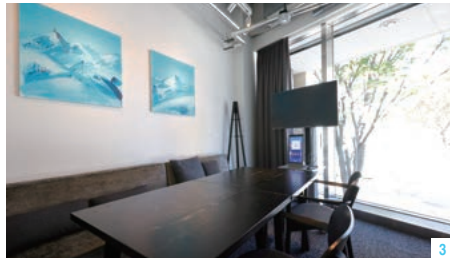




A community information paper created and edited by people who live in Azabu.



2



3



4

Conference space divided by glass partitions



1

Fascinating Artistic Azabu ③

“SHARE LOUNGE” Share a luxurious time here.

The “SHARE LOUNGE” has recently been attracting a lot of attention! It opened in the Roppongi TSUTAYA bookstore on the second floor of Gate Tower (Roppongi 6-11-1), at 8:00 am on September 9th, 2023. Paid seats have been arranged in the bookshop, a space open to everyone. SHARE LOUNGE provides a space to suit the specific needs of all visitors, as an office, café space, and more. This is one more charm that has been added to the ever-evolving town of Roppongi.



5

@2020 OHBA Marika



7

Free drinks and free snacks & bread counter



8



9



10

A 4K monitor (27 inches) can be used freely at individual seats.

“Before the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone went to work in an office. However, that practice has not returned, and teleworking has become common. The first SHARE LOUNGE opened in 2019 in the SHIBUYA SCRAMBLE SQUARE building. This SHARE LOUNGE in Roppongi is the 11th SHARE LOUNGE in Tokyo. The local working environment has changed drastically, and office workers do not need to travel to work anymore. Also, teleworking technology has developed to the point that workers are not bound by time or place. This is why SHARE LOUNGE has been getting a lot of attention as a comfortable and useful space for working people, said Mr. ISOBE Makoto, the manager of the SHARE LOUNGE.”

The curved design of the SHARE LOUNGE area of Gate Tower is very attractive, and the design works in concert with the impressive Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, an outstanding symbol of Roppongi. The exterior of the retail portion of the Gate Tower is made up of glass and stone. During the day, the LOUNGE is bathed in sunlight from the building's large windows, making the space feel warm and expansive. A remarkable, gently curving bookshelf is located in the center of the floor, blending nicely with the overall arc-like design of the space. Different earth color tones are used throughout the working space and café area for flexible zoning. (Photo No. 1)

“Klein Dytham architecture was in charge of the interior design, with the goal of creating a comfortable and highly stylized interior space. There are many different seating arrangements within the roughly 56-m2 area, and a video conference device that possesses a face-recognition system called “Neat” is available in the two conference rooms. The conference rooms, which can often have a closed atmosphere, have also been designed to feel like wide, open spaces with very large windows. (Photo No. 3) As the conference spaces are also separated by glass partitions, window shades are in place to create a private space between them when privacy is a concern.”

This SHARE LOUNGE is open from 8:00 to 23:00, which is longer than the other lounges. The background music for this floor was developed by a prominent sound designer together with SONY Corporation to produce a highly original acoustic space. (✳)

“Another thing that I'd like to mention about the Roppongi SHARE LOUNGE is the rich line-up of free drinks and free snacks & bread. On dates that contain the number “6,” Japanese sweets from a nearby sweet shop are provided. The number 6 is of course symbolic of Roppongi, which translates to “Six Trees.” Bread selections change from day to day and are provided by the café in Roppongi Hills or the bakery shop Azabu Juban Mont-Thabor. A cutting-edge home appliance rental service is provided in cooperation with Futako Tamagawa TSUTAYA Electrics. For example, if you feel tired while working, a massage gun is available for you to relax your muscles.”

Art Walls and Event Spaces are set up where paintings and other two dimensions, for example, can be beautifully arranged and safely secured. On the Art Walls, you can primarily enjoy collections of paintings by contemporary artists, which can also be purchased. (Photo No. 8) Exhibitions can be created with a variety of themes in the Event Spaces. (Photo No. 9) Book launches and TV interviews for talk shows also figure prominently. Many types of events are held.

With a broad smile he said, “I hope that businesspeople who enjoy using this space will start businesses and then hold events here in the future. I imagine that in this way, more and more new businesses will develop.”

In this space that has carefully been re-created for your needs, we would like you to experience the enjoyment of engaging in various activities such as working, savoring wonderful foods and drinks, and relaxing and absorbing this unique space.

✳ Sound installation supervised by Mr. KUROTAKE Setsuya, a sound designer, together with SONY

● Research / Photo Shooting Support / Image Provision (Photos No. 8 and 10) ●
Roppongi TSUTAYA Bookstore
(Address: Roppongi Keyakizaka Dori, Roppongi Hills, 6-11-1, Roppongi)



6

About 3,000 books have been carefully selected by a book concierge.



麻布ひと

Azabu – A Human Story
Preserving Voices of Azabu
for the Future



Mr. HAYASHI
Kenichiro
NAGANOYA
Liquor Store CEO

Diary of a Struggle – The 4th Generation Head of
a 119-year-old Liquor Store in Nishi-azabu



Mr. HAYASHI in his president's office: His office is very interesting. There are three computers, six monitors and a mini studio for shooting products. These are the essential tools of the trade.

One of our valued interviewees told us, “I know a very “hot” guy who is the owner of a liquor store with a long history in Nishi-azabu.” Of course, we made plans to visit him right away. He turned out to be 54-year-old Mr. HAYASHI Kenichiro, the fourth-generation president of the NAGANOYA liquor store. He joined the business at the youthful age of 20, with an eye to eventually taking over from his predecessor. Since then, he has managed the shop very well and has become dedicated to the liquor business in a well-trained and disciplined manner. Recently, he had to take on a new challenge using ICT due to the adverse conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We decided to report on his activities.

First, please tell us about the history of your store.

“My maternal great-grandfather came to Tokyo from Iida City, Nagano Prefecture in 1905 and opened the shop here in Nishi-azabu.” (originally named Kasumi-Cho). I heard that his parents also ran a liquor store attached to their home in Nagano and that he and his eight brothers came to Tokyo to open another. When the road network in Tokyo was being developed for the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, the main roads such as Roppongi Dori Avenue and Gaien-Nishi Dori Avenue were expanded significantly. Due to this, the store, originally located along the main road, moved to a back lane that led to the Nezu Museum. Thus, this particular building is about 60 years old.

