

A community information paper created and edited by Azabu residents



Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 9

Dancing Spirits of Roppongi



The mural titled “PRIMAL BEAT” (photos #1 and #2) located close to Roppongi Station on the Oedo Line Metropolitan Subway really attracts our attention. The mysterious figures have been watching as many as 100,000 people a day (*1), coming and going, since the opening of the station. We asked the artist, Mr. Masayuki Tokunaga, for his comment on particular points regarding this work of art.

A Radical Vision of Roppongi

The artist wants us to feel the “excellence in the combination of heavy and solemn materials such as black granite, gold foil and silver foil, and contrasting light, easy and free figures.” He did not intend it to give any kind of oppressive impression. When he started working on this in 1999, his image of Roppongi was an area “full of energy.” However, he also had a personal impression of it as “a bit of a dirty town with an air of ostentation.” On the other hand, the former Roppongi WAVE (*2) was an essential spot for him where he could encounter new music. He also paid frequent visits to CINE VIVANT Roppongi (art theater) located in the same building. Mr. Tokunaga’s experiences of music and images appear everywhere in this mural. The motifs and figures, in which new lives are represented, are percussion, stringed and brass instruments and phonograph records. The staff notation drawn from end to end on the mural has been designed like those of around the 15th century Europe. They melt harmoniously into the picture, the letters looking like an unknown written language, designed like ancient hieroglyphs (photo #3). This is the visualization of his image of Roppongi. He explained, “Because something modern and brilliant can be seen immediately after exiting the station, I would like to express something like the human energy hidden in the depth of the town, which has been there from ancient times.” It is

from this that the work gets its title: “PRIMAL BEAT”.

Engraving Granite and Attaching Foil for Finishing

In order to help the stonemason to visualize the image in Mr. Tokunaga’s imagination, he patiently explained what he hoped for concerning the depth of the engraving and the texture (smooth or rough) of the engraved surface. The stonemason understood completely. As a result, for the delicate curved lines and surfaces, the handwork such as the hand carving and polishing, as well as the mechanical sandblasting (*3), were performed elegantly. For finishing, gold and silver foil was attached to the carved stone surfaces with Japanese lacquer. At first, there was the concern that the foil might peel off, during the wear and tear of being exposed in a busy subway station. The test (a scratch test using a sample) result proved that the foil would not peel off with a force any less than would damage the stone itself. He was impressed again by the strength of Japanese lacquer.

This constantly updated space located under Roppongi is like a silent live show venue open throughout the year. We catch a glimpse of the figures that dwell in the granite through crowds around the ticket gates, and they look just as happy today as the day they were created.



The mural is located inside the ticket gates close to the Roppongi Crossing.



He named all the figures during the work. He named “Harp-kun” and “Rapper” from the right.



Even when the granite surfaces are carved to the same depth, the gloss of gold foil looks totally different depending on the surface condition (smooth or rough).



The whole of the Roppongi subway station premises are unified in black and gold. Mr. Tokunaga told me that he designed it as an enormous wave of information like “brass instruments playing an aerial vibration of sound.”

- *1 According to the Bureau of Transportation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the total number of daily passengers is 100,590. However, there are two ticket gate areas in the Roppongi station.
- *2 According to the Bureau of Transportation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the total number of daily passengers is 100,590. However, there are two ticket gate areas in the Roppongi station.
- *3 Sandblasting is a processing technique where abrasives, such as sand, are sprayed strongly on the surface.



These materials were prepared by Mr. Tokunaga to convey the images, when the granite was to be carved. The upper material instructs the engraved surface textures and the lower material instructs the depth of carving levels using colors.

Materials/Cooperation: Bureau of Transportation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government
 References: “Station Design and Public Art” published by Tokyo Metropolitan Subway Construction Co., Ltd.
 “Juku no Atelier - Kenchikuka no Yume to Genjitsu” (Atelier in a certain Space-Time - Dream and Reality of an Architect) text by Yumio Moriya, published by Yushisha



Masayuki Tokunaga
 1960: Born in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture
 1985: Majored in oil painting and graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts, Department of Fine Arts, Oil Painting Division
 1987: Majored in wall painting and graduated from Graduate School of Fine Arts in Tokyo University of the Arts (Master Course)
 From 1991: Developed his activities such as holding many one-man exhibitions and group exhibitions mainly in Tokyo
 From May 14 to 29, 2016: Held a one-man exhibition in Gallery Yume (in Mitaka City)

Public Collection
 2000: Mural for the entrance hall of the intensive-care old people’s home “Sakura” (in Tokyo)
 2001: Entertainment Cruise Passenger Boat “ROYAL WING” (in Kanagawa)
 2004: Samsung Japan Corporation (Private Collection) (in Tokyo)
 2008: Park Hyatt Shanghai
<http://www.tokunagamasayuki.com>

麻布びと

"Azabu — A Human Story"

My life has always been with Azabu Gazenbo-cho.

The old name for Azabudai 1-chome, where Ms. Yokoshima has been living for more than 60 years, is Azabu Gazenbo-cho (*1). It has been decided to redevelop this town, and preparation has advanced gradually. A lot of vacant houses around her are very noticeable. Ms. Yokoshima established her own architectural design office in her house, and has been observing this town for a long time. We asked her about her way of life and her affection for this town.

She chose to start as an architect with a part-time job in an architectural design office.

Ms. Yokoshima was born in 1932 in Mukojima, a traditional area in Tokyo. She was the last of four children in the family. "I have three elder brothers and I was the long-awaited daughter in the family, so I was always the center of attention in my family," Ms. Yokoshima said. In 1945, her house was miraculously undamaged in the Great Tokyo Air Raid. She grew up as just an ordinary girl. She had decided to become a pharmacist after graduating from a girls' high school.

"During summer vacation, my second eldest brother told me that an office in his university was inviting applications for part-time workers who could serve tea or clean the office, so I should send in an application for the job." It was the Architectural Department office. She became gradually fascinated and impressed with the enthusiastic beginner architects as they did their best to draft. At that time, no copy machine had been developed. All the work was done manually, starting from creating 3mm graph papers. In addition to doing odd jobs, she started studying architectural design by herself. "It was very interesting because I found many materials for my study. I concentrated on creating graph papers and making tracings of drawings in my own way. Also, when I had a question, they all answered me kindly. Before long, I was completely absorbed in the architectural design works."

After a time, I came to be acknowledged as accomplished in this skill by the members of the office and even the professor. By then, my activities had developed to the extent that I was entrusted with architectural design in the office.

Working and Child Rearing in Her House in Azabu Gazenbo-cho

The term "architectural design" refers to a variety of activities. When the construction of a building that she has designed starts, she needs to visit the site frequently. She saw no reason to work less than male workers in the male-dominated society just because she was a woman. As it was hard for her to commute from her parents' house to the office, she decided to move to her current house.

Why did she choose this location? Her answer is that "My brother and his family had an electrical store in Azabujuban, so I visited his house frequently. I therefore thought it would be best for me to live in a place around Azabujuban."

When she saw this house by chance, she liked it tremendously. "This house was built in the Taisho Era. It had been repaired many times, but repair is my specialty. The base of this house is still the same as that of the original."

