



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

## Minato Public Koryo Jr. High School



港区立高陵中学校

The Minato Public Koryo Jr. High School stands on top of the Hotta-zaka slope in Nishi Azabu 4 chome. After approximately 2 years of renovation, the new school building was completed and held its completion ceremony in April of this year. The building is completely different from a conventional school building and uses natural material, creating a warm and open atmosphere for the students to study in.

The L-shaped school building which looks down upon the street-lined with zelkova trees of Hotta-zaka slope looks like a 3 storied building, however, because it is built leveraging the slope, it is actually a 5 storied building. The height from off the land was decided under consideration to harmonize with neighboring residential area.

The students go through the piloti when they come to school to go to their shoe locker and proceed to the entrance hall. Since the piloti is all glass, the principal and faculty members can see the children as they arrive. The students go to their respective home base on the 2nd and 3rd floor passing through the wide hallway and stairs. The classroom doors and wall are made of glass which creates a truly open and bright atmosphere. Natural material is used lavishly throughout the building and the classroom doors and walls are framed with wood. This blends in well with the trees seen from the window which makes it hard to believe that this school stands in the middle of a city area.

Although it's a glassed-in school building, the students don't seem to feel nervous as if they are under observation from the outside due to the nature surrounding the area. The students and the teachers identify and respect each other, communicating well inside this forested area they exist in. This spontaneity which can be felt is the most attractive part of this new school building.

Harmonizing with the environment was one of the points of the school design. Partial greening on the rooftop of the gym (arena) has taken place and panels generating solar energy have been installed. The tank to hold rainwater is used for the toilets. Hinoki cypress and cedar thinning which was cut from the "Minato Residents Forest", an exchange project between Minato City and Akiruno City is used for wood in the interior of the building. Usage of thinning encourages the promotion of forest improvement and increases CO2 sinks. The students get to actually feel that they are "contributing to ecology".

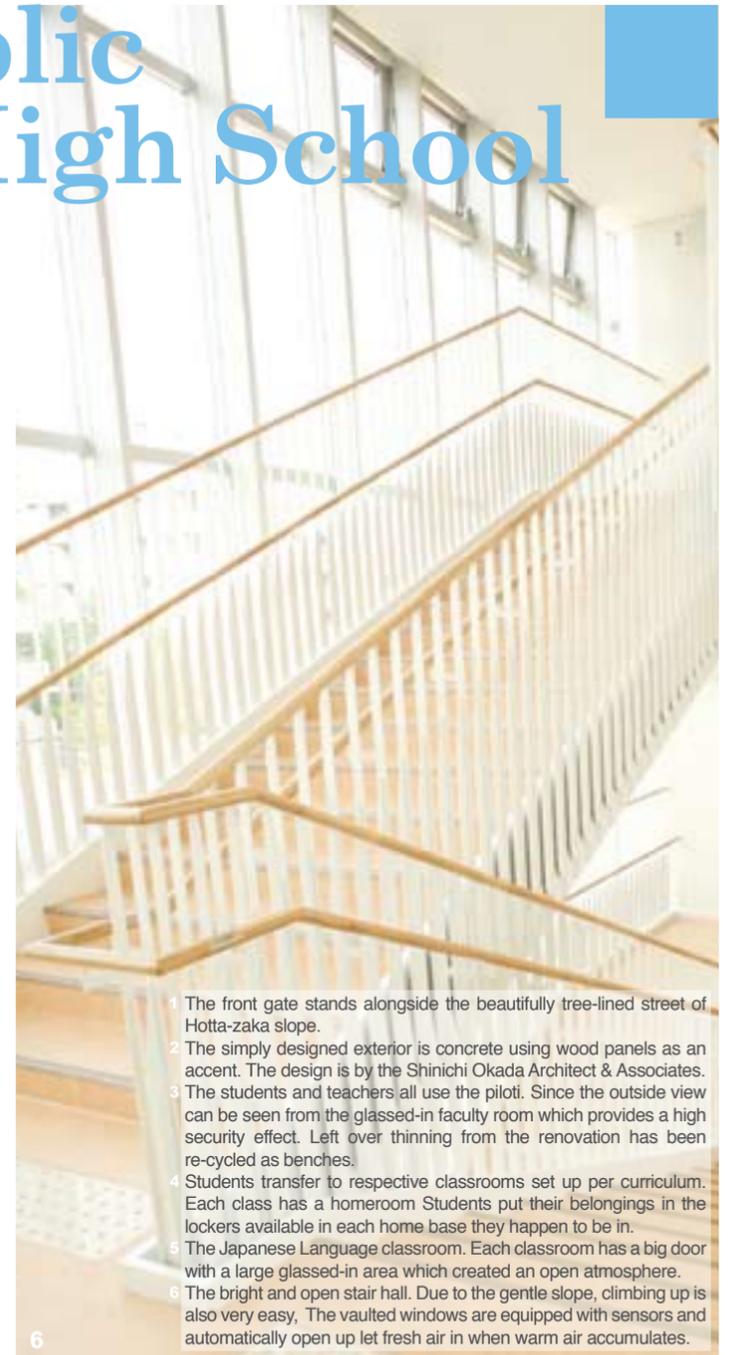
The school opens its doors to the public three times a year. The heated pool in the basement is also available to the community which makes it possible for the residents and those working in Minato City to use it. Aqua exercise under the light shining in from the dry area looks quite relaxing.



11 The media center is a combination of a library and computer room.

12 The name plates on each classroom were created by the students in engineering class. These days there are more students who have come to like detailed work.

13 The hall by the stairs. The walls of the public space used by the students have been painted red. Natural material has been used which allows the students to be able to pin posters on the wall.



- 1 The front gate stands alongside the beautifully tree-lined street of Hotta-zaka slope.
- 2 The simply designed exterior is concrete using wood panels as an accent. The design is by the Shinichi Okada Architect & Associates.
- 3 The students and teachers all use the piloti. Since the outside view can be seen from the glassed-in faculty room which provides a high security effect. Left over thinning from the renovation has been re-cycled as benches.
- 4 Students transfer to respective classrooms set up per curriculum. Each class has a homeroom. Students put their belongings in the lockers available in each home base they happen to be in.
- 5 The Japanese Language classroom. Each classroom has a big door with a large glassed-in area which created an open atmosphere.
- 6 The bright and open stair hall. Due to the gentle slope, climbing up is also very easy. The vaulted windows are equipped with sensors and automatically open up let fresh air in when warm air accumulates.