“When I was a child, my grandparents would sell liquors and cigarettes from a small store to our neighbors. Later, after my uncle became the third head of the family business, he changed the business model to supply liquor to restaurants and other new sales channels, keeping in step with Nishi-azabu and Roppongi as development really took off.”

When you joined your family's business in around 1990, it was during the bubble economy period, wasn't it?

“As this area became a district full of popular, classy restaurants, the number of visitors increased and therefore sales of expensive varieties of liquors increased exponentially. I went around for orders from 10:00 am and deliveries continued until late at night. But I also had fun hanging out with my friends and had a great time back then. However, when the bubble economy burst, some restaurants had to close down. I realized that if this continued, our business would suffer as well. So, I refined our line-up of selected liquors with an eye toward the future. Meanwhile, I gained interest in shochu, a unique Japanese distilled liquor. I started visiting distilleries all over Japan and met a lot of distilled liquor producers. Sometimes, I even helped them with fieldwork or in the distillery itself to get a hands-on experience with the business.”

A wide variety of alcohols, from Japanese sake to Western liquors, are presented on the shelves in his store.

“I became the fourth head of the family business when I was 34 years old. My interest in distilled liquors continues to grow, and I have traveled all over Japan and to many countries around the world. In addition to places well-known for whiskey for example, I visited Mexico for tequila, and Caribbean countries for rum. Of course I learned about brewed liquors such as Japanese sake and wines. But my wife is a qualified wine expert, so I leave all of the wine business to her! It is the secret to a happy marriage,” he laughed. “Since the year 2000, I have visited 15 countries over 20 years, and met more than 300 producers. My experience, knowledge and the networks I connected to in those places are fundamental to my business now. The routes for obtaining the products I sell have also diversified.”



Sales of this disinfectant were discontinued in June last year. He received a letter of appreciation from Minato City.

Our everyday life changed drastically due to COVID-19. I heard that you developed a disinfectant in the spring of 2020.

“Our client restaurants were forced to close or shorten business hours, and our sales dropped significantly. During that time, there was great concern about the shortages of face masks and disinfectants. An opportunity presented itself as I was wondering if there was anything I could do, and heard that liquor with an alcohol percentage of 77% could be used as disinfectant. I began working with a sake brewer in Niigata

City, and developed “NAGANOYA Alcohol 77%” as a disinfectant. We narrowed sales channels to only online sales, and developed an online shopping site for general customers, and a different site for medical service and healthcare workers. This new business model actually worked very well, and products completely sold out every day. We did have some detractors however, and we received some negative comments like “You shouldn’t profit from disaster.” However, we didn’t make our profit our motivation, and we lowered prices and donated money to Minato City. We also delivered our disinfectant to facilities for childcare and the elderly.”

So from my understanding, by using the internet, new forms of business emerged.

“I thought that I could reach customers online while talking to them about sake, since a lot of people were following the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s request to “Stay Home.” When we uploaded pre-recorded videos, there wasn’t much speed or sudden changes. I decided to use a method called “live commerce,” where products are sold while live streaming. At first, the number of viewers was only about several dozen people and sometimes there were complaints about “system errors” happening in the middle of the streams. I hired a full time IT expert and managed to get the business on track. We reached the 44th “live commerce” show as of December 7, 2023. I have a lot of experience and good relationships with liquor producers in many places, so there are a lot of experiences I can talk about.”

Now you have tens of thousands of followers! You go with the flow, don't you?

Perhaps, but it’s not necessarily just strategic marketing. If anything, I think that if I stop moving forward, things will stop and start moving backwards immediately. Nowadays, in any industry digitalization is important. It’s just part of my personality to try things even if I’m not sure what will happen in the future. As a liquor store owner, I always believe high quality should be maintained while keeping reasonable prices. I would like to provide high standards along with popularity.

Mr. HAYASHI has lots of stories to tell. He is very involved in local activities, as he is the PTA president of Minato City Aoyama Elementary School, where he used to attend, and where his child attends now. He is also the coordinator of the “Taiyo-sai” (Sun Festival) event that’s held in Nishi-azabu. We finished the interview impressed by his fresh and spirited character, his calm demeanor, and his passionate attitude.



A valuable old picture has been passed down, showing the old appearance of the store. “We don’t know when it was taken, but we can see that all the family members have supported the business from a long time ago.”



Various liquors are arranged on the shelves with appropriate temperature management. All of them have been carefully selected.



The liquor store is located in a calm residential area of Nishi-azabu.

NAGANOYA Liquor Store
2-11-7, Nishi-azabu, Minato City www.nagano-ya.com

(Research and text by TANAKA Aki)



Roppongi Hills Jichikai (Neighborhood Association)

The Roppongi Hills Jichikai, which creates “community relationships” among people in “vertical nagaya” (tenement houses), has reached the 20-year anniversary since was established on May 24th, 2004.

Cheerful News from Neighborhood Associations and Residents' Associations

05



Mr. KONDO Takeshi, the Chairman, introduced the activities from Roppongi Keyakizaka Dori Street.

How was “Roppongi Hills” created? (This is partly described in The Azabu No. 59)

The area of Roppongi Hills covers about 12 hectares, and there were five neighborhood associations before the redevelopment. It was a dense residential area with many large and small buildings built close together. The roads were narrow and they would have created problems in disasters.

In 1986, the area was designated as a redevelopment district by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. In 1992, a redevelopment plan called the “66PLAN” was announced. The City Plan's procedures began in 1994. The rise in expectations for “the town for Safety and Security” accelerated due to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. The redevelopment union was established in 1998 under an agreement between the landowners of about 400 lots. In April 2000, the three-year construction started, and Roppongi Hills opened in April 2003.