At that time, her father had passed away, so she decided to live with her mother in her new house. There was a reason for living with her mother.

Ms. Yokoshima decided to rear a child as a single mother. Her mother was moved by Ms. Yokoshima's firm decision and helped her raise her child.

"Considering public perception, at first, all my family members were against my decision. However, my mother saw through my stubbornness that once I say I am going to do something, I would not listen to anybody. She understood, encouraged and supported me with sympathy."

After giving birth, Ms. Yokoshima became independent and established her own architectural design office. After that, she made her best efforts in her home office in Azabu Gazenbo-cho as a mother and the main breadwinner of the family. With the understanding of the people around her and support from her partner, she managed to perform the job smoothly. "If it weren't for my mother, I wouldn't be who I am today as an architect. She helped me with all



Ms. Yokoshima was a pioneer among female architects. In women's magazines of that time, she was interviewed frequently. "Shukan Josei" (Weekly Women) magazine in the third decade of Showa Era is one of them.



Articles about Ms. Yokoshima: She attends construction work on a site (right page). She works on her plan and carries out design work in the office (left page).



After the establishment of PODOKO, and because of its influence, female architects began to come under the spotlight. Ms. Yokoshima is on the lower right.

The first organization for women in the field of architecture in Japan (called "PODOKO") (*2) was established in 1953. Ms. Yokoshima was invited to the PODOKO study session, and friendship with many other female architects became possible.

After the Local Government's Redevelopment Decision

Ms. Yokoshima's own house is located along a small alley. The width of the alley is not enough for a fire engine or an ambulance in an emergency to come in easily. When redevelopment was decided upon, Ms. Yokoshima actively participated in various meetings as an architect and a resident. "Now, it has been decided to redevelop the area. I would like to monitor the work right to the end. I expect that Azabudai will be new and different, but I will never forget that there used to be a wonderful town named Azabu Gazenbo-cho".

In 2017, the preparation for redevelopment will start. Her association of neighbors is still left in this town. We would like to keep observing the new developments of Azabu Gazenbo-cho, while being reminded of the past through the comprehensive memories of Ms. Yokoshima.

We cannot help having a feeling of respect for Ms. Yokoshima's powerful energy. She is short and cheerful, and has been working as an architect even into her 80s. She is busy every day, going to the meetings of the Minato City residents' organization "Azabu wo Kataru Kai" (Meetings to discuss about Azabu), "Azabu District Project Promotion Support Subcommittee Meeting" and "Azabu Future Photo Studio Subcommittee Meeting" and meetings of the Redevelopment Union, etc.

Ms. Yokoshima gave her opinion clearly, and is a very wonderful and charming person.



This bucket storage facility is also used as a storehouse in Konchiin temple located at 3-chome, Shiba Koen, Minato City, and was designed by Ms. Yokoshima. The second floor of this building is used as a residence. She also designed En-mado from the sketching phase (in 2005).



(Left photo) She was the only woman in the group in the office when there were only a few female architects in Japan. Ms. Yokoshima is the third person from the left. (Right photo) She is the third person from the right in the center row.

the housekeeping and taking care of two grandchildren until she died. I truly appreciate her help."

In the meantime, the third decade of the Showa Era was on the verge of the coming boom in the Japanese economy. However, an extra effort was required for any woman to become a female architect. Ms. Yokoshima who had been a registered architect of the second class, was one of them. "I did not graduate from the university's Architectural Department, but I was blessed with many excellent friends."



Qualified Architect
Ms. Hisako Yokoshima



Hospital Nurse Building Drawing Set prepared by Ms. Yokoshima

*1 Azabu Gazenbo-cho This area was so named because of the Gazenbo valley in the area. There are various theories as to the origin of the Gazenbo valley. One of them is that there was a priest who practiced Zen meditation, and the other is that there was a house called Gazen-do constructed for the cremation of Sugan-in, the wife of Hidetada Tokugawa, the second shogun. (Source: Minato City website)

*2 PODOKO This organization was established for female architects and women in the architectural field in 1953 and was the first of its kind in Japan. PODOKO was started with 12 staff members from design offices, 8 staff members from universities or research institutes, 5 students and 4 staff members from construction companies, etc. (from the list in 1953). It was named PODOKO by abbreviating and combining "PENSADO," "DISKUTADO" and "KREADO" meaning "Thinking," "Discussing" and "Creating" in Esperanto, respectively.

ワタシも 麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

We would like to introduce your dear "family" in this section.

We are always good friends



Choko-chan Running



Look at Me Jump!

This time, we asked R-chan, one of our Azabu-kkos (born and raised in Azabu), and a grandson of Mr. K living in Roppongi, to introduce Choko-chan, Mr. K's pet.

● Choko-chan, Running Quickly

Choko-chan has been living in my grandfather's house since long before I was born. With his proud fluffy coat, he walks at a quick pace, close to my grandfather. A long time ago, he lost sight of my grandfather while they were shopping at a supermarket, and he became very scared. After that, whenever he went out, he never left my grandfather's side. However, sometimes, he gets to relax in a carry bag. Like him, I am also sometimes carried by my grandfather.

● Popular in the Parks

Choko-chan is very brilliant and remembers all the friends my grandfather meets while walking. When he sees any of my grandfather's familiar friends, as a matter of first priority, he runs up to and jumps around to say hello. Because of this, all of them love Choko-chan. I too would like to be able to exchange warm greetings with my grandfather's friends.



He is so easy-going when he is tired!

● What breed of dog is Choko-chan?

Choko-chan is very popular not only for the reasons listed above. Look at his fluffy coat! It's very unique. It's really comfortable to touch. His coat is very thick, but he can run fast and jump high with ease. Don't you think it's unique? Nobody can ever identify this breed of dog. Is Choko-chan an Akita Inu, Scottish terrier, or what? Do you know what breed Choko-chan is?



The "Wait" pose that he is good at performing

If you see him after a shampoo it might give you a clue. He looks totally different. See the bottom of page 8 for the answer.

Please tell us about animals that are popular in your town!

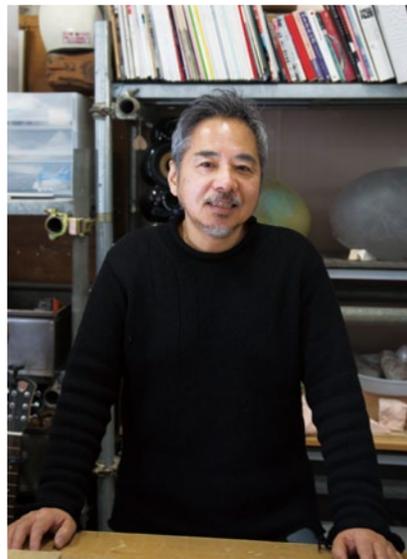
Please enclose a picture along with your story to the address below. It can be a story written by the owner as well. If we should get many applications, we may have to hold an editor's meeting to decide which story to introduce. Please note that we will not be able to reply to any inquiries about whether your story was chosen or not. If we decide to cover your story, we will be in touch with you to schedule an interview.

"Call me Azabu-kko" Application Desk, Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo, 106-8515

We're waiting to hear from you!



(Interviewed and text by: Kyoko Ideishi)



Mr. Tomohiro Kano
Glass Artist

After working for a TV commercial production company, Mr. Kano started glasswork in 1986. In 2001, he opened a glass atelier in Moto-azabu. He holds glass art courses, as well as conducting his own production activities using various glasswork techniques.

www.kanoglassstudio.com

Fascinated by the great possibilities of glasswork, he decided to become a creator.

This time, we visited the glasswork atelier "Kano Glass Studio" located in Nishi-azabu. Two junior high school second grade students from Azabu Gakuen interviewed Mr. Tomohiro Kano.

◎How did you get into this business?

Once, while I was out riding my motorcycle, I had an accident and my injury prevented me from working. During my rehabilitation I suddenly thought of the glasswork made by the father of one of my friends, which was his hobby, so I subsequently went to the glass atelier for training. Eventually, I felt that it would be the most suitable job for me, and started this business.

◎Why does this job satisfy you?

I previously believed that the world of

glasswork was only for professional craftsmen. However, when I saw the work created by my friend's father in a glass atelier, I was very surprised to discover that the material can be handled by anyone. When I saw many glassworks in a museum, I understood that there are various ways to express myself with it. I felt that glass was a promising material and it greatly inspired me to enter the world of glasswork.

◎Did you have any difficulty in this business?

Starting from nothing, I needed to purchase all the tools and equipment

for glasswork one by one. Also, I needed to acquire the skills to use them efficiently. Although there were certainly some difficulties, I didn't worry about it too much because I loved glasswork.

◎What in particular do you find most important?

I operate glasswork courses. I incorporate glassworks into public buildings and create objects. Also, I create my own works and hold one-man exhibitions. I work in roughly three fields. In the glasswork course, I make an effort to help the students to enjoy glasswork. When glass is used in buildings, I act on the principle of safety first. When I create my own works, I try to create something that nobody has ever seen before.

There are many types of work in the world
Glass Artist

To give children power for life

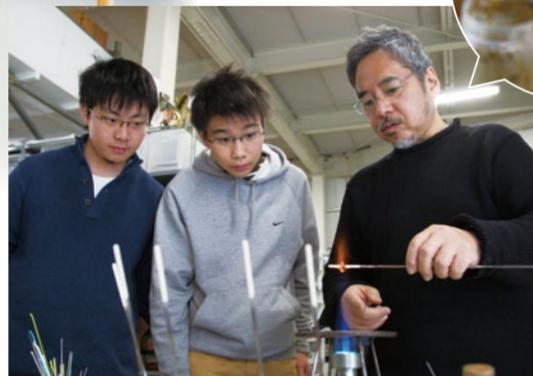
Reading material for parents and children

KIDS! Hello Work

This is an amazing extracurricular lesson! We learned how to handle melted glass with a temperature of over 1,000 degrees.



Glass Bead Creation Experience



Gazing intently at the melting point on the glass bar, knowing that it will soon be their turn to try it.

We learned how to create glass beads. A glass bar is melted and the melted glass is rolled around a bar. Then, they are cooled to complete the process. We were very surprised to see the strength of the fire. However, we were very glad to create such very beautiful glass beads.



Though small, they are valuable finished products. They really look like the eyes of dragonfly.

"In any job, if you work really hard, it will surely be helpful for your future," said Mr. Kono about the mental attitude needed for working.

(Interview and text by: Hiromasa Saito and Masaya Harano, interview support by: Kumiko Omura)



Ángela María Chávez Bietti
Her Excellency Mrs. Angela María CHAVEZ BIETTI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Republic of Guatemala
 Area: 108,889 km² (A little larger than the total area of Hokkaido and Shikoku)
 Population: 14,500,000
 Capital City: Guatemala City
 Head of State: President Jimmy Ernesto Morales Cabrera
 Legislature: Unicameral System (158 seats)

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

Republic of Guatemala

Interview Support: Embassy of the Republic of Guatemala

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From the "World" of Azabu



GUATEMALA

A Gentle Country with a Proud Mayan History and a Mutual Understanding with the Japanese People

The Republic of Guatemala is located almost in the center of the American Continent. The area is a little larger than the total area of Hokkaido and Shikoku, and has 33 volcanoes. Ambassador Angela Maria Chávez Bietti is the first female Guatemalan Ambassador to Japan. She is slightly built and seems to be a gentle person. Our interview was conducted in a friendly atmosphere, as we enjoyed Guatemalan coffee, something that the country is renowned for and very proud of.

Guatemala and Japan are soul mates.

The Ambassador was inaugurated in October 2015. She told us that she was very excited when Japan was chosen as her first post. "My last position was Assistant Ambassador to the United Nations, as the representative of Guatemala, for 12 years in Geneva, Switzerland. I was in charge of multinational diplomatic talks. Now, I would arrive at my new post in the most important country in Asia, as the Ambassador to Japan".

The Ambassador's relationship to Japan began when she was very young. A businessman from Japan was living on the premises of her house, and her mother, a Japanophile, displayed Japanese dolls, etc., in the living room of her house. In this way, she had many opportunities to be exposed to Japanese culture. And so, when she learned where her new post would be, she was all the more delighted.

Similar to Japan, "Kindness" is in Guatemala's National Character

When we asked the Ambassador what her impression of the Japanese People is, she answered, "They are kind and gentle. The people of Guatemala are also kind. It is the biggest thing we have in common."

What points are different? She answered, "Japan is an ethnically homogeneous country, but our country is a multiethnic country." 40% of the population of 14,500,000 people belongs to 22 different Mayan groups (indigenous people). There are also those with Afro-Caribbean heritage on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala (from Guatemala Information). Moreover, there are many Caucasian people of Spanish descent, as

well as immigrants from Germany, Italy, the U.S., and South and Central American countries. As a diverse multiethnic country, we recognize our differences and have mutual respect for each other, which is where we get our kind national character.

Her wish is to immerse herself in Japanese life.

The Ambassador wants to live like Japanese people do and understand Japanese people. She picks specific places to go on a holiday with her husband, whom she married when she was living in Geneva. She enjoys living in Tokyo, using buses or subways to move around, and making frequent appearances in various places. She takes long walks around Nishi Azabu close to the Embassy and Akasaka. Her most recent favorite place is Shibuya. When we asked her the reason, she answered, "My hobby is handicrafts and needlework." She told us with a glint in her eye that she likes shopping for cloth fabrics and buttons in Tokyu Hands or Seibu Department Store. She brought a sewing machine into Japan, which she used in Geneva. We were very surprised to hear that.

She said that the next place she wants to visit in Japan is "Hokkaido."

She recommends "FRIJOLE" for Guatemalan food.

The Ambassador is positive about everything in her life in Japan, and is fascinated by Japanese foods. For sushi, she loves tuna and salmon, but does not like ikura (salmon roe). She also likes raw eggs and natto (fermented soybeans). She gave us her very honest impressions using ani-



mated gestures. In addition to sushi, she likes udon very much.

Unfortunately, there is no restaurant serving Guatemalan food in Japan. We have found a Peruvian restaurant that serves something like Guatemalan foods. She told me about dishes we should try in Guatemala. "TAMAL" is made of corn powder, which is kneaded into dumplings, wrapped in banana leaves, together with meat and tomato sauce, and steamed or boiled. Rice can be used in place of corn powder. "PEPIAN" is spicy food. After baking peppers, spices and tomatoes, they are put into a blender to make sauce. Then, vegetables and meat are stewed in the above sauce as a base.

The Ambassador likes "FRIJOLE" the best. This traditional food uses black beans (red beans can be used as well) that are a kind of kidney bean that are difficult to get in Japan. Dry beans are steamed into a paste, and fried with onions. We assumed that cooked beans would be sweet. However, cooked beans in Guatemala are savory. The Ambassador told us that the representative food of her homeland was surely "FRIJOLE."



The tradition of Mayan civilization is alive in their textile culture.



Her recommended sightseeing spot is the Mayan ruins.

We heard about sightseeing spots from the Ambassador. Chichicastenango is located 140km North West from the capital, Guatemala City and famous for its market that opens on Thursdays and Sundays. She added that a wide variety of handicrafts are displayed, so just seeing that is a lot of fun.

There are also a lot of Mayan ruins still left in the country. Tikal is one that has been listed as a World Heritage site. There are four outstanding sacred places in the Tikal National Park. The first has a height of 51m while the fourth has a height of over 70m.

The Ambassador wanted to be a lawyer and work in a courthouse when she was eight years old. Her mother, who loved Japan beyond all else, was her role model. A little less than half a year has passed since she came to Japan. However, it seems to us that she has a burning curiosity and aspiration to understand Japan. She told us joyfully that she was deeply moved by sumo wrestling. Her expression was very charming. We were totally fascinated by her gracefulness during our visit to the Embassy.



This colorfully painted wooden mask (dog) is hand made. It was originally used in a festival. There are various types of masks with animal motifs and Spanish people. They can also be enjoyed as pieces of art.

Guatemala's abundant nature and the Guatemalan people's straightforward and positive energy are reflected in these hand woven clothes. A bottle is gently wrapped in this cloth of various colors. They are woven by women by hand, and have a hand-made texture.

The owl is a lucky symbol in Guatemala, the symbol of good luck and prosperity. Among the carefully colored ceramic owls, there are some that are used as a savings bank.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

– A Legendary Slope Nurtured by a Long History –

Kawarake-zaka

From the meaning of the Chinese characters used in the name of this slope, “Doki” (Earthenware), one can tell that this slope must have a long history. In fact, the name of the slope is read with a much more difficult pronunciation, as “Kawarake,” with the same Chinese characters. We have become interested in and fascinated by why the reading for these characters was intentionally made difficult.

“Kawarake?” or “Kawarage?”

The name of the slope came from the potters who were living around here. There is also another story about the possible origin of the slope’s name. The story goes that “Watanabe no Tsuna,” a military commander of the Heian Period, bought a horse named “Kawarage” around here.

Because of this, there are two names: “Kawarake-zaka” Slope and “Kawarage-zaka” Slope. From the reading of the Chinese characters for the slope name, the former might be correct. However, from the history of the slope, both readings seem to be correct.

We probed deeply into the origins of both readings. For “Kawarake,” red soil “Akahani,” the material for pottery, is produced in a place called “Akabane” at the foot of the slope. This is why potters came to live around here.

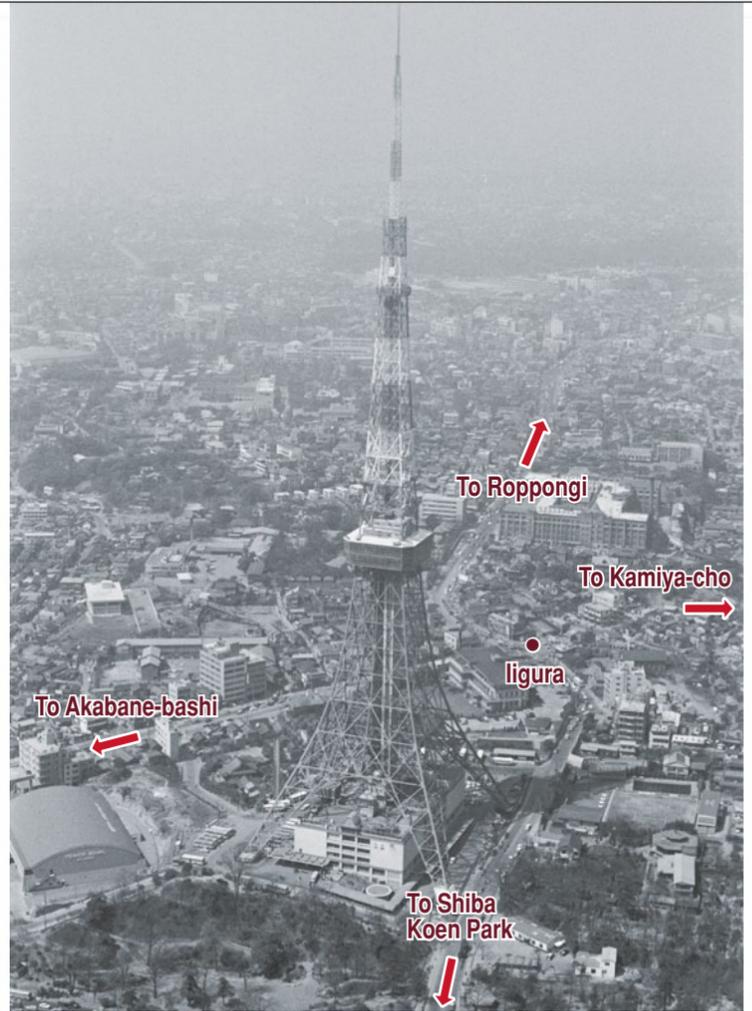
For “Kawarage” (buckskin), suggest the color of a horse with characteristic colorations of yellowish brown to beige.

“Watanabe no Tsuna” worked under “Minamoto no Yorimitsu” who was a member of the Settsu Genji family. He was famous for bravery as the head of Yorimitsu Shitenno (Yorimitsu’s Big Four). There are a number of place names connected to him in Minato City (linked to this, “Sakata no Kintoki” who was the model for the children’s story “Kintaro,” was one of the Big Four).



Yoshitsuya Utagawa’s “Watababe no Tsuna,” “Yorimitsu Kyo” (Load Yorimitsu) and “Sakata no Kintoki” (1861), collected by Maizuru City Itoi Bunko Archive

In “Edo Sunago,” a geographical description from the Edo Period, the story of this slope is described as “Kawarake-machi no saka nari, mukashi, Watanabe no Tsuna Mita ni arishi toki, kono tokoro wo suguruni, Bakuro no hikeru uma wo mite motometari. Kono uma Kawarage ni shite taguinaki meiba nari. Soreyori Kawarage-zaka to iuto ieri it-suno hotonika Kawarake-zaka to ii, Kawarake-machi to iu nari. Honmyo ligura-machi nari” (This was a slope in Kawarake town. A long time ago, when Watanabe no Tsuna was in Mita, he saw a horse walking with a horse dealer. He bought the horse while he passed through the slope. The color of the horse was buckskin and it was an excellent horse with no equal in the area. After that this slope was called “Kawarage-zaka” slope. However, before anyone can remember, this slope had been called “Kawarake-zaka” slope and the town was called “Kawarake-machi”. However, the



The Azabu Area (in the Roppongi Direction) viewed from Tokyo Tower (in the Shiba Direction) as it was before high-rise buildings were constructed like now: Lower Side: The foot of the Kawarake-zaka Slope is on the left side of Tokyo Tower. The large building located just to the right of the center is the current Azabu Post Office. Running streetcars can be seen at the foot of the Kawarake-zaka Slope. Taken in 1963, provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

original name of this town was ligura-machi).

Both stories are very plausible. There is no doubt that this slope has been used since the old days.

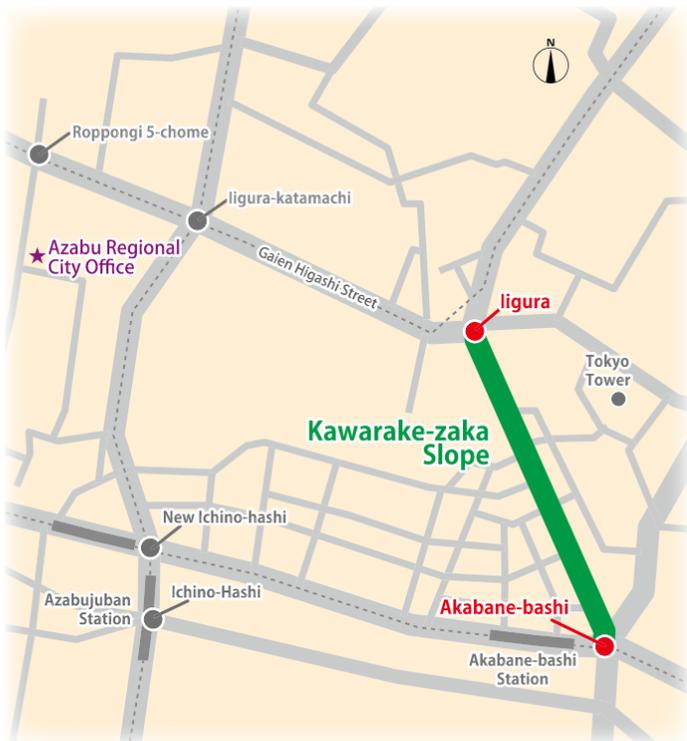
Now the slope has changed

They say that in the past, this slope was not gentle like now, but steep. When the Metropolitan Electric Railway was established, it was improved so that streetcars could pass along the slope. The current slope is broad with three lanes on each side and is long and gentle. This is one of the longest slopes in Azabu (perhaps even one of the longer slopes in Minato City).

On the Sakanishi side (on the left) (viewing from the foot), there is the Kumano Shrine. Toson Shimazaki, who lived close to the shrine, described the atmosphere of the Kumano Shrine festival in “Ikura Dayori”.

Takitaro Minakami, a writer in the Taisho Era who revived the Mita Bungaku literary magazine, was born in a mansion around the Russian Embassy to Japan. “From the cliff top, I watch children below the cliff. I want to play with them, but I feel awkward. The site of Kumano Shrine is a children’s playground” (from “Yamanote no Ko”).

Reference: “Mede miru Minato-ku no 100 nen” (Viewing the history of 100 years in Minato City) published by Kyodo Shuppansha, written by Seiko Kato, Kazumi Kiyota and Takeshi Nonoyama
 “Zoku Azabu no Meisho Ima Mukashi” (A Sequel to the Past and Present Sightseeing Spots in Azabu) published by Nagasaka Sarashina, edited by Motoaki Tawara, Akira Sato, Kazuo Iwasaki, Tomoo Minamoto and Jun Muraoka (*Not for sale)



The area on the side of Akabane-bashi is the foot of Kawarake-zaka Slope in the Southern Direction and ligura is located on the top of Kawarake-zaka Slope in the Northern direction.



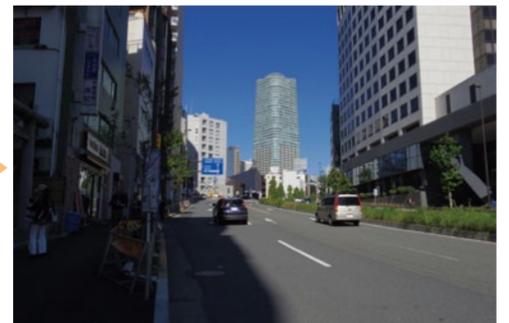
In 1975, viewed from the top of the Kawarake-zaka Slope
 Taken by Mr. Masanori Taguchi and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi



In 2013



In 1975, viewed from the foot of the Kawarake-zaka Slope
 Taken by Mr. Masanori Taguchi and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi



In 2013

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



Mansion with Gorgeous and Magnificent Appearance (Photo from private collection)

Hirooka Family Mansion in Azabu Zaimoku-cho

The Hirooka family mansion was located at 63, Zaimoku-cho, Azabu-ku, from the end of the Taisho Era to the beginning of the Showa Period, presently Roppongi 6-chome, around Roppongi Hills Hollywood Beauty Plaza. The mansion was the second house for the Hirooka family, specifically Mrs. Asako Hirooka, a model for the NHK Morning Drama serial "Asa ga Kita" in the latter half of 2015, her daughter and her son-in-law to live in, in Tokyo, in addition to their base house in Osaka. We sent our hearts out to the Hirooka family members, during our investigation about what kind of building it was.



A portrait of Asako as a dignified business leader (Photo provided by Daido Life Insurance Company)

麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena of Azabu

Asako passed away in the mansion in Azabu Zaimoku-cho.

Asako Hirooka (1849–1919) is actually little known to our history. However, through the TV drama and an original book, we learned that she took an active part in the Meiji Period when women's social progress was difficult. Her work is better known now when almost 100 years have passed after her death. In the second year of the Kaei era (1849), during the closing days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, she was born as a member of Mitsui family (later, Koishikawa Mitsui Family) in Aburano Koji Demizu in Kyoto. Then, in her 17th year, she married Shingoro Hirooka, from a wealthy merchant family of "Kajimaya" (shop for money change, etc.). Although Kajimaya faced a serious financial crisis due to the Meiji Restoration, it was restored with the great efforts of Asako. In addition to this, she successfully demonstrated her excellent ability as a business leader, for example, in operating coalmines, establishing the Kajima Bank and participating in the inauguration of Daido Life Insurance Company. Asako was dissatisfied with women's circumstances at that time, and met Jinzo Naruse who had great ambitions for female higher education. Then, she made an enormous effort to establish the Japan Women's University together with Naruse. After her husband passed away when she was still in her 50's, she left full power concerning her family business to Keizo, the husband of Asako's only daughter Kameko. He graduated from the Imperial University (presently the University of Tokyo) and married into the Hirooka family from the noble Hitotsuyanagi family. Because Asako had free time, she audited lectures together with the young students of Japan Women's University and wrote articles one after another in newspapers and magazines. In addition, to this she was very active in many other ways, for example, gathering young women in her second house in Gotenba in Shizuoka Prefecture to hold study sessions for training the young. After she joined the Catholic Church at the age of more than 60 years old, she actively conducted missionary work. In her later years, she spent time at home in Azabu Zaimoku-cho in Tokyo and died on January 14, 1919 at 71 of renal failure.

