



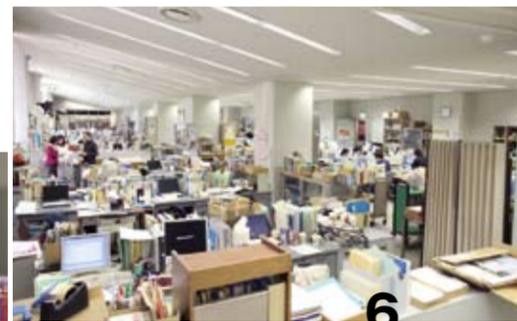
The articles which were written in Japanese are directly translated into English.



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Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library

都立中央図書館



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A treasure house of knowledge in the park.

Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park is Azabu's biggest park. Since it is only a 2 minutes walk from Hiroo Station, many people visit the park and not only do the foreign children who live in the neighborhood go to play in the park, but the park has a very traditional sophisticated atmosphere which is a reflection of the park's name itself.

As one approaches the center of the park using the entrance by the pond, you come in contact with a beautiful garden using the tiered landscape. There is also a dense forested area where the sun shines through the foliage and beautiful walkways that are enchanting. In front of all that stands the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library.

This library carries over 1.66 million books, over 7,000 titles of newspapers and magazines in addition to numerous amounts of edited data. Although the library doesn't allow individuals to rent any of these materials, the infinite amount of information is precious to those who study academically and to the general public.

In addition to the variety of books which are available, data base can be viewed freely in order to respond to the current times and is also equipped with wireless LAN. Finding research material is very easy. If you are not good at finding books, you can ask the librarian who will find the appropriate book you are searching for. Not only can you find academic material but also information on cities you might be visiting on your trip, favorite recipes, collection book of paintings of your favorite painter and even the most updated information of a recent brand. People can not be an almighty specialist of information and that is why the librarian is there. Please utilize their expertise by contacting them.

Even if you have no purpose, the number of titles available on artistic collection books and magazines is what this library is proud of. There are approximately 900 seats which allow you to relax and enjoy your reading time. Exhibition for Tokyoites take place regularly as well as various lectures for example on medical law which is open to the general public to participate in.

If you get tired, why not visit the cafeteria to have tea or something to eat which is on the 5th floor. The prices are reasonable and you can enjoy a relaxing time looking over the garden.

Although libraries are available everywhere, for some reason once you start working, it becomes a distant existence. We encourage you to drop by the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library which is a treasure house of knowledge.

(Interviewed and written by: Hikaru Takahashi)



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- 1 The newspaper corner also carries edition of prefectural newspapers
- 2 Information of cities you might be visiting is easy to find
- 3 The retro cafeteria is full of delicious dishes
- 4 An exhibit of the Tokyo Olympics
- 5 The shelves are made out of wood from Tama of Tokyo
- 6 The staff who support the library work in the basement
- 7 A first class craftsman works on repairing Japanese books
- 8 The old bookbinding machine is a masterpiece
- 9 The most beautiful approach way in Tokyo



2008 marked the millennium of Murasaki Shikibu who wrote of Genji-Monogatari (spread of kana letters). Many events took place at locations associated with it, and in Genji Monogatari, there is reference to incense with is described in the story often. Japanese people are recently coming in touch with their culture and incense is becoming a popular trend. Masahiro Yamada (58), the owner of "Azabu Koga Doh" since 1983 in Azabu Juban, was born as the 2nd son of the 7th generation import wholesaler of fragrant wood and raw materials located at the west of the Old Imperial Palace in Kyoto. He is currently contributing in spreading incense burning, a graceful and intellectual unique Japanese cultural tradition from Azabu.

“The World of Incense” from Azabu

"AZABU - A Human Story"

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It has been 26 years since I have started my shop. I was born and raised in Kyoto and my family has been a wholesaler of fragrant wood and raw material for incense from the Edo Period. Fragrant wood has always been imported from many years ago and during the times when Dejima was the only place where trade was permitted; the samurai class would compete in obtaining high quality fragrant wood. Fragrant wood is also used as herbal medicine and is said to be good for the cardiopulmonary function and circulatory organs and trade also incorporated these products as medicine. I wasn't interested at all in the family business at all when I was young but come to think about it, I grew up in an environment where all these expensive fragrant wood was everywhere in the house. I know what is good or bad in quality but that's because I was brought up in that environment. I was doing tennis and drama when I was in jr. high and high school and at one point I was involved in 3 extracurricular activities and wasn't interested at all in incense. My older brother was in Tokyo going to Keio University and I didn't want to feel embarrassed if I flunk Keio so I went to Waseda. (Laughs) I didn't really think about anything and majored in the Faculty of Political Science & Economics and studied economics. Right before graduation, my mother in Kyoto said, "You should go work for some company" (Laughs) I wasn't even thinking about that but since I liked my mother very much and if that was what she wanted, I thought I should do that and started looking for work.

Mr. Yamada didn't really have any wish to work anywhere so he joined Yanase, the car dealer. He wasn't that interested in car but it just so happened that the oil heater which was used at his boarding house was made by Yanase. We thought this episode was very much like Mr. Yamada who is very particular about using natural material. He didn't have any intention to work for a long time but was appointed to the Document Department which was in-charge of creating documentation for imported sales which was an integral part of the overall organization and remained in the company for 6 years. He contributed to the business for 2 years after he put in his resignation request and then returned to Kyoto once.

