



A community information paper created and edited by people who live in Azabu.



Even the signboard and the complex itself are designed characteristically, and can be interpreted in a variety of ways.



broadbean, a custom furniture showroom, is located on the first floor.

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ⑭

An Extraordinary Space in an Ordinary Place

complex665: A Base for Contemporary Art

The complex665 complex (6-5-24 Roppongi), which opened last October, is housed in a three-story building with a simple gray-and-white color scheme. At the entrance, your attention is immediately drawn to broadbean, a showroom for contemporary furniture. Three galleries occupy the upper floors of the complex: Tomio Koyama Gallery (2F), ShugoArts (2F), and Taka Ishii Gallery (3F). All of these highly regarded venues for contemporary art regularly participate in a host of international art fairs, where they exhibit and sell art works.



Hirofumi Toyama, *Room / Light*, installation view at Taka Ishii Gallery (3F). (Photo: Taka Ishii Gallery)

"I would like as many people as possible to visit this facility. Roppongi is a place where people can experience art in a casual way as part of their daily lives," says Moichi Watanabe, of Town Management, Mori Building Co., Ltd., the company that developed the complex. One of Mori Building's focuses is "Culture and Art", and the company has invited a number of galleries to relocate to the Roppongi Hills area, home to the Mori Museum and other notable art facilities. The company believes there is an important connection between "contemporary art of as yet undetermined value" and "the constantly evolving Roppongi district."

The galleries in complex665 mainly exhibit new works by contemporary artists living in our times. The works are exhibited for a period of about one month then replaced entirely by a different exhibition, so visitors can experience a completely new world created by various artists on a number of occasions throughout the year.

At most museums, visitors are required to pay admission to see an exhibition, but because galleries are a commercial enterprise, entry is free. If a visitor is captivated by something that they see on display, they have the potential to acquire it for themselves. The works are not mass-produced industrial products, but individual works of art that are unique and one-of-a-kind items. As a result, the prices can sometimes be high.

There is a tendency to avoid contemporary art based on the notion that it cannot be easily comprehended without special knowledge. Some say that the abstract nature of the art makes it difficult to understand and appreciate. But if you have even the slightest interest in art, complex665 is

the perfect place for you. Why not visit the galleries, experience the art for yourself, and discuss what you see with the staff? You may come across something you fall head over heels in love with, and feel that you are destined to own. It is wonderful to have such a convenient place to enjoy this kind of experience. Galleries stimulate our imagination and urge us to explore ourselves and the world around us. There is also a strong possibility that you can meet the artist there on the first day of the exhibition.

For the exhibition schedule for each gallery, access the following website.

Tomio Koyama Gallery
<http://tomio koyamagallery.com/en/>

ShugoArts
<http://shugoarts.com/en/>

Taka Ishii Gallery
<http://www.takaishiigallery.com/en/>

● Data Collection Support ●
Mori Building Co., Ltd. Tomio Koyama Gallery ShugoArts Taka Ishii Gallery

Aki Kondo, *Fly Piglet, Fly!*, installation view at ShugoArts (2F).



Masahiko Kuwahara, *fantasy land*, installation view at Tomio Koyama Gallery (2F).



(Data Collected by Kumiko Omura and Emi Yonezawa : Written by Kumiko Omura)



"Kita Kaikisen" (Tropic of Cancer): a memorial bar where visitors are surrounded by pictures of Henry Miller



Ms. Hoki TOKUDA



“I don’t need a job title.” Exuding a strong presence just as she is.

We heard that Ms. Hoki TOKUDA appears in the Imoarai-zaka area.

She is the beloved 8th wife of the late Henry Miller, a distinguished literary man of the world. She is talented in various arts such as singing, dancing, acting, piano playing, speaking and writing.

So the research team went to that hideaway for grownups, reserved only for those in the know: a nightspot for the “Roppongi Zoku” (artistic young people who gathered in Roppongi in the 1960’s).

“Hikigatari” (Piano Playing) Singer in Roppongi

“Please come on in!” was her cheerful greeting, as we opened the door and hesitantly and slowly went into the room. We suddenly found ourselves in a rustic but sophisticated atmosphere, quite different from the hustle and bustle of the big city that we had been in only moments before.

This is Ms. Hoki Tokuda’s piano bar for “members only,” which we are featuring in this issue. The bar was named after “Tropic of Cancer”, an early and important seminal work by Henry Miller. Our interview begins with a photo shoot.

“Do you want me to play the piano? Okay, no problem. Kotaro, please turn on the power to the electronic piano.”

As soon as the mellow digital piano sound resonated in the room, she started singing, “Summertime, and the livin’ is easy ...” with her husky voice.

“I am good at playing fast.” As soon as she said that, all ten of her capable fingers moved fluidly over the keyboard.

The photographer moved to her right, and then to her left, as the high-speed shutter clicked continuously.

“You got a shot of my hands, didn’t you?” She asked, without hesitating as her tone and rhythm became ever more delightful and powerful. The rhythmic piano-playing and the clicks of the shutter filled the air in perfect time, almost as though they had rehearsed together.

“Ha-ha!” She laughed, as we pointed out how rhythmic the pair of them were. “No wonder, because I was in fact following the sound of the camera, like practicing with a metronome!” She then brought up an old story about how she had accompanied Yujiro Ishihara and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who had been a lover of the French chanson, on the piano. Regardless of whether the singer is a true professional or a skilled amateur, she can adjust her sound pitch and tempo casually according to the singer just by watching their mouths, even if their pitch or tempo may not be correct.

“Because of this, I was specially invited to a TV program hosted by Yoshiko Ishii, when Nakasone sang a chanson.” This episode is an example of how highly she was regarded at the time.

Super Multi-Talented Socialite

In the past, the image of Japanese women had been similar to that of “Madame Butterfly”.

The heroine, Madame Butterfly, had led a tragic and fleeting, but heroic life.

However, Ms. Tokuda is a cheerful and active socialite (social butterfly). Her entry into the world of entertainment and film came about naturally through the introduction of her father, or as an extension of her personal interests.

“When I played mah-jong with Shinoda (Masahiro Shinoda, a famous film director), he asked me what it is I do exactly. He asked, “So, you have appeared in TV programs and played on stage. Have you appeared in any films?” I answered, “No, I haven’t.” He suggested I approach the Shochiku Company (a production, performance and distribution company of films and theatrical plays) the next day, because Maeda-san (assistant director) has long had an idea for a particular film he thought I would be good for. He explained that the co-star had already been decided on (Yoshiko Kayama), but they were still looking for someone to take on the leading role. So, of course, I visited Shochiku soon after that, and I was chosen next day.”

Ms. Tokuda rose rapidly as an actress in the film industry thanks to her inherent excellent sensitivity and good taste.

However, after she had appeared in four different films, she left Japan without intending to look back. She made her debut as an actress in Hollywood in the mid-1960’s. There, a distinguished literary man of the world fell in love with her at first sight, and she spread her wings on the global stage like the butterfly she is.

Life is not without its ups and downs. She experienced separation and divorce, while exploring and demonstrating her multiple talents in the world of showbiz in and outside Japan.