“Roppongi Hills Jichikai”

The Roppongi Hills Jichikai has approximately 1,000 members. The members consist of not only local residents of Roppongi Hills, but also people who work there. Notably, one third of the directors are female. This Jichikai is managed by people from diverse careers and perspectives, contributing to the revitalization of Roppongi Hills and the Azabu area by creating a town in which everyone feels safe and secure. There are currently six committees: the ‘General Affairs Committee,’ the ‘Community Working Committee,’ the ‘Community Beautification Working Committee,’ the ‘Safety and Security Activities Committee,’ the ‘Regional Contribution Committee,’ and the ‘Public Relations and Diversification Promotion Committee.’ These committees support the Jichikai's activities as needed. Mr. KONDO, the current chairman, became the third chairman in 2020, following Mr. HARA Tamotsu, the first chairman (introduced in the Azabu Vol. 7), and Mr. TANIZAWA Toshimasa, the second chairman, after gaining 12 years of experience as a board member.



The Three Pillars of Jichikai Activities:

“Safety and Security Activities,” “Community Activities” and “Regional Contribution Activities”

Based on these three pillars, there are about 30 types of Jichikai activities that have taken place a total of 750 times over 20 years. The total number of participants has reached 130,000, excluding the Spring Festival and the Bon-Odori Festival.



Current Main Activities

- New Year's Party
- Disaster Prevention Seminar
- Roppongi Hills Earthquake Prevention Drills
- Roppongi Hills Spring Festival
- “Hanami” Cherry-blossom Viewing Party
- Morning Tai Chi
- Roppongi Gaku
- Roppongi Hills Bon-Odori Festival
- Portable Shrine Parade
- Reuse Activities
- Autumn Gathering
- Disaster Prevention Experience Learning Tour
- Roppongi Clean-up
- TSUMUGU Project
- Cross-cultural Exchange Program



Roppongi Clean-up



This is a “Major Local Contribution Activity” organized by Roppongi Hills Jichikai, and has been happening regularly for about 20 years on the third Saturday of each month. Regular citizens are invited to participate. After a “happy” clean-up morning, everyone can take time to have the coffee that is provided. This has become a very popular social activity.



Taking a breather to say “Thank you for your hard work!” and gaining more friends!



Over the last 20 years, a total of about 20,000 people have participated in this activity. There are many repeat participants who come from far away!



Sometimes, this activity is performed together with the “Roppongi wo Kireinisuru Kai” and “Azabujuban Shotengai.”



We received a Minato City wooden tablet!

* Roppongi Hills Jichikai received an award from Minato City based on the “Minato City Ordinance on the Promotion of Environmental Beautification and Prevention of Nuisance caused by Smoking” for this activity in FY2023.

The Roppongi Hills Bon-Odori Festival

This Bon-Odori Festival is held with the Azabujuban Summer Festival on the same days in August every year! During both festivals, Roppongi Keyakizaka Dori street becomes a pedestrian paradise and Roppongi Hills and Azabujuban come together as one!



The Bon-Odori Festival is a summer tradition that has continued since Roppongi Hills opened. In addition to gourmet food stalls organized by commercial shops, the Jichikai sets up stalls for children to play, showing the spirit of “Omotenashi” (hospitality) with all of Roppongi Hills.

On the eve of the festival, “Roppongi Gaku” is performed. On the days of the Bon-Odori Festival, an amazing unified dance performance by many participants can be seen, as they move their hands and sing along together, led by the resounding voice of “Mr. Roppongi Jiro” ★ on the “Yagura” (high wooden stage) in the Roppongi Hills Arena: “Roppon-Jin Sore Yoi Yoi Yoi, Sore Yoi Yoi Yoi!”

The song “Roppon-Jin Ondo” was composed by volunteers in 2003. But why “Roppon-Jin”? According to them, “all of the people who come to Roppongi are Roppon-Jin (六本人, Roppongi People).”

★ “Mr. Roppongi Jiro”
He sings “Roppon-Jin Ondo” with his professional level singing skills. In fact, he is a former director of the Mori Building Co., Ltd.



Roppongi Hills Earthquake Prevention Drills

The Jichikai holds Emergency Drills every year in collaboration with the Mori Building Co., Ltd., for community-based disaster prevention. After a three-year cease in action due to COVID-19 the event was reestablished in 2023, as its 17th. The event had around 1,000 yearly participants prior to COVID-19, and in 2023 it hosted around 600 participants. In cooperation with the Azabu Police Station, the Azabu Fire Department and the Minato City Disaster Prevention Section, the event provided participants with experience on various forms of training useful for earthquake disaster emergency situations.



Portable Shrines “Mikoshi” Parade

The portable shrines “Mikoshi” of neighborhood associations, that are brought to the annual festival of shrines in the Azabu area, arrive at Roppongi Hills! Jichikai provides foods and drinks to the bearers of portable shrines (Mikoshi) in gratitude for their efforts.



Activities during the COVID-19 pandemic – members kept their connections to each other!

Jichikai members taught each other how to use zoom.

Community Activities

New Year's Party
Online Summer Gathering
Cross-cultural Exchange Program



Using the internet also allows people from overseas to participate in activities!

Handmade Workshop!



Local Contribution Activity

772 medical gowns were made and “donated.”



Safety and Security Activity

Disaster Prevention Seminar



Medical gowns were made from plastic bags. We learned how to make them through zoom!

● Collaborators on this article ●
Mr. KONDO Takeshi, the Chairman of Roppongi Hills Neighborhood Association (Jichikai)

● References ●
“Roppongi Hills Neighborhood Association Guidebook”, issued in September 2019 by Roppongi Hills Jichikai
“Roppongi Hills Neighborhood Association News” 2020 Edition to 2022 Edition
Roppongi Hills Jichikai <https://www.roppongihills.com/association/>

● Inquiries ● 6-10-1, Roppongi, Minato-ku Tel: 03-6406-6383



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
(hereinafter called “Ambassador”)
H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir TARAR

Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Area: 796,000 km2
(approx. twice the size of Japan)
Population: 241,490,000 (based on 2023 census)
Capital City: Islamabad
Languages: Urdu (National Language), English
(Official Language)
Head of State: President Asif Ali ZARDARI
Legislature: Bicameral System

Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/pakistan/data.html>

Interview Support: Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan





Visiting Ambassadors
From the “World”
of Azabu



1 Biryani is one of the popular traditional Pakistani dishes. The Ambassador said that he had a favorite restaurant for Pakistani dishes in Japan. In addition, dishes slow-cooked with lamb or beef are famous.



