

Minami-azabu Nursery School

## Safety and Security, First and Foremost

### On the Day of the Earthquake

March 11, 2011 happened to be the graduation day for the "class of 2010." That afternoon, with the ceremony successfully over and the children settled into their usual naps, the staff had gathered to review the on the day's event. That's when the earthquake hit. The staff rushed back to their classrooms, woke the children, and evacuated everyone to the nursery school playground. After the tremors had somewhat subsided and the building was determined safe, staff and children returned indoors to await the parents. By 19:30, all of the children had been safely picked up. Some of the teachers who had no way to get home, spent the night at the school with the cooking staff.

### Implementations of Lessons Learned

Thankfully, the community wireless system that functioned throughout the disaster allowed smooth communication with the city and regional offices. Telephones, however, went out of order, cutting off the one method of contact with the parents. A number of parents, as a result, turned up at the regional evacuation center, thinking it best to go there. Learning from this, the nursery school will now be printing the emergency priority phone number as well as its own number in the

monthly newsletter. In addition, assuming that a disaster could strike while the children are out on a walk, walks are now planned along fixed routes. Improvements have also been made to the school's "walk ledgers" by adding details such as names of children and staff on the walk, along with staff mobile numbers. As a school-specific risk management measure, photographs are taken of each child as they leave on a walk for a record of how they are dressed.

### Future Disaster Prevention Measures

Thanks to regular evacuation drills, both staff and children acted calmly and quickly at the time of the earthquake. The staff sees the imperative of these regular drills, and as custodians of the children, will ensure thorough implementation of risk management measures, so as to return the children safely to their parents.

According to the headmistress, "No one panicked in spite of the emergency situation." As proof of this, parents gratefully remarked, "When we went to pick up our children that day, it was reassuring to see that everything was as normal as it always is." This is a testament to the professionally minded staff whose first and foremost priority is the safety and security of the children. Always exuding a sense of assurance, they, above all, bring it all together for the children with a smiles on their faces.



- 1 Items for This Fiscal Year**  
Foldable helmet-shaped hoods for the children are scheduled for distribution
- 2 Emergency Food**  
Emergency meals for approximately 30 children were served on the night of the earthquake
- 3 Emergency Items**  
Emergency items, including bags and hats. The staff must also practice carrying infants on their backs to be prepared for emergency situations.
- 4 Comprehensive Evacuation Drills**  
A comprehensive evacuation drill is held once a year when all the children are evacuated to the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, the regional evacuation site.



(Left): Director Keiko Matsuzawa and Assistant Director Michiko Ishikawa

(Interviews by: Kazue Asakawa, Kumiko Omura, Keiko Orido, Toshie Suzuki Written by: Toshie Suzuki)

## Looking Back At What Happened In The Azabu Region During The Earthquake

The effects of the March 11, Great East Japan Earthquake, can still be felt in our everyday lives. We interviewed in two locations; the Minami-azabu Nursery School and Tokyo's National Art Center, to ask about the situation at the time of the disaster and countermeasures taken after.

The National Art Center, Tokyo

### Raising the Spirits by Art

#### The National Art Center, Tokyo, the Great East Japan Earthquake and Surrealism Exhibition

The "Le Surréalisme", exhibiting collection of the Centre Pompidou in Paris, France was being exhibited at The National Art Center, Tokyo when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011.

Whenever art work is borrowed from museums abroad, there are very strict conditions that need to be compiled with, such as management of room temperature, humidity and risk management. The Centre Pompidou was contacted straight after the earthquake to report that there was no visible damage to the collection on loan or building, as well as the fact that there was no apparent abnormality in the exhibition rooms or radiation levels. Alain Seban, President, Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou, came to Japan on the last day of the exhibition and expressed his appreciation for the measures taken by The National Art Center, Tokyo, through which it gained international trust.