After all of that, she returned to Japan and went into the club and café business, eventually establishing her base in Roppongi once again.

“Did you ask me what brought me into this line of business? Perhaps, it was when I was drinking with some friends including Mr. (Hiroyuki) Itsuki (a famous novelist, essayist and songwriter) and Mr. (Tetsuya) Asada (a famous novelist and mahjong player). They suggested that I write something, because they thought I always had interesting things to say. They encouraged me a lot.”

Ms. Tokuda is now fancy-free and unattached from desires, and free to explore her desires in her writing as well. She has written books, and contributed to the “Weekly Yomiuri” and “Seiron” Magazines. At present, her column appears regularly in the “Monthly Subaru” magazine.

Living with Her Beloved Mother

“This wedding dress was designed by Junichi Nakahara (a famous painter and fashion designer) for my mother. It is stylish, isn’t it?”

She showed us a framed photograph of three sisters, two of whom were wearing white dresses and holding a large bouquet. They were her maternal aunts, one younger and one older than her mother. They were standing side by side with her mother Machiko, as her bridesmaids.

The three sisters in the picture attended Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin from elementary school. They were also direct descendants of “Nasu-no-Yoichi Munetaka” (the young tragic hero of the Heike family in the 12th century, a great marks-



The “Roppongi Zoku” were representative of the people of Japan in the 1960’s. Ms. Tokuda’s powerful vitality for life fits the energy of this town. Her marriage to Mr. Miller was a May-and-December marriage. He was about 50 years her senior, but she remembers that they had a lot in common: they were both wild, richly gifted and always had no money! She is currently focusing on her writing activities, while living in an apartment in Roppongi.



man during the battle between the Genji and the Heike families).

After graduating from senior high school at the beginning of the Showa Era, Machiko went alone to Canada to attend Alma Collage and studied Domestic Science and Vocal Music.

After coming home, she married Mr. Rokuro Tokuda, who graduated from Kwansai Gakuin University, and had her first child, Hoki (real name: Hiroko). She trained Hoki to have perfect pitch, and the child also received other forms of special education for the gifted starting from age three.

During World War II however, things were somewhat different. They were evacuated to Motohachioji Village, and with six children to feed, she was obliged to cultivate vegetables and wheat. In a land area of 660m2, she kept 15 chickens for eggs and 10 goats to produce cheese from the milk. In this way, she made a great effort to keep her family in good health.

In these plains that had been completely devastated by the Great Hachioji Air Raid, she took in orphans while teaching Japanese in the residential area where foreigners lived. Despite living in poverty, she sent Hoki to Obirin Senior High School.

The Alma Collage in Canada, which Machiko had graduated from, offered a scholarship to Hoki because they were very concerned about Machiko living in a country so recently effected by disaster. This allowed Hoki to also able study in Alma Collage.

Two years later, she won the highest honor in the Piano Course. In the Graduation Recital, she received a gold medal from St. Thomas City in Ontario.

Around that time, just as she was returning to Japan, she suddenly received the sad news of her mother’s death by overwork. Machiko had passed away at the young age of only 49.

“In my deep grief for my mother, I stopped playing piano for a while. My mother had been a cheerful person, and a woman from a good and wealthy family, brought up with the greatest of care. Because of this, she never showed how difficult her life had become, or how much she suffered. I can’t imagine how deep her sadness was. Likewise, I don’t know how she made such a remarkable effort during and after the War.”

Ms. Tokuda’s strong will had surely been inherited from her mother.

It is almost as if she had lived twice as much as a regular person, with her expansive interpersonal network and rich experiences.

“I want young people to travel across the



Mr. Tokuda’s parents when they were young



Ms. Tokuda and her siblings, dress stylishly, in the burnt ruins of the garden without a proper house. These clothes were articles provided through LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia), and sent by container from her mother’s old friends in Canada. In the middle of the front row are Ms. Tokuda and a boy who was adopted through the foster parent system.



The three sisters of the Nasu Family. The bride is wearing a fur collar over her sophisticated dress designed by Junichi Nakahara. It looks quite modern, so one wouldn’t think it was made 80 years ago. The gold metal that she had received at her Graduation Recital gleams in the sun.

America continent, to feel the vastness of the world, and to meet as many wonderful people as possible”.

Ms. Tokuda told us that she will continue to write about the various people whom she has met in her life.

Stay tuned to the works of Ms. Hoki Tokuda. She is a great storyteller, and we look forward eagerly to her future works!

Real name: Hiroko Tokuda (hereinafter, titles omitted).

She was born in Ueno-Sakuragi-cho, Tokyo. She is the eldest of six brothers and sisters.

Her father, Rokuro Tokuda, was the Tokyo Branch Manager of the League of Nations and after that, an editorial writer for NHK. He contributed actively to the spread of Esperanto.

Her mother had set the trend in the new era, studying in a foreign country at the beginning of the Showa Era, marrying and having a self-sufficient life and raising children in the countryside, and being a working mother and a foster parent, all of which modern women of today would be able to relate to.

Her maternal grandfather, Suketsugu Nasu, was the 34th generation direct descendant of Nasu-no-Yoichi Munetaka (a famous master archer). He studied in the Sapporo Agricultural School (presently Hokkaido University) and followed Dr. Clark to Canada. After that, he moved to San Francisco. Fifteen years later, he returned to Japan on a steamer with two American cars (Buick). He operated a high-class chauffeur-driven hired car business in Ueno Hirokoji and served as the Director of Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin.

Her grandmother ran a luxury dressmaking shop called “Kanameya”, and was involved in the “Lyric Doll” project together with Junichi Nakahara who was a designer under exclusive contract with Kanameya. Her paternal grandfather, Busaku Tokuda, served as the captain of a merchant ship that operated between San Francisco and Kobe. He wrote books and published translations during the Meiji era, such as “Senpaku Suishinki” (Propeller for Vessels), and “Shinshiki Kikan Toriatukai Hou” (Procedures for Handling New Engine Types), etc.

<https://kitakaisen.jimdo.com/>

(Interviewed by Mimi S Koike and Megumi Nakajima : Written by Mimi S Koike)



Becoming a “Best Town,”

Free of Illegally Parked Bicycles and Passive Smoking

The Azabu Area, with its variety of people coming from all over the world and introducing new cultures, is evolving day by day now, especially with the coming of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. Do you realize that? We aim to improve the town in many ways, so that all residents, workers who commute in and out of the area, as well as visitors will feel comfortable during their stay. This page provides “Town’s Tips” to support all these people. In this issue, we have featured countermeasures against illegally parked bicycles and passive smoking.



Bicycle Parking Lot in front of Roppongi Station Exit 1a



Measurements need to be made to make sure the bicycles fit into the machine.



A bicycle can be parked with a one-touch operation. When you want to retrieve it, just hold the card over the card reader!

A “Fascinating” Bicycle Parking Lot makes its appearance in front of Roppongi Station.

In the Report on the 30th Minato City Public Opinion Poll for FY2015, illegally parked bicycles and motorcycles ranked third among responses to the question, “What do residents of the city feel anxious about?” Illegally parked bicycle countermeasures ranked second among responses to the item, “Policies to be focused on”.

Following an existing project to establish designated smoking areas (Minato Smoking Rule), the “Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot” has opened as an example of projects aimed at outdoor beautification and safety. This facility can accommodate 428 bicycles. (For the location and enlarged image of the prohibited areas for bicycle parking, etc., refer to the map on page 7).

The people who were involved in the design and operation told us that this project features the “Fascinating Parking Lot”!

This multi-story bicycle parking structure with a 17-stage mechanical parking system has quite a unique appearance. Whenever a bicycle is parked or retrieved, it is possible to observe the whole operation as it happens. When we recorded the time it takes for a single bicycle to be processed, we found that it took as little as just 8 seconds.

Another feature is its “high level of convenience.” For regular use,

the price has been set at 1,800 yen per month (1,300 yen for students). It is open all year round, and open most of the day, except from 1:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. (On New Year’s Day, an all-night parking service will be provided). Users of Mikawa-dai Park Bicycle Parking Lot can also use this facility without paying an additional fee, simply by presenting their parking card for Mikawa-dai Park Bicycle Parking Lot.

In using the facility, experienced operation staff members instruct users in a careful manner.

This is a supportive community, so it is no surprise that we often hear the phrases “Tadaima” (I’m home), “Okaeri” (Welcome back) and “Itterasshai” (Have a nice day) in this large town of Roppongi.

Inquiries: Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot
Tel: 03-3470-4186

● Interviewees

Mr. Takamasa Takeuchi, Tokyo Head Office, GIKEN Ltd.
Mr. Yoshihiro Takei, Nippon Computer Dynamics Co., Ltd.
Mr. Yoshiaki Matsui, Traffic Affairs Subsection, Community Transportation Section, City Development Support Department, Minato City

Smokers: Be Considerate in Restaurants too

Do you know about the stylishly-designed booklet “Minato City, Non Smoking Restaurants”?

This booklet is available in 270 locations in Minato City, including subway stations, universities, hotels, supermarkets and the City Hall, and was edited by the staff members of the Health Promotion Section of the Minato Public Health Center.

This booklet introduces many of the restaurants in the Azabu area, including those in Roppongi, and comes with maps and photos.

We spoke to the staff members in the Minato Public Health Center who edited this booklet.



In the Minato Public Health Center, facilities have been provided as options for reducing exposure to passive smoking, such as providing separate areas for smokers and non-smokers. This effort has been recognized with the accreditation as “Excellent Facilities for Minato Smoking Countermeasure”. This time, the restaurant information was carefully edited and 21,000 copies were published as a guidebook in March 2017.

For the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, the publication of foreign language editions is under consideration.

A clear and easily understandable color-coded system has been created for people to know where it is acceptable to smoke, and where it isn't.

- Gold: The entire site area inside and outside the building is a “No Smoking” area
- Silver: The area inside the building is a “No Smoking” area
- Bronze: The area inside the shops is “No Smoking” area
- White: Complete Separation of “Smoking” and “No Smoking” areas (A separate smoking room is available)

Stickers with the appropriate color, as explained above, are displayed at each restaurant.

Generally, smoking affects health in the following three ways.

(1) Adverse Impact on Smoker

Smoke from cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco contains about 5,300 chemical substances and 70 carcinogens.

Smoking may cause cancer, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), a stroke, and other health problems. It is said that smokers face a high risk of death, 1.7 times more than non-smokers. Smoking by expectant mothers may cause premature delivery, infants with low weight at birth, intrauterine growth restriction, and other problems.

(2) Passive Smoking (Adverse Impact on the People Around Smokers)

People around smokers inhale substances in side-stream smoke or exhaled smoke (smoke or com-

ponents with the smell of tobacco that are exhaled through nose or mouth of a smoker). In such cases, it can sometimes be more harmful than that of mainstream smoke, and the risk of lung cancer could be increased by 1.3 times.

The risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) among children exposed to environmental tobacco smoke could rise to 4.7 times more than that of children whose family members do not smoke. It can also easily cause the onset of asthma attacks.

Loss of life because of passive smoking is estimated to hit at least 15,000 people per year. This figure is four times more than the number of traffic deaths.

(3) Third-hand Smoking (Adverse Impact Caused by Residual Smoke)

This is the risk of inhaling harmful substances that have dissolved into the air, including tar attached to clothes, hair or curtains. Such harmful substances in gaseous state cannot be removed using an air cleaner or other equipment.

Even if the smoker smokes under an exhaust fan in the kitchen, it is reported that as much as 3.2 times more nicotinic metabolites are discharged in the urine of the children living with smokers, as compared to children living with parents who are non-smokers.

Are heat-not-burn tobacco or e-cigarettes, which have recently become more popular among the smokers in Japan, safe?

Heat-not-burn tobacco, which use tobacco leaves, have been advertised as a form of tobacco that does not produce second-hand smoke, and which cuts out 90% of the harmful substances.

However, it should be emphasized that they still contain 10% of the harmful substances.

Even for e-cigarettes, which do not use tobacco leaves but heats up a liquid that does not contain nicotine, research is insufficient and inconclusive regarding the impact on our health.

Even for what appears to be the safest smoking option, the effect on human health is still unknown.

WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that Japan ranks among the lowest in the developed world in its attempts to address the problem of passive smoking.

The health warning shown on the packaging of tobacco products uses a space of about 30% on the lower surface of the package in Japan. However, in Canada and Australia, most of the package surface is used to show vivid pictures of diseases caused by smoking. Such packaging clearly provides smokers with visual evidence of health problems caused by smoking.

The Minato Public Health Center is very familiar with the damage to health caused by smoking, and actively promotes the message, “For your health, it is better to stop smoking completely.”

● Interviewee

Mr. Masayuki Torii, Subsection Manager, Mr. Daiki Akama and Ms. Mayu Kanai, Health Service Subsection, Health Promotion Section, Minato Public Health Center



Sticker for the Minato City “Excellent Facilities for Minato Smoking Countermeasure”



● References:

- “Minato City, Non Smoking Restaurants” published by Health Promotion Section, Minato Public Health Center in March 2017
- “The Second Liaison Council of Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Tobacco Countermeasure” (Material #7 Tobacco’s Negative Impact on Health) created by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare on August 10, 2006
- “Promoting Abstinence from Smoking: If you can’t stop, you are a tobacco addict,” published by the Japan Medical Association in May 2008
- “Minato Smoking Countermeasures (Minato City Passive Smoking Preventive Measures) Excellent Facility Guideline” the 10th edition published by Health Promotion Section, Minato Public Health Center in March 2017
- “March 1, 2017, Working Group for the Review Team on Measures to Strengthen the Prevention of Passive Smoking (Materials)” prepared by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare on March 1, 2017
- “Smoking and Health” published by the National Cancer Center



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From the "World" of Azabu



ARGENTINA

On the globe, Argentina is located on the opposite side of the earth from Japan. The distance between the two countries is far: about 18,000 km. Hence, for the Japanese people, Argentina is a country that seems quite far away. However, the two countries have a remarkable relationship. Today, we interviewed His Excellency Mr. Alan Beraud, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic to Japan (hereinafter, "Ambassador"). He was appointed in April 2016.

His First Time in Japan, and His First Impression of Azabu

Japan is the first Asian country that the Ambassador has lived in, after his postings to Montevideo in Uruguay, Caracas in Venezuela and Brussels in Belgium. Before coming to Japan, he thought that Tokyo was mainly a large city with many high-rise buildings. However, when he arrived for his new post in Azabu, he was very impressed with the town, with its rich green foliage that changes from season to season.

Azabu is very clean, and well-equipped with train and subway transportation, buses, and other facilities. The buses and trains always run on time. Most of all, however, he felt that the Japanese culture of mutual respect and help, as well as the harmonious coexistence of this tradition with cutting-edge technology, are truly positive aspects of the Japanese culture.

The Embassy is located in front of the Azabu Hikawa Shrine in the Moto-Azabu area. The Ambassador's favorite place is Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park. He enjoys playing tennis and jogging over the weekends, and admiring cherry-blossoms in the spring with the Embassy staff. Also, he often visits Roppongi Hills and the National Arts Center in Tokyo.

Occasionally, he goes down the slope to have dinner or ice-cream at Azabu-Juban. His favorite Japanese food is grilled eel. He also likes other fish dishes including sushi and straw-grilled fish. He added, with a broad smile, that most of the ice-cream flavors in Argentina are chocolate related flavors, but there are a wide variety of local fruits ice-cream flavors in Japan.

Land Extending 5,000 km from North to South with Rich Natural Beauty

Argentina spans a distance of about 5,000 km from end to end.

This is from north to south of the South American Continent. The northern region has a subtropical climate, and there is a World Heritage Site there called "Iguazu Falls".

In addition, the "Quebrada de Humahuaca" trip, also a World Heritage, includes the famous "seven colors" mountains. A salt field called "Salares" is also located there, offering an amazing view.

The Andes are located in the western part of the country, and the Great "Pampa" Plains spread out across the eastern region. The southern region, Patagonia, is close to Antarctica, and has a cold climate. The World Heritage Site "Los Glaciares," a blue glacier, is found there.

There are also penguins living along the coast, and the Ambassador had often visited the area with his young children. He spoke fondly of the past, "The penguins and my children were about the same height at the time, and they used to run around together!"

Football is a Part of Life for Argentinians

When speaking of Argentina, many people also think of football. The Ambassador also told us, "Of course, football is the most popular sport for the people of Argentina. All kindergartens and elementary schools have a soccer pitch and soccer balls. When friends meet, they often immediately start playing football or futsal, and the losers will have to buy the drinks or treat the winners to dinner." He added that players

His Excellency Mr. Alan Beraud
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic to Japan

Argentine Republic

Area: 2,780,000 km² (About 7.5 times larger than the area of Japan)

Population: 43,410,000 (Source: World Bank in 2015)

Capital City: Buenos Aires

President: Mauricio Macri (four-year term, may be re-elected for a further four-year term only once)

Assembly: Bicameral System (Upper House: 72 seats with 6-year term, Lower House: 257 seats with 4-year term)

Vice President serves also as the President of the Upper House.

Reference: Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/latin/argentina/index.html>

Argentine Republic

Map provided by Argentina Instituto Nacional de Promoción Turística (INPROTUR) http://www.mercosur.jp/01_argentina/

Interview Support: Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Japan



The Embassy building extends to the back. This building is also used as an official residence, and was constructed in 1992.



The state-of-the-art armored cruisers "Kasuga" and "Nisshin" used by Japan in the naval battle against Russia in 1904, were in fact the same ones that had originally been ordered by Argentina from an Italian shipyard. Both cruisers were operated under the command of the battleship "Mikasa Maru". The Mikasa Maru has been refurbished several times, and is now harbored in Yokosuka. A table was made from wood scraps taken from the Mikasa Maru and stored carefully in the Embassy.



Before the Embassy moved to its present location in Moto-Azabu, it was located in Roppongi (presently Roppongi Hills). When the building was destroyed, the stained-glass windows and mantelpieces were removed and stored temporarily. They are now used with care in the Embassy building.



There is a patio with beautiful green plants on the 3rd floor of the Embassy building. From the patio, one can see Tokyo Tower and high-rise condominium buildings.

can spend time with their friends even if they are in another country. For Argentina in particular, football is woven into the very fabric of their culture.

In addition to football, rugby and tennis are also popular in Argentina. The Ambassador participated in the grouping draw for the 2019 Rugby World Cup qualifying round, held in Kyoto last May.

The Birthplace of Argentinian Tango

Argentinian Tango originated at the beginning of the 20th century. People in Argentina are well aware that tango is very popular in Japan. When the Japanese people hear "La Cumparsita", they instantly recognize it as a popular tango song, even if they do not know the exact song title. The Ambassador is also well aware of how far tango has spread in Japan.

The Tango Dance Asian Championship is held in Tokyo every year, and is always sold out. The winning couple of the Tango World Competition held in Argentina tours major cities in Japan. The performance techniques of the "bandoneon" (a musical instrument like an accordion) are passed down from generation to generation. However, it is also very popular among young Japanese players.



Food Culture in Argentina

Among wines produced on the South American Continent, the wines produced in neighboring Chile are quite famous in Japan. However, wines produced in Argentina are also more than comparable. Wine production volume in Argentina was ranked 5th in the world in 2015, and the import volume of such wines into Japan in 2016 was placed 7th (*1).

The Ambassador's recommendation is the Argentinian white wine made from a variety of grapes called "Torrontes". It has a very fruity flavor, and is produced in Salta Province. Also, the world famous "Malbec" red wine, with its characteristic astringency, is produced in the Mendoza Province. Of course, Malbec originated in France; however, the variety of grapes used to produce Malbec is grown in an area that matches the climate of Argentina, with its drastic changes in temperature. Argentinians are proud to say they are the top wine producer in the world for this grape variety.

The Embassy holds the Malbec World Day event every April, and continues to introduce this wine to the Japanese people. Although this red wine is of such superb quality that it is found on the wine list of some first-class airlines, it is also sold at reasonable prices in stores and supermarkets in Azabu and Hiroo. We strongly recommend that you try it.

Another first for Argentina is its top ranking in the world for the production and consumption of beef. Amazingly, the annual consumption per person is as much as about 56 kg! This figure is about 6 kg for Japanese people, so the Argentinians consume more

than 9 times the amount of beef that the Japanese consume. (*2)

In Argentina, a cooking technique called "Asado" is common, where beef is baked using charcoal. A good example of a very popular food is "Empanada," a pie stuffed with beef.

Another example of a popular dish in Argentina is "Choripan," which is a kind of hotdog where chorizo is sandwiched between slices of bread and seasoned with a sauce called "Chimichurri," made with salt, vinegar, oil, parsley and garlic. Of course, the chef in the official residence makes "Choripan," the Ambassador's favorite.

A Remarkable Relationship with Japan

The year 2016 marks the 130th anniversary of the first immigration from Japan to Argentina. Japan has had a long history with Argentina, even before the establishment of diplomatic relations, and we can see evidence of this relationship in areas close to us. For example, the Tokyo Metro Ginza Line was modeled after the subway line A in Buenos Aires, which was constructed in 1913 based on cutting-edge European technology of the time. Interestingly, the red vehicles that used to operate on the Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line are still operating on the subway line B in Buenos Aires.

Also, the stone pavement on Marunouchi Nakadori Street, close to Tokyo Station, uses stones produced in Patagonia in the southern part of Argentina. This street creates a sense of nostalgia and familiarity for the Ambassador, because the atmosphere of this street resembles that on Corrientes Avenue.

The 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina will be commemorated in 2018. The Embassy is planning various cultural exchanges with people in the Azabu area, and plans to open the Embassy to the public.

We are sure that when Ceibo (*Erythrina crista-galli*), the Floral Emblem of Argentina, blossoms next year, the country that used to be very far away in our minds will feel much closer to us.

*1 Source: Trade Statistics of Japan in 2016

*2 Source: 2013 Report by Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation

From November to April, which is the early summer season in Argentina, the lovely red flowers of the CEIBO, the Floral Emblem of Argentina, bloom. At the site of the Embassy in Moto-Azabu, these flowers blossom around June.



Imports of Argentinian wines rank 7th in Japan, and sales are on the rise every year. The Embassy is very active and makes a real effort to promote the import of Argentinian wines to Japan, through events such as wine tastings of new brands of wine.



"Iguazu Falls" is located between Argentina and Brazil, and is a World Heritage Site. This is the most famous sightseeing spot in Argentina. Falling from a breathtaking height of 2,700 m, the falls provide a spectacular view.



The capital city, Buenos Aires, is called the "The Paris of South America," and its sophisticated and beautiful townscape spreads out over a sizable area. ("Bueno Aire" is Spanish and stands for "Crystal-Clear Air." "Buenos Aires" is the plural form of the phrase.)

Photos 1 to 4 provided by the Argentina Instituto Nacional de Promoción Turística (INPROTUR)



In 2009, UNESCO listed the "Argentinian Tango" as an Intangible Cultural Asset. This passionate dance fascinates people all over the world.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

—The Diverse History of Roppongi—

Imoarai-zaka Slope



Top of the slope today, intersecting with the Roppongi Crossing (2017) Photo taken by Marika Oba

Divided Opinions about Its Origin

It is said that the name of the slope refers to the basic and commonly seen activity of "imo wo arau" (washing potatoes! But it also refers vaguely to people jostling around in a crowded area). However, the origins are not so simple as being a constantly crowded slope since the past. There are various opinions about the origins of the slope's name, and we picked up the two main ones.

The book "Shinpen Edo-Shi" (Edo History New Edition), published in 1917, says this about "Imoarai-zaka Slope: "It is an uphill road from Higakubo to Roppongi. There is a small Inari Shrine at the foot of the slope. This Shrine belongs to the main Azabu Hikawa Shrine. In autumn every year, potatoes are carried from neighboring villages by horse to this area. Also, a market was held every day in the area close to Inari Shrine. Edo Sunago (geography of the Edo area) suggests that this is indeed why this slope was thus named." As we can see from this description, the "Shinpen Edo-Shi" concluded that this slope was named because potatoes were sold in front of the Asahi Inari Shrine at the foot of the slope.

On the other hand, the word "imo" also referred to "smallpox" in ancient times. "Imoarai" is used to describe how persons stricken with smallpox pray to the gods and bathe in a lot of water. In that sense, "Imoarai-zaka Slope" was a slope associated with the god that could help with smallpox. Prayers to "Imoarai" were performed at "Benzaiten" (the God of Wealth) shrine in Hotenji Temple located along the slope. This can be clearly seen in maps from the Kanbun era or Kan-en era during the Edo period. This is another theory about how the name for the slope came about.

What is smallpox?

Smallpox is a serious viral infectious disease. It used to be a very dangerous disease with a very high fatality rate of 20% to 50%. It is the first successfully eradicated infectious disease in the world. (In Japan, it was eradicated in 1955.) Because it was extremely contagious, many famous people suffered from this disease.

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

Since 2009, the Azabu Regional City Office has been organizing activities with Azabu Future Photo Studio in an endeavor to capture the changes to the cityscape of Azabu. They've been 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 things from the Azabu region, these activities are designed to preserve and pass down historical and cultural resources that are familiar to long-time local residents down to future generations, as well as expanding their utilization in the future. 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.

Masamune Date, a Feudal Lord of the Sendai Domain, is well known from the feature on the "Sendai-Zaka Slope" introduced in this magazine previously. He was blinded in one eye due to smallpox, and was known locally as the "Dokuganryu" (One-eyed Dragon). He fortunately survived. However, there were many people who lost their lives. Among them, there was a person with an interesting name.

Tadasato Gamo

Tadasato Gamo was the second-generation Lord of the Aizu Domain in Mutsu Province. He caught smallpox at the age of 26 and died young. He was the Feudal Lord of the famous "Aizu Domain," where a fierce battle broke out in the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. I wondered why the family name of Tadasato Gamo was different from the family name of Katamori Matsudaira, the Lord of Aizu Domain at the end of the Edo Period, so I decided to investigate. I found that Tadasato's grandfather was in fact closely related to the abovementioned Masamune Date. Tadasato's grandfather was Ujisato Gamo. He became one of the favorites of Nobunaga Oda, and married Nobunaga's daughter. He was also the top pupil of "Rikyu's 7 sages" (Sen no Rikyu's best pupils). He was a very capable lord, fully versed in both the arts of war and peace. Because of this, Ujisato was forcibly relocated to the Aizu Domain, and was anointed the first-generation Lord by Hideyoshi Toyotomi. Toyotomi deployed Ujisato to prevent a revolt by Masamune Date and to keep a watchful eye on Ieyasu Tokugawa. Ujisato renamed the town of "Aizu" to "Aizu-Wakamatsu" and reconstructed the "Tsuruga-Jo Castle" (Aizu-Wakamatsu Castle).

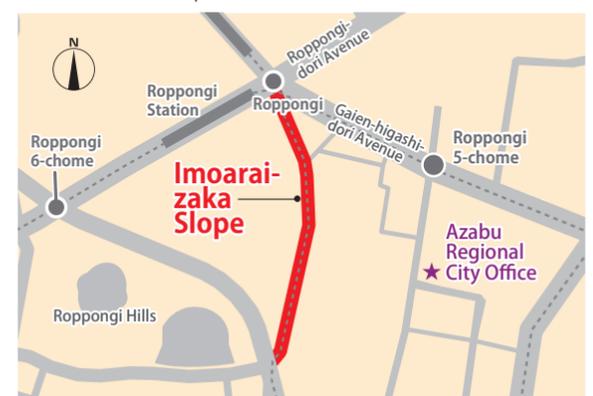
Because Tadasato unfortunately died young and did not have a successor, the position of lordship was next taken up by Yoshiakira Kato, who was one of the Shichihonyari (Seven Spears) of Shizugatake (a team formed during the Battle in Shizugatake), and who was faithful to Hideyoshi Toyotomi. Yoshiakira played an active part in the Battle of Sekigahara as a militarist in the main-force units of the eastern army. When Ujisato was forcibly relocated to the Aizu Domain, Yoshiakira was rather old, so he passed away only four years after being appointed as Lord. By a curious coincidence,

the place where his body was cremated was the "Zenkujji Temple" in Azabu.