2 There are many famous attractive tourist spots in Pakistan as well. There are a series of famous mountain peaks, including the Karakoram mountains and the Himalayas on the country's north side.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereinafter called “Pakistan”) is located at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle and Near East and Central Asia. It has a vast natural world, delicious cuisine, and numerous historical and cultural heritage sites. This time, we visited the Embassy of Pakistan in Minami-azabu and interviewed Ambassador H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir TARAR, who took office in March 2023.

The Ambassador has had a long relationship with Japan.

He took office as the Ambassador on March 8th, 2023, and this was the third time he had come to Japan. The first time, he came alone and studied Japanese language and culture in a Japanese language school in Saitama Prefecture for about two years from 1989 to 1990. His second visit was in 2002, when he served as a diplomat until 2005. We asked him how Japan has changed compared to 20 years ago. He answered, “Japan is a very stable country, so I don’t notice any big changes.” He continued smiling and said “Japan is a country that is too unique for us to understand easily, and I mean that in a good way. What I would suggest to Pakistanis is that Japan is a country that makes us want to learn not only the language, but also about its culture.”



“Great Hospitality” is a Pakistani tradition.

Pakistan evokes an impression of something powerful, such as the impression seen in the news and the cuisine with spices. According to the Ambassador, Pakistan is actually a very heartwarming country with a culture of hospitality, and is very similar to Japan in the essence of its culture. “How are you?”



3 Mohenjo-daro (“hill of death”) is the largest urban ruin from the Indus civilization, located on the west bank of the Indus River. This town was uncovered in 1922, and people can still see old brick roads and waterways made 4000 years ago.

“Good, thanks.” are also frequent exchanges. In fact, during this interview, we were treated with tea, cakes, cookies, and many other sweets, and were able to experience the warm personality of the Pakistani people. Another similar value to Japan is respect for superiors. Pakistan is a melting pot, and it is important to respect each other's diverse backgrounds. This is partly due to the fact that Pakistan borders other countries .

Pakistan has many tourist attractions. Which season does the Ambassador recommend as the best season for traveling?

There are many famous tourist spots in Pakistan, such as Mohenjo-daro. The Ambassador explained, “We have the sea, deserts and plains, as well as mountain ranges, most famously the Himalayas. In addition to these tourist spots, you can also enjoy historical sites.” His recommended seasons for tourists to visit are “March and April” and “October and November.” Pakistan has a subtropical climate, and is extremely warm from late April to September. During this season, the highest



Decorative miniature Pakistani artworks are displayed in the Embassy. The designs are traditional, with colorful decorations that brighten up the atmosphere.

temperature frequently exceeds 50 degrees Celsius.*

The Ambassador's Favorite Spot to Take a Walk in Tokyo is Ari-sugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park. He gives us his impressions of the town of Azabu with a big smile.

As he comes from Pakistan, a place full of beauty, we asked about his favorite spot in Tokyo. “The former Embassy building was located in Moto-azabu, and it has now moved to Minami-azabu. I’ve stayed in Azabu for a long period, and I believe it is a wonderful place.” Saying this, he gave us the same gentle smile he gave us when he was explaining the charms of Pakistan. His favorite spot is “Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park. I often go for a walk in the park. Saying that, the summer of 2023 was very long and very hot.” Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park is just around the corner from the Embassy. He enjoys interacting with nature in the park, which varies over the four seasons, and it has become his daily relaxing spot.

When we asked the Ambassador about his hobbies, he said that in addition to going for walks, “I like horse riding and swimming,” showing us the active side of his character. He likes traveling in Japan, however he is not a big fan of hot springs. He said, “I feel like a tea bag in a hot spring!”, his humorous answer bringing laughter to the room.



Cloth decorations displayed in the Embassy. Each one of them has a different pattern.



Table and chairs displayed in the Embassy. Most of them are colorfully designed, including accessories.

* Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare website
<https://www.forth.go.jp/destinations/country/pakistan.html>

● Photos provided by:
Photos [1], [2] and [3] provided by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Visiting Azabudai Hills

A new “town” came into existence in a corner of Azabudai on November 24, 2023.

This area, collectively called “Azabudai Hills,” is a huge urban development project that began in 1989 and took more than 30 years to complete. In particular, “Mori JP Tower” is the tallest skyscraper in Japan at 330 meters high. Azabudai Hills has already been drawing lots of media attention and it has surely been visited by many people. This time, we focused on their initiatives, especially those for safety and disaster prevention.

Turning cities from places to flee in the event of an earthquake into places of refuge

This is the proposal Mori Building Co., Ltd. has set for “Safety Initiatives”. To accomplish this, they have implemented measures that use both physical and non-physical means. What are they?

Measures using physical means

Azabudai Hills consists of three blocks, and has three high-rise towers, where appropriate vibration control devices have been installed. The seismic performance of the building allows for safe living and business continuity even in the case of an earthquake at the level of the Great East Japan Earthquake or the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Such performance was proven in Roppongi Hills when the Great East Japan (Tohoku) Earthquake occurred. Roppongi Hills was shaken by the Earthquake, but there was no major damage (not a single wine glass fell over in the restaurant on the 51st floor).

In fact, high-rise buildings (especially near the top) are more susceptible to wind sway in normal conditions than to earthquake sway, and for this reason Active Mass Dampers (AMDs, devices that control the vibration of objects by actively vibrating weights) are installed to reduce the amount of vibration. Not limited to earthquakes, the measures have been strengthened from multiple perspectives to support people’s safety and peace of mind.

Furthermore, the elevators are stably controlled by detecting long-period seismic motions, and emergency generators are installed in each block to ensure a 100% stable supply of electricity for the entire area in the event of a large-scale power outage caused by a disaster. It was felt that such measures would support people’s sense of security and safety.