I was originally only going to work for 2-3 years but once you start work it becomes so interesting. I was told to become the editor in chief of the internal newsletter... it was actually only a one member team though. (Laughs) Since I didn't have any experience, I said that I wanted to go work for a printing company and I commuted from home to work to a printing company for 2 weeks. I studied all the process of printing. I was working in the Documents Department and I had to check into all the legal aspects of international agreements but finally quit... My mother had been saying for some years that she wanted me to become independent and was looking around for property for quite a long time. It was pure intuition that she chose this town. The old and the new are integrated here in Azabu Juban. I feel this is really an interesting aspect of it and it seems so natural for some reason. That was why we decided to open the business here.

He founded Koga Doh in 1983. Incense burning became an art from the Muromachi period along with tea ceremony and flower arrangements. One needs to know various elements about the arts of the graceful etiquette and classic literature in order to indulge in incense burning which Mr. Yamada naturally grew up with.

The Yakushiji Temple in Nara wanted to revive a ritual which has died down for over 500 years and as a result, a Buddhist memorial service was held in 2003 called the "Saisho Kai" (note: 1). I was providing incense at Buddhist memorial services by the Emperor.. Incense needs to be mixed to prepare for this and the Head of the Yakushiji Temple at that time said to me, "Do you want to do it?" (Laughs)... The Imperial Court had a specialist in incense burning but in the books on sutra, it is written that for the sutra "kinkomei saisho ohkei" it has what kind of incense to use. If I used this blend, the fragrance would be too strong and since the Head said he wanted to use a "light" fragrance., we used fragrance which I arranged. It was a fabulous memorial and a great experience for me. Incense which has been passed down history along with Buddhism became something to enjoy during the Heian Period. People would choose the scent they felt was best suited to show off their personality and to appeal to others that this was what they were interested in. I think they chose fragrance to satisfy their sense of beauty.

Top: The HENRO series which was made to support the Naturalist Movement. A stick type incense which uses natural material.

Bottom: "The Wave of Clouds" handmade incense known as the Azabu series does not use any preservatives or chemical substance and only uses natural fragrant wood an no other natural substance.



One tends to think that the art of incense is very sophisticated and hard to come in contact with but Mr. Yamada holds classes in incense burning regularly in order to make it reachable to beginners. He currently is the chairman of the board of directors for the Azabu Juban Shopping Arcade Association and his experience in working for the Documentation Department is now being utilized in the newsletter which is published from the local community titled, "Information From Juban".

I used to be the PTA Chairman of the Higashimachi Elementary School. I'm not the type to do things half-heartedly. Since I had decided to do it, I took time in this position and really enjoyed it. I feel it's really important to bring your child up in the community. A community which knows all the faces of each of the children living there is my ideal. I became friends with other PTA Chairman's and my most fond memory is that we made a rock band called "Kaichos" (chairman's). (Laughs). We went on stage often and rather than making the chairman's speech we said we'd like to sing. (Laughs) You see we a certified band of the Minato Board of Education, I am interested now for example in going to Cambodia to dig wells, but, in reality I can't go there. And so I thought then was there anyway I could support these types of activities through incense. There is The National Trust (note: 2) which was born in the U.K and I was really touched by their activities and created the "HENRO" series with Takuma Ono. A part of the profit from the sales of these products goes to the movement to protect the natural environment and historical building of the U.K and Japan. I would like to spread incense so that I can do something for the society I hope.

I remember reading a novel titled "Kara No Koh" by Tomiko Miyao. A lot of her novels depict woman who are pursuing for something and this character was pursuing the art of incense. I'm embarrassed to say but was touched very much with words, rules and complicated graciousness of the world of incense. At the same time, I was very proud to be born a Japanese because of how Japan has brought incense and words together into one. I was deeply moved in the perseverance of Mr. Yamada who is trying to spread this. It would be impossible to pass down the succession if one didn't have the purity to want to do that for the next generation. In Mr. Yamada's blog and profile, he has written, "My belief; Tradition should be always innovative." I agree totally with his comment.

(Note: 1) It is a Buddhist Memorial which is one of Japan's Three Great Ceremonies (Kyonan Sankai). It is a memorial ceremony which prays for the safety of the country and bumper crops for the people of the country. The main building of the Yakushiji Temple caught on fire in the 4th year of the Tenroku era. Although it was resurrected years later it was destroyed the first year of the Kyoroku era and the Saisho Kai ritual had also died down. After years of hope, Saisho Kai ritual was finally started again 500 years later in 2003.

(Note:2) A People's Movement which started in the U.K in 1895. The purpose of the movement is to pass down the natural environment and historic buildings to the next coming generation.

(Interviewed by: Kazue Asakawa, Kumiko Omura, Miyuki Ito, Written by: Miyuki Ito)



To enjoy fragrances you have in your homes.

owner of Azabu Koga Doh in Azabu
Masahiro Yamada

(58 years old)



Nature and my darling grand daughter full of energy. Taking a stroll in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park in early summer.

The sun starts to shine stronger as we get into this season and the leaves and trees get darker in color. One can feel the power of nature strongly as you stroll in the park. Close to you is your grandchild, this month's taking a walk in Azabu is about "grandmother and grandchild taking a walk in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park".