The Prosperous and Stately Mansion of the Hirooka Family, designed by William Merrell Vories

Keizo Hirooka ordered construction of his mansion in Azabu Zaimoku-cho from the W. M. Vories & Company. The missionary William Merrell Vories conducted architectural design and supervision in this company. This mansion was completed in 1918. Other buildings designed by Vories in Azabu, include Nishimachi International School (Moto-azabu), Azabu Nanbu-zaka Church (Minami-azabu) and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin building (Torii-zaka), etc., which were all familiar to us. An able person, Keizo strengthened the business operations of Kajima Bank and Daido Life Insurance Company. In this period, the Hirooka family advanced with great vigor. At that time, Osaka was the center of business in Japan. Company executives frequently visited public agencies and banks in Tokyo from Osaka. Keizo planned to build a second house in Tokyo considering the future education of his five children (one son and four daughters). However, the word of Asako, the godmother of the family, was gospel in the Hirooka family and it seems that Asako introduced Vories to Keizo. Asako had known Vories for several years by then, and he designed four or five private houses for the Hirooka family and the old building of the Daido Life Insurance Company Higobashi Branch in Osaka. How they obtained the site in Azabu Zaimoku-cho is uncertain, but the Mitsui family might have been involved, because Asako's parents' house, the Mitsui family's main residence, was located in Azabu Imai-cho, the present Roppongi 2-chome, just one kilometer from the Hirooka family's second house, and the houses of the Hirookas' were constructed one after another in and around the Azabu area.

The mansion in Azabu Zaimoku-cho was a four-story European style house with a gorgeously decorative appearance. I had a chance to see the original drawings with the support of

the W. M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha. They had developed their business following in the footsteps of Vories, and archived the buildings' original drawings and design. There are as many as 25 drawings for the Hirooka family's second house. This amount is unusual compared to the other works of Vories. On the first floor, there was a formal living room, dining room and sunroom. On the upper floors, private rooms for each family member, employees' rooms, a study, dressing rooms, etc., were arranged. The building had an amazing central heating system. The mansion was luxurious, because there were three bathrooms and each private room was equipped with a fireplace and washstand. Azabu Zaimoku-cho was located on high ground. The present place, perhaps close to where their mansion was, is Roppongi Hills 66 Plaza. From the Plaza, one can enjoy a wide and open view to the South East and Tokyo Tower can be clearly seen. The Hirooka family house must have been a comfortable residence with an unobstructed view and full of light.

The children of Kameko and Keizo went to Keio, Seishin Joshi Gakuin, Seishin International School or The American School, etc. They had an interest in tennis, music, ballet and flower arrangement in order to improve themselves. During spring, summer and winter vacations, they went back to their principal residence in Osaka. Asako would have been happy, as she had been interested in living in Tokyo for a long time. In her later years, she was prone to illness. However, in the year previous to her death, she published her only book "Isshu Isshin," and engaged in activities including the inauguration of the chairperson of the foundation preparation committee for Osaka YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). Perhaps, at home she spent time giving advice to her grandchildren, and receiving visits from many of her favorite pupils for study sessions and writing.

Actually, she frequently received many guests including a lot of foreigner. Soon after the house in Tokyo was completed, she invited Roland Morris, United States Ambassador to Japan to dinner. On that very occasion, Vories met Keizo's younger sister, Makiko, from the noble Hitotsuyanagi family, and they fell in love with each other. Vories got married to her in June 1919 and the wedding reception was held in this mansion. At that time, for a Japanese woman to marry a foreigner, not to mention a woman from the noble class, was truly unbelievable. Keizo and Kameko were strongly opposed to her marrying. However, only Asako approved of it. Just before her death, she made Keizo promise to accept the marriage of Makiko and Vories. The relationship between Asako, Vories and Makiko will be described separately.



William Merrell Vories (1880-1964) came from the U.S. as a missionary and later became a naturalized Japanese citizen (Photo provided by W. M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)

Afterwards

What happened to this house afterwards? The Hirooka family had reached the peak of their prosperity, but was greatly affected by the economic panic that occurred in 1927. The Kajima Bank closed down and Keizo liquidated their assets to allot money for payment of large debts and gave up the house in Azabu Zaimoku-cho. Then, he constructed a new house for the family to live in, in Meguro, in present day Aoba-dai. Completed in 1930, the house was western-style and also designed by Vories. At present, the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt is located on the site.

Each of their children chose their own path, such as studying in a foreign country, marriage, and starting a business before or after WW2. We heard that their motto was "action before words." It reminds us of something Asako used to say almost daily: "I will not leave a will. All the words I say everyday are my will". Her insistence that actions are more powerful than words is a central aspect of her personal philosophy. Understanding this way of thinking as a virtue seems to be a custom of the Hirooka family.



Keizo (1876-1953) and Kameko Hirooka (1876-1973) and their five children (Photo provided by the Daido Life Insurance Company)



Their living room where their music-loving children and Makiko would play the piano (Photo from private collection)



It is interesting that an authentic Japanese-style furnished room was included in the Western-style building. (Photo from private collection)



Original drawings including floor plans and the elevation are carefully preserved. (Materials provided by W. M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)

● Main References ●

- "TOSA BORIKAWA" written by CHIEKO FURUKAWA published by USHIO PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
- "THE BRIDGE OF LOVE" written by Grace N. Fletcher, supervised and translated by Koen Hiramatsu, published by Suiyosha
- "Nijusseiki wo Hachiju-rokunen Ikite" (Living for 86 years in the 20th Century) written by Mieko Hirooka (translated by Kimiko Okazaki) in Pedilavium-Kai Tsushin (bulletin) No. 23 published by Pedilavium-Kai
- "Hirooka Asako Goroku" (Quotations from Asako Hirooka) written by Shuichi Kikuchi, published by Takarajima-sha, Inc.
- "Journey With Asako" written by Yuko Nakao, Forest Book Editorial Section, Forest Books published by Word of Life Press Ministries
- "Kokonotsu Korobi To Okii! Hirooka Asako no Shougai" written by Sankei Shimbun Publications Inc.

● Data Collection Support: ●

Mr. Tomoyuki Serino, Manager of Historical Material & Public Relations Section in W. M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha, kindly showed us the valuable materials for the Hirooka family house in Azabu Zaimoku-cho and told us about the association between Asako and Vories. Also, Mr. Masaharu Hirooka, a direct descendant of Shingoro and Asako Hirooka, told us about the Hirooka Family and provided a photo of the house in Azabu Zaimoku-cho. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them.

(Interview and text by Aki Tanaka)

Notification from the Azabu Regional City Office

The Azabu Regional City Office intends 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, as we did in 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, considering the actual conditions in the region and

specific issues, unique regional projects are included to settle such issues and enhance the charm of each area. In this column, each time, we will be introducing three or four of the eleven community projects reflected in the plan.

Azabu Regional Office Projects No. 3 (For Items 1 through 3, refer to Vol. 33 and for Items 4 through 7, refer to Vol. 34)

8 Area Exchange Project (General Administration Section)

◆ Project Description

Collaborative projects with nearby cities, which continue to be conducted by residents from the Azabu area, are supported indirectly. In addition, more opportunities are being made available to Minato citizens. Also, a project is being implemented to provide opportunities for children to experience the abundance of nature, to cultivate their aesthetic sensibilities and to generally enrich their worldview.



Playing with local children on the river

◆ Main Programs in this Fiscal Year (including those already planned)

- Investigation and examination of area exchange destination
- Summer Tour to Funagata-cho in Yamagata Prefecture (in August)

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Prospect at the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Project Implementation	—	Investigation and Project Planning Trail Practice	Project Implementation	Project Implementation	Project Implementation
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000yen)		2,914	4,500	4,500	11,914

10 Toy Library (General Administration Section)

◆ Project Description

Toys for infants are expensive and the time they use them is short, so a high-quality toy rental service is provided and lectures are held for those responsible for selecting appropriate toys.



Lecture Audience

◆ Main Programs in this Fiscal Year (including those already planned)

- Toy Rental Service Facility List
- **ligura Pupils' Club:** Everyday (excluding Sundays), **Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall:** Everyday, **Composite Facilities including Nishi-azabu Iki-iki Plaza (Nishi-azabu Children Fureai Room):** Every Monday and Thursday
- Holding Lectures (in June 2015 and in February 2016)

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Prospect at the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Rental Service Implementation (3 locations) Lecture (18 times)	Rental Service Implementation (2 locations) Lecture (9 times)	Rental Service Implementation (3 locations) Lecture (3 times)	Rental Service Implementation (3 locations) Lecture (3 times)	Rental Service Implementation (3 locations) Lecture (3 times)	Rental Service Implementation (3 locations) Lecture (9 times)
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000yen)		494	494	494	1,482

9 Regional Salon (Chokotto Tachiyori Cafe) (Residents Support Section)

◆ Project Description

A place is provided where the elderly can meet together and continue to learn so that they don't become isolated, despite having lived in the area for a long time. In addition, local volunteers are encouraged to participate and the establishment of a framework to help local people in assisting each other, is supported.



Chokotto Tachiyori Cafe program is implemented every month.

◆ Main Programs in this Fiscal Year (including those already planned)

- Regional Salon Open (Once a month)
Venue: ligura Iki-iki Plaza, Alice Iki-iki Plaza, Minami-azabu Iki-iki Plaza, etc.
- Holding Volunteers Training Course

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Prospect at the end of FY2014)	Project Implementation			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Regional Salon Operation (4 locations) Volunteer Training	Implementation	Regional Salon Operation (3 locations) Volunteers Training The 4th Regional Salon Operation Plan	Regional Salon Operation (3 locations) Volunteers Training The 4th Regional Salon Trial Operation	Regional Salon Operation (4 locations) Volunteers Training	Regional Salon Operation (4 locations) Volunteers Training
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000yen)		3,401	3,432	3,432	10,265

11 Azabu Master Club (Collaboration Project Section)

◆ Project Description

Efforts are being made to foster human resources able to take charge of activities to enhance the attractiveness of the Azabu area. The training and support of such people is an ongoing part of this project. We will also provide them with assistance so that they may continue to develop their volunteer activities.



Basic Course (Walking Study) Participants

◆ Main Programs in this Fiscal Year (including those already planned)

- Regional Activities Learning Experience Course (May 2015 — March 2016)
- Providing Basic Course (October 2015 — March 2016)

Goals of the Overall Plan (End of FY2017)	Current Situation (Prospect at the end of FY2014)	Project Plan			
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Implementation (350 certified people) Creation of guide map	Implementation (260 certified people) Creation of guide map (2,000 copies)	Implementation (30 certified people) Examination of guide map	Implementation (30 certified people) Examination of guide map	Implementation (30 certified people) Examination of guide map	Implementation (30 certified people) Examination of guide map
Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000yen)		7,092	7,223	7,223	21,538

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

Notification from the Temporary Welfare Benefit Subsection

Old-age Benefit" (Temporary Welfare Benefit to support Pensioners, etc.) is to be awarded to support low-income pensioners.

Eligibility Individuals who are going to become 65 years old or more within FY2016 are to be provided the Temporary Welfare Benefit in FY2016 (those who have Minato City residence certificates as of January 1, 2015 and on whom ward tax is not imposed for FY2015).

* Dependents of persons on whom the ward tax is imposed, or livelihood protection recipients in the social security system are not eligible.

Allowance Thirty Thousands Yen per Eligible Person

Application Period From April 26 (Tuesday) to July 29 (Friday), 2016

* An application form was sent to each of the recipients on April 25 (Monday), 2016.

Application Procedure Fill out the necessary items on the application form and attach the required documents. Then, send them using the self-addressed envelope enclosed. When the application is to be submitted directly, come to the following temporary reception. Please note that the temporary reception (except for the Shiba Regional City Office) is opened until **June 30, 2016**.

Shiba District City Office: From April 26 (Tuesday), 2016 to July 29 (Friday), 2016.

Azabu, Akasaka, Takanawa, Shibaura Konan Regional City Offices and Daiba Branch Office: From April 26 (Tuesday), 2016 to June 30 (Thursday), 2016

Reception Time Weekdays From 8:30am to 17:00pm (On Wednesdays only, until 19:00pm, except for the Daiba Branch Office).

Be careful not to fall victim to bank transfer scams, being taken advantage of your benefits, or being fished for your personal information.

Inquiries: Temporary Welfare Benefit Subsection, Health and Welfare Section, Public Health and Welfare Support Department Tel: 03-3578-2846

Message from the Metropolitan Tax Office

● Shortened Edition of News Letter in June

1. The due data for the payment of Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax in the first quarter comes in June (within the 23 Wards).

Please pay your taxes by June 30, 2016 (Thursday) at any of the financial institutions or convenience stores listed on the reverse side of your payment statements. Payment by credit card is also acceptable. Payment by account transfer, Pay-easy service ATM in financial institutions or post offices, Internet banking or mobile banking is also available. For more information, access our web site or contact the office as follows.

Inquiries: <Payment by account transfer> Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division Tel: 03-3252-0955

<Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax> For properties located in Minato City, Minato City Metropolitan Tax Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

2. Payment by Credit Card is acceptable for Fixed Asset Taxes and City Planning Tax! (within the 23 Wards)

Because the number of tax items that can be paid by credit card has increased since FY2015, fixed asset tax and city planning tax can also be paid by credit card. Access the dedicated web site ("Metropolitan Tax Payment by Credit Card" web site) using your PC or smartphone to pay these taxes. This web site is very convenient for you because you can access this site to pay tax at home or outside without worrying about your time. We recommend you use this web site.

For more information, access the "Payment by Credit Card" web site (<https://zei.tokyo>)

3. Notification about the Relief Measures for Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax in FY2016 (within the 23 Wards).

1. Measures to reduce the upper limit charge level of Fixed Asset Tax/City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc.
2. Tax Exemption for Fixed Asset Tax/City Planning Tax for small non-residential land
3. Relief measures for City Planning Tax for small residential land are also applied throughout FY2016.