Measures using non-physical means

A variety of measures have been implemented so that in an emergency all 1,600 employees of Mori Building can quickly switch to the Earthquake Disaster Countermeasures Organization system and perform quick recovery activities. In order to strengthen the initial response, multiple disaster prevention staff (about 240 people) live within a 3.5 km radius of the business areas (Roppongi Hills, ARK Hills, Toranomon Hills, and Azabudai Hills), and two employees, including a management-level employee, are assigned to stay overnight in the area in turn (always assigned for 365 days a year). Disaster prevention training is carried out many times (a wide variety of training is undertaken by the staff members of the Management Section once a month, and six times a year by the staff members living in disaster prevention company housing) to foster continuous human resources. The area is characterized by the fact that all the staff members are required to obtain lifesaving skills certification. 360,000 meals of emergency foods are stockpiled across the Mori Building. This is the highest level of emergency food stockpiling for the private sector.

If you are prepared, you don’t have to worry!

Please allow us to insert the story about the progress over time, including the interview in this article.

This interview was carried out on December 19, 2023. After that, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred in Ishikawa Prefecture on January 1, 2024.

The grave damage that the earthquake caused must have made many people recall the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Noto Peninsula Earthquake hit on New Year’s Day. We shudder at the fact that a disaster could happen anytime, without warning.

Once again, we pray for the safety of all those affected by the earthquake and natural disasters, and

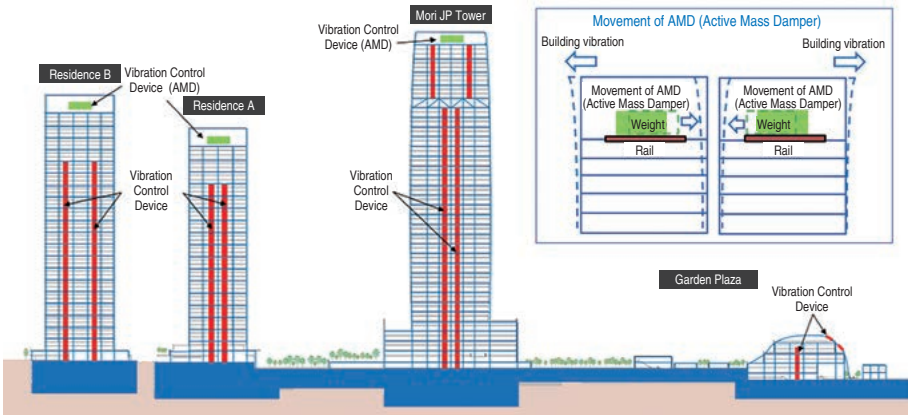


Fig. 1: Diagram: Overview of the Vibration Control Device and Active Mass Damper Installation

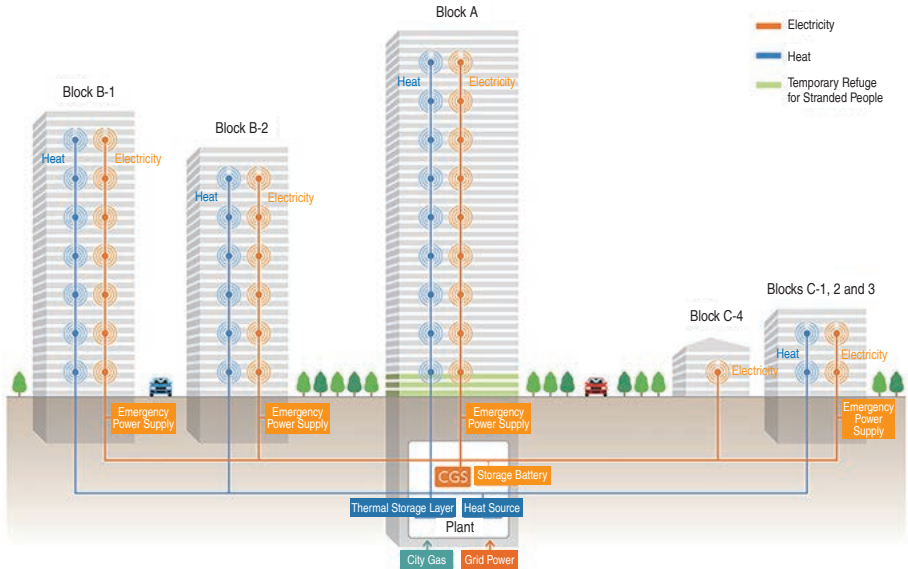


Fig. 2: Energy Provision System in Azabudai Hills
An efficient energy supply is achieved by networking the energy supply from the whole town and the introduction of AI.



A Disaster Prevention Drill

for the earliest possible recovery of the disaster-stricken areas.

What we described here about the initiatives for disaster countermeasures of Mori Building Co., Ltd., is only a small part of their work. Through the interview, we were able to catch a glimpse of how the company is taking measures to deal with not only disasters but also all kinds of risks from various perspectives.

We cannot prepare fully for sudden natural disasters that we may call “inevitable surprises,” though we train ourselves hard on a daily basis. We hope that we can see the light of safety and peace of mind in the residents of our town, as the result of the untiring efforts of Mori Building Co., Ltd.



A stockpile warehouse that we were able to take a special look at (photo shows only a part of stockpiles)



Mr. HOSODA Takashi, Head of the Disaster Emergency Office, explained their work to us gently and carefully.

- Interview Support and Photos Provision
Mr. HOSODA Takashi, Head of Disaster Emergency Office, Mori Building Co., Ltd.
- References:
From “Turning cities from places to flee in the event of an earthquake into places of refuge” in Mori Building Comprehensive Earthquake Protection (issued in June 2017)
Website https://www.mori.co.jp/en/projects/toranomon_azabudai/3theme.html “Azabudai Hills: Initiatives for Safety, Environment and Culture”



Sento that existed in Azabu in 1929

No.	Sento Name (Address at the time)	No.	Sento Name (Address at the time)
1	Tenma-Yu (3-33, Iigura-machi)	23	Take-no-Yu (145, Hommura-cho)
2	Nozawa-Yu (5-3, Iigura-machi)	24	Konparu-Yu (21, Tajima-cho)
3	Wakura-Yu (5-40, Iigura-machi)	25	Kotobuki-Yu (34, Hiroo-cho)
4	Matsu-no-Yu (1-3, Morimoto-cho)	26	Midori-Yu (12, Samgenya-cho)
5	Hana-no-Yu (1-27, Morimoto-cho)	27	Sakura-Yu (80, Sakurada-cho)
6	Suehiro-Yu (3, Kita-Shin-Monzencho)	28	Hinode-Yu (52, Zaimoku-cho)
7	Kame-no-Yu (21, Nagasaka-cho)	29	Hinode-Yu (27, Ryudo-cho)
8	Koshi-no-Yu (21, Miyashita-cho)	30	Asahi-Yu (1, Kasumi-cho)
9	Asahi-Yu (29, Miyashita-cho)	31	Nogi-Yu (8, Karumi-cho)
10	Hinode Yu (33, Miyamura-cho)	32	Koshi-no-Yu (11, Kogai-cho)
11	Ichinohashi-Yokujo (1-72, Shin-Ami-cho)	33	Matsu-no-Yu (66, Kogai-cho)
12	Yoshino-Yu (2-2, Shin-Ami-cho)	34	Nachi-no-Yu (75, Kogai-cho)
13	Fuji-no-Yu (59, Yamamoto-cho)	35	Kotobuki-Yu (120, Kogai-cho)
14	Tsuru-no-Yu (24, Sakashita-cho)	36	Tsuru-no-Yu (7, Mikawadai-machi)
15	Take-no-Yu (2, Takeya-cho)	37	Tamagiku-Yu (13, Mikawadai-machi)
16	Kame-no-Yu (18, Higashi-machi)	38	Ninjin-Yu (24, Imai-machi)
17	Shimbori-Yu (4, Shimbori-cho)	39	Hinode-Yu (45, Tansu-machi)
18	Tamagiku-Yu (11, Shimbori-cho)	40	Koshi-no-Yu (20, Tani-machi)
19	Kame-no-Yu (1-116, Shin-Hiroo-cho)	41	Kame-no-Yu (47, Tani-machi)
20	Tengen-Yu (3-82, Shin-Hiroo-cho)	42	Taisho-Yu (2-83, Ichibei-cho)
21	Suehiro-Yu (3-90, Shin-Hiroo-cho)	43	Kairakusen (36, Kita-Higakubo-cho)
22	Takasago-Yu (85, Hommura-cho)		

Name Change After the War 3 Nozawa-Yu 14 Konparu-Yu 24 Tamagiku-Yu 31 Sakura-Yu 32 Yoshi-no-Yu 41 Tentoku-Yu

麻布の軌跡

The Historical Footsteps of Azabu

The History of Public Baths (Sento)



Mr. MATSUI Sotokichi standing in the fuel storage area of Take-no-Yu during the Postwar reconstruction period.



The map above shows the present-day locations of the public baths (sento) that existed in Azabu back in 1929. There are 43 public baths shown on the map. Based on the population of Azabu at that time, we can calculate that there was one public bath per 2,000 people. What a surprise! There used to be a public bath (25) where the National Azabu Supermarket is now, in front of the Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park! There was also a public bath (37) at the back of the Haiyuza building close to Roppongi Crossing. From the locations of these public baths, we can imagine the townscape of Azabu at that time. Now, how did the public baths in Azabu change over time? The story starts 200 years ago.

During the Edo Period

Public baths at that time were called “Yuya.” There were many public bath facilities that did not have separate sections for men and women, so mixed-gender bathing became a problem. Public bathing facilities were sometimes a cause of fire , therefore, the number of public bath facilities and their locations needed to be limited. In 1810, the Edo Shogunate strictly prohibited problematic mixed-gender bathing and approved 523 official “Edo Yuya-kabu” business licenses for public baths, also for the purpose that the bathing facilities were to be arranged in the locations as they deemed as appropriate. This caused public baths to become rather exclusive businesses, and the value of these licenses increased greatly, sometimes being bought and sold for as much as 1,000 “ryo,” about 130 million yen or more in today’s currency. “Yuya” were divided into groups based on their locations. There were 21 public baths in the “Azabu Group,” of which 14 had separate sections for men and women, and 7 had a section only for men. Most residents of the Azabu area at that time were samurai and their relatives. The business area for merchants was only about 20% of the total Azabu area. All the public baths were located only in the merchant business area, not any in the samurai residential area. From that, we can see that the number of public baths in this area per capita was higher than others.

From the Meiji Period to the Taisho Period

In the Meiji Period, stricter regulations started being enforced, and public baths came under the jurisdiction of the police. Regulations regarding fire prevention and overall public hygiene in general became stricter, so opening new public bath operations became much harder. However, the samurai area disappeared and urbanization continued, allowing for an increase in population, and the number of public baths increased as well. The number of public baths in Azabu reached 41 in 1911. In October 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake hit Tokyo and 631 (almost 70%) of the 971 public baths in Tokyo City were destroyed by fire. All the public baths were lost in Nihombashi and Fukagawa Wards, but on the other hand , all 42 public baths in Azabu Ward survived. There may have been a lot of chimneys collapsed along with a lot of other damage, but it was a miracle that there were zero public baths destroyed by fire, considering the amount of combustible material stored in these facilities.

The Showa Prewar Period

A famous novelist named NAGAI Kafu who lived in Azabu-Ichibei-Cho (presently Izumi Garden) at this time wrote about the four neighborhood public baths in his essays and letters. For example, during the winter solstice in 1944, he “went out of the gate, carrying soap and a towel in a small bucket and looked down Tanimachi Dori

street from the Dogenji Temple cliff ” to see the smoke coming out from the public bath chimney. (author’s note: Kame-no-Yu (41)). There were four public baths near his house; he wrote, “when one of the public baths is closed, I can always visit another. He also wrote that on the same day in the public bath there were two Germans and a “Westerner that looked Southern European, perhaps from the Spanish legation located on the cliff” bathing. At that time, interaction with Westerners was possible in these public baths.

Postwar Reconstruction Period

The damage caused by the Great Kanto Earthquake was not as significant in Azabu, but many public baths burnt down during the war. Some public bath buildings were purposely destroyed to prevent fire from spreading before the air raids. As the population decreased drastically, only 14 of them could restart their business, which was only 30% of the total number before the War. Under these circumstances, one of the main contributors to the restoration was Mr. MATSUI Sotokichi. He bought “Hana-no-Yu” (5) and “Take-no-Yu” (15) and opened the two for business around 1943. As the War intensified, he evacuated to his hometown in Ishikawa Prefecture, but even during his absence, he provided the bath for free to the nearby residents. After the War, he reopened these two public baths as soon as he could, to encourage the people in Azabu during the recovery period with warm bathing water.



Mrs. HIGUCHI Miwa, granddaughter of Mr. MATSUI Sotokichi (photo shot by HATANAKA Minako)

Presently, the “Take-no-Yu” business has been taken over by Mr. MATSUI Sotokichi’s granddaughter and her husband. It is in business every day without any particular issues, as the only public bath left in the Azabu area. Their public bath business adds a new page to the history of public baths, and will be passed on to the future.

● Interview Support and Photo Provision Azabu Black Beauty Water Hot Spring “Take-no-Yu” Mr. HIGUCHI Hiroshi and Mrs. HIGUCHI Miwa (They also supported us in The Azabu No. 43).

● References: “Yuya-kabu and Town Community – Regions and Commerce in Edo” in No. 1, Vol. 25 of “Asia University Economy Department Bulletin,” written by Yukio Tozawa in 2000 “Statistical Handbook of Metropolitan Police Department in 1911,” Frame No. 186 in National Diet Library Digital Collection “Tokyo Taisho Earthquake Magazine,” issued by Tokyo City Office in 1925 “Letter to Tanizaki Junichiro on December 22, 1944” written by NAGAI Kafu in Vol. 27 of “Complete Works of NAGAI KAFU,” published by Iwanami Shoten in 1955 “Book of Public Bath Names in Six Metropolitan Prefectures investigated in March 1929,” published by Yokujo Newspaper Company “Union Membership List in 1952,” issued by Tokyo Public Bath Business Cooperative Association (Research and text by YAMAKI Ayako)

Public Information in July



City taxes can be paid through the smartphone payment app.

We recommend that you pay city taxes using the smartphone payment app. Using this app, you can read the barcode on the payment slip and pay city taxes anywhere, anytime.

For details, access the website of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation.

https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/common/tozei_nouzei.html#L16



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

It's very convenient to use eLTAX for electronic tax payment online!

It's very convenient to pay tax electronically using eLTAX via the Local Tax Common Payment System.

Payments by credit cards are accepted in addition to direct tax payments and internet banking, etc.

For more information, access the eLTAX website.

<https://www.eltax.lta.go.jp>



eLTAX website

Procedures can be completed without visiting the office.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation has a system that allows taxpayers to carry out procedures easily by postal mail or through the internet etc., without visiting the office. Reports, applications, and notifications can be accepted by mail, or through electronic devices. A cashless system for paying tax is also available.

For details, refer to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

<https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/raicyou.html>



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

Tax Statements can be used when applying for real estate registration.

When applying for real estate registration, the price of your fixed assets should be written down on the form. This is for calculating the registration license tax amount. The price can also be confirmed in the Tax Statement sent to you in June along with the "Fixed Asset Tax & City Planning Tax Payment Notice," so the Valuation of Fixed Assets certificate (which you must pay for) is not, as a general rule, required.

For details, refer to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/shitsumon/tozei/index_o.html#o31

Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax are exempted for houses that have been rebuilt or renovated for earthquake resistance (only in cases that certain conditions are met) (within Tokyo's 23 Wards).

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

- **Rebuilding:** Three (3) fiscal years will be fully exempted (limited to the residential part) from the newly taxed year after the new construction. However, the number of units for which the tax is to be exempted will depend on the house before rebuilding took place.
- **Renovation:** Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax amounts after the seismic reduction has been applied will be fully exempted for up to a floor area equivalent to 120m² of the residential part of each household for a certain period of time starting from the next fiscal year from the renovation completion date.

Application is required for tax exemption. For more information, access the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the office below:

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City:
Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

Real Estate Acquisition Tax for newly built Tokyo Zero-Emission Housing will be exempted (within Tokyo's 23 Wards).

The eligibility and rate for the tax exemption are as follows:

- **Eligibility for tax exemption:** Newly built Tokyo Zero-Emission Housing that meets certain requirements.
- **Tax exemption rate:** Up to 100% of Real Estate Acquisition Tax for housing.

Applications need to be made for tax exemptions. You can also apply for other tax exemptions, such as the Earthquake Resistance Promotion Tax etc., when you build a new house.

For details, refer to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the office below.

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City:
Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

Beware of fraudulent City Taxes emails and telephone calls!

Recently there have been cases of criminals misrepresenting themselves as a member of the Metropolitan Taxation Office to illegally obtain personal information or financially defraud people.

If you receive any kind of contact that seems suspicious, don't answer immediately, and contact the following number.

If you are victimized in any way, immediately contact the police.

Inquiries:

Consultation and Public Relation Team, General Affairs Division, General Affairs Department, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation Tel: 03-5388-2925

Why don't you join us? Come and join the Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project campaign!

Once a month, local residents, staff members of shops and businesses, and government bodies come together and carry out cleaning activities around Roppongi Crossing. Wet tissues with an original design are distributed and the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind is promoted. Cleaning with everyone and promoting "good manners" can make you look at the town from a slightly different perspective. Sometimes, you can exchange smiles with the people walking down the road, and people might say "Good Job!" or "Thank you!" to you.

How about spending a fulfilling time with us? If you're interested in our activities, don't hesitate to contact us!



ルール違反ゼロの六本木へ。
合い言葉は、ZERO ROPPONGI
Toward a Roppongi with ZERO violations.
Our slogan is ZERO ROPPONGI



The campaign

Information from the Azabu Regional City Office

Sign up for Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance for FY2024!

Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance System is an insurance system where you can take out this insurance with a small insurance premium, and, if you are injured in a traffic accident, you could receive the insurance benefits. Benefits are calculated according to hospital inpatient and outpatient days, and total treatment period.

The “Bicycle Liability Insurance Plan” insurance course combined with Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance is also available. This plan has been designed to provide compensation for damages or costs that arise from accidents caused by the insured when operating a bicycle.

- Eligibility** Persons living, working or studying in Minato City at the start of the insured period
- Insurance Period** From 00:00 am on April 1, 2024 to 24:00 am on March 31, 2025
- Courses and Premium Amounts** There are seven courses, with premium amounts ranging from 1,200 yen to 4,300 yen depending on the compensation. Only one of the courses can be selected.

Course	Compensation	Maximum Insurance Amount	Yearly Premium Amount
XJ	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course X and Bicycle Liability Plan	350,000 yen (Traffic Personal Injury) + 100 million yen (Bicycle Liability)	1,500 yen
AJ	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course A and Bicycle Liability Plan	1.5 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury) + 100 million yen (Bicycle Liability)	2,200 yen
BJ	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course B and Bicycle Liability Plan	3.5 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury) + 100 million yen (Bicycle Liability)	3,000 yen
CJ	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course C and Bicycle Liability Plan	6 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury) + 100 million yen (Bicycle Liability)	4,300 yen
A	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course A	1.5 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury)	1,200 yen
B	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course B	3.5 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury)	2,000 yen
C	Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Course C	6 million yen (Traffic Personal Injury)	3,300 yen

For more information, refer to the leaflet distributed on the counter of Collaboration Project Section in each Regional City Office or access the Minato City Website.

- Application Period** Until March 29 (Fri), 2024
However, applications are accepted through the website until March 31 (Sun), 2024.
- Enrollment Procedure**

- In-Person Application** Fill out the insurance enrollment application form distributed at financial institutes in Minato City (banks, credit unions, credit associations, Japan Post Bank or post offices) and apply with a premium.
For Group Enrollment (More than 10 persons of Neighborhood Association or Residents' Association, etc.), visit Collaboration Project Section, in the nearest Regional City Office.
- Online Application** Apply using the following 2D barcode.
Applications for insurance after April 1, 2024, after the insured period has started, can be accepted through the website.



For more information about the insurance, contact the Business Development Div., Tokyo Public Business Development Dept., Sampo Japan Insurance Inc. (1-26-1, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku) (Reception Time: Weekdays from 9:00 am to 17:00 pm, from Monday to Friday excluding National Holidays)

Tel: 03-3349-9666
Insurance Company Authorization No.: SJ23-13496
Authorized Date: Jan. 19, 2024

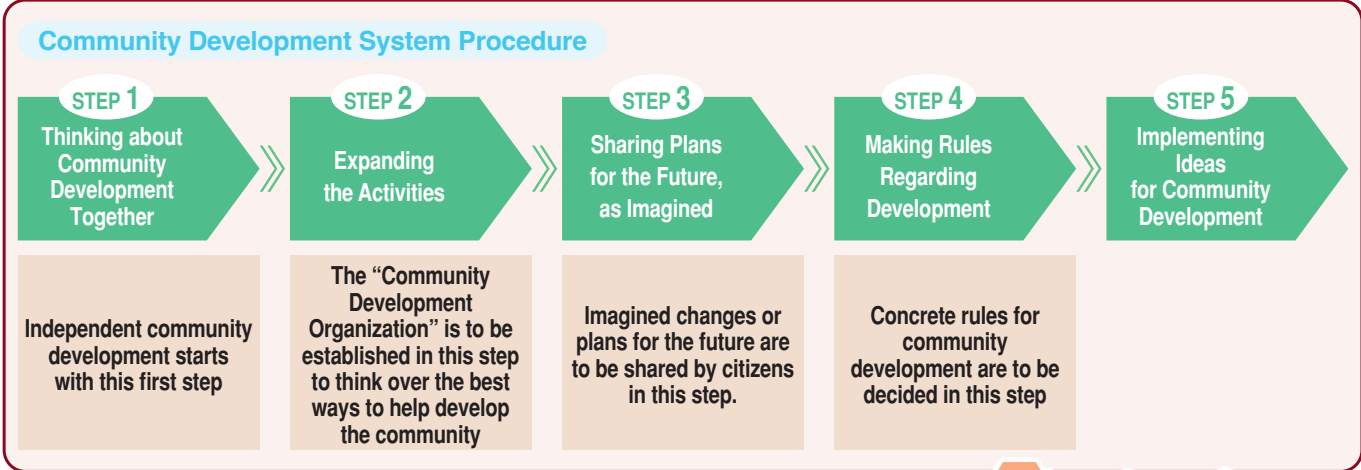
Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802

Introduction of the Framework of Community Development using the Minato City Community Development Ordinance

Minato City supports community development activities mainly by the people living in the community, so that local issues are solved within the community. Community development is promoted based on community initiative and agreement.

At present, there are four community development organizations registered in the Azabu area as shown in the figure on the right (as of March 1, 2024) .

Three organizations have been registered as having “Regional Community Development Vision.” One of them has been certified as an organization that follows the “Regional Community Development Rules”; as such, they are helping the community develop very effectively.



The certified Regional Community Development Rules are partly described here.

- Roppongi 3-chome East Area Community Development Conference**
 - Creating a disaster-resilient community
 - Creating a lush green landscape we can all be proud of
 - Reinforcing the bonds of the community

* To transfer ownership of property or begin construction in the area, an application must be made to the corresponding Community Development Conference.
- Maintaining public order and morals
 - Creating an environment where everybody can live with peace of mind

If ownership of a property is to be transferred or construction is to begin within the area of activity of a Community Development Conference, or if you are interested in community development activities, please contact us as follows.

A pamphlet with a detailed description of Conference activities, the registered “Community Development Organization” list, and the “Regional Community Development Vision and Rules” are available at the counter of the Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section or through the Minato City website.

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



AZABU

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabanebashi subway stations, The Chii Bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi- azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.

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Editor’s Note

Going back through the history of sento (public bath) owners in Tokyo, it is said that about 80% of their ancestors came from Niigata, Ishikawa or Toyama Prefectures. Mr. MATSUI Sotokichi of the Take-no-yu public bath, whom we interviewed for the article, also came from Ishikawa Prefecture. The people who came from the Hokuriku region were united by a strong regional bond as they ran the sento, which supported the lives of people and left a major mark on urban formation in modern Tokyo. I send my condolences to the people who were affected by the Noto Peninsular earthquake. I truly hope and pray for a fast recovery.

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“Minato Call” information service answers your questions about everyday life! Feel free to ask about services provided by City Hall, facility guides, event information, and more. Available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm every day.

* This service is also available in English.

Minato Call

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

Inquiry submission form: <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou/kuse/kocho/iken/form-inquiry.html>