If you're thinking about taking a walk in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park with your grandchild on a stroller, we recommend that you take the entrance at the top of the slope in order to avoid the stairs. You come in contact with a forested area as you take the entrance alongside Aiku Hospital. The forest blocks the strong rays of the sun and a cool and green forested area welcomes you. What comes into view in front of your grandchild's sight are the small flowers and wild plants. There are a lot of wild plants in between the standing trees in the park which are of full of variety. If you are interested in them, why not take pictures and then go to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library to check them up while your grandchild is taking a nap. (As long as your

child is quiet, the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library allows people to use baby strollers inside the facility and there's even a newly established area to change diapers.) The sandbox and playground come into sight as you stroll through the square filled with the sun's ray. It's play time for you grandchild as the sun shine's filtering through the foliage. The power children have gives you energy as you watch them play. Even toddlers can play on the swing which is guarded with a rail. You can bring a lunch box and eat in on the grass in front of the library or you can watch people playing baseball or tennis if you decide to sit on the bench and relax in front of the Azabu Exercise Ground. You can decide to go home by taking the exit on the side of Aiku Hospital or take the walk way by the side of the ground and walk towards Moto Azabu. Feeling the fresh air from the trees with your grandchild will enable you to enjoy a relaxing time.



Please don't forget to take countermeasures for the hot weather when going on a walk with your child during this season.

● List of items to take with you on your walk:

- Towel to wipe perspiration and a wet towel
- Water bottle and lunch box
- Leisure sheet
- Diapers and wet cloth
- Change of cloth
- Change of shoes and socks
- Hat and parasol for the sun
- Sun protection cream, medicine for mosquitoes bites
- Camera, stationary etc.



(Photo and written by: Toshie Suzuki)

It makes me very happy when a long standing customer comes into the store and says even though Roppongi changes so much, it's so nice to come here because nothing changes here. Azabu Aono So Honpo 6th Generation Owner, Mr. Terunobu Aono



There are a lot of different jobs. Concierge
Japanese Sweets Artisan

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

KIDS' Hello Work



The details of the finish were taught to the children.

No Compromising On The Taste And Trial And Error

The theme for this edition is about a Japanese sweet cake shop which continues to pass down Japan's traditional culture which reflects the changing of the four seasons. We visited Mr. Terunobu Aono, the 6th generation owner of Aono So Honpo, a longstanding Japanese sweet cake shop which has been in business for 150 years in Roppongi.

The 3 junior reporters, Akane, Hibiki and Taichi were full of enthusiasm as they were told that they would be able to experience making sweet cakes as well on this interview.

What kind of work do you do?

It's quite diverse because I go out to buy the ingredients, make sweet cakes which reflect the four seasons and also try to be creative in selling as well. It's very holistic because I'm a craftsman, I need to be hospitable and also to be a business owner.

How can you become a sweet cake shop owner?

In my case, this was my family's business so

the shop was where I would play as a child and also help. I think I was making bean paste balls "anko" from when I was about 3rd grade in elementary school. I majored in "business administration" in university and studied about many things. I then entered a professional training college on cake making to gain basic knowledge on making Japanese sweets as well as western cakes. I then also worked as an apprentice at a shop in Kyoto. How to make sweet cakes, ingredients and technical terms differ according to prefecture which for me in the beginning was very confusing. The taste and color can be slightly different even if you use the same ingredients but it depends on where they come from. You start to notice the difference if you eat them continuously and then you start to want to be detailed. You don't need to have any special "qualification" to become a sweet cake artisan. However, I did obtain a confectionary hygienist license to run my shop.

How many types of sweet cakes are there?

I make about 300 types annually to reflect the seasons and literary calendar. I also change the quantity of ingredients or how I fluff it or place of origin in order to change

the texture of standard assortments such as bean jam pancake (dorayaki) or soft bean azuki jelly (mizuyoukan). It's like trial and error to pursue taste. Artisans also argue at times. (Laughs) I'm also very conscious about observing things in order to get ideas for new types of sweets. I'm always thinking of what I can do., You always need to have your antenna out to observe regardless of what kind of work you do, right?

Any advice to those who are interested in this profession?

What I had you do today was work on details on the finish of the sweet cake but this part normally can only be handled by artisans who are experienced craftsman. We normally start preparing for the day very early in the morning. Bags of sugar are over 20 kgs, pots are as high as small children and we have to mix bean paste which boils at 100 degrees centigrade even in the summer. You become muscular but there are many women who are in this profession as well.