7 The music room. Although located in the basement, the light from the dry air shines in creating a bright and relaxing atmosphere.

8 Green will eventually be fully planted on the rooftop of the arena. A heat barrier effect is expected. Energy generated from the solar panels is partially used as electricity for the computers and fluorescent lights.

9 The arena on the 2nd floor of the basement is used as an auditorium as well as gym. Students on the school team use this facility over the weekend.

10 The 25m x 6 course lane pool. A floor heating system has been installed along the pool side. Far infra-red heaters have also been installed which provides and the warm room is very comforting.

A cherry blossom viewing event with its doors open to anyone who loved Nishi Azabu took place at the Sankaku Koen Park in April. This event titled the “Wakaba-mi-no-kai” takes place a little after the cherry blossom viewing period and is an event hosted by the shops around the Nishi Azabu 2 chome area. In addition, the main members of the “Taiyo Festival”, the biggest event of Nishi Azabu which takes place once a year, participate in this. Kota Yui, the leader of the event makes a speech before the event starts. He is the son of Masayuki Yui, known for opening the first outdoor shop in Japan in Nishi Azabu, who also became an actor in “Kagemusha” directed by Akira Kurosawa and famous as a sunset critic. This group doesn’t have any rules and the purpose is to enjoy having fun together, however, they are wonderful people who are very enthusiastic and full of love about their town. We focused on Masayuki and Kota Yui, who are the main members of this gathering.

# To become acquainted with all the people who are involved in Nishi Azabu

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“AZABU – A Human Story”



**Masayuki Yui**  
(62 years old)

**Kota Yui**  
(37 years old)

“For Nishi Azabu to continue to be a great place to live in.....”

**Masayuki:** Regarding the Sun Festival ※1, well years ago I was staring at the wall of the Aoyama Cemetery in front of my shop and thought it would be nice if I could hold an exhibit here. Then one day, a fancy shop opened and I became friends with the owner so I discussed this plan with him. We talked about holding a festival and that’s how the Sun Festival started. One of the reasons we named it the Sun Festival is because I, myself, is a “sunset critic” ※2. (Laughs)

**Kota:** The Sun Festival first started through conversations with 4 shops.....and last year we had 35 shops which participated. Everyone are really nice people. And maybe it could be strength of this area. We felt it would be rude if we approached the shops we were friends with by saying “we’re going to be holding a festival, so, please come”. But instead we went to them and said would you like to hold a festival together with us, then everyone said “we’ll participate” and when we realized there were 22 shops” (Laughs) Since I was going around inviting everyone, I ended up working for it as well.

His father, Masayuki, went on a trip around the world after he graduated university. He was intrigued by all the outdoor products while on his trip around the world, and opened “Sports Train”, his first outdoor shop in Nishi Azabu when he returned in 1972 and was the trend setter of the outdoor boom. He was also chosen to play the part of shogun “Ieyasu” out of 15,000 people who auditioned in the movie, “Kagemusha” directed by Akira Kurosawa. He was very close to Mr. Kurosawa right up till when he passed away.



**Masayuki:** I used to direct fashion shows from when I was a university student. Back then, Tokyo was the most fun place for me. But with the convergence of the Vietnam War, all the G.I.s started to disappear and the whole town became very quiet. That’s when I thought I should go out to the world and went on my trip around the world. The outdoor goods were the things I really thought were good every where I went in the world. Everyone came to look at the things I brought back and that’s when I thought, why not start an importing business. I read a book on “fundamental knowledge on trading in English”, (laughs), so, I bought myself a Remington typewriter and started by trading business. There weren’t any outdoor shops at that time and I was thinking of where to start my shop when the fishing hole place I used to go to in Nishi Azabu was selling its right.....but, sales was bad in the beginning. After 3 years, the trend suddenly started and I had customers come everyday. As there is a movie titled “The Seventh Year Itch”, I started to get bored with what I was doing after 7 years and wanted to do something different. That’s when I noticed the ad on the audition of “Kagemusha”. The part to the play the child was still undecided even after the filming started when Mr. Kurosawa saw the picture of Kota piggyback riding on me, which I used for my resume photo and he said bring him in. It only took 3 minutes to make up his mind. (Laughs)



① The interview took place at Kota’s shop; After The Sunset  
② The logo mark of the Sun Festival is handmade. “One Sun, One Love”



Masayuki says that he is a father who respects the will of his children. He was asked by Kurosawa, the world renowned director to bring Kota in, however, Kota didn’t want to go. So he told him that if he came that he would be able to see Godzilla and Ultraman but....

**Kota:** But when I went, there was this dimensional costume of a flattened out head of Godzilla’ hanging. I was so disappointed. (Laughs) I only appeared in that one movie. I don’t know to this day....what my father actually does. (Laughs) During my adolescence, when I would go shopping with my friends and buy clothes, he would say, “hey, this is the very first clothes that I imported.” Then I would say, “I don’t think I want this”. You know how it is during that period of wanting to rebel. He never said anything realistic such as about school or about his business. He was always saying things such as “the book I read just recently about the universe”. I just say that we’re good friends because our last names are the same by coincidence. (Laughs)

It has been 13 years since Kota started his bar, “After The Sunset” on the 2nd floor of his father’s shop “Sports Train”. The Sun Festival which takes place on November 3rd every year marks its 10th time this year. The purpose is to have a fun time, but, to also have everyone related to Nishi Azabu get to know each other. However, in the recent years, the focus seems to be aiming at building new relationships in order to create more excitement in Nishi Azabu. At the “Wakaba-mi-no-kai”, it is not only adults but many young people are also enjoying the gathering together which is heartwarming.

**Kota:** It makes me happy to hear comments such as people who come from one shop say, “so and so was having a fun time there”. If there are acquaintances close by, you can do something to help them and they can help you as well when something happens. That’s why it’s not only those who live and work in Nishi Azabu, but, I would like the passers-by to get to know others using this event as an opportunity. I feel that we can create a wonderful town just by getting to know each other..... I feel that these small steps will eventually connect into contributing to world peace. (Laughs) I’ve been doing this for many years and you notice people get married and come back with their families. The children get acquainted and the circle of friendship spreads. It’s very important to continue. That’s what connecting means, I think.

**Masayuki:** The initial members of the Sun Festival are now leaving in areas like Australia and Ishigaki Island. Those are places I don’t know at all but seems very close just by thinking that they’re there. I’ve got friends everywhere in the world so I feel I don’t need to go anywhere anymore and just stay here. (Laughs) Kota’s a great kid. (Laughs) I’m happy he’s close to me right now, but, you never know, he may find something one day and leave. And I will probably think that’s the best thing to do when that time comes. I think people probably do the best thing at all times. It’s too bad though that people aren’t satisfied with what they do, because, what’s the point of living if not.

During the conversation with Japan’s pioneer of outdoor products, he shared many interesting plans such as “Nishi Azabu Quicksand Project!”. Kota sits next to him and nods his head as if its not surprising at all. When the two say, “if you can’t have fun” there’s no hedonistic connotation behind those words because they truly love to interact with people. The film Kota showed us on the surprise event for Masayuki’s celebration of his 60 years of life showed how much he was loved by everyone and was a movie I really enjoyed and cried which I hadn’t experienced in recent movies. His genius DNA of having fun has definitely been passed down to his son. Having a father and son who are deeply rooted to the town really makes Nishi Azabu a cool place. I look forward to November 3rd.

※1 Sun Festival....An annual event which takes place at Nishi Azabu 2 chome. The participating shops carry out special plans which they normally do not have. A stamp rally of the participating shops also takes place. A totally hand-written Sun Newspaper is published regularly.  
※2 Sunset critic.....Interview after interview took place of Masayuki after he starred in “Kagemusha” and he was asked about his title. His answer of “I’m just an owner of a sports shop” was scoffed away and also Masayuki hates titles, this title was a creative and cool name he came up with. But he loves the sunset. He’s got lots o say about that.



## Minami Azabu Walking (Part 1) “Arisu No Mori” ~ Taking A Walk Around The Neighboring Area Of Former Hommuracho

We meet for our walk in front of “Arisu No Mori – Minami Azabu” ①, the senior citizens welfare center which opened in March of this year and is located on the southern side of the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park. The community exchange space on the 1st floor is open to everybody and the restrooms and shops can also be used. This is a good place to include in our walking course. After getting some drinks and necessary preparation for our walk here, we can finally depart! We walk to the south alongside the facility ② and make a left turn at the first corner. Although this street has many condominiums for the foreign community, the walls and gates seen alongside the street have a very “wa” (Japanese) taste to them which makes one remember about the Shirogane Palace which used to be located in this area during the Edo period. ③ (The Shirogane

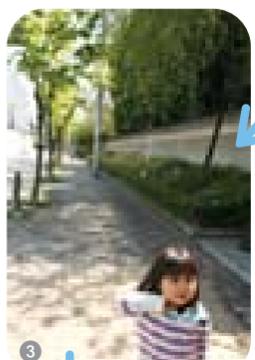
Palace’s alias was Fujimi Palace and is said that this was where the name of the town derives from). Adjacent to the Embassy of Pakistan ④ which was built last year in near Shin-zaka slope, stands the Embassy of Finland ⑤ surrounded by the stone wall of the former Azabu Prince Hotel. One can also enjoy the contrasting exterior of the two embassies.

Ahead of this crossing, alongside the slope which stretches to Hommura Elementary School is Yakko-zaka slope ⑥. Among the

many slopes in Azabu, this is one is unusual in that it goes down then goes up again. As we make a right alongside Hommura Kindergarten ⑦, adjacent to Hommura Elementary School, we come face to face with “Syurakuen”, a fishing hole ⑧ which is quite scarce in the city these days. We spend some time here surrounded with water and wander into the back alley which brings us back to our childhood memories ⑨ and allows us to dwell in the sentiment of the past. ⑩

We then continue to proceed towards Yakuen-zaka slope from here, however, if the steep climb of Yakko-zaka slope is too challenging, you can go down the alley in front of the front gate of the kindergarten in which the slope is much gentle and enjoy an adventurous experience at the same time. ⑪ Take a right as you hit the T of the road from Hommura Nursery School and proceed towards Sendai-zaka ⑫, go past Tenshinji Temple ⑬, you end up at the green arch to enjoy the new green leaves ⑭ along side the Azabu Ground and return back to “Arisu No Mori”.

We were able to see the different “faces” of Azabu this time by coming into contact with the changing town and unchanged area as well. We still have a lot of other places we weren’t able to get to this time which will continue in Part 2 of Minami Azabu Walking so please look forward to it.



(Researched by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi, Yoshie Osawa, Toshie Suzuki Original Japanese text written by: Toshie Suzuki)



Please play a lot with your children and create that precious time together.  
Nursery Staff Jotaro Akiba  
Minami-Azabu Nursery School

## Working With Children To Nurture Their Fun Memories

We visited Jotaro Akiba, a nursery staff at the Minami-Azabu Nursery School this time. The nursery school is a facility for the supervision of preschool children; especially during the hours that their parents are at work, therefore, the job of the nursery staff is to support the nurturing of the children. One tends to imagine that nursery staff are females, however, Jotaro Akiba, is a male nursery staff.

The two junior editors, Taichi and Hibiki both used to go to nursery school, but, it’s been many years since they graduated. They visited the nursery school this time from the perspective of junior editors.

### How did you become a nursery staff?

I wanted to find a job where I could interact with people from when I was in junior high school. I first wanted to go into the field of welfare, however, when I worked as a volunteer at a nursery school for one week after entering high school days, I enjoyed it very much and it was an emotional experience that I decided to go to an university where I could obtain qualification to become a nursery staff. Even then though, I was still interested in other types of work so I did part-time work as well. However, I “loved working with children” which was my biggest reason in choosing the work of a nursery staff.

### What kinds of work do you do?

The day of a nursery staff starts from spending time with the children the moment they arrive at school. Our job covers their daily life overall as we play with them inside and outside the facility, have fun going on walks with them, give them lunch, and, then, making them take a nap. We discuss what to do next or have meetings to discuss the children while they are napping. We make sure that the children can spend time and play safely until their parents come to pick



(Top)  
The junior editors challenge working as assistants at the picture-story show  
(Bottom)  
They show their talents as older brothers & sisters and play with the children as junior nursery staff.

them up. This is repeated everyday, however, since our job is to take care and nurture the children, we feel that we are nurturing “precious lives”.

I’m very conscious about the fact that we are helping to create the foundation for the children to learn how to live as adults. It is very important that we interact with each child as individuals as each child develops and progresses differently.

### What are the moments you enjoy the most in your daily work?

I used to go to kindergarten and I had a hard time parting with my mother so I understand the feeling of a child who cries when parting with their mothers. I also feel that I want the children to have fun memories of the days they played with their friends and nursery staff during their days here, so, I like to go on walks with them and let them come in touch with nature, and take back memories of a fun day.

It is a joy when parents say “thank you” to us for the time we spend with their children. It is also a joy to be able to share the moments of the children growing up and developing which also provides us with opportunities to “develop” as nursery staff along with the children which I think is appealing about this job.

### Do you have a message you want to send to those who want to become future nursery staff?

There is a lot you can learn from nature when playing with the children outside. I would like the children to go outside and discover fun playtimes with their friends. The basic is “spend good time playing, sleeping and eating”! Please also spend a lot of fun times with your friends and laugh a lot while you are children and students. I think it’s important to convey that to the children and to think about having them nurture enjoyable childhood memories.

I felt that in order to create a safe environment for the children to be protected and for them to play in, there should be more male nursery staff as their our fathers and mothers which would help the female nursery staff a lot.  
Taichi: I used to go to a nursery school but I didn’t know that the teachers were thinking about that.

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

# KIDS' Hello Work



(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Shiori Ito, Toshie Suzuki, Taichi Suzuki, Kumiko Omura, Hibiki Omura Original Japanese text written by: Tsuneko Ishiyama)



Republic of Austria  
 Area: Approximately 84,000 sq. kilometers (about the same as Hokkaido)  
 Population: Approximately 8.3 million people  
 Capital: Vienna (population of approximately 1.6 million people)  
 Ethnic Group: Mostly Germanic  
 Language: German  
 Religion: Catholic – approx. 78%, Protestant – approx. 5%  
 Government: Federal Parliamentary  
 Republic divided into 9 states  
 Head of State: President Heinz Fischer (took office on July 8, 2010, 6 year term, re-elected for a second term on April 25th 2010.)  
 Parties: Five parties: Social Democrats (57 seats), People's Party (51 seats), Freedom Party (34 seats), Green Party (20-seats), Alliance for the Future of Austria (16 seats), Independents (5 seats)  
 Federal Chancellor: Werner Faymann

Ambassador Dr. (Mrs.) Jutta Stefan-Bastl  
 Interview and reference by cooperation of the Austrian Embassy in Japan

Visiting the Ambassador 13  
**From the "World" of Azabu**



# Austria

The country of music and balls, gemütlich (warm and congenial) Austria

Since "The Azabu" was started, this is the first opportunity for the editing staff to interview a female Ambassador. We headed to the Embassy of Austria in Moto Azabu full of excitement. The interview took place at the ambassador's residence adjacent to the embassy. After studying law in Graz university, Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has since built her career as a diplomat. After being appointed to China, Slovenia and India, she arrived in Tokyo in June 2007. This year marks her third year in Japan.

The reason for her appointment centering in Asia was because she applied for it. One of the reasons she became a diplomat was because she was interested in the different countries around the world, a sign that she is a true-born diplomat. She preferred appointments in Asian countries because of its old civilizations and great distance from Europe, and she wouldn't get to know the country unless she resided in it. We asked for her comments of each country. India was full of energy and excitement. Being a highly populated country, with great disparity in wealth and a multitude of religions, she said that it was full of diversity which is India's source of energy. China, twenty five years ago, was still very much a communist country. Compared to Japan, she had a harder time to have the Chinese, but also the Indians, understand Austria. Austria is well-known as a country of music and art in Japan, and ranks among the top of the list as a country which people admire and would like to visit. However, in other Asian countries, there's a still a lot that is not known about her country. From that point as well, Japan was a very comfortable country for her to live in.

Music and art are important matters to the Austrian people, sometimes even over politics and the economy. For example, news about a conductor changing orchestras is more important than news about politics on that day. Not limiting its emphasis to the areas of music and arts, efforts are put into education as well. Tuition is free including university. There are endeavors creating an attractive educational environment to invite outstanding foreign researchers to come to Austria.

The population of Austria was on a declining trend; however, immigration allows it to slightly increase the population. The population of Austria is approximately 8.3 million, of which approximately 1.6 million reside in the capital, Vienna. One notices numerous cafes as you walk down the streets of the city. Austrians are hard workers yet there is a relaxing atmosphere and they are known for their coffee house tradition. "Gemütlich" means warm and congenial and the Ambassador told us that there are many places throughout the city which reflect this word. As a side note, a Viennese café which celebrates its 130th year in business this year, has its first overseas coffee house in Aoyama, Tokyo. The Ambassador



goes to this café quite frequently. Their traditional chocolate cake, Sachertorte, has many Japanese fans.

Wiener Schnitzel is also known in Japan in addition to the country's sweets. Wiener Schnitzel consists of pieces of boneless veal which have been thinned out, coated in breadcrumbs and fried. It is a delicious dish with a buttery taste. The country is also proud of its wide selection of wines. I asked her if she cooked but she said that her husband was a better cook. Japan happens to be the Ambassador's last appointment and she plans to retire as a diplomat after she returns next year and so she plans to spend more time preparing cakes after she returns to Vienna.

In ending, she told us an interesting story about Viennese society and balls. The ball season starts from the end of December throughout February and there are over 200 balls in Vienna alone. Once you become a high school student, those who want to learn formal dancing can go to dance classes after school hours. Those selected at the age of around 20 may become debutantes and dance in front of the guests which is a tradition. The ladies wear white formal dresses and dance formal dances such as polonaise and the waltz. The Ambassador's son also went to dance class but couldn't get serious about it. However, as the day of the ball nears, everyone interested becomes excited. The purpose of becoming a debutante is not in dancing well in front of the crowd but to learn about manners and rules of society and this tradition will probably continue to be passed down. The editing staff who saw photographs of the ballroom dancing hosted by the Ambassador in Tokyo were all in awe. A genuine ballroom dancing party in which everyone was formally dressed was truly a dream world to us.

(Interview date: May 6, 2010)  
 (Interviewed by: Chie Kato, Yukiko Takayanagi, Shiori Ito, Tetsuro Kuraishi)  
 Original Japanese text written by: Chie Kato)

① St. Stephen's Cathedral and the surrounding city of Vienna  
 ② Schönbrunn Palace and the garden  
 ③ The Austrians are known as "gemütlich" people. They relax at the cafes in the city  
 ④ The ladies wearing white dresses as debutantes at a ball  
 ⑤ Johann Strauss II known as "The Waltz King"  
 ⑥ "Sachertorte" the famous Austrian chocolate cake loved all around the world  
 ⑦ Wiener Schnitzel, fried veal  
 ①~⑦ and photograph of the national flag:  
 Courtesy of the Austrian National Tourist Office

# Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



International School **Teacher and Musician**  
**John Montgomery**

## I Enjoy Teaching And My Music Activities

When we visited Nishimachi International School in the afternoon of one Sunday, a relaxing sound of a standard number drifted from the music room. It was the sound of John Montgomery, the Social Studies teacher rehearsing with Headmaster, Terry Christian and the other faculty members. Their band, “2 (two) Tone Deluxe” are a full-scale band which also hold live performances. They were enthusiastically rehearsing for an upcoming event on the day we visited them. Watching John’s face full of excitement, rehearsing and singing with his members made me think that this is probably how the children look when they are in this music room!

John was born in Los Gatos, a town located in North California, U.S.A. He obtained his teaching license at San Jose State University and then studied Education at the University of San Francisco. After that, in order to realize his dream of teaching abroad, he started job hunting and in the beginning thought about going to Europe.

By chance, he came to Japan in 1979, after being hired as a teacher for a English Conversation School in Mishima. That was where fate brought him together with his wife, Chizuko, and they got married the following year. They were blessed with 2 children and later he was hired by Nishimachi International School. He has been with the school for 27 years since then.



He is deeply rooted to Azabu and has lived in Sendaizaka for 22 years. His wife likes this area as well because it is convenient and everything is available in the shopping arcade of Azabu Juban and Roppongi Hills. They have favorite shops they go to such as Korean BBQ and fish shops etc. John, who has multiple hobbies, not only plays the guitar but also learns Aikido at a “dojo” near his neighborhood and he is a 2-dan holder. He is skilled enough to coach children in cross country racing. He proudly told us that he used to be a surfer when he was young.

The future dream of John who has been committed in teaching the children in Azabu for all these years is to become an “educational counselor”. It would be wonderful if all the children he has taught become active domestically and at a global level.



John is the vocalist and in-charge of the guitar

(Interviewed by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Ayako Fukumoto, Yoshie Osawa, Kanako Morizumi  
Original Japanese text written by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Kanako Morizumi)

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“The LocalCommunity”

To Learn About The Activities Of The Regional Disaster Prevention Council

# What would you do at a time of disaster?

## Confirm Where Your Evacuation Site Is

Have you discussed with your family where to evacuate or gather at if there was an emergency such as an earthquake when you were at work or at home? Regional Disaster Prevention Councils have been set up as disaster prevention organizations should an emergency occur at the following schools: Azabu Elementary School, Nanzan Elementary School, the former Iikura Elementary School, Hommura Elementary School, Kogai Elementary School and Higashi Machi Elementary School.

We interviewed Mr. Norio Mizuhashi, the chairperson of the Azabu Elementary School Regional Disaster Prevention Council and Mr. Munehiro Mizuno, the Executive Director on their activities.

Approximately 10 members of the town council and the resident’s association meet every month and check emergency items, as well as, for example, looking into the preparation of manhole toilets estimated to be issues in cases of such emergency. It took them 2 years to complete the “Azabu Elementary School Evacuation Site Operation Manual”.

## Panic Is Projected At the Evacuation Sites

It is estimated that public support will not arrive for 48 hours directly after an earthquake and that is why parents and children are urged to participate in an emergency drill on the first day of school in September of every year. Various situations are estimated and examined at the evacuation sites such as those who are sick, injured, senior citizens, handling of people from other towns, handling of pets, food, water, clothing and security.

Plans need to be thought on how to respond to the foreign residents which come to 10% of the population of Azabu and how to handle the population during the day which is 4 times that of at night. For further disaster prevention, the council would like to ask for the participation of the young generation to help in patrolling activities at the evacuation sites.



A scene from the emergency drill which took place at Azabu Elementary School



All the participants are very serious.

## 3 Important Points At Times Of Disaster

The following are the 3 important points: Number one is self-help. You have to protect yourself. Number two is mutual assistance. Helping and cooperating with each other. Number three is public aid, which is support.

Self-help may be possible but mutual assistance is not that easy and it all depends on how strongly the neighbors are connected. It is very difficult to think about those you are not acquainted with, or have no connection with you in addition, to those who are not members of the town council and resident association at times of disaster.

An important point in supportive actions is the connection between those that are at close range and you can see their faces. I have keenly sensed the importance of knowing your neighbors in your daily life and how effective that is at helping each other at times of emergencies.

“Why not participate by first attending the emergency drills and study sessions?” Why not take your first step forward to respond to the request from the town council members.

(Interviewed by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi, Akira Mori  
Original Japanese text written by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi)

\* Contact the following if you do not know where your local evacuation site is at home and your work place.  
Activities Promotion Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03- 5114-8802

Biography of Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine and diagram of the former House of Mitsui



**Tea Ceremony Notes:** May 12th, morning. Host- Souno Ohashi Tea House- "Jo-an" replica, hanging calligraphy – Gengensai, Relax (rarari), flower container – quiver : design of a dragon fly, water vessel – hannera, natsume, yatsushashi, "Kourin" replica, (Japanese lacquer ware with pearl dust). The replica of "Jo-an" (Ohashi Charyo, 5 chome Toranomon) was made by the master of "sukiya" of Kyoto, with a garden approach to the tea house. The three generations, Soki and Sochi Ohashi, and Souno Ohashi, the master of Shuhin-an, pass down the tradition and culture of tea ceremony at this tea house.

The tea house, "Jo-an" is known as the tea house built by Oda Uraku. "Jo-an" which is a national treasure, was located inside the former House of Mitsui at Imai-cho 42 banchi (currently 2-1, Roppongi). It was the Mitsui Family which bought and preserved "Jo-an" from the last days of the Meiji Era to the Showa Era. We decided to visit the phenomena surrounding the former house of Takamine Mitsui and Oda Uraku.

## The Former House of Takamine Mitsui and the "Jo-An" Tea House, a Natural Treasure

### The Former House of Takamine Mitsui at Imai-cho

Let's first look into the facts regarding the former House of Mitsui and the preservation of "Jo-an" through the biography of Hachiroemon Takamine Mitsui. ※1 Takamine Mitsui moved his house from Kojimachi Ward to Imai-cho, Azabu Ward in 1906. The estate grounds was approximately 13,500 tsubos, with a floor space of over one thousand some hundred tsubos. The mansion built was very large. Gatenmen and petitioned police officers were on guard in the front gate, a large square with trees planted for the carriage porch and driveway apron. There was also a reception room in the central eastern side, a Noh stage, a large library with a grand piano and foreign furniture, small library, a seasons room with seasonal flowers painted on the compartment ceiling, the family head's living room on the southwestern side on the center of the mansion, a powder room, bedrooms, a reading room, in addition to that, a cafeteria on the northwestern side of the mansion, a tea room, kitchen, office, servants room and others. Furthermore, there were 11 rooms for their children on the 2nd floor with play rooms etc. as well. Gardend named "Hokusennkaku" and "Tsutsujienn", 3 clayed godowns, with "Jo-an", Zengoken and one more standing independently. When the Royal Prince of Britain was invited in 1922, an approximately 300 tsubo banquet building was built. There were also a conservatory, tennis court and a new western style construction. The House of Mitsui was almost totally demolished with just leaving a part of its clayed godown during the air raid by the U. S troops in May, 1945. ※2 So what happened to "Jo-an"?



The driveway apron at the major front gate of the former House of Mitsui "Collection of Biography of Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine pg. 639"



The House of Mitsui 1937 "Enlarged Collection on Illustration of Modern Map of Minato City – Minato Local History Museum Collection"

### Tea Master Uraku Oda

Gengo Oda (1547–1621) was Nobunaga Oda's 13 years younger brother and also known as Uraku. ※3 There are 2 stories: One is that he first named himself, Muraku, but, is said that Shogun Hideyoshi bestowed him with the name of Uraku. The other is that he was presented the folding screen by Kano Kohogen (Motonobu) titled, "100 Chrysanthemums in Autumn" by Takugen, the Buddhist priest and is said to have started his name Uraku from around 1585. ※4 Uraku was enfeoffed with land from Hideyoshi, worth to produce 5000 bales of rice in the current Setsu City after the incident at Temple Honnoji ※5 and was given land in Yamato-kuni worth to produce 750,000 bales of rice from Shogun Ieyasu in 1600. ※6 In either case, Uraku put in much effort to have Hideyoshi and Ieyasu reconcile even by allowing his children to be taken as hostage. ※7 Toyotomi and Ieyasu finally signed a peace treaty after the Winter Siege of Osaka. Right after this, Uraku dressed formal wear as a tea person to see Ieyasu and said, "The kingdom should reign in peace. I would like to spend the rest of my life in pursuing the art of tea." ※8 and wished for peace unlike Nobunaga and tried to live his life in the world of tea ceremony.



Quiver- the design of "Dragon Fly" Possession of Ohashi Charyo (Photographed by Tsuneko Ishiyama)

He was taught the procedure of making tea from Sen-no Rikyu as his disciple, however, ※9, Uraku followed Jyouou Takeno and studied hard at evaluating tea bowls and made his own red raku tea bowl and said tying the cloth pouch with a dragon fly knot was the best. He also had his tea manufacturer, Hisashige Kanbayashi, grant him with some of his tea domain ※10 and enjoyed tea ceremony. Uraku's tea ceremony preferred literature by ink tracing of the Daitokuji Temple and is said to have quoted that, "The philosophy of tea ceremony lies in entertaining the guests." ※11 and is said to have left over 10 blue prints of tea houses. ※12 He built "Jo-an" within the Shouden-in Kennin Temple around 1617 – 1618 and retired. ※13 It is said that the Oda Family continued to pay for the administration fee of Shuoden-in Temple until the Meiji Restoration. ※14 "Jo-an" is a 2 and 3/4 tatami mat house roofed with persimmon barks with a "nijiriguchi", center pillars and ceiling window and the calendar was used on the wall as wall paper. ※15 The feature of Uraku's tea house is that is has a "nijiriguchi" crawling entrance, 3/4 daime mat, and because of the center pillar. Because of it, the interior of the tea house looks complicated which creates shades and depths. ※16

### Takamine Mitsui and the Preservation of "Jo-an" Tea House the National Treasure

The Mitsui Family came into the possession of the garden and tea house "Jo-an" in 1908 from Temple, Kenninji Shouden Eigen-in and moved it to the House of Mitsui in Imai-cho. Takamine Mitsui was well versed in the practice of tea ceremony and took good care of this tea house He did not hold any tea ceremonies inside "Jo-an" for 20 years, and held a tea ceremony for the first time after he celebrated his 70 years of birth. Due to its outstanding design and construction, its long and distinguished history, "Jo-an" and garden were designated as a national treasure in 1936. Simultaneously, Takamine had also decided to move "Jo-an" to his other house, Shiroyama-so in Oiso to preserve and maintain "Jo-an" as a cultural treasure through earthquakes, fires and air-raids. Takamine, himself, took the lead on this move and hired a total of 25 workers made up of construction workers, carpenters and gardeners. Under the approval of the Ministry of Education, this move took place from March to June, 1937. In order to keep "Jo-an's" original form, "Jo-an" and its garden etc. were separated into 3 parts. A special trailer was ordered for this move and the tractors pulled the various parts which were loaded onto the trailer He got approval and waited until midnight to take apart the railway crossing on the eastern grounds of Tsujido Station to pass through the crossing. Takamine, himself, also gave out instructions in moving "Jo-an" at Shiroyama-so. The rights of Jo-an were transferred over to Nagoya Railway Co. Ltd. from the Mitsui Family in 1970 and moved to Inuyama City. ※17



"Jo-an" after relocation to Shiroyama-so - "Collection of Biography of Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine pg. 532"

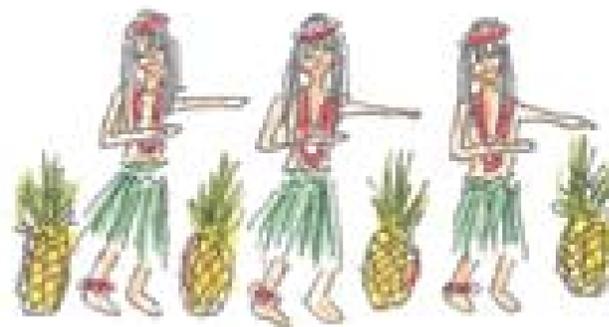
There is the tea bowl named "Uraku", "Ooido Tea Bowl" from Korea's Joseon Dynasty, Uraku, Bunzaemon Kinokuniya and the Fujita Family of Osaka has been passed down. This tea bowl was on sale in the market in 1937 and there is a legend regarding the battle of the highest bid between Takashi Masuda (the first president of Mitsui Bussan) and Yasuzaemon Matsunaga (electricity industry). ※18 It is currently at the Tokyo National Museum. There is also records left that Uraku stayed in Edo in 1617, ※19 and locations such as Yurakucho and Sukiya-bashi are said to have been derived from Uraku's name, still remains in Tokyo. ※20

- ※1 Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine Editing Committee Edition Biography of Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine Mitsui Library Former House of Mitsui pg 638-658 "Jo-an" pg. 530 – 541
- ※2 Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine Editing Committee Edition op.cit. pg. 640 Mitsui Library
- ※3 Takayanagi Kojyu and 2 other co-editors, Kansei Jushuu Kafu 8th – 191 Zoku gunsho ruijun kanseikai pg. 18 Kawase Shoten
- ※4 Written by Sakata Tsukubo Chajin Oda Urakusai no Shogai pg 99 Bunken Shuppan Washio Junkei Hen Seishuji Koki No.2 Vol.6 Jishibu pg. 7 Kokubun Toho Bukkyo Wazasho
- ※5 Saiki Kazuma – Someya Mitsuhiko Proofed by Kenmi-kyoki Zoku Gunsho Ruiju Kanseikai
- ※6 Takayanagi Kojyu 2 Other Editing Advisors op.cit. pg 8th 191 Zoku Gunsho Ruiju Kanseikai
- ※7 Written by Watanabe Ryoujiro Oda Uraku To Chado pg. 164 – 166 Kokugakuin magazine 62 Vol Nbr. 9 Go
- ※8 Kokushi Taikai Henshu Kaigi Tokugawa Jik-ki Daitoku-in den Jik-ki Kan 33 pg. 757 Yoshikawa Kobun Kan
- ※9 Written by Nakamura Shuya Oda Uraku to Shoan pg. 68 Soiyun Urasenke Konnichi-an Rekidai Vol. 2 Tanko Sha
- ※10 Tokyo Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan Kanzouhin Shosai Ooido Chawan Mei Uraku Written by Tsutsui Koichi Shoan Soujun Koji No Shogai pg. 35 Sadoshi Tanko Nbr. 598 Written by Tani Akira Shoan Chakai Ki pg. 90 Sadoshi Tanko Nbr. 598 Tokyo Daigaku Shiryō Hensan Chafu Dai Nippon Shiryō Dai 12 Hen 39 Shoshu pg. 232 Tokyo Daigaku Shuppan Kai

- ※11 Tokyo Daigaku Shiryō Hensan Chanoyu Kojidan @g 237 Dai Nippon Shiryō No.12 Hen 39 Shoshu Tokyo Daigaku Shuppan Kai Tokyo Daigaku Shiryō Hensan Kissa Shiki uden pg 239 Dai Nippon Shiryō No.12 Hen 39 Tokyo Daigaku Shuppan Kai
- ※12 Written by: Horiguchi Suteimi Uraku No Chashitsu pg 44 – 45 Heishi Shinshun Tokushugo Jan. 1936
- ※13 Written by: Nakamura Masao Tai-an Jo-an pg 111 Nihon Mei Kenchiku Shashinshu Vol.10 Shoshu Shinchou-sha
- ※14 Written by: Horiguchi Suteimi op.cit. pg 64 Heishi Shinshun Tokushugo Jan. 1936
- ※15 Written by: Nakamura Masao op.cit. pg 122- 123 Nihon Mei Kenchiku Shashinshu 10 Kan Shoshu Shinchou-sha
- ※16 Written by: Horiguchi Suteimi op.cit. pg 62 Heishi Shinshun Tokushugo Jan. 1936
- ※17 Mitsui Hachiroemon Takamine Editing Committee op.cit. pg 541 Mitsui Library
- ※18 Tokyo Daigaku Shiryō Hensan Sho Dai Nippon Shiryō Vol.12 No.39 pg 289 Tokyo Daigaku Shuppan Kai Written by Hisaka Masashi Chanoyu Jiken Bo pg 291 Shincho-sha
- ※19 Busho Kankokai Hensan Honko Kokushi Diary Vol. 3 pg 1206 Dainippon Bukkyo Zensho Hakkoukai
- ※20 Written by: Takeuchi Makoto Tokyo No Chimei Yurai Jiten pg 430, 215 Tokyo-do Shuppan Interview Cooperation by: Mitsui Memorial Museum Gakuei Kacho, Minoru Shimizu, Sanyu Shinbun, Hiroshi Kawamura, Daisuke Yoshizawa, Ohashi Charyo, Shuhin-an, Souno Ohashi

(Interviewed by: Kazue Asakawa, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Kumiko Omura Original Japanese text written by: Akira Mori Title by: Mitsuru Takahashi)

# Living in AZABU



It is summer.

I remember a house outside of Honolulu with beautiful Lychee trees. How nice they have such tropical trees at a house. It was a sweet summer memory to this Lychee lover.

Well this summer I intend to learn some about the rainbow. Used to see double rainbow after the shower  
Ah~ Hawaii~~~

Spray against the sun, we could make tiny private rainbow that I've learnt. Nice!! worth to try it.

Mr. Hasui Kawase drew the pastel rainbow, such a great artist.

Now I got summer feelings, playing ukulele singing an old song, ♪ "Honolulu I am coming back again!" ♪

I see rainbow high up in the Azabu sky  
I dream whether Mr. Wonderful see this rainbow too ♡

Have good spirited summer, Aloha.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

The Azabu Regional City Office intends to solve the various issues of the community by working and thinking together with the residents from residents' point of view.

## Regarding the Azabu Regional City Office Precinct Plan

Following last month's issue, we will introduce you three local projects out of 12. These are "The Project of the Art Show by Elementary School Children at Iikura-katamachi Underpass; The Community Formation Project; and Publication of Newsletters of Welfare Facilities & Others."

### 7 The Project of the Art Show by Elementary School Children at Iikura-katamachi Underpass

#### "Reviewing issues in executing the project"

Recently some elementary school children have become victims of crime on their commuting route. The safety ensuring of children's school route is a big issue.

#### [Content of Project]

We have exhibited children's paintings at the elementary school students' commuting route-underpass. We contribute the place for local communities through the art show and promote various people's fellow feeling and watch-children system.

### 8 The Community Formation Project

#### "Reviewing issues in executing the project"

The local community organizations which do not have their own office or a primary base for taking actions, tend to be confined their activities. Therefore, it is necessary to offer places of activities as support the activities.

#### [Content of Project]

We provide places for supporting local organizations and community activities by residents.

### 9 Publication of Newsletters of Welfare Facilities & Others

#### "Reviewing issues in executing the project"

It is important to transmit more meticulous information than public relations paper or community newsletters to promote usage of municipal facilities.

#### [Content of Project]

Newsletters regarding information on welfare facilities, children's halls, and nursery schools in the Azabu area are published regularly and distributed directly to the residents.

(To be continued in the next issue)

## Azabu Festa 2010-2011 Will Be Held!

Various workshops are taking place year-round under its concepts, "art" and "design" at this year's Azabu Festa

### [Now inviting a mascot of Azabu Festa!]

Azabu Regional City Office is now putting out a call for a mascot or advertising character of Azabu Festa. Please create your own mascot or advertising character of Azabu Festa then draw its picture, name it, and characterize it.

**Eligibility** : Elementary and junior high school students in Minato City

**Deadline** : Friday, September 10

**Application** : Draw the mascot picture, its name, and character/personality on A-4 size white paper. Write your name, address, phone number, school name, and grade on another paper. Send them to 106-8515, General Administration Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi Minato-ku

**Note** : Drawings of application will be exhibited at the lobby of Azabu Regional City Office around October.

The initial screening is scheduled in fall and the result will be announced.

The qualifiers will make a presentation about your mascot at the secondary audition in next March at "ZABU ZABU Azabu Festa."

#### [Schedule]

**March** : tentative name "ZABU ZABU Azabu Festa" It will be a wrap-up of the year-round workshops.

**For more information** : Please see hand bills or leaflets distributed at municipal facilities in the Azabu area.

#### [Inquiries]

Coordination Subsection, General Administration Section at Azabu Regional City Office, Tel. 5114-8811 \*Japanese only

## 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.



Bandanas 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



Initial Fire Drill



## Come Participate in MINATO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DRILL at the Azabu site!



Earthquake Simulator

**Anyone can participate.**

Azabu Regional City Office will be holding Minato disaster preparedness drill at the Azabu site with the cooperation of the Azabu Fire Department and the Azabu Police Department.

According to the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, there is a 70% possibility that a large-scale inland earthquake will strike the Southern Kanto area within 30 years. We encourage family members and company employees to actively participate in Minato disaster preparedness drill at the Azabu site in order to protect our own lives and the town from a major earthquake.

We will present a gift for participants. English interpretation is available at the site as well.

### Date

Sun. Oct. 17th  
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
\*Please be at the drill site by 9:30.  
\*Cancelled when raining

### Location

Roppongi Jr. High School,  
6-8-16 Roppongi

### Registration

·Pre-registration is required if you plan to participate as an organization. Contact Minato Call with the following information; ①Name of organization, ②Number of participants, ③Name of representative, and ④Contact address.

Minato Call: Tel.03-5472-3710 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
·Registration is not necessary if you will participate individually or as a family. Please come directly to the venue.

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

### #5 Iikura Park

#### Address

1-21-8 Higashi Azabu

#### Outline of Facility

Area : 2,192.38 square meters  
1 Large play equipment  
1 Soft Dome-shaped equipment  
1 Swing  
1 Sandbox  
2 Bouncing play equipments  
2 Furnace-typed benches  
3 Manhole-typed toilets

This park is adjacent to the Iigura Nursery School and is used as a playground and multi-purpose site. The park is filled with children's happy voice everyday and businesspersons and neighbors have a good time there.

The play equipments in the park were renewed in 2007. The park is surrounded with bamboo fences and dogs are not allowed inside the park to keep children's safety and health. Even small children can play safely on the grassed area where



large play equipments are available. Furnace-typed benches and manhole-typed toilets have been installed so the park can be used as a temporary evacuation site at times of disasters.

#### Access

A one minute walk from Akabane-bashi Station of Toei Oedo Line



**Inquiries**  
Public Works Subsection,  
Collaboration 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, Ikkura 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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Yukiko Takayanagi  
Akira Mori  
Aki Tanaka  
Kanakano Morizumi  
Satsuki Nishino  
Ryoza Yamashita  
Ayako Fukumoto

Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

#### Editor's Note

I often feel that in our editor's meeting that everyone comments on the importance of "beautiful Japanese" in writing. What I want to say is that these days you hear a lot about the corruption of language, but, as for this meeting, it is very healthy. All the editors do their utmost to make sure that the contents written are easily understood by our readers, the residents. I hope that our readers try to understand our thoughts behind bringing this to you.

(Original Japanese text written by: Tetsuro Kuraishi)

#### "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