Back on Topic

Let's get back to the original subject. I have investigated the changes to Imoarai-zaka Slope in sequence beginning from 1963. I wonder if I am the only one who perceives a great difference between the scenes in the Showa era and the Heisei era. The four photos above show the townscape about every 20 years, and the difference lies not only in the difference between the black-and-white photos and color photos, but also possibly in improvements in town planning. The chaotic atmosphere of "Imoarai," just as the words suggest, has been changing year after year, and has become quite orderly. I was quite surprised at the changes I discovered while looking at all these photos.

I may have digressed from the original topic, but I feel—for some reason or other—a bond of "destiny" linking the people who gathered here in "Azabu." I'm afraid I cannot describe all the detailed stories in this page, but I really wish I could share all the histories of the marvelous people that have built up over time in Azabu. I feel like I have caught only a glimpse of the rich and diverse History of the Imoarai-zaka Slope.



The "Imoarai-zaka" Slope was featured on the front page of the AZABU Vol. 26. These days, the cultural direction of Roppongi has been moving towards the arts, and Roppongi's atmosphere is becoming ever livelier. However, a question remains: What was the old Imoarai-zaka Slope like?

The name of the slope is rather unique. What does "Imoarai" actually mean? What will we find beyond the mountain of questions?



◀ Scene in 1963. Source: Minato Shashin Sanpo

▶ Scene in 1982: Signboards and telegraph poles seemed to be jostling each other for position. This was the evidence that it was a prosperous business location.

Photo provided by the Minato City Local History Museum



◀ Scene in 2009: The position of the postbox is the same as in the past. There are some telegraph poles without electrical wires in this photo, which are seen only at that time. The poles are soon to be pulled out, power lines routed underground, and road maintenance to be completed.

▶ Scene in 2011: The power lines have been put underground and sidewalks have been expanded. Streetlamps and bollards (to stop cars), etc., have been reorganized and updated.





Hanako in the forest of Nino-Oka Shrine during summer school
(Photo provided by Anne of Green Gables Memorial Hall: Hanako Muraoka Library)

The Bond Between Young Hanako Muraoka and Asako Hirooka

Hanako Muraoka (1893 - 1968), a graduate of Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, which was located along the Torii-aaka Slope, and Asako Hirooka (1849 - 1919), a successful business leader who spent her final years in a mansion in Azabu-Zaimoku-cho. The lives of the two ladies became well-known from novels and TV dramas, and have been covered in some detail in this paper, "The Azabu". Young Hanako started to follow the path of a literary woman and translator under Asako Hirooka's tutelage. How did they meet? What did Hanako gain from Asako? We compiled the story based on a conversation with Ms. Mie Muraoka, Hanako Muraoka's granddaughter.

麻布の軌跡

Historical Footsteps of Azabu

Hanako in her youth, and Asako in her final days

Hanako Muraoka translated many foreign books for young people, including the "Anne of Green Gables" series. She was baptized at the age of 2 and enrolled in Toyo Eiwa Jogakko (hereafter, "Toyo Eiwa"), a missionary school that offered a scholarship, in 1903 at the age of 10. Later, she graduated from the Collegiate Department of Toyo Eiwa at the age of 20. She led a very spiritual lifestyle in the local Christian culture, surrounded by many books in the library, and under the strict but warm-hearted guidance of foreign missionaries. During her student life, she became a private pupil of Nobutsuna Sasaki, a famous poet and Japanese literature scholar, and polished her sensitivity for words. Also at this time, her eyes were opened to modern literature under the influence of Hiroko Katayama, Hanako's senior and a translator of Irish Literature. Gradually, Hanako began hoping to "write something herself".

At around that time, Asako Hirooka was nearing her 60's. She had made the family business she'd married into very prosperous, and made a concerted effort to establish the Japan Women's University. After she was baptized at the age of 63 in 1911, she was appointed as a central committee member of the Japan YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). She became very involved in missionary activities such as writing for various magazines, and giving lectures all around Japan. In her last five years, she operated a summer school in her second house, built in Nino-Oka in Gotenba, to nurture female successors.

Fateful Encounter

The first encounter between Hanako to Asako happened while they were engaged in activities for the "Japan Christian Women's Organization KYOFUKAI", an organization for women established in 1893. "KYOFUKAI" was the Japan branch of an organization based in the US, which was then campaigning for legislation to ban underage smoking and drinking in the US. In Japan, Christian women organized around Kajiko Yajima, the Chairperson of "KYOFUKAI"; a group dedicated to achieving world peace, education in sexual morality and prevention of the damage caused by alcohol. At that time, the branch office opened in Toyo Eiwa, and Hanako was involved in their activities as a volunteer record keeper for KYOFUKAI general meetings, and as an editor for their brochure, the "Fujin Shinpo". Likewise, Asako agreed with "KYOFUKAI's" ideas and supported them with keynote lectures and contributions to the "Fujin Shinpo" brochure. We are not sure if Hanako and Asako met each other around that time, but Asako may have heard about Hanako through the women around Asako, who had graduated from Japan Women's University, including Michiko Senbongi, Secretary to Asako at that time, and Miyo Kobashi, a journalist.

After graduation, Hanako moved on to become an English teacher at Yamanashi Eiwa Jogakko, a sister school of Toyo Eiwa. Although she regarded her life as being quite satisfactory, she still had a burning desire to "master literature" deep in her heart. However, in that era, it was rare for women to have any job. Moreover, she had no one to support her, making it more than just a little difficult to become an independent writer. Money was important for her at this time, as she also needed to send money to her parents, so she could not leave her job in Ya-

manashi. Just around that time, Hanako was invited to participate in Asako's summer school in Nino-Oka. She attended Asako's summer school in 1916 and again in 1917, and this was when Hanako's life as a literary figure began.

Hanako's Decision to Serve the Public

The women who gathered at the summer school were all destined to play an active part in the society in the coming years. One of them was Fusae Ichikawa, who later took initiative in the women's suffrage movement. Hanako had worked very hard to improve her circumstances, and was paying her own way through school. Asako was very impressed by this, and really wanted to support her at any cost. They lived under the same roof and discussed various subjects such as philosophy, religion and the Bible. Hanako had graduated from a missionary school where making time for the discussion of such topics was greatly encouraged, so these days must have been highly stimulating for her. In her free time, she went to the Nino-Oka Shrine forest to collect her thoughts after heated discussions. In 1917, while climbing Mt. Fuji, she almost gave up on the way, but she finally reached the summit with the help of others. What future would be waiting for Hanako? She thought that it would be very important to have the help of friends when overcoming difficulties.

Another point that Hanako was very impressed with regarding Asako was that she'd overcome several setbacks and difficulties. Each of Asako's stories deeply moved Hanako. In "An no Yurikago Muraoka Hanako no Shogai" (Anne's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka) written by Eri Muraoka, Asako's words are quoted. "Using the knowledge and skills you have acquired, you should promote not only yourself, but I want you to also think about improving the status of women all over Japan. Don't be selfish, but think about what you could do in a much larger world. I want you to find your true self." Asako's words were of great inspiration to Hanako, and she realized that she had a life of public service ahead of her. Later, she expressed her feelings at that time in her book: "The two summers I spent in Nino-Oka defined my life after that to some extent... I had not been satisfied with the books for teenagers in Japan. It was not their fault, but there were just no appropriate books... During my summer vacation, I read many books for young people published in Western countries that were still being read by many young people as long as 30 to 40 years after the original publication. The more I read such books, the more I realized that there was a blind spot in the publishing world in Japan. It was in that same forest in Nino-Oka that I decided to provide better books to the young people of Japanese". (From "Natsu no Omoide" (Memories of Summer), in her essay book "Magarikado no Sonosakini" (What lies around the bend).

After that, Hanako published her first book "Rohen" from the Japan Christian Kobun Kyokai publisher (later, the name was changed to Kyobun-Kan) in December 1917. In March 1919, she resigned from her teaching job and came to Tokyo. She was living on the second floor of the Kyofu Kaikan building in Akasaka Shinmachi and worked for Japan Christian Kobun Kyokai as an editor. In the same year, she met Keizo Muraoka and they got married. In January of the same year, Asako passed away. Hanako wrote a description of the event in her diary along with a pressed flower: "On January 21, the funeral service for the elderly lady Asako Hirooka was held at Tokyo Kanda Seinen Kaikan (presently the YMCA Tokyo Building)". The message Hanako received from Asako greatly encouraged Hanako as she moved forward in her literary career.

(Interviewed at the Headquarters and Postgraduate Course Building of Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin)

Comments from Mie Muraoka, Hanako's granddaughter



Ms. Mie Muraoka
A translator who completed the first term of the doctoral course in English literature at the Japan Women's University Postgraduate School.
Her representative translated books include "The Blythes Are Quoted" (Shincho Bunko) and "Three Little Monkeys" (Tokuma Shoten).

When I was tidying up my grandmother's study about 15 years ago, I found a portrait with a message. The signature said "Asako", but I did not know who this dignified elderly woman was. However, when I went on reading my grandmother's essays, diary and letters, the identity and personality of Mrs. Asako were revealed, as was the depth of their relationship. My heart went out to her, as I was overwhelmed reading about her emotional conflicts and how nice my grandmother was when she was young. At the same time, I was also able to appreciate the lives of the other women (as mentioned in this article) whom we can say are "pioneers" in their various fields.

Today, women can study, select their own chosen field of work, and decide whether or not to build their own families. However, I feel that this is because these women opened a path for us. We need to convey the value of these women's achievements to the next generation and celebrate them as hope for a better society.

When I was very young, my grandmother spent all her time working. However, the door to her study was always open, and when I approached, she would stop writing and tell me various stories. It is a heart-warming memory.

* The collected books and materials in "Anne Memorial Room / Hanako Muraoka Study Room" hosted by Mie Muraoka, together with her younger sister Eri Muraoka, a writer and author of "An no Yurikago" (Anne's Cradle), have been donated to Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin and presently they can be seen at Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin: Hanako Muraoka Library Exhibition Corner in the lobby on the first floor of the Headquarter and the Graduate School Building. (http://www.toyoeiwa.ac.jp/muraokahanako_bunko/)

Portrait sent from Asako Hirooka



"Composed for and presented to my beloved Ms. Hanako Annaka (her maiden name)"
"Tomo Kitou, Aiomou Kiyoki Kokoro wo tokotowa ni, Kami ni Inorite Fukasa Kuraben, Asako"
(We pray to God so that we can continue to think of and care for each other. Then, shall we compare the depth of affection between us?)
Asako's warm heart can be felt through her words.
(Material provided by Anne Memorial Room / Hanako Muraoka Study Room)

Pupils around Asako Hirooka



A cherished photo at summer school (Photo provided by Anne Memorial Room / Hanako Muraoka Study Room)

Data Collection Support

Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin

Main References

"An no Yurikago Muraoka Hanako no Shogai" (Anne's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka) written by Eri Muraoka, published by Shincho Bunko
"Magarikado no Sonosakini" (What lies around the bend), an essay book, written by Hanako Muraoka, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsyo

"The Azabu" back numbers about Hanako and Asako

Vol. 30 and 31: "Azabu-torii-zaka, the Home of Hanako Muraoka, Translator of Anne of Green Gables: Part 2", in "The Phenomena of Azabu"
Vol. 35: "Hirooka Family Mansion in Azabu Zaimoku-cho" in "The Phenomena of Azabu"
Vol. 37: "Bonds of Friendship between Mrs. Asako Hirooka and Mr. William Merrell Vories & Mrs. Makiko Vories" in "The Phenomena of Azabu"
Vol. 39: "Let's go to the Exhibition Corner of the Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Archives!" in "Our Field Trip"
The above pages can be accessed through http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/azabuchikusei/azabu/koho/chiiikijoho_eng.html

Projects implemented by the Volunteer Fire Corps (Shobodan)

Firefighters in Azabu

Why not join your local community and volunteer for the fire corps?



The Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps consists of people living or working in the Azabu or Roppongi area. They are willing to work together with Azabu Fire Station to provide technical cooperation, helping to circulate ideas on fire or disaster prevention, fire prevention activities, responding to possible fire occurrences and extinguishing them, evacuation drills and first aid training to enhance the disaster prevention readiness of the local community.

On June 18, 2017, the 65th Minato City Volunteer Fire Corps Portable Pumping Operation Competition was held in Minato City Shiba Park. Usually working under the instructions of Mr. Asami, the Branch Head, the 4th Branch Iwasaki team in Azabu Fire Corps developed terrific teamwork ability, and achieved a brilliant result as vice-champions out of the 19 branches in Minato City.

(Data Collected by Takehide Kasho)



● Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps is recruiting new members who are 18 and over!

Inquiries: Disaster Prevention and Safety Division, Azabu Fire Station, Tel: 03-3470-0119 <http://www.tfd.metro.tokyo.jp/hp-azabu/syouboudann.html>

That's Not Good! Illegally Parked Bicycles! You Should Know Better!

Bicycle No-Parking Zones around the Roppongi Station are being expanded!

The no-parking zones for bicycle, etc., around Roppongi Station will be expanded on August 1, 2017. Please note that any bicycle parked within any of the Bicycle No-parking Zones will be immediately 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 safe and convenient vehicles to ride; however, when 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.

Minato City will continue to remove illegally parked bicycles and any other obstacles around Roppongi Station in order to create a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

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

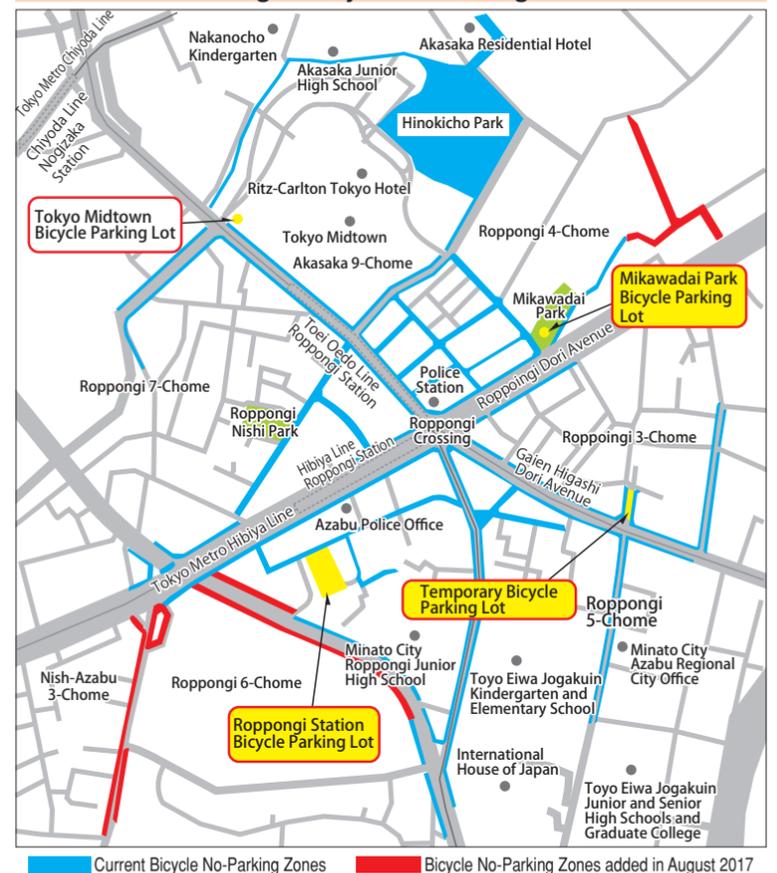
Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot Opened!

The Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot has been opened. Please use it.

Location	Parking Lot Name	Capacity	Fee (Monthly)	Hours
6-15-19, Roppongi, Minato-ku	Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot	Bicycle Only 428 units	Only for regular usage General: 1,800 yen Students: 1,300 yen	From 04:30 to 25:30

Inquiries: Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot Manager Room Tel: 03-3470-4186

Drawing of Bicycle No-Parking Zones



Information from the Metropolitan Taxation Office

The due date for the payment of Fixed Assets Tax and City Planning Tax in the third quarter is in December (within the 23 Wards).

Please pay the amount of tax stipulated on the reverse side of your payment statement by December 27, 2017 (Wednesday), at a financial institution or convenience store listed on the reverse side of your payment statement. Transfer of funds between bank accounts is a secure and convenient way of paying your taxes. Payment is also accepted through credit card via computers or smartphones.

For more details, please refer to the website of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation, or contact the offices as below.

Inquiries:

<Taxation> Fixed Assets Subsection, Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office
Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

<Tax Payment> Tax Collection Management Subsection, Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office
Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

<Bank Transfer> Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division, Bureau of Taxation
Tel: 03-3252-0955

December is "All Tokyo Arrears STOP Project Intensive Month"!

In order to ensure stable tax income and fairness in taxation, the metropolitan and municipal governments have designated December of every year as the "All Tokyo Arrears STOP Project Intensive Month". As part of this effort, a diversity of tax collection strategies has been employed. This includes tax payment promotion and disposition of delinquency, property seizure, wheel clamping, and specific investigations. This is done through general public relations work, and by notifying the concerned parties and seeking their cooperation. For more information, contact the office as below.

Inquiries: Individual Metropolitan Residents' Tax Project Section, Tax Collection Division, Bureau of Taxation Tel: 03-5388-3039

Office Hours during Year-End and New Year Holidays

The services of tax declaration, tax payment and certificates of metropolitan taxes are available until December 28, 2017 (Thursday) and from January 4, 2018 (Thursday) at the Metropolitan Taxation Offices, Taxation Branch Offices, Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Operations Center or Automobile Taxation Office.

If you wish to submit a declaration or application during the holidays between December 28, 2017 (Friday) and January 3, 2018 (Wednesday), please use the "Declaration Card Box" located at the Metropolitan Taxation Offices or Taxation Branch Offices, etc.

Inquiries: Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

Information from Azabu Regional City Office




Minato Information Board
港区 @city.minato.mib

いいね! フォローする シェアする 保存する

Facebook Page “Minato Information Board” has been started!!

We provide you with Minato City’s information in easy Japanese and English!



Find us at
<https://m.facebook.com/city.minato.mib/>
or
Minato Information Board

Inquiries:
Global Community Planning Subsection,
Community Promotion Section:
Tel: 03-3578-2565

Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations. Our Slogan is “ZERO ROPPONGI” (Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind)



Rules exist, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our aim is to have everybody enjoy their freedom, and enjoy their time as comfortably as possible in Roppongi, where many people from a variety of cultures gather.

We conduct a number of campaigns and activities with neighborhood associations, residents’ associations, store associations, businesses and concerned administrative organizations every month, centered on the main themes of “Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities” and “Patrol for Prevention of Street Solicitation”.

Minato City is developing the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” Certification System for Recommended Businesses as part of its efforts to raise awareness about the Charter. Shops and businesses that support the Charter are constantly being recruited.

Also, those that actively and independently support this effort are certified as Recommended Businesses.

- Eligibility** Businesses etc. that are located in, or are active mainly in the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)
- How to apply** Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional Post Office.
* The names of the certified businesses, etc., will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as “Recommended Businesses, etc.”



If you are interested in our activities, don’t hesitate to contact us.

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

Access the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind”, through the following URL: →
Minato City website <http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind 

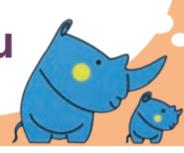
Be careful not to fall victim to bank transfer scams, locally referred as the “Ore-Ore” (Hey, It’s me!) Fraud or Tax Refund Fraud!

If you receive a suspicious call coming from someone claiming to be a relative etc., never give out any of your personal information. If something like this occurs, contact the particular family member yourself first, then call the police. It is also recommended that you use a telephone equipped with caller ID or other spam phone call prevention strategies that draw attention to possible dangerous messages.

Inquiries: Azabu Police Department Crime Prevention Section:
Tel: 03-3479-0110 Ext. 2162

Going shopping?
Visit our local shopping streets.

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 have not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).
● Tel: 03-5114-8812 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We are looking for
Editorial Staff

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City website.



AZABU
● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane-bashi subway stations, The Chi 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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 - Emi Yonezawa
 - Kana Watanabe

Editor’s Note
While conducting extensive research for “The Azabu”, we visited new modern art galleries, the “Fascinating” bicycle parking lot, the embassy of the passionate country of football and tango—Argentina, and the always crowded Imoarai-Zaka Slope. We braved the blazing hot summer sun during the day, but found respite in a members-only piano bar at night. All the articles, including the “The Phenomena of Azabu”, the compilation of Hanako and Asako series, are the result of the terrific teamwork of the editors and the administration staff members.
I hope that all our readers enjoy “The Azabu Vol. 41” for the autumn of 2017.
(Marika Oba)
The original article is written in Japanese.

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