Mr. Aono had a very soft smile as he told us about his job but also told us about the hardships of this job at the end of the interview. It was at that moment that Ayane's heart was set on fire because she felt that "she wanted to work here"

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akane Ishiyama, Taichi Suzuki, Kumiko Omura, Hibiki Omura Written by: Kumiko Omura)





Argentine Republic
 Area: Approximately 3.8 million sq. kms.
 (including Antarctica and the Southern Islands)
 Population: 39.50 million people (2007 World Bank)
 Capital: Buenos Aires
 Ethnic Groups: Caucasians (85%), Mestizo (10%), Amerindian & others (5%)
 Official Language: Spanish
 Religion: Catholic
 Government: Federal presidential republic
 Head of State: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner
 (4 year term and limited to 2 terms)
 Assembly: Multi party system
 (Senate: 72 seats, Chamber of Deputies: 257 members,
 both parties are on a 4 year term system,
 Vice President is also Chairman of the Senate)
 Foreign Ministry Web Site:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/argentine/data.html>
 Official Argentine Republic Government Web Site:
<http://www.argentina.gov.ar/argentina/portal/paginas.dhtml?pagina=1470>
 Official Argentine Government International Relations Department of Commerce Web Site
<http://www.cancilleria.gov.ar/portal/index.html>



Argentina

Argentina, the country of passion.....nature, sports, tango, wine and art



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The Argentine Republic is located in South America, with the Andes behind facing the Atlantic Ocean. The country is approximately 3,800kms long from North to South, and its territory is about 7.5 times that of Japan. In the southern extreme of its territory, Tierra del Fuego and the Magellan Strait are close to the Antarctic. The country's population is approximately 40 million people and there are many who descend from European immigrants. In cities such as Buenos Aires, its capital, modern buildings can be found along with traditional European architecture. Argentina is blessed with a vast nature extending from North to South, and different landscapes such as Patagonia, Iguazu Falls, canyons, glaciers, salines, grassland and volcanoes, which are all sights worth seeing.

Angel Cabrera, the professional golfer, from Argentina won the Masters the day before we went for the interview so we said our congratulations. H.E Mr. Daniel D. Polski, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary shook hands with our staff and said, "Argentina has about 240 wonderful golf courses and golf tours are also popular along with tourism."

He also continued to add, "Argentina is also very strong in sports regarding team work such as rugby and basketball." Come to think of it, there are many strong soccer players from Argentina who have gone out to the world such as Gabriel Batistuta of Serie A.

In addition to golf tours, tourism is also diverse which features the vast nature the country is blessed with such as mountain climbing, trekking, canoeing, mountain biking etc. which are all eco-tourism. There are also adventure tours, and one can also enjoy cultural and wine tours as well. Argentina has been making efforts to improve the quality of its wine, which has contributed in increasing the country's export and visiting wineries of various regions is also very popular. The neighboring countries are also competing in the wine business; however, Argentina is the top producer in volume.

The most well known music and dance of the country is Argentine Tango with its lyric and songs and the colorful sound of bandonion. The songs and lyrics of tango feature the sorrow between man and woman but it's not just ordinary sorrow. It is deeply rooted to the emotions of humans' lives and is about passion. The young generations have become interested in tango recently and there are many places where you can enjoy it. H.E Mr. Polski said with a mischievous smile, "My generation was interested in rock music and so I actually didn't enjoy tango that much when I was young."

1 H.E Mr. Daniel D. Polski, very energetic and hospitable
 This year is his 5th year since his appointment

2 Designed by The Humawaca Brand designed by Ingrid Gutman, high quality leather saddle bag

3 Bottom left: Handmade tool made from organic material.; Upper right: Leather accessories and moneybox. ;Bottom right: Mate tea utensils designed by a textile designer

4 "Fruit Basket" made from metal and wood craft designed by Patricia Lascano

Cooperation by the Embassy of the Argentine Republic



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Argentina has been putting in a lot of effort in arts and designs in the recent years and many talented designers have come out. There were many modern outstanding works of art on display at the embassy such as the chair, craftwork, paintings, leather goods and fashion etc. The ambassador was generous and invited us to his residence next door. He showed us the work of designer, Patricia Lascano which was a "fruit basket". A masterpiece of art using a combination of metal and wood and even though it was very sharp, it was an outstanding piece of craftwork. It makes one imagine as if you are going to be seeped up into the dark blue star filled sky.

We asked him about Azabu at the end of the interview. He said that even though there is a cosmopolitan atmosphere to the town, one could still come in touch with the heritage it has such as temples etc. and that there were many attractive places. He said he liked to go on walks amidst his busy schedule. He told us that the alleyways he discovers which were enchanting reminded him about their capital, Buenos Aires.

Although Argentina is very far from Japan, it has intrigued the Japanese for many years. This is probably because the country has an energy and passion which Japan doesn't have. It can truly be said that it is a country that is categorized as "love at first sight". For those of you who would like to know more about the country, please send your request and a stamped self-addressed envelope to the embassy and they will send you brochures in Japanese. Wouldn't it be interesting to hold a wine glass in one hand and listen to tango and imagine yourself in this passionate country?

(Interview by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Miho Inamura<Executive Committee>, Yasuhiko Ozaki, Chie Kato, Sanae Minato, Akira Mori
 Written by: Chie Kato, Akira Mori)

Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



"Blue & White" an indigo dye "aizome" sundry goods store OWNER

Amy Katoh

I want to pass down the wonderful Japanese cultural tradition.



It has been over 30 years since she opened her store in Azabu Juban ever since she was intrigued by Japan's beautiful traditional culture of "aizome" indigo dye. There is a full line up of goods which reflect a good sense of understanding Japanese culture ranging from fabrics to make yukata, coasters to photo albums.