#### Disaster Prevention Taken At The National Art Center, Tokyo

Japanese architect, late Kisho Kurokawa, designed The National Art Center, Tokyo which opened in January 2007, with ten galleries, two special exhibition galleries, an art library, a museum shop, restaurant and cafés. The facility has in place various measures to deal with safety and earthquakes, resource and energy saving measures, such as use of recycled rain water, natural lighting and floor ventilation, and accessibility measures, such as elevators for wheelchairs. (※1)

In addition to anti-earthquake features such as seismic isolators against horizontal vibration and vibration control device for vertical vibration, the Center is equipped with halon gas extinguishers to protect artwork in the exhibition galleries, and back-up lighting for emergency exit signs.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the safety of these priceless and precious works of art both in transit and during exhibition, indemnity protection such as insurance coverage and government indemnity for artworks is also put in place against the risk of damage. The government indemnity is prescribed in legislation and indemnifies artworks against physical damage both in transit and during exhibition.

Although the Center had to temporarily close down, and then reopen with reduced operating hours, due to the earthquake, it was back to its regular hours by mid June. As it was also one of the art museums required to help save energy by reducing its electricity usage by 15%, while giving consideration to those coming to appreciate the works of art, it took measures such as restricting escalator usage, as well as closing one special exhibition gallery.

When people experience such a major disaster as we did in March, they may be overwhelmed at the power of nature and feel quite helpless. Nevertheless, even in that situation, coming into contact with beautiful works of art can be soothing and even make one feel as if a light has started to shine again in one's heart.

The National Art Center, Tokyo, is devoted to "raising the spirits by art".

※1 The National Art Center, Tokyo (editor) Independent Administrative Institution of National Museum of Art, *Business Overview*, pg. 11 National Art Center, Tokyo, Education & Outreach Section (editor), *The National Art Center, Tokyo Teku Teku Map*, (4) (6)

Agency names have been abbreviated in this article Interview cooperation received from: Independent Administrative Institution of The National Museum of Art, The National Art Center, Tokyo Motohiro Mizuno, Head, General Affairs Division, Keiko Ishimatsu

(Interviews by: Kazue Asakawa, Shiori Ito, Yoshie Osawa, Keiko Orito, Mei Nagai Written by: Akira Mori) The original articles are written in Japanese.



- 1 Full view of The National Art Center, Tokyo
- 2 Natural light from the windows and interior view
- 3 Elevator panel without close button



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
 Size: 240,000 sq. kilometers  
 Population: 6.12 million people  
 (2009 by Laos Bureau of Statistics)  
 Capital: Vientiane  
 Ethnic Groups: Lao (over half of total population) and including 49 tribes  
 Official Language: Lao  
 Religion: Buddhist  
 Government: Single-party Socialistic Republic  
 Head of State: President Choummaly Sayasone (General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party)  
 Assembly: National Assembly (132 members)  
 Foreign Ministry website: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/laos/data.html>  
 H.E Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mr. Sithong Chitnhothinh  
 Interview under cooperation of Lao People's Democratic Republic

Visiting the Ambassador 17  
**From the "World" of Azabu**



# Laos



## Further Strengthening of Friendship after 56 Years of Diplomatic Relations

Ambassador Sithong Chitnhothinh of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has served as ambassador to Japan for five years, after having been a diplomat in Poland and Thailand. A highlight of the ambassador's time in Tokyo was last year's visit to Japan by the President of Laos - for the first time in the country's history. Laos and Japan have a long history of deep friendship. Diplomatic relations between Laos and Japan were established in 1955. The Laos embassy was established at its present location in Azabu the following year, the same year the current ambassador was born.

The ambassador's impression of Japan has been very positive. He loves Japan and feels lucky that his first post as an ambassador is Japan, as he likes the country, the people, the culture and the food. Japanese food, he thinks, is not only healthy and beautiful, but especially tasty. In Laos, rice is the staple food. Glutinous rice - called *khaoniao* is common. After soaking in water for several hours, it is steamed in bamboo steamers and put into a *katip*, which is also made from bamboo and used like a Japanese cooked rice container (*hitsu*). Sticky rice is commonly eaten by hand. Non-sticky rice is also common, but it is boiled, not steamed. Laos has been a landlocked country but then becomes a land-link country by route 9 using East-West Economic corridor. Because of that, fish and shellfish are imported from Vietnam, Thailand and Japan, and seafood is eaten daily. Japanese cuisine is popular and the number of Japanese restaurants is increasing although they are relatively expensive.

The economy of Laos is growing rapidly - with a growth rate of 7-8%, near China's growth rate of 9%-10%. Japan has helped the economy as a major financial supporter for a long time. One focus of recent economic development is mining. Also, hydroelectric power, including that generated by a dam Japan helped build forty years ago, is a major export. Taking advantage of the country's mountainous terrain, hydroelectric power plants are due to be increased. At the same time, Laos has been putting a lot of effort into its growing tourism industry. The ancient city Luang Prabang is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was voted as one of the best destinations by the *New York Times* in 2008.

Laos is surrounded by economic powerhouse China and other countries with fast-growing economies including Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. As Laos itself grows rapidly while keeping a good relationship with Japan, the country will continue to attract our attention in many ways.



(Interview conducted and written by: Chie Kato, Yukiko Takayanagi, and Nagako Matsuno)

- 1 A miniature of Pha That Luang in Vientiane, a Buddhist stupa that is a national symbol of Laos.
- 2 *Khaoniao*, a sticky rice, is steamed in a bamboo steamer.
- 3 The *khaoniao*, is transferred to a *katip*, similar to the wooden container used for cooked rice in Japan, and brought to the table. *Khaoniao*, in the smaller *katip* is made into small rice balls with one hand and eaten. The bigger *katip* is for family use.



Tomomi Okumura, Chief, Azabu Library Service Center told us, "I just love books."

There are many types of work in the world  
**Librarian**

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

## KIDS' Hello Work



## The Joy of Helping "People" Meet "Books"

The theme for this edition is introducing you to a librarian's work. Three Koryo Junior High School students interviewed Tomomi Okumura who works at the Azabu Library Service Center.

### What kind of work do you do?

I am a qualified librarian and work at the library. I have the important role of lending out books that our visitors want to read. If it is a book that is not available in the Minato City libraries, I contact other wards and order the books. I do tasks like digitizing documents, covering books, and mending stained or torn books. In addition to this, I plan story reading events, provide back up for lifelong learning activities, put up displays inside the library, put up posters and so on. (Written by: Sakai)

### What has made you happy in this job?

I think it's when I can make visitors happy. If a visitor is looking for a book, but is vague about the field etc. and I can still find the book he or she is looking for, it makes me happy to hear them say, "This was exactly what I was looking for".

### What other occupation would you like to try?

I read a book\* about a person who had been a director on the board of Microsoft but set up an NPO to teach children from poor countries the joy of reading books. When I read about this I thought if I were to try another job that I would like to be involved in this type of work or something involving culture.

### Do you have any advice to young people who are interested in working at the library?

I think it would be to have a good knowledge of books, to try hard to be bright and cheerful so you don't struggle in dealing with people. Many books are published on a daily basis so it's



Recommended books are displayed in this corner and made easy to access.

important to take notice of what is going on in the world outside, and have your antennae out for a wide variety of matters. (Written by: Mori)

I truly felt that this was a tough job after interviewing Ms. Okumura. Librarians clean the library in the morning, rearrange magazines and newspapers, and at noon inspect the library and allocate reservations they have received. In addition, they put up displays which reflect the seasons. She told us that when she used to work for another library, she was busy all day running around and that physical strength was an important asset as well. Her most difficult experience is when she has to explain to borrowers that they have to pay for a book which got stained or torn, and they wouldn't accept why they had to do that.

I used to go to the library often when I was in elementary school but I didn't really know what the librarians did. I learnt through this interview that everyone from children to adults should be appreciative of the librarian who protects the books we all love to read. (Written by: Iwaki)

\* Wood, John *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Quest to Educate the World's Children*

The Azabu Library is currently undergoing renovation and is closed. The Azabu Library Service Center is a temporary facility.

(Top) The interview with Ms. Okumura was held in a friendly atmosphere with her handmade Halloween decoration on the table. (Bottom) The students listening intently to Ms. Okumura explaining about the picture books.



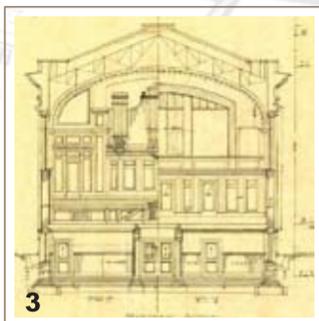


1 Exterior of Nanki Gakudo at the time of its opening (1918)  
(Source: THE OMI MUSTARD-SEED 1913 issue, photograph provided by: W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)

# 麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

Back cover map  
Minato Local History Museum  
Made from "Enlarged - Minato  
City Modern Illustrations Azabu,  
Roppongi"



3 A very interesting layout design of the Nanki Gakudo seen from center to the front and a view from the back. It is carefully preserved to this day at the architect firm.  
(Documents provided by: W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)

4 The pipe organ installed at Nanki Gakudo, around 1920. (Source: The Pipe Organ of Nanki Gakudo Archive of National Diet Library)

5 The first concert held at the Nanki Gakudo in 1918. The pipe organ had not yet been installed on the stage. (Source: THE OMI MUSTARD-SEED 1913 issue, photograph provided by: W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)



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In our previous edition, we wrote about the "Nanki Bunko", a full scale library which was opened by Yorimichi Tokugawa, and stood in current day Azabu-dai 1 chome. Yorimichi's heir, Yorisada, became acquainted with foreign music from childhood because of the gramophone his father brought back as a souvenir from his European inspection tour and he thought about how to contribute to society through music. We would like to share the story of "Nanki Gakudo" (an auditorium that housed a music hall and a music library), which was built immediately to the south of "Nanki Bunko" and housed Japan's first pipe organ, and how its legacy still continues.

## Nanki Gakudo (Nanki Auditorium)

### The Dream of a Music Hall Which Was Sparked While Studying In Britain

Yorisada Tokugawa (1892-1954) was born in Azabu Iikura, Tokyo, as the heir to the 15th Lord Kii, Yorimichi Tokugawa (1872-1925). In 1914, he attended Cambridge University in Great Britain and studied music for 3 years. Through his various experiences while abroad, he started dreaming about "building a genuine music hall which did not exist in Japan at that time", and, also about equipping it with a pipe organ and books on music. Western music in those days in Japan had just started to become familiar as singing had been added to the education curriculum. He consulted with Shinzo Koizumi of Keio University, who had accompanied him on his study abroad, received his support, and then persuaded his father.

### A Classical Style Music Hall Is Born

Yorisada asked British architect Sir Alfred Brumwell Thomas with whom he became acquainted through social circles, to draft the basic design of the auditorium which housed a music hall and a music library. The pipe organ was ordered from Abbott & Smith, a British firm. Europe was right in the middle of World War I, and the designs finally arrived in 1917, three years after he put in his request. He further asked William Merrell Vories, an American architect living in Japan to revise the design to suit local geographical conditions. In the same year, he successfully bid at auction for the Cummings Collection and made it the cornerstone of the music library which was later named "Nanki Ongaku Bunko (Nanki Music Library)".

Nanki Gakudo finally had its completion and opening ceremony in October 1918. The logo mark of "Nanki Bunko" used on the triangular gables on the top of the four pillars at the front of the reinforced concrete building, was the "katabami" (oxalis) crest, a design inspired by the nenji aoi (mallow) image. The building exhibited a classic design style that looked appropriate for a concert hall and music library. Vories had a deep knowledge of music and designed the building to be harmonious, taking into account acoustics, sound proofing, lighting and ventilation. The stage area could accommodate a 70 person orchestra and could house 350 people, including the upstairs. Nanki Gakudo's book collection was stored in the basement music library. A projector is illustrated in the plans, and it is thought that the building may have been planned to be used as a public hall which could hold academic lectures as well as screen films.

### Beethoven Was Performed At The First Concert

The first concert held after the completion ceremony was by a mixed orchestra of faculty members and students of the Tokyo Music School (now the Tokyo University of the Arts, Faculty of Music) and naval band along with the Tokyo Music School choir, and was attended by 150 guests in formal attire who listened intently. The news of the opening of Asia's first true concert hall was reported in a British music magazine and spread overseas. The Nanki Music Library at Nanki Gakudo officially opened in 1920 and the pipe organ was also installed at the concert hall. A concert to introduce the pipe organ was held and made free of charge to the public, which made news in itself. An opera performance by Tamaki Miura, as well as performances by other musicians from Japan and overseas were held with success at the hall. However, Nanki Gakudo was damaged in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, became unusable and had to close, and its history ended in a mere five years. Yorisada did not attempt re-building the facility, and in 1931 it was pulled down. Photographs and designs of it still remain.



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6.7 The pipe organ which was relocated to the Former Tokyo Music School Sogakudo in Ueno.

8 The Sogakudo building itself is very valuable.

### The Pipe Organ Was Donated To the Former Tokyo Music School "Sogakudo"

The pipe organ had 1,379 pipes, three layers of keyboards and 36 stoppers. It was Japan's largest concert pipe organ at that time. After closing Nanki Gakudo, Yorisada donated the pipe organ in 1928 to the former Tokyo Music School "Sogakudo" hall (currently the Taito City Sogakudo of the Former Tokyo Music School). Activities to relocate and restore the pipe organ by enthusiastic Taito City residents were realized when the Sogakudo was to be relocated to Ueno Park in 1987, and with the cooperation of residents and musicians, the pipe organ was successfully restored. This pipe organ which has a history of over 90 years continues to be played twice a month and thus its beautiful soft sound still can be heard today.



2 Mr. & Mrs. Yorisada Tokugawa taken during the construction of the Nanki Gakudo.  
(Source: THE OMI MUSTARD-SEED 1913 issue, photograph provided by: W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)

### Digital Archive of Nanki Music Library In Progress At Keio University

Nanki music library collection is Asia's largest private music collection, consisting of British Educator Cummings' precious collection which was the key base of the library, 900 documents, 5,000 music scores and 4,800 books. The collection includes music scores written by Beethoven, himself, and manuscripts by Bach and Handel. It was entrusted to Keio University after the facility's closure. Later, it was made public



9 Score written by Beethoven himself.  
(An arrangement of a Russian folk song)  
(Documents provided by: Keio University Research Institute for Digital Media and Content)

for seven years from 1970 at the Museum of Modern Japanese Literature, but currently is not open to the public. After receiving funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2007, the Research Institute for Digital Media and Content, a research institution of Keio University, is in the process of creating a digital archive of the precious books and also researching the materials. Professor Yoshio Miyama, the project leader, told us, "I read these documents at the Museum of Modern Japanese Literature when I was a student, and realized the value of the Nanki music Library and felt that these precious materials should be shared with the world, so I embarked on creating the digital archive." He told us that they are receiving inquiries from abroad since the archive is currently in a trial open period. Digitized documents were put to use for the "Memories of the Nanki Auditorium at Azabu-Iikura", concerts which were held in 2008 and 2009 through cooperation by Minato City residents and a subsidy from the Minato City Arts and Culture Promotion Fund project.

The rich legacy of Nanki Gakudo, which spread western music culture in Azabu in past times; has changed its shape and location but truly has been passed down to the 21st century.



10 Flier of Music Frontier Minato Re-discovery Concert, "Memories of the Nanki Auditorium at Azabu Iikura, 2008. It was a performance of music and scores played in the days of the Nanki Gakudo. (Documents provided by: Keio University, Professor Yoshio Miyama.)

Interview cooperation by: Tomoyuki Serino (W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)  
Yoshio Miyama (Keio University Professor, Research Center for the Arts and Arts Administration)  
Makoto Mori (Public Interest Incorporated Foundations, Taito City Arts & Culture Foundation, Former Tokyo Music School Sogakudo)

Main Reference Materials: "Ki No Koe, Umi No Koe" Kunio Tsuji (Asahi Newspaper) 1982  
"Dendo To Kenchiku" W.M Vories and His Brothers"  
(edited by W.M Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha 100th Memorial Anniversary Committee 2008)  
"Nanki Gakudo Bunko Collection No Naritachi To Nanki Gakudo (Yoshio Miyama Edited)  
"Nanki Gakudo megakumon, Mimigakumon" Mariko Tsubota (Ikuhousha 2001)  
"Yomigaeru Pipe Organ"  
(Taito City Former Tokyo Music School Sogakudo 2006)  
"Waiteigakuwa" Yorisada Tokugawa (Shunyoudo Shoten 1943)

(Interviews by: Akira Mori, Tetsuro Kuraishi, Aki Tanaka, Yoshie Osawa Title by: Hikaru Takahashi)  
The original article is written in Japanese.

# Living in AZABU

We will be happy



Fall, 11.  
Sanae m.



Dear Readers,  
Hello.  
How have you been?  
This year was such a year to Japan.  
We have never experienced hardest disaster and astonished damage by the radioactivity.  
I do not find any words against it.

Azabu Regional City Office  
issue "Disaster Prevention contents useful tips on it.  
Well, we spend the days quietly in these days and coming another year  
To me, knitting winter items, cooking safety food etc. anyway  
Let start new better days struggling  
You take care of yourself  
With Love,

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

## Information from Azabu Regional City Office



**All parks and children's playgrounds are dedicated smoke-free areas**  
**Smoking is prohibited on streets and in outdoor public areas such as parks** Smoking is allowed in designated areas only

### The Minato City's Smoking Rules

Minato City is seeking to prevent secondhand smoke and promote the beauty of its environment by prohibiting smoking in all streets and public places such as parks. The rule initially applied to curbside smoking while idly standing or while walking on the street. From April 1, 2011, the rule was expanded to cover areas such as parks and all other outdoor public places. Smoking is now also completely prohibited in children's parks and playgrounds.

### The Minato Smoking Rules are:

1. Be considerate of those who don't smoke
2. Smoke in designated areas only
3. Do not discard cigarette butts on the road

### Promotional Activities

#### Awareness Campaigns

City residents, corporations and administrative agencies have come together on public awareness campaigns to promote the "Minato City Smoking Rules" and improve the urban landscape.

## Please Help Us Abide by the Minato City Smoking Rules

Campaign Image Character  
The Tobacco Ghost  
"Tobaccobake"



### Visuals Such as with Stickers & Posters

Ground stickers are being placed on pavements around stations to call attention to the smoking rules. Posters and outdoor visuals (Vision Street) are also calling attention to the rules.

### Patrols & Awareness Activities

Patrol members from Azabu Regional City Office, identified by the "Minato City Smoking Rules" mark on their vests, ask pedestrian smokers to be mindful of the rule.

The City will continue to promote the rules. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

**Inquiries**  
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**Azabu Regional City Office**  
**Tel: 03-5114-8802**

**AZABU**  
● Location of the newsletter:  
Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi,  
Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway  
station, Minato Library, Azabu  
Library Service Center, Appy  
Azabu, Azabu Regional City  
Office etc.  
● Usage of articles, illustrations  
and photographs in this newsletter  
is prohibited.

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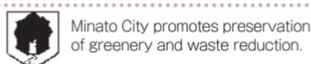
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### Editor's Note

Christmas illuminations light up the city as fall deepens at this time of year. They say that autumn is the season for sports, a healthy appetite, and, art. How are you spending your time this autumn?  
Why not take a stroll through the streets of Azabu? Though we're in the center of the city, there are many sights to see, such as the ginkgo trees of Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park and of Zenpukuji Temple. You may also want to spend some time admiring the exhibitions at The National Art Center, Tokyo, introduced, in this issue.  
(Kanakano Morizumi)  
The original article is written in Japanese.



### "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**