

A community information paper created from interviews by the people who live in Azabu and edited by them.



1 MAJIRI figure Owned by: Majiri



2 A wooden signboard with a roof on top. Owned by: NAGASAKA-SARASINA, Co. Ltd.



3 Tanuki (a raccoon dog) Owned by: Tanuki Senbei



4 A ceramic figure Crafted by: Chikako Yoshikawa Owned by: Gallery Kume



5 Lantern Owned by: Sohonke Sarashina Hori



6 The Sun Gate door Crafted by: Yoshitaka Chomei Gate Designed by: Reiko Yamauchi Owned by: HOU



9 Wave Owned by: Warakiya Diamond Dining

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ④

What is pop art?

Let me explain a little about American pop art before I take you into the world of AZABU pop art.

America experienced a period of change of old and new ideas during the 1960s when President Kennedy came into power, the civil rights movement was active, and hippies were born! It was a time when mass production, consumption, and advertising were born, and people became active. There was a change in daily life and culture. And in this wave of change was born a different form of art. For example, Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroes and Campbell's soup cans using the silk screening technique; Roy Lichtenstein with his Ben-Day dots used in his pin-up portraits, and he used imagery drawn from daily materials like food. People started enjoying art not only in the museums but enjoying popular (origin for POP) art through practicing, decorating, and watching it in daily life.

Modern American pop art is still searching for possibilities of a new form of art.

AZABU pop art

Did you know that there are amazing pieces of art available along the streets of the Azabujuban Crossing, which you can reach from Roppongi Crossing towards Imoarai-zaka Slope that leads to the Azabujuban Shopping Arcade street? The unique pieces of avant-garde artwork ranging from signboards to figures (object of people & items) are full of expression which makes one feel something. These are the AZABU pop art!

In the year 2000, Azabujuban, which was known for its inconvenience of transportation, changed with the opening of the Namboku Line subway station. Following this, the Azabu area entered its turning point when a modern high-rise complex, Roppongi Hills, was born and foreign nationals increased in the area.

Until then, this area was known as an inaccessible land which continued to pass down the culture and bond of a commercial district from the Edo period. Generally speaking, it is said that the signboards during the Edo period were popular and quite interesting. The letters and expressions of those days were created in the context of wit and humor which had been a reflection of popular culture of those days such as kabuki, ukiyoe, and rakugo (traditional Japanese comic storytelling). For example, the signboard of a shop selling wild boar meat would be "mountain whale," and deer meat was "momiji" (maple). Ever since the erstwhile ban on eating meat, people seemed to have expressed meat as fish or plants when they ate it. Furthermore, puns were used often. For example, roast potato was sold under the signboard marked 13, a riddle that it is more delicious than chestnuts (kuri 9+yori 4). The "bond" we feel from the signboards in the AZABU vicinity are very creative even to this day, and goes beyond being just a mere tool for advertising, but one which reaches out to the hearts of those who see it.

A soba noodle shop lantern says, "I want to be near you!" Near in Japanese is "soba."

This homonym is also pop art, in a sense.

The changes which have been taking place in the Azabu area have also created new forms of advertising, and started to pursue new possibilities of art. There seems to be quite a lot of enthusiasm in the creation of the most up-to-date style of figures which are probably more POP than signboards. The material and expressions of the figures in this vicinity are diverse, and taking a lead as a modern style three-dimensional structure in this age of two-dimensional virtual reality computer world we live in. All kinds of AZABU pop art which can be seen everywhere in this area is contributing in revitalizing the district, and is also subconsciously capturing the hearts of the passers-by. And, we feel as if they are inviting all of you to the world of reality where people interact, or into a world of dreams and fascination at all times.

As if "by opening the saxophone door, you walk into the world of jazz with friends".....

AZABU pop art is a reflection of this modern society that is always with you, and which can only be seen in Azabu.

Reference: Hiromi Iwai, *Kanban: Mono to Ningen no Bunkashi*. Hosei Daigaku Shuppan
Kazuma Mitani, *Edo Kanban Zushu*. Chuo Korin Shinsha
Shogoro Tsuboi, *Kosho Gigei: Kanbanko*. Tetsugaku Shoin
Yukihiko Hirayoshi, "Pop Art to Koukoku" in Nagai, Takanori ed. *Ekkyo suru Zokei*. Koyosyo Takao Ohta, "Pop Art" in Kanbayashi, Tsunemichi, ed. *Gendai Art no Topology*. Keiso shobo
Yusuke Minami and The National Art Center, eds., *American Pop Art Exhibition* TBS TV

●AZABU pop art changes depending on location and timing



10 Door knob in the shape of saxophone Owned by: STB139



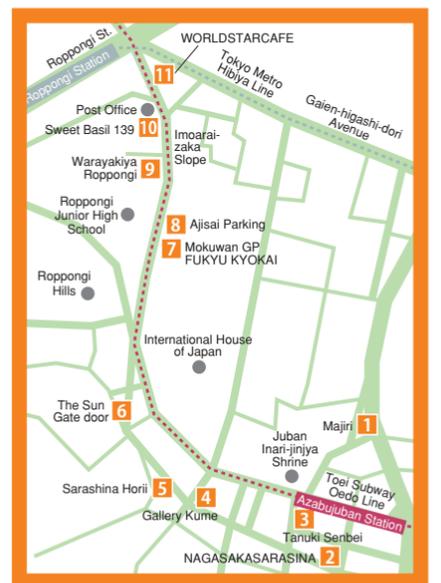
Saxophone shaped beer server Owned by: STB139



7 MOKU1GP (an up-cycled shoes car) Owned by: Mokuwan GP FUKYU KYOKAI



8 Figure Owned by: Ajsai Parking



11 KING Owned by: WORLDSTAR CAFÉ (Interviewed and Written by: Akira Mori)



麻布

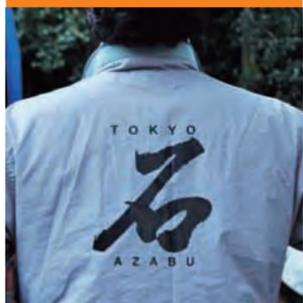
"Azabu — A Human Story"

びと



Mr. Yoshikatsu Kobayashi

Chairman of Japan Stonemason Research & Development "Omosuke" of Kobayashi Stonemason Industrial Co. Ltd.



A Leader of Expert Stonemasons

There is a stone dealer on Zoushiki Street in Azabujuban. I thought that since it was located near a temple that their work would be mainly in gravestones, but I was wrong. I soon found out that this company was made up of a group of experts who dealt not only in gravestones, but in buildings, gardens, and even in the restoration of stone walls of castles all over Japan! They've been involved in the Imperial Palace, Matsumoto Castle, the French Embassy, and Juban Inari Shrine in the Azabu area; the list goes on and on. I was told that they even get orders from abroad. I interviewed Mr. Yoshikatsu Kobayashi, the second generation "omosuke" (the term for a master in the world of stonemasonry) of this long established company founded in 1929, about the work of a stonemason and the fascination with stones.



Zenichi Kobayashi (on the left), the founder of Kobayashi Stonemason Industrial Co. Ltd on New Year's Day, 1938. He wears protective glasses when chiseling stone. Yoshikatsu's mother was pregnant with him in this photograph (second woman from the left in the second row).



Mar. 2004. A souvenir photograph after completing the restoration of the stone walls of Sendai Castle. Everyone still wears the "happi coat" which was designed by the founder.



The stone walls of Sendai Castle after restoration.

Edo Tokyo, A City of Canals

The canals of the Edo period still remain in Furukawa River around 1 chome, Shibaura. This river was the main route used to transport building materials during the Edo period. Quarried around the Manazuru Peninsula of Kanagawa Prefecture, the komatsu stones were transported by vessel and shipped to Edo Bay. The huge and heavy stones were loaded off near Kanasugi-bashi near the mouth of Furukawa River, where many of the stonemason's wholesalers were located. Shops which handled pebbles and gravel were located near Nakano-hashii, which was upstream; lumber wholesalers were located around Ichino-hashii; and bamboo shops were around Ninohashi, which was where the river began to turn shallow. There were many specialty shops alongside the Furukawa River in those days to deal with the sheer weight of the building materials being transported.

A Master and Pupil Relationship, Even as Father & Son

Yoshikatsu Kobayashi was born in 1938. He became a pupil of his father, Zenichi, after he graduated from Jonan Junior High School. Zenichi gained his experience as a stonemason at the "nochoba"※ "nochoba" refers to a suburban construction site, and opened his own stonemasonry at the age of 20 in Azabu. He was renowned as Tokyo's best stonemason master, and had over ten apprentices working under him.

※It means a suburban construction site which is not in the central part of the town or a small construction site. A large-scaled construction site other than reinforced concrete building construction or houses.

The work of a stonemason has changed over time. There were many jobs during the Meiji and Taisho periods constructing stone buildings, such as the Diet Building and the Meiji Life Insurance Headquarters Building. However, with the Great Depression brought on in the Showa period, large scale construction work began to be reduced by a considerable extent. Stonemasons then dispersed to all the cemeteries of Japan to work on gravestones. The Azabu area where Mr. Kobayashi was born was destroyed by fire after WWII, and those in their twenties who didn't own graves after the war started to order graves to conduct memorial services for their deceased loved ones. Before long, there were special procurements due to the Korean War, and then a rush of construction started as Japan went into its postwar rapid growth age. That was when the stonemasons returned to the "nochoba."

That was about the time that Mr. Kobayashi stepped into the world of stonemasonry.

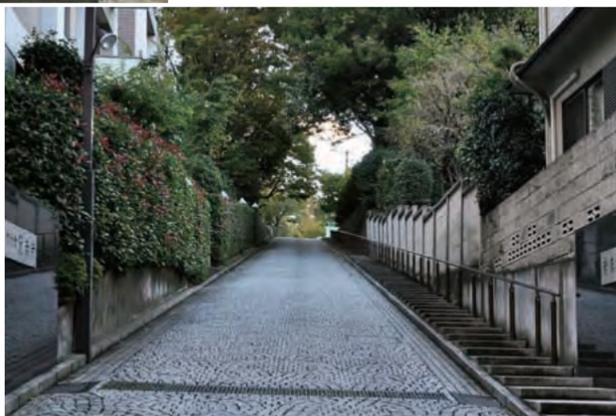
Since he was an apprentice, he had to prepare and sharpen the tools for the senior stonemasons. He would start from before dawn by blowing into a bellows with a rice ball in one hand, and that's how his career started. He learned the tricks of the trade using "miyago" (tools) from the stonemasons who learned the trade from before the war at the "nochoba."



The stairs of Kensoji Temple in Azabujuban before restoration. These stairs were built by the Nabeshima clan during the Edo period. The depths of each step is one step and a half with only a small difference in level so as to minimize tilting of the large palanquin carrying the lord.

Expanding Scope of Work

His father was a specialist in graves and construction; however, Yoshikatsu, who took over the business as the second generation, became interested in landscape gardening and engineering, and so he began to expand his



The present day entrance of Kensoji Temple Kobayashi Stonemason Industrial Co. Ltd. rebuilt the roadway and steps due to the redevelopment which took place in the vicinity. Perfectly calculated, they are easy to climb. There are people who use these steps for training, calling them "the healthy steps."

scope of work as a stonemason. He got offers to restore the stone walls of castles—which are cultural assets from all over Japan. He restored the stone wall of Sendai Castle ten years ago, using a technique called "hanchiku" (rammed earth) ※, in which the inner side of the stones that became stacked up are very strong. Thanks to this technique, there was no damage to the castle during the Great East Japan Earthquake. He was strictly instructed by his father, "Oh (Big) omosuke" on restorations of stone walls. "These stone walls need to be attacked in a good way, because it effects the lives of people. The role of the stone walls is to protect lives while it stands for 500 to 1,000 years." That's why he prays to each stone to "do its best." It shouldn't be stone walls which lean on each other, but ones that can be independent and be responsible. He said that they were even strong under a certain extent of natural phenomena.



Tools for manual work are saved as data, so they can be passed down.



The tempering method of iron wares changes day by day according to the daily work. The condition is difficult to determine if it's done after sunrise.

Continued Inheritance of Craftsmanship

They say that veteran stonemasons can talk to stones. As machinery developed during the Showa period, stonemasons chipping away with their chisels and sledgehammers became less and less in demand. But unlike the uniformity achieved by a machine finish, one can appreciate the technique and master skill of a stonemason's work. A master stonemason doesn't rely on machines, but on his natural instincts and experience, by being able to communicate with the stone until he achieves his perfect finish. The stonemasons of Kobayashi Stonemason Industries, ranging from their twenties to their seventies, are committed to the restoration work of cultural assets and say, "We want to do a good job so that our children and grandchildren can be proud of them 500 years from now." Mr. Kobayashi is proud of his people who are dedicated and have strong work ethics fostered naturally within them.

Kobayashi Stonemason Industries will be celebrating their centenary 15 years from now (2027). Mr. Kobayashi retired from active duty several years ago and put down his chisel and sledgehammer so he could dedicate his time to running the business, since they have started to get orders from all over Japan. The stonemasons whom he fostered have taken over the task. Yoshikatsu, who loves stones very much, looked down at his hands which have softened and said with a smile on his face, "Next time I'm reborn, I want to be a stonemason who never retires." He's stepped down from the position of president, and his only daughter will take over the business in the future. He said with a gentle smile, "I was all for it when she married a medical man – from rocks to Doc's, what do you think of that?"

※Rammed earth is a technique for building walls using the raw materials of earth, chalk, limestone, and gravel. It is an ancient building method.



Mr. Kobayashi (center) in front of his house in the 1960s. According to him, a person suitable for the work of the stonemason is not too slightly built and has big hips.

Written and interviewed by Kyoko Ideishi

I'm a rabbit and my name is Choco. I live at Higashimachi Elementary School.

ワダンも
麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

We would like to introduce your dear "family" in this corner.

Let's take a walk outside



The rabbit hut in the school yard. It isn't being used now.

See me flat on the floor, resting? I love to be with people.



●Introduction of Choco

Higashimachi Elementary School where I live, celebrated its 100th year founding anniversary in 2013. I came to this school 6 months after my birth and it's been 2 years since I've come. I was named "Choco" through applications received from all the children of this school. I'm a lop-eared male rabbit and so I have floppy ears. There's a rabbit hut in the school grounds but since I'm weak against the cold and the heat, I live inside a cage on the 1st floor of the school building. All my friends say "Good morning, Choco" when they come to school.

●Two Meals A Day – Morning and After School

The upper grade children take care of me. 2-3 children who are in-charge of breeding take turns every day and feed me at 8 o'clock in the morning and after school and clean my cage. I take walks outside the cage, too. My friends pat my head and that feels really good. (Note: Rabbits love to get their head pat.) A teacher comes to take care of me on the weekends. I stayed at a guardian's house during summer vacation. The superintendent or teacher lets me play in the hallway so I don't have to stay inside my



Currently on a walk.

cage all day. I go back to my cage on my own, isn't that great!? I love to make friends so I always go near friends who take care of me. Once I get used to them, I don't run away so I think I'm rather cute.

●To Grow Up With A Gentle Heart

Higashimachi Elementary School where I live is made up of international classes. There are 200 children (as of Sept. 2013) from 14 countries. The lower grade children come to watch the upper grade children take care of me. They listen intently when they are explaining about the quantity of food, or how to clean my toilet. The upper grade children ask the lower grade children as they look at my face and say, "Did you know that the kanji "dai" is written on Choco's face?" The lower class children look happy as they realize this. If you look at my face from the front, it does look like the kanji "dai" (big) is written. Were you able to tell, too?

The teachers want "the children to appreciate the value of life by this experience of handling living creatures and being gentle to each other." It makes me happy to think that I can help in having them feel this way.



Can you tell that the kanji "dai" is in the middle of my face? But my real name is Choco.



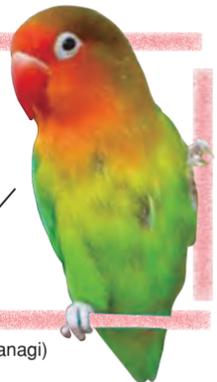
The superintendent gently pats my head.

Please introduce the animals which are popular in your town.

Please make sure to enclose a picture along with your story to the address below. It can be a story made by the owner, as well. If we should get many applications, we may have to hold an editor's meeting to decide which story to introduce. Please note that we will not be able to reply to any inquiries regarding the selection process. If we decide to cover your story, we will be in touch with you regarding the scheduling of the interview. We look forward to receiving applications from everyone. Thank you. We're waiting!

Azabu Regional City Office, Collaboration Project Section District Policy Division
"Call me Azabu-kko!" Application Desk
16-45 Roppongi 5-chome, Minato City (106-8515)

We're waiting to hear from you



(Interviewed and Written by: Yukiko Takayanagi)



Radio Personality
Ms. Chris Tomoko
Radio personality and talent
Navigator of J-WAVE "Atelier Nova."
(Every Sat. 12:00- 15:00)

There are many types of work in the world
Radio Personality

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

KIDS' Hello Work

Listening To A Radio Star On Interviewing

This issue's subject is the job of a radio personality. Three 1st year students of the Roppongi Junior High School visited the FM Radio Station J-WAVE in Roppongi Hills and watched a live-air program. They interviewed Ms. Chris Tomoko, the navigator, as she finished her program.

What kind of work is it?

I'm an MC for a 3 hour live-air program on the theme of art and design. I introduce events in these fields and invite people who are related to the world of art and design and interview them.

What do you keep in mind when you're interviewing your guests?

To show an interest in that person and his or her field of work. Of course, I prepare questions I want to ask in advance, however, I feel it's important to draw comments from the guests during the program, so when I come across any comment I wasn't expecting, I aim to make it a point to dig deeper into that subject if I find it interesting. You proceed according to the conversation which takes place and I think that's the charm of such programs. There's only a limited amount of time for the guests to talk during a live-air program, so, I want the experience shared with this person to be an amazing one.

How do you communicate what you see in front of you to the listeners?

Well, for example, if I was going to explain about a cake, you not only talk about the shape and ingredients used, but, try to express in your own words what the taste is like and in what ways it is delicious. You don't need to vividly describe everything just because the listeners can't see it. The important point is conveying that it is "delicious." The ideal way is to convey your thoughts so the listeners can imagine the actual cake.

What do you do on your day off?

It's a 3 hour live-air program once a week, so, how to spend the other days is important.



Ms. Chris Tomoko during a live-air program.

For example, what I see, who I talk with, how I felt, what my opinion was and what I felt uneasy about, etc. I cherish the time I go to exhibitions and museums, walk along the beach, eat, and talk with my friends, even if I'm not thinking about it, it may or may not connect directly to the program. I try to keep in mind polishing my sensitivity at all times.



After getting an explanation about the production progress from Mr. Asakura, the program producer, we got to select the music and experienced playing the role of director and personality in the studio.



We thought we'd like to listen more to the radio from now!



When do you feel happy?

I would say it would be the moment someone who is uncomfortable about talking in front of others suddenly opens up and starts talking. I'm also happy when I'm able to create an opportunity for my listeners, to have them say "That sounds interesting, so I'll give it a try", or "I'd like to go there, also."

(Interviewed and written by: Ruka Kumasaka, Kota Takahashi, Joshua Moriyama Interview supported by: Kyoko Ideishi)



Republic of El Salvador
 Total Area: 21,040 sq. km (Approximately half the size of the island of Kyushu)
 Population: 6.3 million people (World Bank, 2012)
 Capital: San Salvador
 Official Language: Spanish
 Religion: Catholic
 System of Government: Unitary Presidential Constitutional Republic
 Head of State: President Carlos Mauricio Funes Cartagena (June 2009—May 2014, 5 year term and can be elected only once).
 Assembly: Legislative Assembly, consisting of 84 deputies for a 3 year term

Ministry of Foreign Affairs homepage
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/elsalvador/data.html>

Republic of El Salvador

Interview cooperation by the Embassy of the Republic of El Salvador

Her Excellency Martha Lidia Zelayandia, Ambassador of El Salvador to Japan

Visiting Embassies 25

From the "World" of Azabu

Republic of El Salvador

Active In Various Fields, Her Excellency Has a Deep Understanding of Japan, And A Strong Wish of Her Nation's Progress And Development

We visited the Embassy of the Republic of El Salvador, located in a building of Nishi-azabu. Her Excellency Martha Lidia Zelayandia, Ambassador of El Salvador to Japan is also deeply connected to Japan and not only speaks our language fluently, but also has a profound knowledge of our culture and history. She enthusiastically told us about her encounter with Japan and her deep love for peace, progress and development of her mother country.

Her Encounter with Japan Was Through Learning Modern History

Her Excellency had a rich educational upbringing by her parents who owned a school. She loved to play outside from when she was small and according to her, she was a "tomboy," and was also interested in academics of various fields. She became interested in Japan when she studied the history of WWII and the fact about the atomic bomb being dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in her 6th grade of elementary school. She also read a Spanish book about the Meiji Restoration in Jr. High School. "The days of national seclusion came to an end and the country started to take shape into one with open doors to the world by new leaders. Although Japan was severely damaged by the last war, it achieved rapid growth. I felt that this strength was amazing and, at the same time, that El Salvador could learn a lot from this." She was thinking about her country and was looking out towards the world from when she was a teenager.

Her involvement with Japan became decisive when she visited and met a Japanese man through her work, during her university days. She started to live in Japan after her marriage. As she was a very active person, she became a freelance interpreter for Spanish, English, and Japanese and also did translation work while bringing up her children and on the other hand, developed a



▲Coffee is El Salvador's major indigenous product. Coffee farms extend in the west. The mesothermal climate of the highlands is excellent for growing coffee of the highest quality.



▲Hard-working craftsmen can be seen in towns and villages all over the country, creating varying artwork. Textiles are also one of them.



▲Pupusas, the national dish, are handmade corn tortillas stuffed with cheese, pork and vegetables. Each family has their own homemade recipe.



▲Pottery marked with distinctive patterns incorporating earthenware from the Mayan civilization are popular souvenirs.

deep understanding of Japan's culture by reading, and through the practice of tea ceremony, flower arrangements and calligraphy. She taught languages in public elementary schools and was involved in the "International Understanding Education" when she was living in Fujisawa City.

In 2010, she was requested by the government of El Salvador to become minister councillor and charged affairs of the her country in Tokyo, and in 2011, she was appointed as the Ambassador. In the beginning, I was doing all the work by myself. I thought it would sound strange if I answered incoming calls by saying I was the Ambassador, so I would change the tone of my voice and answer the phone by saying I was the secretary." We thought she really had a charming personality.

Deep Love for Peace, Progress and Development of Her Nation

One of the activities Her Excellency enthusiastically undertakes is visiting schools all over the country and to intermingle with the children. A Salvadoran-style cheese cake, called a quesadilla, was served for dessert in the school lunch at the Hommura Elementary School located in the Azabu region this year. This opportunity was created from the lecture on El Salvadoran cooking which was held for the parents of this same school last year, which was a great success. She also joined the children during their lunch and talked to them about her country and taught them a game which was similar to paper, rock and scissors which she played with the children. She also came up with the idea of a Yuruchara (anime-style cartoon mascot) named "Pupoosa" the little squirrel whose name was derived from "pupusas," the national and most famous dish of El Salvador. It will be making an appearance soon at an event.

The driving force behind the enthusiasm she showed in her grassroots activities must come from the passion she has for her country. After going through a full-fledged civil war which lasted for over 12 years and was extremely violent, the government signed a peace treaty with the guerrilla forces on Jan. 16, 1992. "The government and the guerrilla forces decided to sign a peace treaty and put down their weapons because they truly felt that the country would be destroyed if the massacre continued. I am proud of the method in which the war ended." The earnest look in her eyes was impressive.

The country also experienced two natural disasters in the form of an earthquake and heavy floods during the process of the peace negotiations but was able to work on the eradication of poverty which was the reason for the civil war and the current government has promoted democratization through several projects of social

▼A photograph of the corner of the Ambassador's office. The frame on the top is of a cathedral in Santa Ana Department, located in the west. The stately architecture is that of a Gothic and Byzantine style. The bottom is a beautiful colored map. The southern sea coast (bottom) is 300 km and faces the Pacific Ocean.



▲The country has 25 volcanoes in a narrow land. It is the source of fertile land which is critical in the production of their agricultural products such as coffee and sugar cane. Hiking can be enjoyed, which is also a tourist attraction.



▲Their capital, San Salvador, is surrounded by greenery. San Salvador Airport is very modern with heavy traffic as it is the gateway to Central America.



▲"Pupoosa" the little squirrel, the Yuruchara proposed by Her Excellency. She got the inspiration from a squirrel engraved on an ancient earthenware which she saw in an illustrated book issued by the National Anthropology Museum.

inclusion, which results are in reduction of poverty, generation of employment, among others. "In that sense, it can be said that El Salvador has just come to the starting line. I would like to have many people of Japan get to know my country and establish a long standing and friendlier relation with Japan."

Geographically El Salvador is far from Japan and the size of the country is approximately half of Kyushu, however, both countries have many things in common. "We have volcanoes and frequently experience natural disasters such as earthquakes and climatic changes. We are not blessed with natural resources and many people are involved in crafts making. Besides the nice beaches and resorts, Salvadorans are like Japanese and are patient and hard-working." El Salvador is famous for the remains of the Mayan civilization and although there are many Catholics, it was very interesting to learn that there was a belief from the Mayan civilization that god resided in nature and everything just like the belief of Shinto in Japan.

2015 will mark the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Japan. The two countries have a strong bond with each other even when looking back at historical events. "For example, after the end of World War II, the first country in which a Japanese manufacturing company had a factory was El Salvador. Industrial Unidas which was established then still runs a sound textile related business to this day. There is a Japanese garden located in San Salvador in the honor of Saburo Hirao who played a big role in the development at that time; it is a recreation place for the citizens even now. "Her Excellency is working on a plan for sightseeing tours for the Japanese, right now. With a warm smile, she told us that she would like to have many Japanese visit her nation.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

- The Traffic of Azabu Now and Then -

Furukawa-Bashi is the starting point of Meiji Street, and was very famous in the past as the main street-car station to change trams, which used this avenue. The town used to flourish and there were many factories, as it was possible to deliver material by vessel along the Furukawa. We'd like to compare the changes in Furukawa-Bashi of the present and the past, as a major traffic street in Azabu.



1967: Looking in the direction of Shirokane-takanawa Station from the Furukawa-Bashi Crossing. Photographed by: Masanori Taguchi Photograph provided by: Shigehisa Taguchi



1969: Looking at Tengenji-Bashi Crossing from Furukawa-Bashi Crossing of Meiji Street. Photographed by: Masanori Taguchi Photograph provided by: Shigehisa Taguchi



1969: Looking at Azabujuban from Furukawa-Bashi Crossing. Photographed by: Masanori Taguchi Photograph provided by: Shigehisa Taguchi

National Route 1, which runs towards Shirokane-takanawa (towards Gotanda), didn't exist 46 years ago when the Tokyo Expressway was under construction. The street in which the streetcar tracks run continued along in the Gyoranzaka direction. The street underneath the cars in the center of the photograph, and the pedestrian walk to the right, show that construction was underway. Seeing a dirt road might be quite unusual in this time and age.

Streetcars ran 44 years ago, which now have been superseded by Tokyo metropolitan bus. At a glance, you might think there are no changes except for the streetcars and the Tokyo metropolitan bus; however, in the present day photograph, you notice a protective fence on the Tokyo Expressway. In addition, when looking at the photograph from 1969, you will notice that the right lane for the streetcars going towards Tengenji-Bashi from Ichinohashi must have been quite a steep curve.

The photograph 44 years ago shows that you can see the landscapes far away. This is because there are no high rises. You might think it's hard to believe that the streetcars ran alongside cars; however it doesn't look that congested, as far as you can tell from the photograph. One also notices how big the gingko trees along the street grew to be.



2012: Furukawa-Bashi Crossing



2012: Furukawa-Bashi Crossing



2012: Sakurada Street

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio

The Azabu Regional City Office started collaborating with residents and corporations since fiscal year 2009 to collect old photographs of the Azabu area, as well as to take fixed point photographs and use them to document the changes of Azabu. This is the Azabu Future Photo Studio project.

The aim of this project is to have the people living in the Azabu area to feel an affinity to its history and culture, which can be preserved and inherited through the collection and storing of this data of the Azabu area; and furthermore, to aim at actively utilizing these photographs.

At the same time, we would like for our people to further understand more about the history and culture of the "town," and further if it could be of help to deepen the people's attachment towards the Azabu area.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu area which you think are worth passing down in the future, please send them to the Azabu Regional City Office. It can be any picture. Please contact Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office if you are interested in our projects or would like to join us as editorial staff.

Tel: 03-5114-8812

(Interviewed and written by: Yasuhiro Tanaka)

地域社会
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13

"The Local Community"

"A Town that People will Seek Refuge In, Not Run Away From" Learning from the State-of-the-Art Preparedness of Roppongi Hills, Aiming to be a Disaster Prevention Shelter Base

We were reminded of the difficulty that many people had in returning home when the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake struck. Since then, more information on how to get home from your workplace or when outside has become available, but is a "town" a place to run away from?

The Azabu Regional City Office has established the "Azabu Regional Project Disaster Prevention Network Committee," organized by business owners and groups, and aimed at considering preparations for those who find it difficult to return home when a disaster strikes, as well as to enhance local disaster prevention.

We would like to introduce you to disaster prevention preparedness by the Mori Building, which is also a member of this committee and has signed a treaty with Minato City on being "an evacuation center for those having difficulties at times of disaster." In other words, a community that people will seek refuge in and not run away from.

They have a system in which all staff at times of emergency can act as disaster prevention staff, and in addition Roppongi Hills is prepared to accept 5,000 refugees.

We interviewed Mr. Shinichiro Hinata of the Disaster Prevention Dept. on the state-of-the-art measures.

Roppongi Hills at the time of the 3.11 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake

We distributed 1,500 emergency supplies to those who came for refuge and office workers. We also took in eight pairs of pregnant women and those with babies who found it difficult to go home, and had them stay at our accommodation facility. Trains started to operate within that day, so there wasn't that much turmoil; however, we decided to make use of this experience and increased



Commercial zone which can accept over 5,000 refugees at times of disaster.

our water supply, and changed the blankets which had to be cleaned after use to aluminum sheets which could be folded to the size of a palm.

All Staff are Disaster Prevention Staff, Qualified with Lifesaving Certificates

There are approximately 30 staff, some who double-task in the Disaster Prevention Dept. All employees are provided with safety shoes, helmets, and coveralls at the time of employment, and need to qualify for a lifesaving certificate. 1,300 employees, including those living 2.5 km away from the office, will come for restoration and are trained to be prepared.

We have a gigantic storage warehouse with 100,000 meals, blankets, rescue sets, and sanitary goods for employees working at Roppongi Hills, tenants, and those who seek refuge.

What We Can Learn from This System

It's very reassuring to know that they are open to publicly using their facility as a place to seek refuge. There is a difference in position between a developer and a corporation, but there's so much we can learn from them.

Corporations want to be able to take measures so that at minimum, their employees don't face difficulty returning home. In addition, if we were able to prepare for others as well, so they could take refuge... we could probably overcome another disaster, should it strike.

Disaster Prevention Events Conducted at Roppongi Hills

- Earthquake and Disaster Drill: Around March 11 every year
- Hands-on learning program regarding safety through the "Hills MACHI-IKU Project" (for elementary school children) : Mainly held annually during summer vacation



Storage warehouse full of emergency goods. Food near its shelf life is used for disaster prevention events, or are donated to NPOs which support those in need of food.



Mr. Shinichiro Hinata of the Disaster Prevention Dept., who we interviewed.

※Please contact the following for inquiries regarding the Azabu Regional Project Disaster Prevention Network Committee: Community Development Support Subsection at the Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8815
Inquiries about disaster prevention preparedness by Mori Building Co., Ltd. should be made to the following: Tel: 03-6406-6606 Mori Building website: <http://www.mori.co.jp/>

(Interviewed and written by: Yoko Mitsuki)

The Existence of Sendai Within Azabu

There is a hill which connects Minami-azabu 1-chome and Moto-azabu 1-chome.

It is said that this hill was named “Sendai-zaka” because the Sendai clan daimyo (feudal lord)’s suburban residence was located halfway up this hill. The name of Sendai still remains to this day, although this is the Azabu area. The residents then, back in history, must have had their reasons for naming this hill.

One thing I realized from the interviews conducted in the previous issue, titled “Visiting Embassies From the World of Azabu ‘Kingdom of Spain’” and “The Azabu Future Photo Studio-Looking Upon Azabu Sendaizaka-”, is that there was an unexpected coincidence! “Sendai” was the key to this coincidence which intrigued me very much.

Miraculous Phenomena

Let me explain about the coincidence I noticed.

Please first take a look at the following chronological table.

1611	Sanriku earthquake (M8.1)	2011	The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake (M9.0)
1613	The historic Keicho Mission to Europe departed the port of Ishinomaki	2013	Tokyo Wins Bid for 2020 Olympics
1620	The Keicho Mission to Europe, Hasekura Tsunenaga returns to Japan	2020	Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Events which took place during the Edo period is on the left and recent events have been listed on the right. Although there is a 400 year gap, were you able to notice the coincidence of events?

It's surprising to think that Sendai experienced a natural disaster 400 years ago which we recently experienced and I can only say that the miraculous “phenomena” is the fact that the diplomatic mission was sent to rebuild the country after this disaster.

So, let's take a deeper look at what actually happened in Sendai 400 years ago.

The Phenomenon Which Took Place 400 Years Ago

The Sanriku earthquake occurred on December 2, 1611, with a magnitude of 8.1M off the Sanriku Coast in Iwate Prefecture (Research about the exact location of the source is still ongoing as there are various theories). The damage from the tsunami far exceeded that from the earthquake, so this is considered to be a tsunami earthquake. It is said that the highest tsunami waves reached approximately 20 meters as it devastated Taro (currently Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture) and Ofunato (currently Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture).

As we were witnesses to the damage caused by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, we can easily imagine the scale of devastation it caused back in those days.

Masamune Date, who was the Sendai feudal lord then, sent a diplomatic mission to Spain to negotiate direct trade with them which was the world's largest colonial empire at that time. Tsunenaga Hasekura, who had been serving Lord Date, left Tsuki-no-ura Harbour (currently Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture) on-board the San Juan Bautista, the first wooden European-style sailing ship which had been built by the Sendai feudal domain and sailed across the Pacific Ocean, headed to Acapulco of Nueva Espana (currently Mexico) on Oct. 28, 1613, two years after the earthquake.



The San Juan Bautista (on display at the Miyagi San Juan Bautista Museum). Reconstructed in 1993. A surprising fact is that this reconstructed vessel withstood the tsunami which struck at the time of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. This is proof of the high level of technology back then. Maybe it was the spirit of Hasekura and his mission that protected it.

Winning the bid in 2013 to host the Olympic Games two years after the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake will be beneficial to Japan and will be a positive step forward in reviving the nation. I can't help but think that this phenomenon reciprocates the same intention which the Keicho Mission to Europe must have had in reviving the nation after the devastating earthquake the country experienced back then.

Please try to imagine that if Japan's first state of the art luxurious passenger liner were to set sail from Ishinomaki today, two years after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. Wouldn't that be an amazing event?

However, we have to remind ourselves that this actually happened 400 years ago and of course, that it probably wasn't just a mere idea. I don't think that we can deny the fact that overcoming the devastation must have been one of their strong motivations behind this.

Let's bring the story back to the “phenomenon” of the mission.

Hasekura's mission reached Espana (Spain) where they met King



Pope Paul V. (National treasure, collection from the Sendai City Museum)



Portrait of Tsunenaga Hasekura (National treasure, collection from the Sendai City Museum). Known to be the oldest oil painting of an actual Japanese which remains in Japan.



Title of Roman Citizenship (National treasure, collection from the Sendai City Museum). The senate decided with the unanimous consent that Hasekura should be decorated with the most ample gift of Roman citizenship.

Philip III at the capital “Madrid” in 1615 and in the same year, travelled to Rome and successfully met Pope Paul V. He was awarded the title of Roman citizenship at this time. One can imagine how they were cordially received. The mission happened at a time when Japan was moving toward the suppression of Christianity. It has been said that this information was made known to the King of Spain, and one of the biggest reasons of why he refused the trade agreements Hasekura had been seeking. Hasekura returned to Sendai and died of illness on Sept. 20, 1620 (there are records which also quote the 22nd), his mission seemingly ending with few results in an increasingly isolationist Japan, after all their hardship.

The Miracle Which Took Place 400 Years Later

Who would have imagined that Hasekura's great undertaking which took place 400 years ago would be praised in this day and era.

On June 18, 2013, UNESCO registered three items brought back from the Keicho Mission to Europe as a Memory of the World which were: a portrait of Tsunenaga Hasekura, who headed the mission, a portrait of Pope Paul V and the Roman citizenship certificate that Hasekura brought back to Japan.

This must have been amazing news to the people of Sendai who experienced the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. Then, on Sept. 8th, Tokyo was nominated to host the 2020 Olympics! I also feel that it was fate that Madrid, Spain, and Tokyo, Japan, were the nations that competed in the end; a fate which is a reflection of the phenomenon which took place 400 years ago.

Spain and Japan are doubly celebrating the year of Spain in Japan and the year of Japan in Spain in July, 2014, to mark the 400th anniversary of the sending of the Keicho Mission to Europe. This anniversary will surely create a new and deeper bond between our two countries.

A large vessel set out in 2013, titled the “hosting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.” It will probably have to overcome many storms but I hope it returns in 2020, carrying the hope and dreams of all the people in the world. I feel I can hear Hasekura's Keicho Mission to Europe cheering for us, in the future, after 400 years.

It made me feel brave and proud of the “Sendai” which exists within Azabu.

References:

- Author: Naotsugu Hamada “Masamune's Dream Tsunenaga's Reality- 400 Years of the Keicho Mission to Europe” Kahoku Shimpou Publishing Co.
- Author: Naoki Ohta “The Other Legacy from Tsunenaga Hasekura's Keicho Mission to Europe-Their Journey and the Spaniards with Japanese Names” Yamakawa Publishing Co.

(Written and interviewed by: Yasuhiro Tanaka)



Sendai-zakaue (Nov. 2013)



Sendai-zakashita (Nov. 2013)

麻布の軌跡



An old map of the vicinity of the Sendai clan's villa. (From the enlarged version of Minato City modern illustration collection)

Azabu Regional Business Project

In this edition, we would like to introduce you to three projects; “The Regional Salon Business Project,” “Toy Library” and “The Azabu Master’s Club” out of the 12 original projects led by the Azabu Regional City Office.

10. The Regional Salon Business Project

[Confirming the issues that lead to business]

The region will establish and maintain a system in which the senior citizens can continue to live in safety in their beloved community.

[Content of Project]

In order to secure safety and peace of mind for the senior citizens who have a tendency to become isolated in their community, we will cooperate with the community residents to provide a regional salon where the senior citizens can gather to relax and in addition, focus on growing regional volunteers.



Overall Project Target (End of FY2014)	Current Situation (Expected end of FY2011)	Project Plan			
		FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Execute	Salon in One Location	Lectures for fulfilling salons & volunteers	Lectures for fulfilling salons & volunteers	Lectures for fulfilling salons & volunteers on	Lectures for fulfilling salons & volunteers

11. Toy Library

[Confirming the issues that lead to business]

To support parents of child-rearing generations who tend to get isolated by providing information on child-rearing and rental of high quality toys, in order to create more opportunities for interacting with each other.

[Content of Project]

Rental of high quality toys will be available to infants and young children as a part of the child care support project.

Toys will be purchased by the city office, and unused toys are being donated. Promotional activities for parents such as seminars will also take place.

Overall Project Target (End of FY2014)	Current Situation (Expected end of FY2011)	Project Plan			
		FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
2 Locations for rental business. 9 Seminars	2 Locations for rental business.	2 Locations for rental business. 3 Seminars	2 Locations for rental business. 3 Seminars	2 Locations for rental business. 3 Seminars	2 Locations for rental business. 9 Seminars

12. Azabu Master’s Club (Former Name: Azabu Knowledge Certification Project)

[Confirming the issues that lead to business]

Residents solving their own community issues is what is expected these days. On the other hand, with the changing social economic environment, issues have also become diversified. There is also a limit to human resources which can become the center of the community and take initiatives to resolve issues.



[Content of Project]

We will support to discover and cultivate persons in the community who are knowledgeable about the history, culture and industry of the Azabu region. We would like to invite those from corporations of the Azabu region, residents who have special knowledge or experiences and those with technical expertise from baby boomers and senior citizens, etc., to conduct seminars about the Azabu region. The aim will be to enhance community power by utilizing the knowledge of the residents who have participated in the seminar by having them be active in the community, in order to return the knowledge back to the community to enrich the region.

Overall Project Target (End of FY2014)	Current Situation (Expected end of FY2011)	Project Plan			
		FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Creation of operation guidebook by collaborating with 260 certified people (2,000 copies)	125 certified people	Creation of operation guidebook by collaborating with 45 certified people	Creation of operation guidebook by collaborating with 45 certified people (1,000 copies)	Creation of operation guidebook by collaborating with 45 certified people (1,000 copies)	Creation of operation guidebook by collaborating with 135 certified people (2,000 copies)

About the Safety and Peace of Mind Project

In Order to Create a Town of Safety and Peace of Mind

—Subsidy Programs for Crime Prevention—

Minato City offers various projects regarding crime prevention for houses and the region. The following subsidy programs have been newly established in FY2013 regarding crime prevention and community safety by each of the regional city offices.

Please make an inquiry for details or refer to the Minato City homepage as each program has specific requirements in receiving subsidy.

Subsidy Fund for Crime Prevention Measures for Houses

One half (Fractions smaller than 100 yen omitted) of the expenses (over ¥5,000) will be subsidized for crime prevention measures for houses. (Upper limit ¥10,000).

Subsidy for Crime Prevention Measures for Apartment Buildings

One half (Fractions smaller than 100 yen omitted) of the total expenses for crime prevention equipment that the city office recommends for the public spaces of applicable buildings. (Upper limit ¥500,000)

Subsidy Funds for Installing Security Cameras and for Maintenance Expenses of the Security Cameras, etc., for Group Entities such as Town Councils and Shopping Mall Associations.

Expenses to install security cameras and its maintenance will be subsidized for applicable group entities. (With Upper Limit)

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

Homepage of city office regarding above subsidy program: <http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/seikatusuanzen/bosai-anzen/seikatusuanzen/jose/>

Child Care Discussion

How is your child-rearing?

Discussions in which all the participants can feel relaxed about discussing their child-rearing with the instructors (psychologists).

Eligibility: Those residing within the Azabu Regional City Office jurisdiction with children 3 years and younger.



Date:	Mar. 25 (Tues.), 2014 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Theme:	“What bothers you recently?”
Application:	Apply by telephone between Mar. 3 (Mon.) – Mar. 17 (Mon.)
Place:	Azabu Civic Center
Number:	10 pairs (first-come-first serve basis) *nursery will be for babies over 4 months old till 3 years old.
Instructor:	Ms. Ryoko Uchida, Advisor for former NHK Radio “Consultation on Children’s State of Mind”
Fee:	Free

Inquiries: Public Health Nurse of Health and Welfare Subsection, Residents Support Section, Azabu Regional City Office

Address: 5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku

Tel: 03-5114-8822

News from the Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

The Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government has been working on introducing an advanced water treatment facilities to water purification plants such as Misato from the Tone River System. From October, all water supplies provided from the Tone River System to Minato City have become safer and better-tasting water through the advanced water treatment.

Almost half of the people who compared tap water with mineral water said that tap water tastes better. We would like to recommend everyone to try to drink water directly from the tap.

Inquiries: Minato Service Station, the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government 1-3-27 Mita, Minato City

Tel: 03-5444-2091



We appreciate the understanding and cooperation for the Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government. All water supplies in Minato City have achieved **100% advanced water treatment.**

Bureau of Waterworks
Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Announcement from the Azabu Police Department

● Support Towards Victims of Crime

◆ Hotline for Victims of Crime

Ask for advice if you're in trouble. We want to see you smile once again.

Tel: 03-3597-7830 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
(Excl. Weekends, national holidays, end-of-year and New Years' holidays)

Fax: 03-3592-6840 Open 24 hours



◆ Tokyo Public Safety Commission Designated Early Legal Support Center for Crime Victims Victim Support Center of Tokyo

We'll be there for you until we see a smile back on your face.

Interview consultation and direct support are conducted according to the situation.

Tel: 03-5287-3336

Mon/Thurs/Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues/Weds. 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

(Excl. Weekends, national holidays, end-of-year and New Years' holidays)

Fax: 03-5287-3387 Open 24 hours

HP <http://www.shien.or.p>



Azabu Police Department Crime Victim Section Tel: 03-3479-0110 Ext. 2152

The Youth Committee and Sports Promotion Committee of our Town

The Youth Committee and Sports Promotion Committee are selected by the Board of Education for each junior high school district, and is widely active in supporting health so everyone can live a rich and happy life.

The role of the Youth Committee is to promote the Minato Camp Village, a project of the Youth Affairs of the District Committee, as well as promoting district events to contribute to the healthy upbringing of youth. They also act as a pipeline between the district and administration to conduct various activities.

The Sports Promotion Committee conducts eight annual "district sports class" events using facilities near the districts. Participation in these interactive events is free of charge. It also supports the operation of the Comprehensive District Sports and Culture Club (Sporcul Roppongi). Why not participate and utilize the facility to make new friends and maintain your health?

Inquiries can be made to the following:

Minato Call Tel: 03-5472-3710



An exchange meeting between the Youth Committee and Sports Promotion Committee.

● Increase of Remittance Fraud and Cases on Amount of Damage!

As of August 2013, the number of remittance fraud cases has increased, having occurred in 1,636 cases amounting to 5.3 billion yen. There have been nine cases of remittance fraud that have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Azabu Police Department, with the amount of damages reaching 16 million yen!

◆ How the 'Ore-Ore' ('Hey, It's Me...') Fraud Works, and its Countermeasures

These types of frauds refer to how the swindler begins the phone call with 'ore-ore'; meaning 'hey, it's me'. A typical case would have the caller first explaining that he lost his cell phone, or his cell phone number has changed. If you should receive this type of phone call, it is a phone call from an ore-ore swindler. Please make sure to contact your son or family member first, before you respond.

◆ How the Tax Refund Fraud Works, and its Countermeasures

If you should get a phone call from someone introducing themselves as the Social Insurance Agency or staff of Minato City, saying "You have money which will be refunded from your medical expenses. Please go to your nearest ATM and carry out applications taking your cash card and cell phone," this is a phone call from a tax refund swindler. Tax returns of medical expenses are never performed by ATM.

Azabu Police Department Crime Prevention Section Tel: 03-3479-0110 Ext. 2612, 6502

Eco Plaza, An Eco-Transmitting Base Offering Substantial Seminars and Events



A multi-purpose space is open to the people of the community on the 1st floor. Books and brochures on the environment and ecology are available.

Eco Plaza is located in 1 chome, Hamamatsucho. It opened as a facility for learning about the environment six years ago, and has endeavored to offer various activities as a place for people to casually drop in to learn about the environment.

Many seminars and events are offered at the Eco Plaza in alignment with various NPOs, organizations, and corporations. Minato City and local authorities cooperate to offer a rich variety of experiences such as exhibitions of environmental activities; coaching in which participants can learn both in Japanese and English; elementary school children's nature classes where they can touch and observe nature within the city through a microscope; and screening sessions. Adults, children, and those who are working can come and participate in seminars which interest them, so why not join and rediscover the environment, and think together about what 'eco' means?

Inquiries: Eco Plaza 1-13-1 Hamamatsucho Tel: 03-5404-7764

HP <http://minato-ecoplaza.net/>



A biotope is located in front of the gate and in the back of the Eco Plaza. Small aquatic organisms live inside this small pond, surrounded by trees in which many children come to observe.

We are taking applications for editing staff.

Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have no limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo (106-8515).

●Tel: 03-5114-8802 ●Fax: 03-3583-3782

We look forward to your participation as editorial staff to make the newsletter more appealing.



You can access the Azabu Newsletter from the homepage as well.



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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Editor's Note

I thought I'd write about some of the good points of being part of the editing staff. I knew that Azabu had many embassies, but I felt that I was able to come in close contact with distant countries through my opportunities of visiting the embassies and actually interviewing the ambassadors.

There are still numerous precious and fun matters that I have no knowledge about in Azabu where I grew up. I intend to do my best to share the "Fun of Azabu" with the residents of Azabu.

(Yasuhiro Tanaka)

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