The indigo dye sundry goods store "Blue & White" is located on the left as you start to go up Daikoku Zaka Hill from the Patio of Azabu Juban. The owner is Amy Katoh who was born in the United States. She came to Japan over 40 years ago and opened her store here in 1975. One can find many warm handmade indigo dyed "aizome" goods which is a Japanese tradition. The line up of goods sold are full of a sense of fun and range from towels, cushion covers, tapestry, one piece garments to neckties. Ms. Katoh was attracted to this tradition of Japan and has become an integral part of our lives and has continued to propose many goods for over 30 years.

regions and told us that she loves to come in contact with Japan's tradition and culture. Her favorite Japanese dish is simmered meat and potatoes (niku jyaga) and nabe which she eats at home a lot. Her last supper is of course shabu shabu.

"The good values of Japan, generosity, politeness and thoughtfulness, I think is wonderful. I want the Japanese people to have more confidence and they should take more care about their culture. I would like to help in passing down these types of Japanese traditional culture. Understanding the past to appreciate the present, there's a lot you can learn from ancient heritage." , says Ms. Katoh in fluent Japanese.



Ms. Katoh who has lived in Azabu for many years has many different acquaintances and is enthusiastic about neighborhood relationships. She holds meetings in her store and also goes drinking at the "yakitori" shop. She really seems to love living here in Azabu Juban. One of her interests is to go to the flea market which is held on every first Saturday of the month at the Patio. She has travelled all over Japan as well and has visited flea markets of various

Ms. Katoh published a book titled "Japanese Style" in the past. This photo book collection which introduced interior goods made out of "aizome" indigo dye, an ancient Japanese traditional culture, created a trend. Ms. Katoh was one of the pioneers who introduced the beauty of Japanese traditional culture to foreigners. She has published 4 other books following her first publication in 1996. She is also currently in the midst of preparing 2 new books. She told us that she would like to continue to build relationships with her customer through coming in contact with authenticity and craftsmen who are committed to their work.

(Interviewed and Photo and written by: Yasuhiko Ozaki)

地域社会

"The Local Community" の
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[Focusing On The Town Assembly And Neighborhood Community Association]

What does the town assembly and neighborhood community association do?

How many of your neighbors do you know? What actually is the town assembly and neighborhood community association to start with? It's an autonomy which takes initiative by aligning with the city office and handling issues of the various local communities. Minato City has over 230 town assemblies and neighborhood community associations!

They are called town councils, town assemblies and neighborhood associations but there really isn't a difference. It's like ongiri and omusubi (two different ways to say rice ball in Japanese). (From here after, we will use the term town council.)

There is no obligation or commitment to have to participate in the town council. It is true that many people avoid it because it's too much trouble, don't like to interact with people or feel that there is too many drinking gatherings that take place.

But please take a look at what surrounds your house. The town council manages disaster prevention, anti crime, fire safety, traffic safety, cleaning and managing lamp posts for safety precaution. These actions by the community residents for the safety of the residents are executed under the objective of "building



a safe and secure town to live in" and is a lot of hard work. What it means is that it is supported by various people who are volunteers.

If no one was interested in their neighbors, the streets would be full of garbage, graffiti would increase, lamp posts would sometimes be on and off and it is easy to imagine that there would be a lot of trouble.

It is us residents who need to be conscious about even little things in order for Azabu to continue to be a safe and nice place for the people to live in. The local community residents need to support each other even if it's something troublesome, in order to live comfortably.

Do you know about your local town assembly and neighborhood community association?

The town councils plan many interesting events for its residents. For example, the Azabu Takeyacho town council located at Minami Azabu 1 chome and on the south side of Sendai Zaka Hill, has a homepage (<http://www.takeyachou.jp/>) which introduces the details of their activities and welcomes participants. Mr. Akira Ohno, the owner of the homepage says, "The concept is let's create together a town where people can live safely. It would make me very happy if people who see the homepage become interested and feel

like wanting to participate." , quotes Mr. Ohno.

They kicked off the Higashimachi Japanese Drum (wadaiko) Club this spring in collaboration with the Higashimachi Elementary School. Anyone can participate ranging from elementary school children to senior citizens and it has seen a good response. Of course, you can also participate even if you are not a member of the Azabu Takeyacho Town Council. Please check the rehearsal days on the homepage if you are interested.

Talking about fun events, the autumn festival is one that everyone looks forward to. This year it will be held on Sept. 12th (Sat.) and 13th (Sun.). Mr. Ohno says, "Participating in this festival is a great way to get acquainted with people." If you don't know what your town council is, please contact the City Office. What's important is taking that first step in participating.

For Inquiries Please Contact:
Activities Promotion Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.
Tel: 03-5114-8802 Fax: 03-3583-3782

Reference material: Minoru Nakata 3 others
"100 Questions and 100 Answers To Get To Know All About Your Town Council" (Jakometei Publishing)
Photographs: Provided by Azabu Takeyacho Town Council
(Interview and written by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi)

Roppongi 1 chome 9, Minato City (former Azabu Ichibei-cho 1-11) was where the residence of Toutoumi no Kami Nambu of the Mutsu Hachinohe Clan used to be at the end of the Edo Period. It became the property of the Imperial government after the Meiji Restoration and became the residence of Princess Seikan'in, later the Azabu Residence, and further on became the residence of Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni. Princess Seikan'in (1846-1877) was known for her tragic life from the end of the Edo Period to the Meiji Period, and Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni (1887-1990) was known for his turbulent life and attracted a lot attention.(note: 1) However, both played an important role and carried a big mission in the turning point of Japan's history.