For more information, access our web site or contact the office as follows.

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City Fixed Asset Section, Minato City Metropolitan Tax Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Project for Everyone to Consider the Vision for the New Regional Community. The "Mina-Yoku" Project has been implemented, in order to involve everyone locally in the improvement of town conditions.

In the Azabu Regional City Office, the "Mina-Yoku" project was implemented in FY2015, which is a regional community revitalization project. The purpose is for the "Examination of new ways for community development, appropriate for the modern era" and to "Discover and foster human resources as our future leaders." In general: the Azabu Regional Power Revitalization Project.



* Community Design Project for Improving the Azabu Area by Everybody



Past Projects

In FY2015, about 20 members participated in the project in the period from January to March. The target of this project was young people mainly in their 20s and 40s, who could support Azabu area development. They conversed with guests, performed fieldwork, examined ideas for settling the problems in the area and gave a presentation.



On the last day, a panel exhibition was held at Hills Marche. This is organized every week in Ark Hills to promote interaction with people in the area, and ideas are exchanged and examined.

We are recruiting "Mina-Yoku" members for FY2016.

Guidance for member applications for FY2016 is provided around May to June in this paper "The Azabu," the "Koho Minato," the official Minato City website and the "Mina-Yoku" Facebook page, etc. For more details, contact the following number.

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

Bicycle No-parking Zone Designation in Hiroo Station

Bicycle No-parking Zones around Hiroo Station were designated in April 1, 2016.

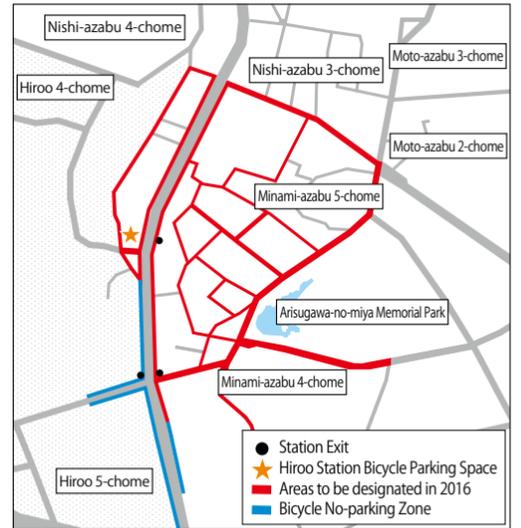
Please note that any bicycle parked within any of the Bicycle No-parking Zones will immediately be removed based on the Minato City Ordinance for the prohibition of leaving unattended bicycles etc., and arrangement of parking areas for bicycles etc.

Bicycles are a safe and convenient means of transport. However, if they are left on the road or sidewalks, they become obstacles to pedestrians' safe passage, and so there is a risk of injury or accidents occurring. Also, in the case of a disaster, they would interfere with evacuation or rescue operations.

We will remove parked bicycles and any other obstacles around Hiroo Station to create a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment.

We request your kind cooperation.

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



Act to Advance the Elimination of Discrimination based on Handicap Came into Effect.

Entry into force of the Act to Advance the Elimination of Discrimination based on Disability on April 1, 2015.

This Act requests administrative organs and private businesses to "prohibit unfair discriminatory treatment" based on physical and mental disability and to "provide reasonable accommodation" to eliminate social barriers so people with disabilities can live comfortable daily lives and social lives.

We should eliminate any discrimination based on disability, and people with or without disabilities should respect each other's personality and individuality, and support each other to realize a society where everyone can live together happily.

Example of Unfair Discriminatory Treatment

- Refusal of entry into a shop or service because of a disability

Example of Provision of Reasonable Accommodation

- In a place where there is limited access for wheelchairs, providing support for wheelchair access for the person in the wheelchair
- Providing explanations for people with disabilities, including communicating in writing, verbal explanations or sign language, etc.
- Providing special measures for people with disabilities, including prioritizing the applications of people with disabilities, while gaining the understanding of others.

Stipulations

	Unfair Discriminatory Treatment	Provision of Reasonable Accommodation
Administrative Organs	Prohibited	Legal Duty
Private Businesses	Prohibited	Reasonable Endeavors

Inquiries: Disabled Persons' Welfare Subsection, Disabled Persons' Welfare Section, Public Health and Welfare Support Department Tel: 03-3578-2670 Fax: 03-3578-2678

Certified and Recommended Business Offices supporting the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" in FY2015, have been chosen.



Roppongi promotes projects related to the local independent rules "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" (hereinafter called "Charter").

The Minato City Certification System for Recommended Businesses was developed to support the Minato City "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind." As part of this effort, shops and businesses (hereinafter called "businesses, etc.") that agree with the Charter are being recruited, and those that actively and independently support this effort are certified as Recommended

Businesses, etc. In FY2015, it was decided that out of the 307 businesses, etc. (as of the time of recruitment) that agreed to the Charter, 4 new businesses, etc., would be certified and the certifications of 13 other businesses, etc., would be renewed (refer to the following table).

Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802



Certification Sticker to be sent to the certified recommended businesses, etc.

List of Recommended Businesses, etc., for FY2015 (In Japanese alphabetical order)

Four New Businesses, etc.

Shop or Business Name	Project (in general)
Amagi Co., Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Periodic anti-crime and cleaning activities are performed. ○ The participation of other regional shops, etc., in the activities is called for to expand awareness of the Charter.
Tachihara Shoten Co., Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuous anti-crime and cleaning activities are performed as a regular activity by neighborhood associations and store associations. ○ A poster and a sticker are displayed in the shop front to increase awareness of the Charter.
Taniguchi Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuous anti-crime activities, road safety campaigns and cleaning activities have been performed for a long time mainly by neighborhood associations. ○ A poster is displayed within the shop, and activities to increase awareness among neighbors of the Charter are performed.
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Roppongi Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Periodic cleaning activities and a campaign to watch over children on their school routes are carried out regularly. ○ Participation in cleaning activities, etc., is called for in the company.

Thirteen Certification Renewed Shops and Businesses

Shop or Business Name
Executive Protection Co., Ltd.
Otei Shoji Co., Ltd.
Genji Shokai Co., Ltd.
Restaurant "Takeyan"
Shimojo Building Co., Ltd.
Tokyo Midtown Management Co., Ltd.
Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin
Photo Shop "Ginrei"
Mizuho Bank Roppongi Branch
MAY USHIYAMA Academy
Tokyo Midtown Office, Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
Mori Building Co., Ltd.
Roi Roppongi Kyodo Building Co., Ltd.

Answer to Azabu-kko

Toy Poodle

Mr. K wanted to see how Choko-chan would look if he was not trimmed at all from the time when he was very young. It makes sense that he can move quickly despite his coat being so fluffy.

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.
● The usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

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Editor's Note

When I found the information paper "The Azabu" in my mailbox, I decided to participate in editorial meetings because I wanted to know the area we live better. We can attend this meeting easily. It was my second participation. We went to see objects along the street where local people casually walk and collect local historical materials to prepare articles about what we have learned. It is very interesting to hear their stories after collecting data and materials.

(Miki Ishikawa)

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.

* English speakers are also available.

Minato Call :

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752

E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp