



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



An environmental friendly hospital which stands next to a park.

Approximately an 8 minutes walk from the Hibiya Line Hiroo Station, the bright orange brick covered building which comes into view on the north side of the Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park is the Aiiiku Hospital.

Aiiiku Hospital's start was on March 13, 1934, when the Showa Emperor in celebration of the birth of the Crown Prince (the current Emperor) decided to use the Imperial donation to start a project in hopes of good health and welfare for mother and child with its starting point founded as the Imperial Gift Foundation BOSHI-AIIKU-KAI. A medical facility was added as a part of the BOSHI-AIIKU KAI later and opened on Dec. 13, 1938.

Despite its long history from the time it was founded to this present day, Aiiiku Hospital is a very flexible hospital responding to the changing times in both infrastructure and increasing its consultation items.

First of all, beautiful flower arrangement at the entrance welcomes the patients. As you go upstairs in the elevator, the paintings hanging on the basically pink wallpaper and wooden furniture used as interior in order to hide medical instruments makes one feel as if they are in a living room and soothes the anxiety of the patients as they wait for their turn. Bulletin boards in English are available inside the hospital and are a user friendly hospital to its foreign patients. The friendly smile and greetings by the nurses and staff back up this environment.

Based on the director's view point of "you can't be gentle and tender to others if you are not comfortable", the shift hours of the staff are considerate as much as possible. As proof of this objective, the system of the medical staff made up of 24 doctors and 117 nursing staff (full-time) has been set to reflect consultation to meet demand of the patients.

The warmth felt in the greeting and attitude of the medical staff is as if it is towards their own family which reassures the patients who come as well as how much the staff is committed to the care of the patients.

Due to the fact there are many foreign patients, although the basic standard is natural birth, one can also consult on watsu (painless delivery) as well. In addition to this, there is maternity-bics available before delivery to neonatal, pediatrics, mother and child health care.. Aiiiku Hospital takes care of delivery to the observation of growth of your child with its various back up systems which are offered and is a reliable entity to get consultation and advice especially under the situation where nuclear families and decrease of birth rate can be seen.

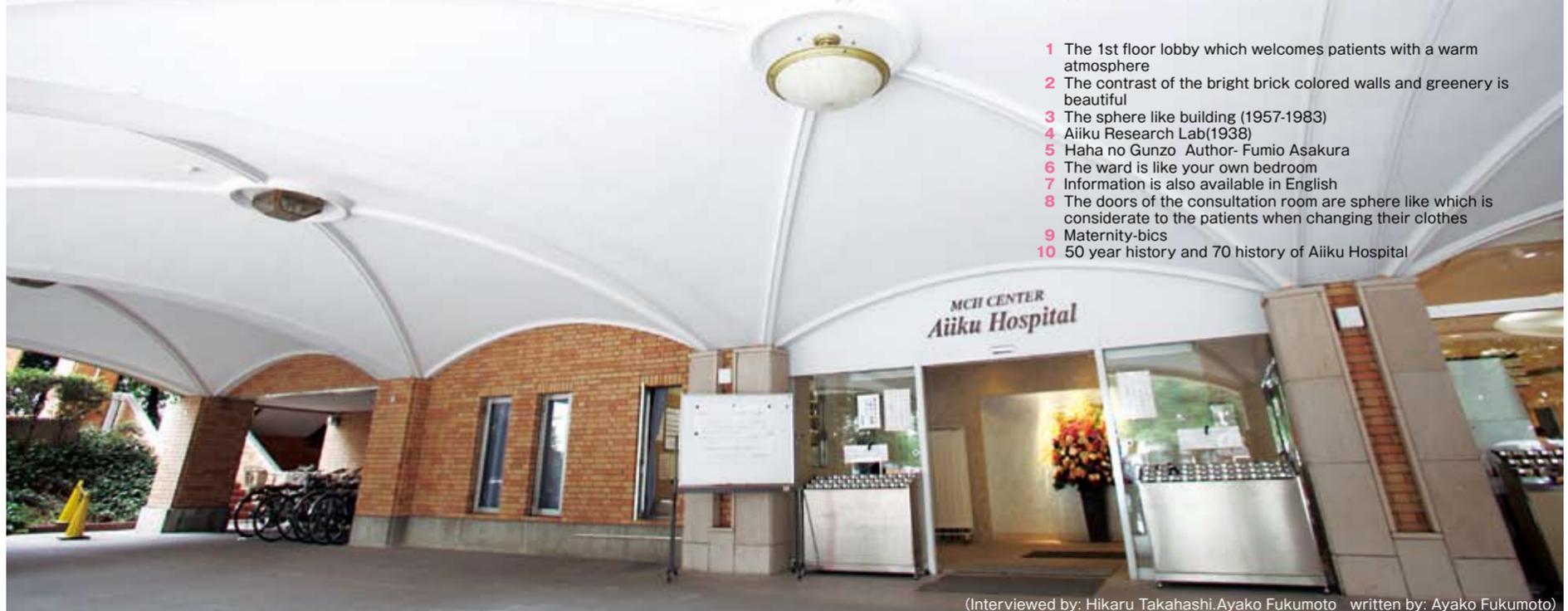
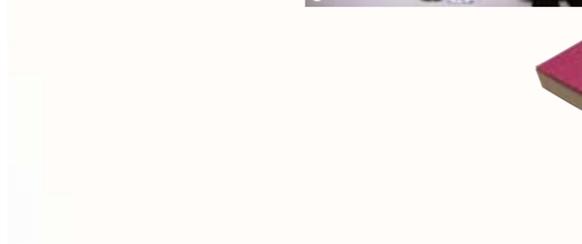
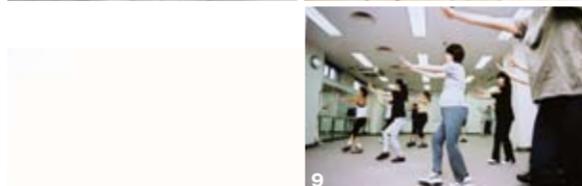
The hospital also offers through medical check up (for ladies only) in addition to delivery and child care.



総合母子保健センター 愛育病院

Maternal & Child Health Center

AIIKU HOSPITAL



- 1 The 1st floor lobby which welcomes patients with a warm atmosphere
- 2 The contrast of the bright brick colored walls and greenery is beautiful
- 3 The sphere like building (1957-1983)
- 4 Aiiiku Research Lab(1938)
- 5 Haha no Gunzo Author- Fumio Asakura
- 6 The ward is like your own bedroom
- 7 Information is also available in English
- 8 The doors of the consultation room are sphere like which is considerate to the patients when changing their clothes
- 9 Maternity-bics
- 10 50 year history and 70 history of Aiiiku Hospital

There has been an increase of people who visit the museums of Roppongi with the opening of Roppongi Hills, Tokyo Mid Town and the National Arts Center, Tokyo. The Ooe Frame Shop which promotes the style of the traditional western frame making since the early days of the Showa period is located a short walk from Roppongi Street towards Tameike. Yoichi Ooe (76 years old) is the 2nd generation owner of this shop. He has seen the changing of times of this area since his childhood.



A brilliant traditional craftsmanship

麻布
ひと

"AZABU - A Human Story"



started the business. My father studied at a frame making school in Shiba before he opened his store in Roppongi. I think it was about a year before I was born. It was just about the time western painting became popular in Japan so it was still a new business.

Western culture was introduced into Japan during the Meiji period and in that was parts used for western paintings (oil paintings). Frames started to be made around the same time and there were many cases where the craftsman would make a more decorative wooden frame than the one requested by the artists. They would be French-style wood carved frames that were painted. It is said that the beginning of this business was when Kenkichi Nagao in 1892, was recommended by Hosui Yamamoto, an artist who had returned from France to build a small workshop at Shiba Atagoyama. Mr. Ooe's father studied the techniques at Shiba and then opened up his business in Roppongi.

I went to help an exhibit of a water-colored painter in Nakano for 10 days when I first just started in this business. Right at that time, Kotaro Takamura was working on a sculptor of a girl at Towada Lake at the painter's atelier. He talked me several times. I started working when I was about 20 years old. There were always apprentice who lived with us at that time because they wanted to learn the craft. When I realized, I was also competing with them as an apprentice. You first start by grinding the wood and then bring the parts together. You then carve the wood, decorate the frame by using plaster, then paint the base then put gold leaf on it but from around my time, the work started to get executed by specialist in wood grinding, carving or painting. There used to be many famous painters who used to live in this area. Like Ryuzaburo Umehara. In those days, our job was like helping the painter. We would get direct requests from the painters themselves back then and once they liked the work submitted, there were many cases that we would get the same request over and over again. The relationship we had with the painters in those days was very interesting. However, as Japan started to develop and then went into the bubble economy, galleries which didn't exist in the past started to work as go-betweens and our direct relationship started disappear. We were always busy in the old days. Those were the good old days. Many painters we used to work with in those days have passed away and it's very

Mr. Ooe's frames are of high quality. The painting will have to be quite a splendid one to make it stand out more than the frame.

sad. There was a painter who always ordered the 100 size frame but when I went to the Nitten Exhibit last year, there was a black ribbon on his work. He was the last person who ordered that size frame. The local people come to by picture frames or frames to put certificates in. I guess I have to build my business in that direction. (Laughs) We also get many people from various embassies as well because of our location. There were many occasions that they would come in their car with the country flag on. I didn't know the names of the



countries in those days. I didn't want them to think that "Japan had no frame shops" so I worked hard. (Laughs) I used to go exhibits in the past every time I could take off. I would realize that I would be looking at the frames only at the exhibits from overseas. (Laughs) But, you know, frames shouldn't stand out. It's the painting which has to stand out. I can tell the frames I made when I see them at exhibits. When I went to see the Nitten Exhibit 100th Year Anniversary at the department store I would think, "I remember this one". It makes me happy because it means the artist likes the frame.

The interview we had with Mt. Ooe was to us like a monochrome film of the past as he explained the past of Roppongi area and it turned out to be a very meaningful and interesting interview. His beautiful wife who sitting in the corner during the interview happened to come to Mr Ooe's shop with her friend who was a Japanese style painter looking for a frame and that was how their relationship started and then they got married. Being committed to ones job in one location can also bring wonderful gifts like his encounter with his wife, I thought. In a sense, the works by Mr. Ooe are all like a piece of artwork as each of the frames are very profound and although the frames are decorated it is done solely for the purpose of highlighting the painting itself, as Mr. Ooe says. His work is truly a piece of superb craftsmanship.

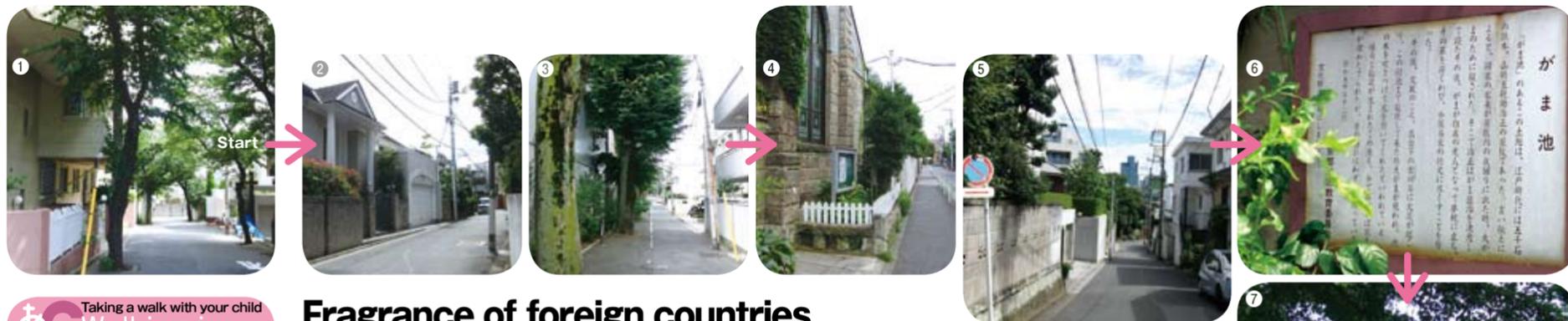
(Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Akira Mori, Miyuki Ito, Written by: Miyuki Ito)

"You can't make it stand out."

Ooe Frame Shop
Yoichi Ooe
(76 years old)



I was born here in 1933. When I was small, this side and the other side (the current Roppongi Street) were full of small shops. A cutlery store, dog shop, bird shop, coffee shop, if you walked down there were boarding houses, a tofu shop, bed shop, shoe shop, and a beauty parlor run by a Russian. And there was a hat shop. We used to call the shop a chapeau shop and there were hats with fluffy feathers decorated on them. There were many stores like that. It was a very western style town. There were many bath houses and I used to go to a bath house called Enma-Yu near the cemetery. There was a wooden sculptor of the devil inside a roped area and next to that was the bath house. There were even people who offered money to the statue. I would drop by the book store everyday on my way back from the bath house. Book stores are like a reflection of the culture of the community. There was a building up the hill where the first floor was a market and the 2nd floor were likes seats of a kabuki theater. It would be so quiet at night that you could hear the sound of the machinery from that market. It was a noise that would make me fall asleep. I was sent to Naoetsu in Niigata for 3 years during the war and when I returned everything had burnt down and nothing was left. Many people were living inside the air raid shelters at the Mikawadai Park and the elementary schools. This area was Ichibeicho when I was born. The streets were expanded during the Olympic Games and it became Mikawadai. In those days, the back streets were the main streets. The women working at the spinning factory near Tameike would always use the back streets to go to work. (A narrow road ran from in front of Mikawadai Park to Tameike.) My father had already



Fragrance of foreign countries in a serene setting, walking down the slopes of Moto Azabu

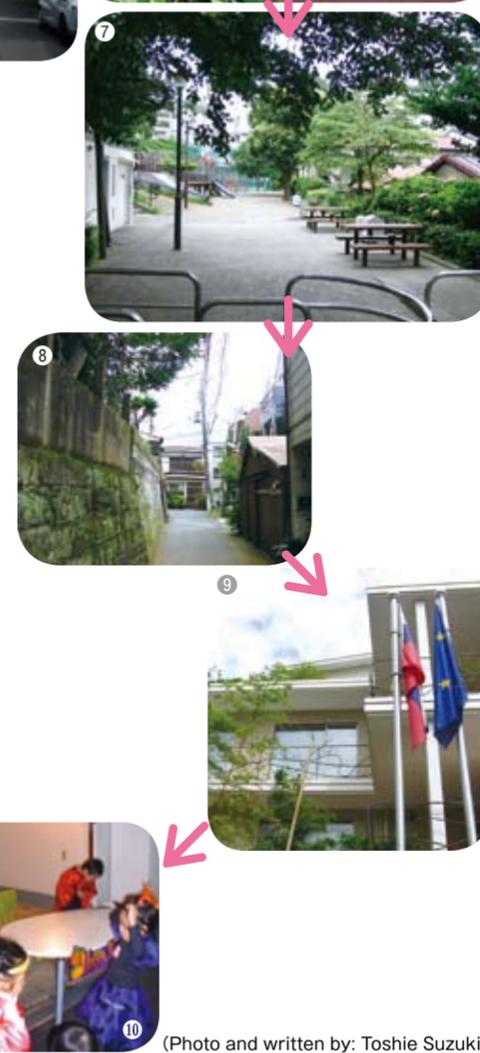
We start our walk this time from a residential area located in an alley with the Sports Field in the background which can be reached by crossing the Azabu Sports Field crossing close to the Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park which we introduced to you in the previous edition. As you enter through the green arch ① and walk into the residential area, you notice that there are hardly any cars that go by so you can enjoy a quiet walk with your stroller. If you take a right when you reach the dead end, ② and walk towards the Moto Azabu Forest Tower, you can come in contact with historical buildings selected by the Tokyo Metropolitan government such as the Nishimachi International School Main Building (the former estate of Shokuma Matsukata, ③ currently under renovation) or the United Church of Christ in Japan Ando Kinen Church passed the school ④. You can go down the hill towards the pine tree or take a left at the dead end and ② go down an easy slope. Then right where the road has a sharp turn ⑤ is a small bulletin you probably would pass by. ⑥ The bulletin has information on the Juban Inari Shrine's episode of the "Gamaike Legend". One feels

as if they have made a time slip and you might feel that you have to soon leave for Azabu Juban but your child probably wants to play so why not drop by the Miyamura Children's Park located on the way down the slope. ⑦ The wide slide is popular at this park and you can also play with balls inside a netted area so its perfect if you're with more than one child. If you go down the slope from the narrow alley by the park, it will take you to the Azabu Juban Shopping Street. ⑧ This particular area happens to have international schools and many embassies which create a cosmopolitan atmosphere. ⑨ This residential area which is very quiet changes during Halloween which takes place in October with the Halloween ornaments decorated everywhere and streets filled with children's voices as they walk down the disguised at night. ⑩ There are many narrow alleys which look alike and stairs so if you are thinking of participating with your child in a stroller; we recommend you take a walk in this area beforehand.

[Regarding Selection of Historical Buildings by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government]

Tokyo Metropolitan Government City Landscape Ordinance 22nd Amendment are historical buildings selected by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government with the consent of the property owner which the Tokyo Metropolitan Government determined were important to the city landscape. (Excluding cultural assets). There are 73 buildings selected under this criterion as of March, 2009. Please refer to the Tokyo Urban Development Department homepage for details.

http://www.toshiseibi.metro.tokyo.jp/kenchiku/keikan/machinami_09.html



(Photo and written by: Toshie Suzuki)



What makes you happy being a police officer?
 (Left) Sergeant Kazuya Kozuma
 "When I get comments such as thank you very much. All the difficulties and hard tasks are rewarded."
 (Right) Senior Policewoman Mika Akiho
 "When I see the children follow the traffic rules which I explained to them at school."

There are a lot of different jobs.
Police Officers
 of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department

Striving to protect peace and harmony of Tokyo residents' daily lives

We visited Police Sergeant Kazuya Kozuma of the Community Police Affairs Section and Senior Policewoman Mika Akiho of the Traffic Section of Azabu Police Station, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department. Their task is to protect the daily life of the people.

Our junior editors, Hibiki Ohmura and Taichi Suzuki accompanied us on the interview. They got on a patrol car wearing the uniform of the motorcycle policeman or policewoman. Taking fingerprints in the Identification Branch was also included in their experience.

What kind of work do you do?

Police officers of the Community Police Affairs Section are stationed at Kobans to protect the safety of the community by interacting with them. For example, responding to 110 emergency calls and going on patrols. If the incident they handled is a criminal case, the Criminal Investigation Section takes over the duty. If it is a traffic accident, the Traffic Section handles the case.

Police officers of the Traffic Section are in-charge of controlling traffic, instructing traffic rules, and handling traffic accidents. Communication skills are important as they contact with people throughout their duties.

How can you become a police officer?

First, you have to take an examination in order to become a police officer. It consists of questions on the general knowledge and the subjects you learned at school, essay, interview, and so on. When you pass the examination, you enter the Police Academy to learn about the basics and to acquire the technical knowledge required to be a police officer.