Azabu Ichibei-cho Story

(Site of The Residence of the Imperial family)

Princess Seikan'in, and Prince Higashikuni

麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

Princess Seikan'in who played an important role in the succession of the Tokugawa Family

In 1861, Princess Kazu was engaged to Prince Taruhito Arisugawa but had to break the engagement for the union of the Imperial Household and Tokugawa regime, and to get married to Shogun Iemochi Tokugawa. She travelled from Kyoto to move into the Shimizu Tokugawa Family residence inside the Edo Castle which is close to the current day Kitanomaru Park. She got married the following year inside the Edo Castle. (note: 2) After Shogun Iemochi Tokugawa passed away in Osaka at the age of 21, Princess Kazu took the tonsure and became a Buddhist, and thus was re-named Princess Seikan'in .

Iemochi was adopted as the heir of Narikatsu Tokugawa and succeeded him as the 13th Daimyo of the Kishu Clan and later became a Shogun. Although his married life with Princess Kazu was short, he showed his sincere love to her and presented her with a tortoise shell comb and tie-dyed kimono and sent her sweet letters each time he had to leave her. (note: 3) In response to his letter, she wrote back and said, " Now that I married into the Tokugawa Family, I will give my whole life to the Tokugawa Family." In later years, Kaishu Katsu said that she was noble and very smart. (note: 4)

After Yoshinobu Tokugawa lost the Battle of Fushimi Toba in 1868, Princess Seikan'in was instrumental in begging for the continuation of the family name. This was made possible as she sent a letter to the Imperial Family asking for understanding. The Emperor granted the continuation of Family name, provided Tokugawa's apology is sincere. Later Iesato Tokugawa succeeded the line but was sealed off by Suruga. (note: 5)

She moved to the Shimizu Residence in April of the same year and Seikan'in briefly returned to Kyoto in 1869. But in 1874 as the remains of Iemochi resting Shiba Zoujyou-ji(temple), and Emperor Meiji having transferred to Tokyo(the former Edo), she entered the Azabu Palace, where she can view the roof of the Temple (note: 6)

At Azabu Palace Princess Seikan'in used to meet Iesato Tokugawa and invited Atsuhime Tensho'in. It is said that the Meiji Emperor, Empress and Empress Dowager often visited her at the residence. On May 5, 1876, when the Imperial couple visited her, they brought gifts of hanging pictures, a vase, a box of sweets, and enjoyed watching the Noh performances of Ashikari, Motizuki, Yochisoga and Funabenkei by Umewaka, Kanze, Hoshyo and Kongo; relaxed and spent an enjoyable time. (note: 7)

Princess Seikan'in passed away on Sept. 2, 1877, at the age of 32, while resting of heart failure from beriberi at Tounosawa in Hakone (note: 8)

Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni Who Contributed in the restoration of the country after the WW2.

Prince Naruhiko who established Higashikuni family, a new branch of the imperial family from Kuni family in 1906. Prince Naruhiko lived in Azabu 1914. He married Prince Toshiko Yasu, the 9th daughter of Emperor Meiji, the following year. He graduated the Imperial Japanese Army Academy and then studied at the French Army Academy in 1920 and lived in France for 7 years. The Prince loved painting and frequently visited Claude Monet at his atelier which was close to Paris and also became acquainted with George Clemenceau, the politician. Through him, he leaned about the Peace Conference held in Paris and strongly felt the need of knowledge regarding international politics in diplomacy. (note: 9) While in Paris, a palmist (fortune teller) who read his palm told the Prince that during a massive movement he would eventually become Prime Minister. (note: 10)



World War Two erupted in December of 1941.

At 10:40 p.m. on April 15th, 1945, the Tokyo Air Raid was announced. The southeast side of Prince Higashikuni's residence in Azabu caught on fire and the corridors, bedroom, study room, visitors room, eventually the whole residence was destroyed by fire and all his mementoes of his days in Europe such as souvenirs, pictures and paintings he drew were lost. (note: 11)

War ends on August 15th, 1945.

He was summoned to go to the Imperial Palace on August 16th, where Emperor Shōwa appointed him the position of Prime Minister of Japan, instructing him to exert his utmost to bring turmoils under control. After his appointment, he organized his Cabinet on the 18th and set about resolving the post war issues.

On Sept. 2nd, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signed the Documents of Japan's surrender on board the U.S.S. Missouri and then his Cabinet started the repatriation of Japanese soldiers. However, his Cabinet resigns on Oct. 5th of the same year and although it was a short term cabinet, Prince Higashikuni wrote, "Only 50 days since my appointment, but no regrets. I am only ashamed about the fact that I did not have enough strength" . (note: 12) He renounces his membership in the Imperial Family in October of 1947 and passed away in January 2007 at the age of 102 .

