in the beginning of 1881, he became the proprietor of the Japan Weekly Mail newspaper and later, the Tokyo-based correspondent for The Times of London.

Brinkley married Yasuko Tanaka in 1886. This was reported in an article that appeared in the Brisbane Courier newspaper in Australia on April 3, 1890. Soon after the marriage, Mr. Brinkley appealed to the British High Court Probate Dept. to register formally their marriage that had been registered successfully under Japanese law. At that time, according to the Dajoukan Fukoku (Proclamation by the Grand Council of State) rule No. 103 for nationality in the Meiji Era, any Japanese woman who married a foreign man would lose her Japanese nationality. Brinkley loved his family, and wanted a clear registration for his wife because he was worried that she might not be able to own any land in Japan, or to receive his legacy. The newspaper also reported that a marriage shall be an agreement by mutual consent, and that their marriage complied with the English Method established based on Christianity in a country with a monogamous system.

In 1886 he moved to the address 6-20 Iida-machi Kojimachi-ku, and in 1887 moved again to the address 5-16 Shibatomachi. It is said that his house was decorated with the highest-grade Satsuma porcelain pots, Chinese ceramics and a hanging scroll with a painting by Hokusai. In 1889, he moved to the address 50 Nakarokubancho Kojimachi, and then in 1890, to the address 7-50, 2-Chome Nagata-cho. In 1897, he finally moved to Azabu Hiroo-cho 3-Banchi (present day 5-2, Minami-Azabu), and built a Western-style mansion with a Japanese garden, which took several years to complete. He stayed there until his death in 1912.

Japan Weekly Mail Proprietor

In Yokohama, with its port opening during the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, an English-language newspaper company was established. The Meiji Government realized that public relations with the world and diplomacy were very important. Hirobumi Ito (1841 - 1909), Kaoru Inoue (1836 - 1915) and Miyoji Ito (1857 - 1934) understood the political importance of media inside and outside of Japan, so paid especial attention to English-language newspapers that would convey news to the world.

In October 1880, Kaoru Inoue, Gaimukyo (Foreign Ministry Chief) decided to support the English-language newspaper “Japan Mail” that was in financial difficulties. In November of the same year, Brinkley became involved in the “Japan Weekly Mail” project. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid as much as 2,500 dollars to the Japan Weekly Mail Company for newspaper subscriptions for half a year, and asked him to circulate the newspaper to legations of each country as well as newspaper companies overseas.

In June 1886, Hirobumi Ito wrote to Inoue “... we face the urgent need to do something about the Herald Newspaper so as to stop them from writing articles that shower abuse and insults on Japan. There is no media other than the Japan Weekly Mail to distribute newspapers to Europe as a countermeasure...” In 1887 Ito wrote to Miyoji Ito, “Brinkley has just arrived... he gave me kind and detailed advice, and I sincerely thank him”. Brinkley was certainly involved in the politics in Japan at that time. Because of this, he was known as a journalist on the government’s payroll, or a pro-Japanese journalist within and outside Japan. On the other hand, some people, including Earnest Sato (1843-1929) a British diplomat, and Munemitsu Mutsu (1844-1897) did not seem to trust Brinkley much.

However, in reality, when a provision in an unequal treaty concerning consular jurisdiction was considered for revision, Brinkley supported it, even though he was British. While other English-language newspapers were against the treaty revision, Brinkley insisted that a more equitable relationship would be profitable for both Japan and Britain. Also, regarding the relationship between Japan and China, and Japan and Russia, he wielded his pen brilliantly, protecting the position of Japan. It is said that although his articles seemed moderate, he was unwaveringly tenacious, and did not stop until his arguments had cornered his opponents.

Brinkley wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 1881, “...the policy of the Japan Mail is to be entirely independent, and as long as I remain its proprietor, its contents shall invariably be the outcome of my own honest convictions”. Also, the statement of principle “Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra” appeared as a byline in the Japan Weekly Mail pages in every issue as the “Notice of Correspondence”. “No notice shall be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL must be authenticated by the name of address of the writer, not just for publication but as a guarantee of good faith”.

Japanese Arts, National Industrial Exhibition and Sports

Brinkley was so fascinated by Japanese culture that he was called “Benkei” (a legendary person from Japanese history) and he also called himself “Benkei”. Around 1867, he went back and forth from Yokohama to Tokyo every day, and collected pictures of “Benkei”—antique color prints, paintings and calligraphy, antique items and Ukiyoe pictures. He collected 468 outstanding Japanese and Chinese ceramics and Ukiyoe pictures, with his excellent eye for beauty. These are now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York as contributions from some collectors. He also delivered a lecture on the history of Japanese ceramics at the Asiatic Society of Japan in February 1881. Moreover, he learned Japanese painting from a great painter, “Kyosai Kawanabe” at his house in Tamachi from around 1887, and bought his sketchbook.

Brinkley served on the judging advisory committee for the third National Industrial Exhibition in 1890. He was appointed as an examiner for Japan in the World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. He translated “Nihon no Rekishi” (History of Japan) into English and distributed it at the venue in the US. In 1895, the 1,100th anniversary of the transfer of the capital city to Heiankyo (Kyoto) was celebrated. The Japan Weekly Mail Company supported the event, inviting other supporters to attend through advertising.

In addition, Brinkley enjoyed sports like most other British people, and he climbed Mt. Fuji. He also served as the first honorary secretary of the Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club (present location: Minami-azabu 5-chome) established in 1900. He played tennis with an easy-going style.

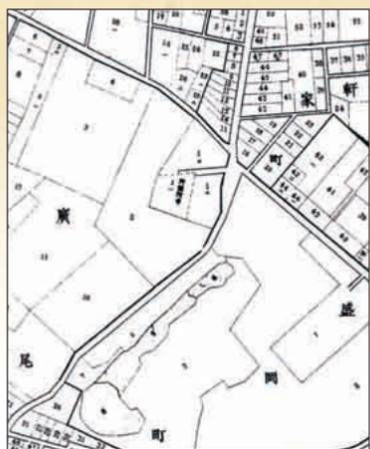
The Japan Weekly Mail is essential historic material for Meiji Era research. For example, the arrival and departure of a woman who loved Ogai Mori can be confirmed with the boarding list from a ship that had arrived/departed from Yokohama. When the newspapers are read carefully and in detail, the personality of Francis Brinkley, as he faced challenges in Japan, emerges. This is significant in Japanese history.



Grave of Captain F. Brinkley in Aoyama Cemetery

麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena of Azabu



F. Brinkley's Mansion Included in the Zoho Minato-ku Kindai Enkaku Zushu (Revised and Enlarged Edition of the Minato City Modern History Drawing Book, Azabu & Roppongi)

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“TLTC History for 100 years” edited by Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club

Interview: Mr. Naohiko Sakatani, Assistant Manager of Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club

(Data collected by Keiko Orito and Akira Mori, written by Akira Mori)

Information from the Azabu Regional City Office

The Azabu Regional City Office seeks to solve various town issues through the viewpoint of our residents, and by working together to address these matters.

Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (FY 2015-FY 2020)

At the Azabu Regional City Office, as well as at the other four regional city offices, following up from the former plan, the "Azabu District Plan" (FY2015 to FY2020) was formulated with the active participation of residents from the pre-planning stages. In this plan, while taking into consideration the actual conditions in the region and specific issues, unique regional projects have been incorporated

to deal with such issues and enhance the charm of each area. We expect to have residents participate as we enter the execution stage and verify the results.

In each volume of this column, we will be introducing three or four out of eleven community projects reflected in the plan.

Azabu Regional Office Projects ② (For Items 1 through 3, Refer to Vol. 33)

4 Azabu Future Photo Studio (Collaboration Project Section)

◆ Project Description

With the cooperation of our residents, we initiated a project where old photos of the Azabu area are compared with current photos. These photos are preserved in the form of panels.

In addition, through the panel exhibition and the website, the fascinating history and culture of Azabu is disseminated.

◆ Programs in this Fiscal Year (including planned programs)

- City Walk Event (June and November)
- Panel Exhibition in cooperation with Private Companies (June)
- Panel Exhibition in the Metropolitan Central Library (September)
- Panel Exhibition in Fuji Film Square and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin, etc. (February to March 2016)



Panel Exhibition in Azabu Kumin Kyodo (Residents Collaborative) Space

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Forecast for the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Photo Shoot & Data Collection Data published on the web Panel Exhibition (43 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Permanent Display Panels (1 location) Panel Exhibition (28 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Data published on the web Panel Exhibition (5 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Data published on the web Panel Exhibition (5 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Data published on the web Panel Exhibition (5 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Data published on the web Panel Exhibition (15 locations)
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen)		4,056	4,680	4,900	13,636

5 Azabu International Fureai Project (Collaboration Project Section)

◆ Project Description

A variety of meetings are conducted with foreigners living or visiting the Azabu region, through the effective use of local resources such as embassies, universities, colleges and related organizations in the area, in order to enhance the attractiveness of Azabu.

◆ Programs in this Fiscal Year (including planned programs)

- Publication of the English version of "The Azabu" information paper for the Azabu region (4 times a year)
- Disaster Prevention Drill Tour for Foreigners (October)
- International Culture Introduction Exhibition in collaboration with embassies, etc. (January and March 2016)



38 foreigners participated in this drill on the actual day.

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Forecast for the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Encourage participation in regional activities Enhance and implement translation of publications Organize general disaster prevention drills and cultural exchange activities	Encourage participation in regional activities Enhance and implement translation of publications Organize general disaster prevention drills and cultural exchange activities	Enhance, implement and organize			
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen)		3,394	3,400	3,400	10,194

6 Azabu Festival (General Administration Section)

◆ Project Description

Opportunities for people living in the city are created to encourage involvement in the community, through organizing events, etc. in cooperation with the residents and corporations, and taking advantage of festivals and local events. The participation of various people including residents in project operation and volunteer activities is also encouraged, and the city's community development is promoted.

◆ Programs in this Fiscal Year (including planned programs)

- Workshop "Henshin de Art" (Art with Transformation) (Joint Event with Roppongi Halloween) (September)
- Creating Forest Specimen Cases (November)
- Playing with Ink and Brush: Calligraphy 5 in Azabu (December)
- Recruiting Characters for the Azabu Festival (From Dec. 10, 2015 to Jan. 15, 2016)



The participants created original costumes in the workshop "Henshin de Art," held the day before the "Roppongi Halloween" event, and participated in the parade.

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Forecast for the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Project Implementation	Implemented 19 times	Project Restructuring & Trial Implementation	Implementation	Implementation	Implementation
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen)		6,994	7,000	7,000	20,994

7 Azabu Regional Power Revitalization Project (Collaboration Project Section) New Project

◆ Project Description

This project promotes revitalization of the community through human resources. Relationships in the community are reinforced through inter-generational exchanges between children and the elderly, and information sharing with various organizations for promoting attractive community development. At the same time, we foster the development of children as our future leaders.

◆ Programs in this Fiscal Year (including planned programs)

- Pre-Workshop (February 2016)

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Forecast for the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Implementation	-	Project Planning	Project Trail Implementation	Implementation	Implementation
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen)		3,418	4,340	4,340	12,098

Inquiries: Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8812

Message from the Metropolitan Taxation Office

Have you completed procedures of ownership transfer or scrapped cars?

The motor vehicle tax is imposed on the owners (users in the case of vehicles being sold in installments) described in the automobile inspection certificate, as of April 1 each year. When an automobile is transferred, you need to proceed a transfer of registration. You need to deregister in scrapping your own car. In order to do these, please go to the relevant District Transport Bureau or the Automobile Inspection and Registration Office.

You need to complete these procedures by March 31 (Thu), 2016.

Inquiries: Tokyo Metropolitan Motor vehicle tax Call Center: 03-3525-4066

Land/house prices which are the basis of the fixed assets tax, can be inspected from April (in the 23 wards).

Eligible applicants: Taxpayers owning land/houses in the 23 wards as of January 1, 2016

Records to be inspected: Land/house prices taxable in the wards where taxpayers own property (Record Books for public inspection)

Period: From April 1 (Fri) to June 30 (Thu), 2016 (except for Saturday, Sunday and Holidays)

Time: From 9:00am to 17:00pm

Location: Metropolitan Taxation Office in the wards where taxpayers own property

The tax notice will be sent on June 1 (Wed), 2016. For more information, please visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or the following office.

**Inquiry for properties in Minato-ku: fixed assets tax subsection, Minato Taxation Office
Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep).**

No-parking zone designation in Hiroo Station

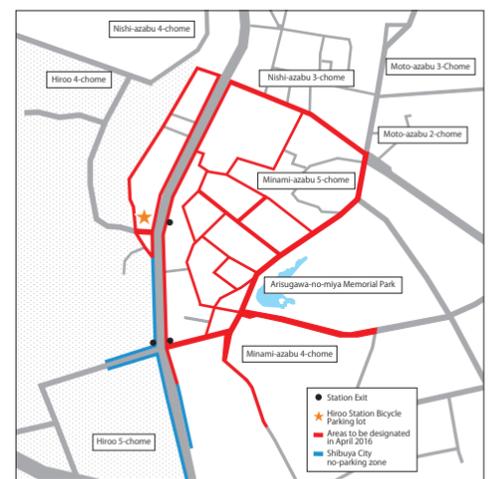
No-parking zones around Hiroo Station will be designated in April 1, 2016.

Please note that any bicycle and motor scooter parked within any of the no-parking zones will be immediately removed based on the Minato City Ordinance for the Prohibition of Leaving Unattended Bicycle and motor scooter and Arrangement of Parking Areas for Bicycle and motor scooter.

Bicycles are safe and convenient forms of transportation. However, if they are left on the road or sidewalks, they become obstacles to pedestrians' safe passage, and so injury or accidents are a possibility. Also, in the case of a disaster, it would interfere with evacuation or rescue operations.

We remove parked bicycles and any other obstacles around Hiroo Station to create a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment. We would be happy if you are able to cooperate with us.

Inquiries: Community Development Support Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8815



Information from the Azabu Fire Station

Use Ambulances Appropriately!

The number of ambulance requests to the Tokyo Fire Department has been on the rise every year, and we expect that it will continue to increase in the future.

When the Tokyo Fire Department receives a 119 emergency call ambulance request, they dispatch an ambulance from the nearest location. When requests exceed availability and all nearby ambulances are engaged, ambulances from farther locations will be dispatched, causing

delays.

There is a limited number of ambulances.

"When you or your loved one need emergency help, you call for an ambulance, but it takes too long to arrive!" You might realize this for the first time under such circumstances, but it may be too late.

Do you really need emergency help? Please think about it.

Ambulances are an important property to be shared by all of us. We

need to use the ambulance appropriately so that this valuable property can be used by those in need of emergency help, as the need arises.

Should I go to the hospital or call an ambulance? If you cannot decide, call #7119.

※ If you really need emergency help, do not hesitate to call for an ambulance (119).

Inquiries: Azabu Fire Station Tel: 03-3470-119

Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Notice regarding "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" activities



六本木安全安心憲章 賑わい綺麗なまち六本木を目指して

This charter proclaims the image that Roppongi is aiming to achieve through independent Roppongi District rules that have been established in cooperation between the local businesses and administration, as well as prescribes the rules that all people in Roppongi should adhere to.



The contents of the Charter can be viewed in full on the Minato City Official Website or obtained from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

For further information on the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind, please see below.

Minato City Official Website
<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>



Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

Search

Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8822

Embassy Introduction Panel Exhibition Open

There are 48 embassies in the Azabu district (as of December 1, 2015) and also many foreign residents and visitors in this area. The Azabu District Project (the "Azabu International "Fureai" Project"), is being done in cooperation with the embassies located in the Azabu district, and is presenting a panel exhibition introducing the embassies.

Exhibition Period

First Exhibition:

"Embassy of Madagascar in Japan" (now closed)
From January 25 (Mon), 2016 to February 7 (Sun), 2016

Second Exhibition:

"Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in Japan"
From March 16 (Sun), 2016 to March 29 (Thu), 2016

First Exhibition: "Embassy of Madagascar in Japan"

Madagascar is an island country located in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of the African Continent. In Madagascar, there are many animal and plant species unique to this island. This country is ranked as the No. 1 exporter of vanilla beans. This panel exhibition introduced the great charm of Madagascar.



Republic of Madagascar Panel Exhibition Scene



Exhibits provided by the Embassy of Madagascar in Japan

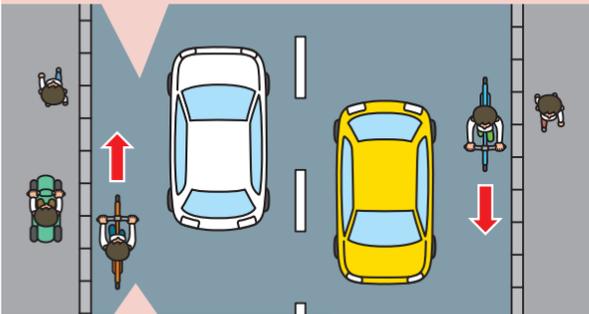
Five Rules for Safe Bicycle Operation

Stop using smart or mobile phones, and do not carry umbrellas or listen to music while riding! Doing so can cause serious accidents.

1 Ride bicycles on the road, not on the sidewalk. Riding on the sidewalk is to be done only in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional Circumstances:

- Riding a bicycle on sidewalks is allowed when indicated by traffic signs, etc.
- When the driver is 13 years old or less, 70 years old and over, or a disabled.
- When riding on the road is difficult because of roadwork or lines of parked cars.



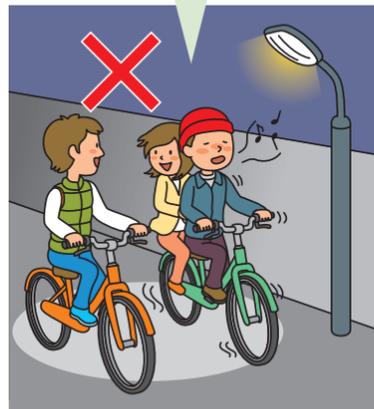
2 Use the left lane of the road.



3 Sidewalks are pedestrian priority zones. If a driver has to ride on a sidewalk, ride slowly and as close to the road as possible.

4 Follow the safety rules.

- Tandem riding and riding side by side are not allowed.
- Drinking alcohol and riding is prohibited.
- Turn on your headlight at night.
- Stop and confirm safety at all crossroads.

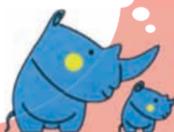


5 Children should wear a helmet.

When tandem riding with an infant is to be performed, or a child is to ride a bicycle, make them wear a helmet.

Please send us your comments or requests regarding

The Azabu



Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters are not limited), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following address: Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).

● Tel: 03-5114-8802 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We Are Looking For Editorial Staff

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City web site.



AZABU

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo and Azabu Juban subway stations, Minato City Community Bus (Chii Bus), Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-Azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-Azabu, Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.
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Editor's Note

It is with real happiness, as an editorial staff member, to acquire deeper knowledge and to find out about "the history around me," in a familiar alley that I walk through casually every day. It is also a great pleasure to work with other editorial staff members in the editorial meetings, as they are great information sources. Information gathering always marks a small journey for me. It may be somewhat presumptuous of me to provide information about the charm of Azabu from my standpoint to as many people as possible, but I am fascinated by Azabu and truly enjoy these little trips. I would really like to convey this joy to others. If you are interested, do come join and us at your leisure.

(Yasuhiro Tanaka)

The original article is written in Japanese.

"Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a city information service about services provided by City Hall, facility guide, event information, etc., available from 7:00am to 11:00pm everyday.

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