Since the mission of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department is protecting the citizens of Tokyo, one must cultivate unshakeable principle as a police officer as well as acquire the technical knowledge. Judo and Kendo are also practiced to build up strong body and mind. After gaining experience at police stations, police officers return to the Police Academy on many occasions. Thus, respectable police officers are fostered.

Information on recruitment: <http://www.keishicho.metro.tokyo.jp/saiyou/moushikomi/guide.htm>

Any messages to the citizens of Azabu area?

Police officers of the Community Police Affairs Section and the Traffic Section work on the street. In Azabu Police Station we have other sections in charge of investigation, crime prevention, and so on. The police officers in those sections are ready to hear from and give advice to you about the cases such as bag snatches and bank transfer scams. Please feel free to visit us when you are in trouble.

Hibiki: "The uniform of the motorcycle policeman looks nice, but it is really heavy in weight and also very hot when you wear it. I think it should be hard to work in that uniform."
 Taichi: "It was amazing that I could take fingerprints by using this magic powder!" They both seem to understand that they cannot be a police officer just because they want to be.

(Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Hibiki Omura, Toshie Suzuki, Taichi Suzuki, Shiori Ito, Tsuneko Ishiyama)
 Written by: Shiori Ito, Tsuneko Ishiyama,)

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

KIDS' Hello Work



(Top Left) Posing in uniform with the police motorcycle. The helmet was too heavy!
 (Top Right) "The car in front, stop!" Warning a car breaking the traffic rule. He was curious about all the unfamiliar buttons inside the patrol car.
 (Bottom Right) The Identification Branch officer taught us how to dust for fingerprints. They both wore the cap of the branch and successfully took fingerprints.





The Republic of Costa Rica
 Size: 51,100 square kilometers.
 (about the size of Kyushu and Shikoku combined)
 Population: Approximately 4.5 million people (2007 World Bank)
 Capital: San Jose
 (northern latitude of 10 degrees, 1,200 meters altitude)
 Ethnic Groups: 95% Whites and mestizos, 3% Blacks and 2% Indigenous
 Language: Spanish
 Religion: Roman Catholicism, but freedom of religion is guaranteed
 Government: Constitutional democracy
 Head of State: President Óscar Arias Sánchez
 (May, 2006 - May, 2010, 4 year term - may stand again for elections after 8 years out of office)
 Assembly: Legislative Assembly
 (4 year term with no eligibility for re-election)
 Foreign Ministry Web Site
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/costarica/>



Interview conducted with the cooperation of the Costa Rican Embassy

From the "World" of Azabu



A developed nation whose people have a rich sense of humanity & a country which conserves nature and has no military

The Republic of Costa Rica is a country located in Central America which was discovered by Columbus in the early 16th century (when he landed in Limón) and later declared its independence in 1848.

The blue color of the national flag stands for the sky, the white for peace and the red (surrounding the coat of arms) for the blood spilt by martyrs in defense of the country. The coat of arms has Central American Union written on the upper blue ribbon and *Republica de Costa Rica* (Republic of Costa Rica) on the lower white ribbon. *Rica* means *rich* and *costa* means *coast*. The center of the coat of arms depicts the three active Costa Rican volcanoes with the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean in front and the Pacific Ocean in back, connecting the nation to the world. On both sides of it are merchant ships which carry coffee and agricultural products. On the horizon is the rising sun, indicating independence, and an arch of seven stars representing the provinces of the republic and surrounded by golden coffee beans.

The national flag, with its coat of arms, fully symbolizes the history and spirit of Costa Rica. Costa Rica is one of the leading nations with respect to economy, health, education and natural conservation and is an inspiration and example for many countries.

To summarize Ambassador Mario Fernandez Silva's words, it is clear that Costa Rican people live their daily lives based on a great respect for human rights which is an important aspect of the country in general.

Human rights here refer to both the basic freedoms and needs of all people, as well as the need to consider the importance of all humanity. Words are used as one of the main media of communication when making adjustments between individual human beings, and it is only humans who can fight without using physical force, but it is very difficult to solve issues involving international relationships strictly by means of diplomacy.

However, as a result of this concern for human rights, Costa Rica constitutionally abolished its army permanently in 1949. Former President Óscar Arias received the noble prize in 1987 for his contributions to peace in Central America. The proceeds from coffee bean and banana exports to be allotted to the military were used for the people's education, and recently Costa Rica's economy has developed dramatically as it has become an industrial nation.

Costa Rica was a poor country when it first declared its independence. So how did this country come to be called the best of the Central American countries? In those days, the people worked very hard to produce and sell high-quality coffee for profit; however, these profits were not used



selfishly, but were rather used to recruit teachers and build schools. Some profit was also used to invest in facilities such as museums and the development of the high-quality of education which eventually contributed to making the nation rich. We could clearly understand from the ambassador's conversation how the people prioritized human equality and peace over their own self-interest. Under the theme of environmental conservation, the people took careful consideration of their interactions with nature and the country was honored in *Newsweek* as the world's *green leader*. Over 20% of the country is protected reserves containing 5 % of the world's plants and animals. The country preserves sea turtles and whales along with over 850 species of birds, and it is said that there are over 1,000 species of butterflies. According to the Ambassador, there is a special preservation policy in force so that jaguars, which are rare animals, can travel across to its western neighbor, Nicaragua, and to its southern neighbor, Panama. Costa Rica became an unarmed neutral nation by abolishing its army even when the Central American nations were fighting endlessly. Although this nation can not be said to be a big country, judged by population or size, they have been successful in their approaches to economy, education and environment. There are a lot that nations around the world can learn from Costa Rica.

(Interview by: Chie Kato and Akira Mori)

Costa Rica



- 1 H.E. Plenipotentiary Ambassador Mario Fernandez Silva likes to take photographs as a hobby. He is very talented and has received awards for his photography in contests
- 2 Costa Rican beer
- 3 Coffee beans with different unique flavors
- 4 A traditional cart used to transport coffee beans
- 5 The Ambassador with his daughter during a visit to Japan

Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



Importer, interpreter, translator "Agenda" owner

Melanie Brock



Melanie's office is also her showroom. The beautifully displayed products range from wine vinegar, olive oil, and cookies from her native Australia, to herbal energy drinks from the U.K. Her work keeps her busy both in Japan and on regular trips overseas.

Fulfilling the high expectations of the Japanese market.

Melanie Brock is the owner of Agenda, which is located on the south side of Sendaizaka crossing. In addition to importing food from her home country of Australia, she represents a number of overseas suppliers, and also works as a consultant for companies both within and outside of Japan. These various roles as a bridge between foreign countries and Japan keep her extremely busy from day to day.

She chose the name "Agenda" for her company because it means "items for discussion or actioning", which is broad enough to cover the multitude of deals with which she is currently involved as well as those she hopes to be handling in the future. The ellipsis mark in the company logo embodies this open-ended philosophy.



Melanie first came to Japan as a Rotary Club exchange student for one year to a high school in Aomori. After returning to her native

Albany, she majored in Japanese at the University of Western Australia. She then returned to Japan to study Japanese and interpreting, and commenced a career as an interpreter.

Melanie has lived in the Azabu area for 14 years and is very happy to call the town home. "It is the place I love the most in all of Japan", she declares. Having

raised two children here, she remains friends with the mothers she met at nursery and primary school.

Surprisingly, despite her long association with Japan, Melanie's first choice of destination as an exchange student was in fact Europe. However, after the initial bewilderment of a completely foreign culture, she soon found her feet, and now, listening to her speak fluently about her life and career here, we cannot help feeling that it was fate that brought her to Japan.

When we asked Melanie what she liked about Japan, we did not receive a direct, stereotyped answer such as food or art. Instead, as our conversation ranged widely across a number of different topics, it was clear that Melanie resonates with Japan and its people. She has an excellent understanding of Japan's culture, business style, and respect for the Japanese people. These abilities help her to give sound and practical advice to her multinational clients.

Melanie calls Roppongi Hills a "city", whereas she feels that Azabu is more like a "village". Her fondness for her local village is palpable as we listen to her talk frankly about her life in Japan. She feels that Azabu Juban is a stylish and easy place for foreigners to live but hopes also that people will respect the traditional shops and businesses in Azabu Juban that give it so much of its character.

(Interview by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Ayako Fukumoto
written by: Ayako Fukumoto)

地域社会

の "The Local Community"

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2

[What The Roppongi Hills Town Council Aims For]

A newly born gigantic town council

The Azabu region has over 40 town and local councils with a long history. The Roppongi Hills Town Council which was founded in 2004 is one of the youngest town councils. The number of council members including residents, shops to those who work in the offices comes to over one thousand people. Mr. Hakurin Nakae, the vice chairman of the town council told us, "We want to contribute in making Roppongi Hills attractive but always revitalizing the community activities to tie it with those who live and work here."

In order to achieve that, alignment with the consolidating owner of Roppongi Hills, Mori Building, is very important. It is critical to cooperate with the corporations in order to smoothly run this huge town council. In addition, it is also important to integrate with the Minato City Office as well as the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and neighboring town councils in detail as well as aggressively participate in the various town and local council meetings as a member of the local community.

The biggest target of the town council, "to create a safe and secure town to live in"

Community activities of the town council are diverse, however, what especially should be mentioned is the disaster prevention drill. An earthquake drill takes place every year in January in these ultra high rises and a large scale evacuation and first aid drill takes place. The drills take place with an objective



Photo: Provided by the Yomiuri Newspaper Tokyo Headquarter

of creating a town where people can evacuate to and not one they run away from at times of emergency. Due to this objective, each person participates in the drill over and over again and it becomes important to be highly active during emergencies. Each member calls on their neighbors or colleagues to have as many town council members participate.

There are 10 menus; ① Experiencing the earthquake simulator, ② The smoke drill house, ③ The automated external defibrillator, AED ④ First aid methods, ⑤ How to use the fire extinguishers, ⑥ Transporting emergency patients, ⑦ Rope work, ⑧ Explanation on the well for emergency usage, ⑨ Tasting emergency food, ⑩ Distributing miscellaneous items. Everyone can participate in any of the drills.

At time of emergencies, one needs to be able to take care of themselves= self help, help each other= mutual help, and public help= by the fire department and local government. These are all important. What is most important of them all is probably being able to take care of yourselves at times of emergencies. That's why there are many

emergency drills planned so you can be prepared.

"I would like as many members to participate in and experience the emergency drills. It's important to be conscious that you may end up helping others at times of emergencies.", emphasizes Mr. Nakae.

Cleaning Up Roppongi

The many people who gather on every 3rd Saturday in front of 66 Plaza at 9 a.m are the volunteers of "Cleaning Up Roppongi". Of course members other than the town council are also welcome. Over 130 people gather every time and are divided into 3 to 4 groups and go into their cleaning activities mainly around the Roppongi crossing. Collaboration with other cleaning volunteers takes place aggressively and it has become established these days as a community contribution activity.

We are asking that registrations take place 3 days prior as a rule due to insurance related problems and should be made to the town council office. (Please call the town council office at 03-6406-6383.)

There are other town council activities which take place. They are planning to expand their activities regardless of age or nationality of residents or those who work in the city and will be opening up a home page to make announcements. It will be a town council that we can all look forward to.

(Interview and written by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi)



Photo: Provided by Mori Building

Site of The Residence of the Imperial family used to be located at Azabu Ichibei-cho and right across from there was the official residence of Shigeru Yoshida when he was the Foreign Minister, adjacently across from there was Yamagata Hotel, the family house of actor, Isao Yamagata and a little distance from there was writer, Kafu Nagai's "Henki Kan".

Azabu Ichibei-cho Story 2

"Henki Kan-Eccentric House"

麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

The atmosphere of Ichibei-cho area written by Kafu Nagai

In the autobiography inside "Danchotei Nichijyo" (diary) of Kafu Nagai (1879-1959) is written that Kafu (pen name of Sokichi Nagai) failed to pass the entrance examination of the Daiichi High School (forerunner of Tokyo University) in 1897. He continued to quote, "I preferred to write novels from that time... and published my works" and "I aimlessly immerse myself literary art" saying that he spent his days this way. His father who was concerned sent him to study in Canada and Michigan in the U.S and where he worked for the Yokohama Shyokin Bank in New York in 1905. He then continued to travel to France and visited Paris and England in 1907 and then returned to Japan. He became a professor at Keio University, Department of Literature in 1910, recommended by Ohgai Mori. He retired in 1916 ※ 1 and started earning a living as a writer. He received the Order of Culture in 1952.

Nagai is famous for his novels such as "Bokutō Kidan"(A Strange Tale from East of the River). He liked the downtown area and took walks in these areas and he especially liked Asakusa and Ginza where he got a lot of inspiration for his works from these towns. He wrote "Hiyori Geta Ichimei Tokyo Sansaku Ki" in 1915. He challenged living in Kobiki-cho in 1917 and the back alleys of Tsukiji the following year, however, he writes that "the sordid atmosphere...was unhygienic" ※ 2 so, therefore, he only resided in the downtown area for a short period.

He transfers his residence from the downtown of Tokyo to the upper town area and came to Azabu Ichibei-cho. Kafu writes about the atmosphere of the Azabu Ichibei-cho area in those days. Uphill of Reinanzaka was the open land of the Imperial Household Agency, and farther away the old pine tree of Yotsuya

Mitsuke comes into view through the forest of both of the Sanno and Hikawa Shrine behind the houses of Akasaka. During the crimson of autumn, the view of golden sunset in the evening is spectacular and when the mist settles in at night, the lamplights of each houses veiled in a violet color are comforting. He quotes that behind the forest of Hikawa was the dreary looking barracks of the army and if that wasn't there that here was one of the best scenic and superb views of Tokyo. ※ 3

He rents a land of 66m² at Azabu Ichibei-cho 1-6 with a narrow garden. He builds a painted western style house because he wanted to experience western culture and names it the Henki Kan and he intended to lead a secluded life. ※ 4 Through his window the lights of the hotel on the valley was like a revolving lantern of people's shadows. The hotel he quotes in this was probably the Yamagata Hotel which was run by the father of actor, Isao Yamagata and he probably saw the shadows of people in the window. Isao Yamagata says that he saw Kafu in the restaurant of the hotel when he was a child. ※ 5 He lived at the Henki Kan for 26 years from May 23, 1920 to March 10, 1945 until the building burnt down.

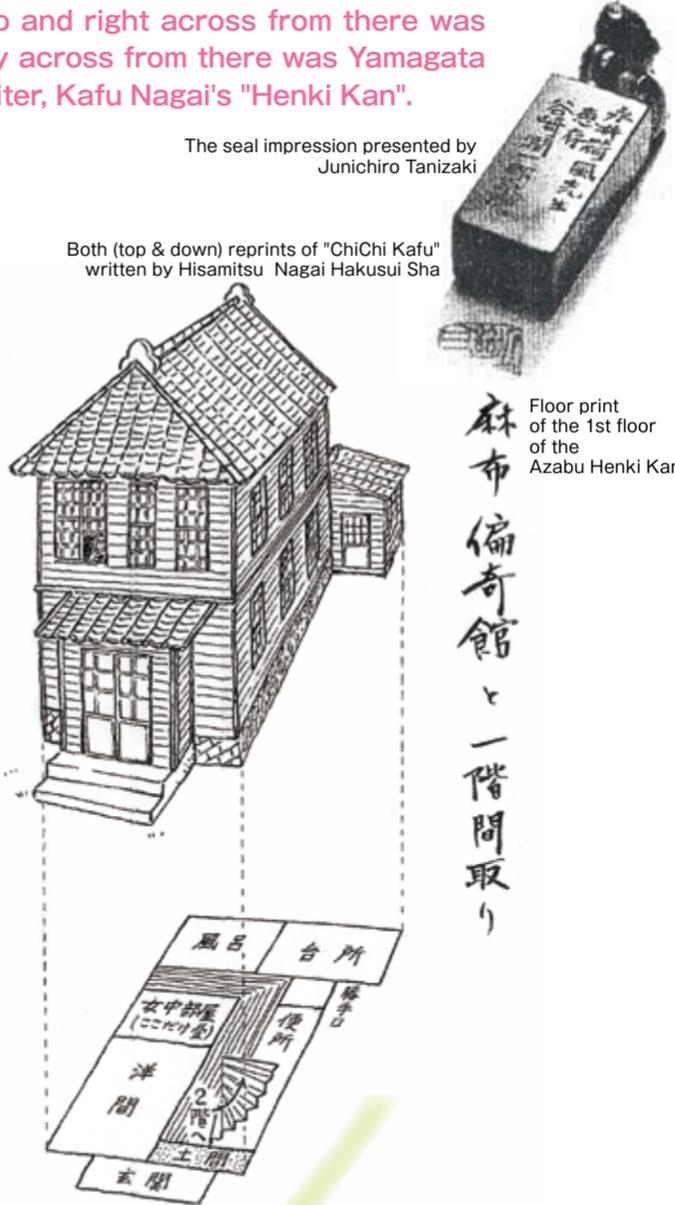
"In my hermitage, old books, miswritten paper, singing of the insects"

Kafu wrote a poem in November, 1943. ※ 6 "I stay at home and am surrounded with books from Chinese literature to Proust and if I make a mistake in my writing, that paper would become waste. My comrades are the autumn sounds of the insects. I feel that this is how retirement would be like."

HenkiKan burned down

He writes in his diary dated Dec. 1941, "Special news that Japan and the United States goes to war." ※ 7

At 4 a.m. on March 10, 1945, 5 months before the end of the war is declared, Henki Kan burns down in an air raid.



The seal impression presented by Junichiro Tanizaki

Both (top & down) reprints of "ChiChi Kafu" written by Hisamitsu Nagai Hokusui Sha

Floor print of the 1st floor of the Azabu Henki Kan

It seems like Kafu knew that this would happen. He writes in his diary, "I hear the voices of my neighbors and the fire shining from the window and in panic grab my bag with my works and writing drafts and run to the garden. I see the flames engulfing the red district." Kafu realizes that this fire can not be stopped and decides to watch his Henki Kan burn down and goes to the open land on the side of the Spain Embassy from Reinanzaka but was not able to see the building. He writes that all he could see were flames reaching out to the sky. "I realize that all my collection of books burned down at Henki Kan in those moments." ※ 8

The following day, on March 11th, his cousin's son digs out the seal impression that was presented from Junichiro Tanizaki, his father's tea ceremony cup etc from the rubbles. He wrote in his diary, "I keep these as memories of my suffering." ※ 9 There is more to this seal impression. On the seal which was 5.8 cm high, 1.7 cm wide and 1.4 cm in depth was engraved the Danchotei. On the area where you put your finger was engraved to Mr. Kafu Nagai with respect from Junichiro Tanizaki and guardian dogs were engraved on the top of it. In later years when the complete works of Kafu Nagai was published, the wife of his adopted son, Hisamitsu, who was cousin's second son of Kafu, used this seal on each of the imprints. ※ 10

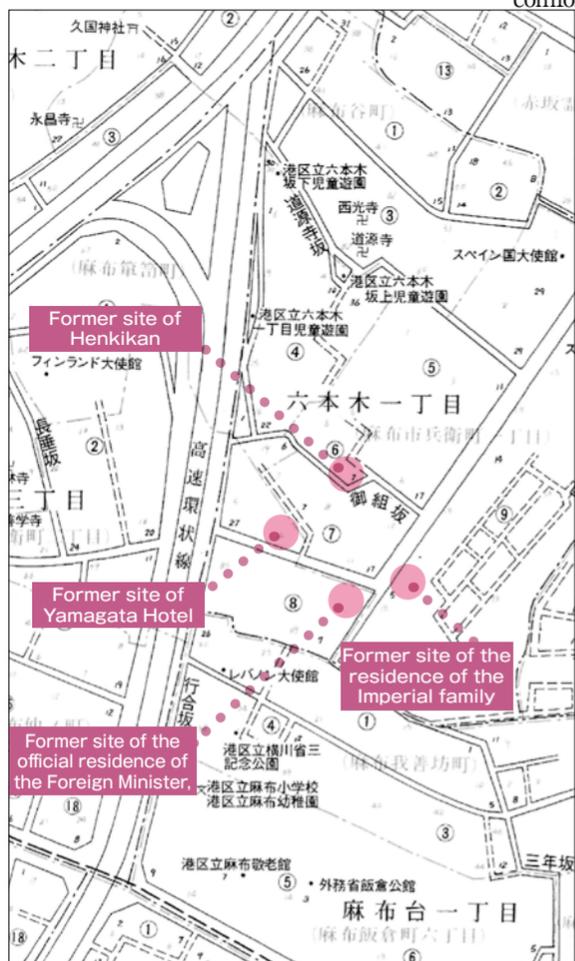
Kafu visited in Ichibei-cho October, 1949, 4 years after Henki Kan burnt down. He writes, "A Japanese style building is being built at my former place and I saw 2-3 carpenters." "The land owned by the Prince Higashikuni has all burned down but the old cherry blossom tree still remained standing there." He then disappeared into the night of Ginza passing through Shimbashi. ※ 11

As usual, Kafu was wearing his hat and using his umbrella instead of a cane.

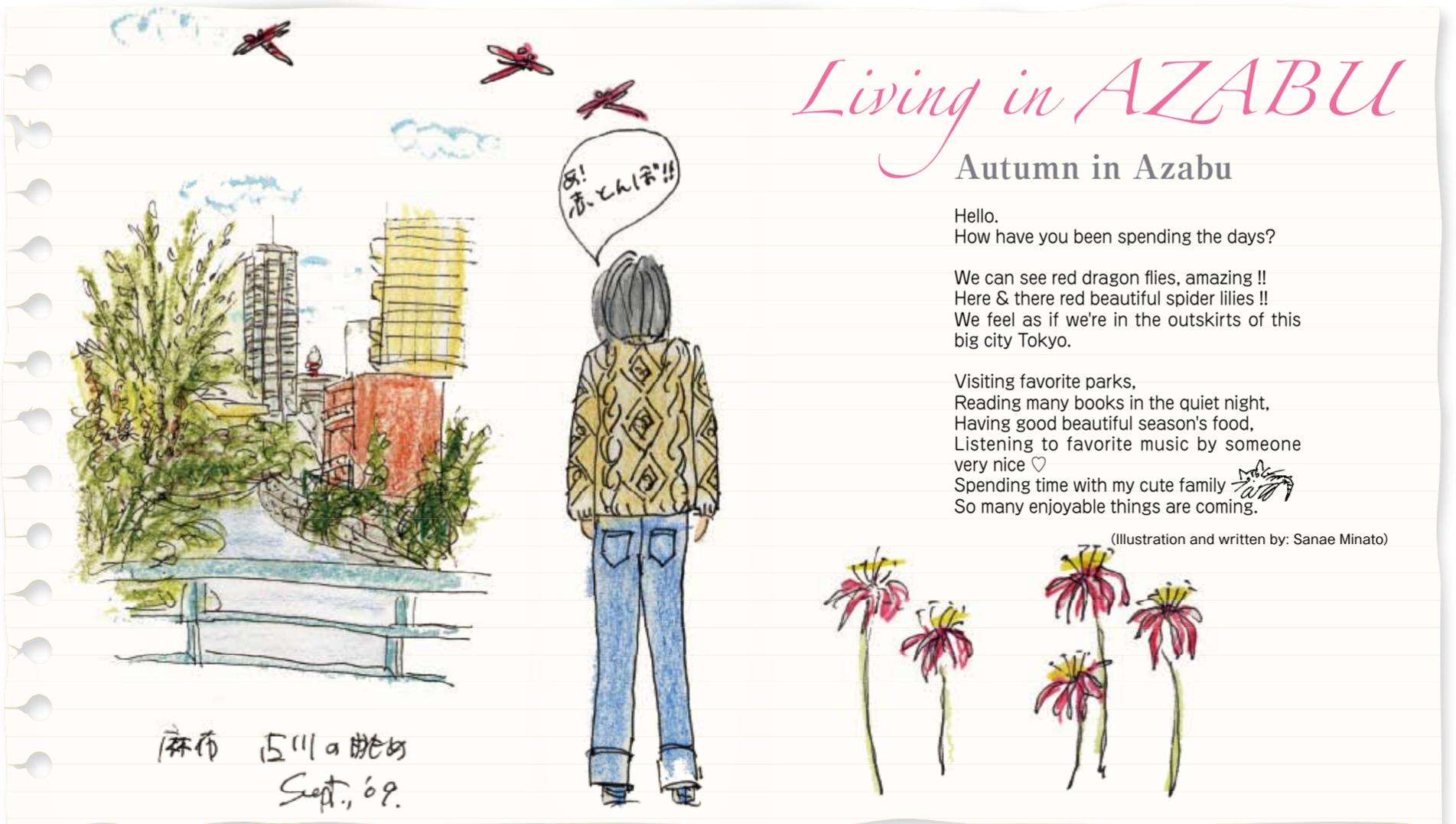
- ※ 1 Kafu Nagai "Danchōtei Nichijō First Volume" pg 131-132, Iwanami Shoten
- ※ 2 Kafu Nagai "op.cit. First Volume" pg 31
- ※ 3 Sokichi Nagai "Henkikan Manroku" pg 110
15 Volumes of Kafu Nagai's Complete Works Iwanami Shoten
- ※ 4 Kafu Nagai "op.cit. First Volume" pg 37
Sokichi Nagai "op.cit." pg 85 15 Volumes of Kafu Nagai's Complete Works
- ※ 5 Sokichi Nagai "op.cit." pg 8
15 Volumes of Kafu Nagai's Complete Works
Kafu Nagai "op.cit. First Volume" pg 247
Saburo Kawamoto "Kafu Kojitu" pg iii Iwanami Shoten
- ※ 6 Sokichi Nagai "Henki Kan Manroku" pg 481
11 Volumes of Kafu Nagai's Complete Works
- ※ 7 Kafu Nagai "Danchōtei Nichijō Second Volume" pg 158 Iwanami Shoten
- ※ 8 Kafu Nagai "op.cit. Second Volume" pg 252-254
- ※ 9 Kafu Nagai "op.cit. Second Volume" pg 256
- ※ 10 Hisamitsu Nagai "Chichi Kafu" pg 72-74 Hokusui Sha
- ※ 11 Kafu Nagai "op.cit. Second Volume" pg 334

Name have omitted title in this article

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



Minato Modern Historical Map Azabu-Roppongi 1976
Owned by Minato City Local History Museum
The 4 marks were added by Editorial Department



Living in AZABU

Autumn in Azabu

Hello.
How have you been spending the days?

We can see red dragon flies, amazing !!
Here & there red beautiful spider lilies !!
We feel as if we're in the outskirts of this big city Tokyo.

Visiting favorite parks,
Reading many books in the quiet night,
Having good beautiful season's food,
Listening to favorite music by someone very nice ♡
Spending time with my cute family 
So many enjoyable things are coming.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)



The air will get very dry in the coming season then fires can easily break out. In case a fire breaks out, please do not try to put out fire by yourself but notify it your neighborhood and call the emergency number, 119 immediately. Evacuate ASAP if the initial fire extinction fails.

What Do You Do?

Beware of fire! 10 things to do for fire prevention

Fire is a man-made disaster. Don't let your guard down against fire and be mindful and conscientious when handling fire.

1 When you deep fry foods, stay close to the pan.



2 Finish your last cigarette before you go to bed and do not litter cigarettes.



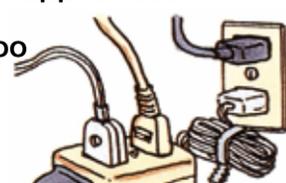
3 Do not leave flammables around the house.



4 Do not allow a child to play with fire such as a match and a cigarette lighter.



5 Use electrical appliances properly and do not plug too many leads into a single socket.



6 Keep flammables away from a heater.



7 Make sure everything is turned off before going to bed.



8 Assign a ground-floor bedroom to a senior citizen.



9 Prepare fire control equipments.



Inquiries: Disaster Prevention Subsection, Disaster Prevention Section
Tel: 03-3578-2111 Ext. 2515

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.



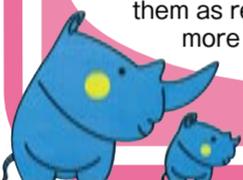
Towels with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments or opinions.

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



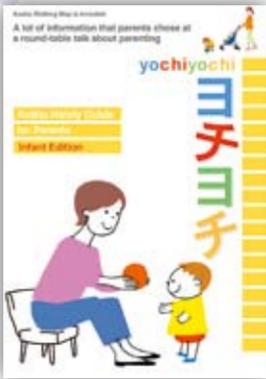
Information from Azabu Regional City Office



An English version of the convenient handbook for child rearing "Yochi Yochi" from Azabu Regional City Office has been published.

The convenient handbook for child rearing titled "Yochi Yochi" which was published in March, 2009 by Azabu Regional City Office is now available in English.

This handbook has information on walking courses in the Azabu area as well as information on shops which offer services for infants to make your child rearing experience a more enjoyable one. We also provide information on services by the local council and facilities of Azabu Regional City Office regarding child care. Please utilize the information available.



Where to get: Azabu regional City Office, nursery schools, children's halls, and pupil's clubs in Azabu district.

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

Azabujuban Temporary Bicycle Parking is Available.

A temporary bicycle parking lot is now available in Azabujuban. Please read the instructions to make sure the rules of using the facility.

Name:
Azabujuban Temporary Bicycle Parking

Address:
1-4-10 Azabujuban
(The bottom of Torii-zaka)



Instructions Regarding Usage of Facility

- This is a short-time parking facility for bicycles and not for motorbikes.
- It is available for anyone and open 24 hours.
- Please read the instructions carefully upon using the facility.
- This is only for short-time usage so bicycles left for a long period will be removed.
- Please be aware that the City Office will not be responsible for theft and accidents within the parking lot.

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



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

#2 Amishiro Park

Location
2-15-1 Azabujuban

Outline of The Facility

Size: 1,358.67 square meters
The park is located close to the Azabu Juban shopping street and is an oasis for the neighborhood. An artificial hill with a big slide at the front has been built on the north side of the park. The disaster prevention storage is set under the slide and the space is used effectively. This artificial hill is very popular for children. Also health appliances which children to seniors can use are equipped and there is a monument titled "Hekisho".



Access

A 2-minute walk from Azabujuban station of Namboku line/Toei Oedo lime.

Inquiries:
Public Works Subsection,
Collaborative Project Section,
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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Sub Chief Miyuki Ito
Staff Kazue Asakawa
Tsuneko Ishiyama
Shiori Ito
Kumiko Omura
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Junior Staff Akane Ishiyama
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Yukiko Takayanagi
Satsuki Nishino
Akiko Hashimoto
Ayako Hukumoto
Sanae Minato
Akira Mori
Ryozyo Yamashita



Editor's Note

I was so busy this summer without having any days off that the only festival I went to was the Bon Odori Dance at Mikawadai Park. I was thinking that this festival would be one where you would feel the city strongly with the night view of the Roppongi Hills behind me but it turned out to be a very warm and nice festival in which I could feel the old days thanks to the effort of the residents of the area. The Roppongi community which you would think were used to enjoying time in the city were like people from the downtown Tokyo area and it made me remember the phrase "one's nearest neighbor" which you don't hear often these days. Now the decision has been reached that we of the The Azabu Newsletter editor's team will be participating in the Azabu Festa 2009!!! Please look forward to it.
(Miyuki Ito)

Sept.14,2009

"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