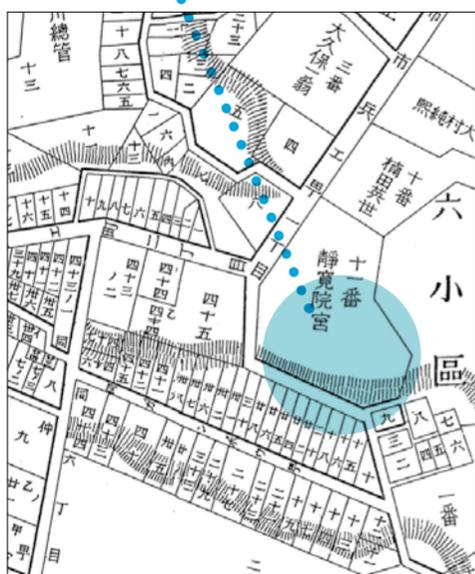
The former Azabu Ichibei-cho exists with the historical trail of the personality of two members of the royal family. There are still some parts which are nationally-owned land.

- (Note: 1) Hiroyuki Suzuki Tokyo's chirei pg 16 Bungei Shunju Publishing
Edit. by Toshikane Okubo Nihon No Shozoh pg 47 Mainichi Newspapers
Tokyo Prefecture Azabu City Office History of Azabu pg 899
- (Note: 2) Edit. by Shinji Miyashita and others Kojo Kazunomiya Kazunomiya's Life pg 163 The Tokyo Edo Historical Museum
- (Note: 3) Edit. by Shinji Miyashita and others Gekido No Yo O Kakenuketa Shogun pg 170-173
- (Note: 4) Edit. by Zenji Iwamoto Kaishu Zadan pg 73, pg 336 Iwanami Bunko Publishing
- (Note: 5) Japan Historical books Association Diary of Lady Seikan'in no Miya 2 pg 626-626 Tokyo University Publishing Group
- (Note: 6) Zuikyo Kuwahara Journals of Lady Seikan'in no Miya pg 287- 291
Zojyoji Temple Publishing
- (Note: 7) Imperial Household Book 3 of the Meiji Emperor pg 391-392 pg 596-597
Yoshikawa Kou Bunko
- (Note: 8) Edited by Shinji Miyashita and others op. cit. pg 165
Kazunomiya's Life Imperial Household Book 4 of the Meiji Emperor pg 253
- (Note: 9) Hiroyuki Suzuki op. cit. pg 19
Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni My Memory pg 7, pg 10-11 Toho Shobo
- (Note: 10) Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni Higashikuni Diary pg 209-210 Tokuma Shoten
- (Note: 11) Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni op. cit. pg 185-186 Tokuma Shoten
- (Note: 12) Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni op. cit. pg 206-207, pg 246 Tokuma Shoten
Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni op. cit. pg 246-247 Toho Shobo

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akiko Hashimoto, Satsuki Nishino
Written by: Akira Mori Title by: Hikaru Takahashi)



The Residence of the Imperial Family
(Roppongi 1 Chome 9, Minato City)



Data owned by the Minato Historical Data Museum
Top: Contemporary Historical Map 1933
Bottom: Contemporary Historical Map 1876

Living in AZABU

“Summer in '09”

The very this Summer is coming. I watch how it will go!

Curious their summer dreamy Tibet & Argentine.
We see the summer cloud mountains above the bay.

My ideas for the season. Fresh tomato dishes.
and just boastful some tips that I created,
Banana jam and the Olive oil Paste.

¡ Qué rico ! 😊

Old pal Kazu-chan keeps many kinds
of herbs on her nice roomy terrace.

When we see I receive a herbal bouquet.

First put it in the Glass on the table for the good smelling.

The herb tea that she makes,

I can tell that best one always.

ARIGATO so much for such warm

friendship for a long time since childhood.

Well, sew cool the bare top dress with nicely faded blue jeans

Lacey cardigan can cover my style up then ~ .

Summer is T-shirt, I would like

to print ultra longing someone's initials on it ♡

It is summer now.

On the fine day, I am going to see

My brother Tad, taking too good “soft caramel waffles”
that cannot stop to have as OMIYAGE.

Wishing nice and peaceful summer ★

Have cheerful days.

ALOHA.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)



Frequently Asked Questions Q & A

Please observe the rules and sort out waste appropriately.
Your cooperation helps reduce the amount of waste.



Recyclable if sorted out!
Recyclable if washed!

Minato City's Recycling Mascot "Ecole"



Recyclable Plastics

Q: How clean should I wash plastics when I dispose them?

A: Washing with soap is not necessary. Just rinse it with water or wipe off with an old cloth. A little grease or stains are acceptable.

Plastics with heavy grease or stains should be disposed as “combustible waste.”

Q: If it is too hard to clean up plastics, can I dispose them as “combustible waste” ?

A: No. There are many clean plastics even if they are not rinsed such as plastic bags, styrene foam, and bottle labels/caps. They are recyclable without washing except when they get oil-stained. A lot of plastics can be classified as recyclable.

Q: Should I peel off stickers on plastics before I dispose?

A: No. You don't need to.

Sorting

Q: How can I sort leather/cloth belts or bags with metal?

A: Please take off metal parts as possible then sort the main part as “combustible” and metal part as “incombustible” waste. If it is impossible to remove, classify as the larger area of the material.

Q: Should I take off and dispose caps/labels of bottles?

A: Please dispose the plastic bottle as you have always done on its collection day.

Q: Should I remove staples from leaflets or brochures?

A: Yes, as much as possible.

Waste Collection

Q: How can I find out the collection time of my collection site?

A: The garbage trucks differ by type of waste.

Collection time might be changed due to traffic condition and volume of waste disposed.

Minato City has stopped collecting waste by varying time schedule.

Please put your trash out by 8 a.m. on your appropriate collection day.

Q: Is trash pickup done on holidays?

A: Yes. Garbage is collected on holidays excluding Sundays and Year-end and New Year.

Q: Can I put out paper products such as newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes, etc. on a rainy day?

A: Minato City collects waste on rainy days but once they get wet, their value decreases.

Minato City recommends putting them out on the next collection day.

Q: I will produce a large amount of garbage because of moving house. What should I do?

A: It can be handled with a fee as “irregular waste.”

Please contact the Minato Waste Collection Office for advice.

Note: Excluding office waste

Minato Call
(Minato City Call Center)

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

(Hours: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. 7days a week)

Waste Management and Recycling Section

Plan/Overview

Tel: 03-3450-8273
Fax: 03-3450-8275

(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday)

Minato Waste Collection Office

General information on waste collection including how to dispose of waste and collection locations

Tel: 03-3450-8025
Fax: 03-3450-8063

(Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. Monday through Saturday)

To Our Readers Please let us hear your comments.

Please let us hear your comments about our articles or topics you want to be taken up. We would like to use them as reference to make an even more attractive newsletter.



Towels with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments or opinions.

Please contact the following with your name, age, address and occupation.

By telephone: 03-5114-8812 (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday)

By fax: 03-3583-3782

By post: Editing Department of “The AZABU” Azabu Regional City Office
5-16-45 Roppongi Minato-ku Tokyo, 105-8515



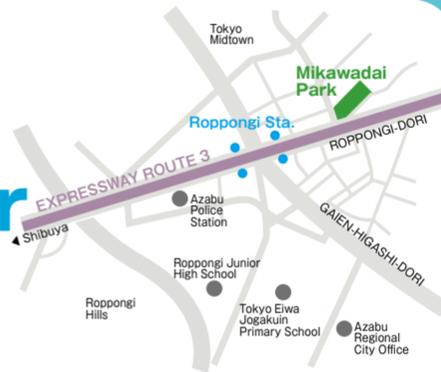
Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from Azabu Regional City Office



Recruiting Foreign Nationals for Community Volunteer Activities in Azabu.



Wouldn't you want to learn more about Azabu by participating in local community volunteer activities? English interpreters will be there to help you while you participate in the activities. If you are interested in community activities or want to share information about the community, please come and join.

● Foreign nationals who are 20 years old or older and are interested in volunteer activities.

Activities:

Clean-up activities on the environment and patrol activities are implemented once a month. You can participate in both or just one.

● Schedule for August & September

Clean-up activities:

Fri. Aug. 28 & Fri. Sept. 25
Time appointed for assembling: 7:30 p.m. & Activity: 8 to 9 p.m.

Patrol activities:

Thurs. Sept. 10

Time appointed for assembling:

7:30 p.m. & Activity: 8 to 9 p.m.

The schedule after October will be announced later.

The gathering place for both activities is the Mikawadai Park. (Roppongi 4-2-27)

● Area: Vicinity of the Roppongi Crossing

*There will be no reward.

The activity will be cancelled when raining and you will be contacted on that day.

● Application; Minato Call

Tel: 03-5472-3710 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Please call Minato Call by 3 p.m. on the day before the volunteer day.



This is a list of the main parks within the Azabu region.

#1 Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park

Location

5-7-29 Minami Azabu

Outline of The Facility

Area: 67,131.11 square meters

This is an elegant Japanese garden surrounded by nature like hills, mountains, streams, and ponds which harnesses Azabu highland's very-widely landscape. Plum trees; cherry trees; Minato City trees, dogwood trees blossom in spring, Japanese irises in early summer and the Minato City flower, hydrangeas also come out in summer, you can enjoy autumn color of leaves and snow covered scenes in winter.



You will love the natural beauty of each season.

There are many facilities such as a baseball field, tennis courts, and the Metropolitan Central Library in the park.

History of the Park

This land was originally the urban mansion of the Morioka Nambu Clan during the Edo era (1600-1867). Later, the Arisugawanomiya Family owned the land and the next Emperor family, Takamatsunomiya governed there.

Since Takamatsunomiya had a deep interest in children's playground under the purpose of child welfare, he donated this land to Tokyo City in 1934. November of the same year, Tokyo City opened the garden as a Memorial Park. Later the north-eastern area was incorporated. This park was placed under the authority of Minato City in 1975 and is loved and visited by a lot of people.

Inquiries:

Public Works Subsection, Collaboration Project Section of Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8803

AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Chi-bus, Minato Library, Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Nishi-Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Ikura Community Welfare Hall, Hommura Community Welfare Hall, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office etc.
● Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

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Sanae Minato
Akira Mori
Ryozo Yamashita

Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

Editor's Note

This is the season of the year where the green leaves and trees look the most vibrant. Beautiful flowers displayed in front of my neighbors front door and glimpses you see over them as you walk down the streets. It's fun to go down the alley of the streets in Azabu to see these sights. We have new members who have joined "The AZABU" from this fiscal year. I am sure that they will be able to introduce Azabu from a new perspective to our readers. Please look forward to it.

(Akiko Hashimoto)

"Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a new city information service, available in English every day from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

*English speakers are also available

Minato Call :

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752
E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp