



“Autumn Scene at Takanawa (Takanawa aki no kei)” by Utagawa Hiroshige (owned by the Tokyo Metropolitan Library)

A famous location for moon-viewing: Takanawa and Shinagawa

During the Edo period (1603–1868), the area from Takanawa to Shinagawa was often depicted in ukiyo-e prints* as a famous place for viewing the moon and the sea. In particular, the 26th day of the 1st and 7th lunar months was known as “nijuroku ya machi,” meaning “waiting for the 26th night.” It was said that the three Buddhist deities, Amitabha, Kannon, and Seishi (Mahasthamaprapta), would appear in the moonlight, and a custom developed wherein large numbers of people would pray to the moon. The tradition was for people to wait for the late moonrise to pay their respects, and they gathered on the coast and on high ground.

*A type of woodblock print and picture mainly popular in Edo-period Japan; these works of art depicted contemporary everyday life.

(Text: Ando)

“Thirty-six Views of the Pride of Edo: Twenty-six nights of Takanawa”
by Utagawa Toyokuni, Utagawa Hiroshige (Tokyo Shiryo collection)



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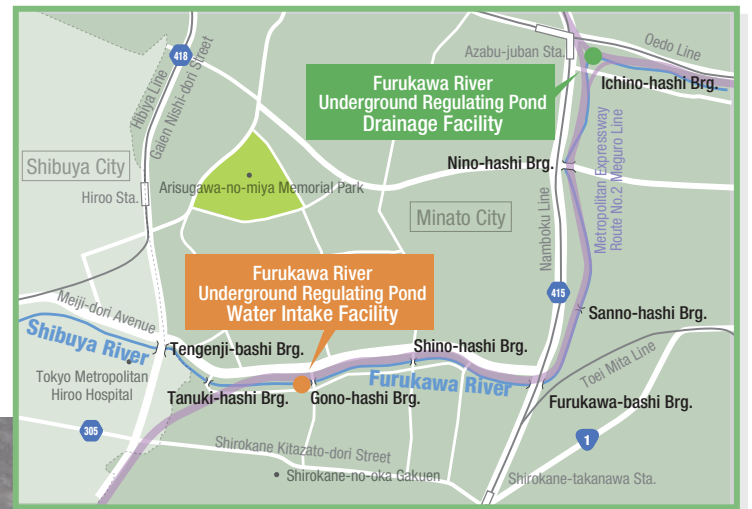
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The Changing Townscape

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond

A huge water tank that protects the Shirokane area from flooding

Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond



Inside the regulating pond tunnel

In addition to earthquakes and fires, which we are vigilant against in case of urban disasters, it has become more necessary to prepare for flooding in recent years. Flood damage from the Furukawa River has occurred in the Shirokane area in the past, so a huge water tank has been created underground. This is the Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond, built by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. We visited the facility's management building in Shirokane 5-Chome and asked the staff there to give us an overview of the facility and its functions. One of the people we spoke to was Mr. Tate, head of the Construction Section, First Construction Office, Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The increasing need for measures against flooding in the city center

There are several rivers in the city, and in the past it was the Kanda river basin area (the Kanda River, Zempukuji River, Myoshoji River, etc.) that experienced a lot of flooding. Since the Furukawa River has sometimes flooded, the City launched the project to construct the Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond in 2008, and the facility started operating in 2018.

The principle behind the facility is simple: if the water levels in the river rise past a certain point due

to heavy rain or other causes, the water enters the pond from intake channels built in the river dike and is stored in a huge cylindrical space (tunnel) constructed 40 m underground. After the rain eases and the river water levels drop, the stored water is drawn up through drainage hole pumps and drained into the river.

All water is stored underground as a result of issues with the site

The regulating pond's tunnel is massive: 3.3 km long with an internal diameter of 7.5 m. This tunnel can store 135,000 m³ of water, and was designed so that it can handle rainfall of 50 mm in an hour. The water that it takes in during a flood flows 40m underground where it is stored, and after the rain eases and the water levels drop, the water is drained downstream by pumps located in Azabu-Juban.

When it comes to rivers in the suburbs, regulating ponds can be constructed by digging up above-ground areas, but in cases where there is extremely little vacant land, such as in the heart of the city, the topographic conditions mean it must be created underground. Apparently, the total construction cost to achieve this was approximately 27 billion yen (including the cost of acquiring the site aboveground).

An operation in which observation is also important

Careful attention is also paid during operations in heavy rain. If the water level exceeds a certain value, it will flow into the regulating pond, and these conditions are watched by monitors in the First Construction Office in Akashi-cho in Chuo City and the Tokyo Government Office. The Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond also has an observation facility for monitors, and constant checks are carried out to ensure it is functioning normally.

Historically, the Furukawa River has experienced multiple floods. In 1999, 15.6 ha were covered with water and 627 buildings were flooded and damaged. The first time the regulating pond operated after its completion was during the heavy rains in July 2024. August saw around 30% of the regulating pond's capacity used, and its effectiveness at lowering the river water levels was evident.

In recent years, periodic torrential rain has occurred more frequently, and the existence of the Furukawa River Underground Regulating Pond can be said to contribute to the safety of the area as a flood control measure.

The Furukawa River

The origin of the Furukawa River is said to be in front of JR Yamanote Line Shibuya Station, making this a truly urban river. It runs for 2.4 km in Shibuya City as the "Shibuya River," and its name changes to "Furukawa" when it enters Minato City downstream from the Tengenji-bashi Bridge. As the Furukawa River, this waterway runs for 4.4 km, and in the past it apparently contributed to the development of local industries via water transportation. One feature of this river is that metropolitan expressways have been built above the river over almost all its sections. Because of this, the area with the regulating pond is a rare case of concrete structures above and below the river. According to staff from the First Construction Office, who manage the regulating pond, small fish have been seen in the river, as well as eels.

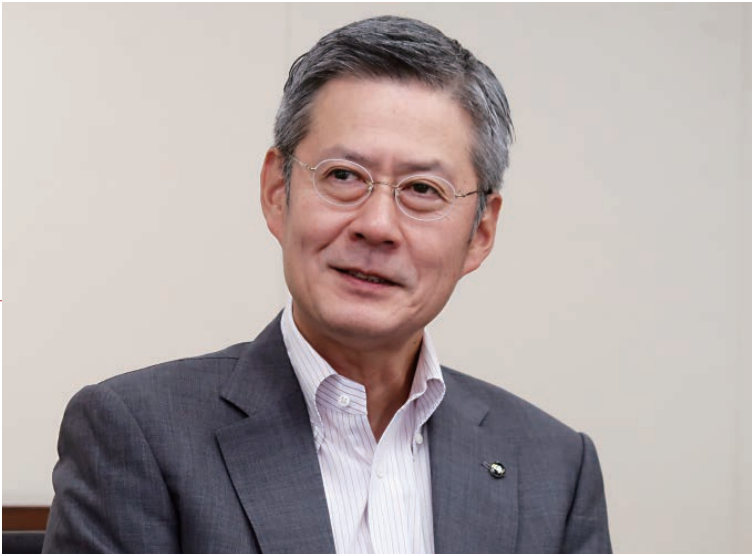


The outside of the water intake facility

A Person Who Lives Here

Akira Kokubu

(President of KOKUBU Group Corp.)



Profile

Born in 1971

He joined Nestlé Japan Co., Ltd. after graduating from Keio University's Faculty of Law in 1994. He later gained an MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management in the United States in 1998. In the same year, he joined KOKUBU & CO., LTD, and became a board member in 2004. Since 2017, he has served as the KOKUBU Group Corp.'s Representative Director, President, and COO.

We will take care to pass down a company that will continue for 300 years or more

We spoke to President KOKUBU Akira about KOKUBU Group Corp. (1-1-1 Nihombashi), which was founded more than 300 years ago.

●Questions about the company

-You initially started by brewing and selling soy sauce more than 300 years ago, right?

Originally, the company did business in Matsusaka, Ise (now Matsusaka City in Mie Prefecture), but in 1712, KOKUBU Kanbei IV went to Edo and started brewing soy sauce in the Niihari-gun area of Hitachi Province (now Tsuchiura in Ibaraki Prefecture) and selling it in Nihombashi, in what is roughly our present-day location. Later on, around the time of the Meiji Restoration (1868), we stopped brewing soy sauce and started a wide-ranging wholesale food business. The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 destroyed our store, and as we worked toward reconstruction, we focused on supplying soft drinks and soy sauce.

In 1947, KOKUBU TSUKEMONO CO., LTD., which served as the foundation of the present-day KOKUBU GROUP CORP., was established, and its name was changed to KOKUBU SHOTEN CO., LTD and KOKUBU & CO., LTD. In 2016, KOKUBU & CO., LTD was separated into area companies, with the KOKUBU Group Corp. supervising the group.

-What level of company is the KOKUBU Group?

We have around 50 group companies. Our domestic wholesale business is split across seven areas, in area companies with self-supporting accounting systems. Our industry is the food wholesale business, so we handle products from all categories. Plus, in addition

to products such as K&K-brand tinned food, tabete-brand dashi noodles, and Create-brand yoghurt, our manufacturing department deals with our various in-house brand products, including confections, panko, small pre-made food dishes, and imported Western wine and spirits. Overseas, we have affiliated companies in China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore, and our business is expanding.

It is a lot of work to supervise these companies, but as we are an unlisted company, we can steadily promote strategies that we have created from a long-term perspective, something for which I'm grateful.

-Tell us about your management philosophy

We have a corporate commitment of "trust," and our corporate philosophy is: "Abiding spirit and innovating power: We will pass on the business we have built up over 300 years to the next generation. We will create happiness and smiles for everyone across the globe through food."

-How were your most recent results?

In FY2023, sales across the group exceeded 2 trillion yen, and our ordinary income was 24.2 billion yen. This was thanks to the flow of people returning and the economy starting to turn again after COVID-19.

-Can you tell us about future company policy?

Every five years, we set out a Long-term Management Plan with four goals.

- 1) We aim to be no. 1 for customer satisfaction
- 2) We will create and expand a co-creation area in food distribution
- 3) We will become a business with two sides: sales of goods and sales of functions/services
- 4) We will improve the happiness of employees in their work

●Questions about KOKUBU Akira as an individual

-What memories do you have of your youth?

I was a member of the Keio University Ski Team, and I trained hard at training camps in Hiyoshi, but I was blessed by good teammates, and enjoyed a fun student life.

After graduation, I was employed by Nestlé Japan Co., Ltd. in Kobe. After I had worked there a little while, the Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred, and I was transferred to Tokyo.

Following this, I studied business administration overseas in Northwestern University in the United States. I carried out joint research with students from many different countries, and learned a lot even while being surprised by the differences in the approaches of people from around the world. I was so busy I had no time to sleep, but thinking about it now, I had freedom and those were the best two years.

-How did you become aware of the generation-to-generation business succession?

I came to feel that my family and the business are two sides of the same coin when I was 20, in my second year in university, at my grandfather's funeral.

I saw lots of people in attendance, including employees and customers, and thought, "My grandfather, or rather, a person at the heart of our business, has died." And my father will succeed him. I will be next, so I really felt that our family and business were one.

-You will also someday inherit the name KOKUBU Kanbei, right?

My father is the current Representative Director, Chairman, and CEO of the KOKUBU Group Corp., and has inherited the name Kokubu Kanbei XII.

In contrast to the professional names of Kabuki actors, which are also passed down, we actually change our family register. Our permanent residence is in Mie Prefecture, so we have to go there and carry out various procedures.

-The Kokubu family has a large residence; how many years have you lived in Takanawa?

The Kokubu family have lived in our current location in Takanawa for around 100 years, following the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. I lived in a nearby apartment block for a while, but now I live with my father's family in a two-family home in the grounds.

-What are your impressions of the Takanawa area?

I love Takanawa. It's very convenient for my everyday commute and for business trips in other regions and overseas. It has lots of greenery, and is blessed with a natural environment. I often walk my dog nearby because of its good environment. Another great thing is the dynamism of the neighborhood association and shrine events such as festivals. However, a large number of high-rise buildings will be built nearby in the Takanawa Gateway development, and we must make sure that we don't lose the good things we already have.



Nihombashi during the Edo period. You can see the Kikkodai symbol from when the company was trading as "Daikokuya" on the warehouses.

Local Footprints No.1

Following the footsteps of KITASATO Shibasaburo

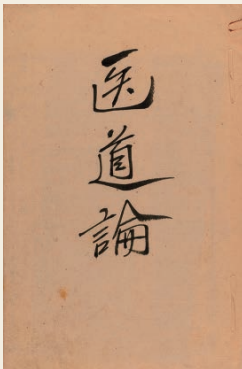
KITASATO Shibasaburo, whose portrait appears on the new 1,000 yen note issued on July 3, 2024, was the first head of the Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo (formerly the Institute for Infectious Diseases) in Shirokanedai. He was also the founder of the Kitasato Institute in Shirokane 5-Chome; we can say he truly was a person connected with the Takanawa area.



KITASATO Shibasaburo*

The research successes of Kitasato, a pioneer in preventative medicine

Kitasato enrolled in the Tokyo School of Medicine in 1874. His belief, written in “Idoron (Discussion of the Path of Medicine),” a draft speech he created while in the school, was that a doctor’s mission is to prevent illness before it takes hold, and he decided that he would work in public health with preventative medicine as his mission. After graduating, he entered the Home Ministry’s Health Bureau.



The cover of Idoron*

For six years from 1886, he studied in Germany, devoting himself to research under the world-famous microbiologist Dr. Robert Koch. In 1889, he succeeded in obtaining a clean culture of Clostridium tetani (tetanus bacillus), for the first time in the world. The following year, he discovered the immunological antibody and established a serum therapy, laying the foundations for antibody therapy. His successive achievements earned him a reputation as a world-class researcher. After he returned to Japan, he worked on investigating an outbreak of bubonic plague that had occurred in Hong Kong, and discovered plague bacillus in 1894.

When he finished his studies in Germany, Kitasato received a large number of offers from leading foreign research institutes, but chose to return to Japan. As a student studying overseas at government expense, he felt he should repay that kindness, and returned to Japan with the unshakable intent of making it his mission to eradicate and prevent infectious diseases, including TB. His motto of “consistency” remained unchanged, and he spent his life following this same path.

Kitasato, who returned to Japan in 1892, established the Institute for Infectious Diseases (affiliated with the Sanitary Society of Japan), and the following year he opened Japan’s first specialist tuberculosis hospital, Tsukushigaoka Yojoen. In 1914, he founded a new medical research institute, the Private Kitasato Institute. This produced many excellent students, and contributed significantly to educational activities in the fields of microbiology and immunology, and to fields such as hygiene administration. Kitasato prioritized practical science as the root of his education, with the four beliefs of trail-blazing, repaying kindnesses, intelligence and practicality, and tenacity. It is said that this “Shibasaburo Spirit” has been passed down, uninterrupted, as the “Kitasato Spirit”

Gratefulness for Dr. Koch: The Koch Kitasato Shrine

Under Dr. Koch, Kitasato achieved many brilliant outcomes. It is said that he felt deep gratitude toward Koch, who had helped him become a full-fledged researcher; one anecdote says that when Koch and his wife visited Japan in 1908 for 73 days, he personally guided them around different locations.

When Koch died in 1910, Kitasato was devastated, and created a small shrine to Koch to show his gratitude and as a vow to further develop their research. This is now the Koch Kitasato Shrine, and many patients and their families who come to the Kitasato Institute Hospital visit to pray for healing from illness and good health.



Kitasato Shibasaburo during his studies in Germany, “in commemoration of the establishment of serum therapy for tetanus,” 1890, aged 37*



Kitasato’s invention: Anaerobic bacteria culturing equipment (model)*



The Koch Kitasato Shrine, weeping cherry tree planted by Dr. SHIGA Kiyoshi (April 2024)*

*Photo provided by the Kitasato Institute’s Kitasato Shibasaburo Memorial Museum

Local Footprints No.2

Residences of famous figures working from the mid-19th century through to the early 20th century

Famous figures who were working from the mid-19th century through to the early 20th century lived on the high land of Takanawa. This was because there were a large number of daimyo (feudal lord) residences here, it was located close to the Tokaido (the main road across the country), and the high areas overlooked Tokyo Bay. This issue introduces the residence of GOTO Shojiro and the Kaitokaku, the residence of IWASAKI Yanosuke and IWASAKI Koyata of the Mitsubishi Zaibatsu conglomerate.

The residence of GOTO Shojiro



A woman wearing a kimono stands in the Western-style building to the right. Behind on the left is a Japanese-style building.
Source: "Hakushaku Goto Shojiro"

The residence of GOTO Shojiro was a large dwelling in grounds of 40,000 tsubo (approx. 132,000m²) in Takanawa. This plot was originally the site of residences belonging to daimyo and shogunate vassals, including the suburban residence of the daimyo of Satsuma Domain, and its ownership was transferred from the Shimazu family. It is said that a beautiful sunrise was visible from the high land on which it stood, overlooking Tokyo Bay.

Its vast grounds contained a plum grove, bamboo grove, pine grove, waterfall and pond, as well as pasture land to rear cows.

Shojiro put a lot of effort into maintaining his residence, and 100 people worked on it every day for three years. When the plum grove was created, it changed location seven times. Shojiro also hated the shaking caused by earthquakes, so he had thick concrete laid beneath the Western-style building.

This site was bought by the Meiji Government in 1898 and turned into the Takanawaminami-cho Imperial Villa, Shirakawano-miya Imperial Residence, and the Takedano-miya Imperial Residence. It now holds the Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa and the Takanawa Mori no Park.

The history of the Iwasaki family Takanawa residence and the Kaitokaku

The Kaitokaku was originally the Western-style building of the Takanawa residence of the Iwasaki family, the founders of the Mitsubishi Zaibatsu business conglomerate, and is located in Yatsuyama, straddling Takanawa 4-Chome and Kita-shinagawa. It is now used as the guesthouse of the 24 companies of the Mitsubishi Group, and is not open to the public, but we were able to talk to Mr. KITAGAWA Jun, General Manager of the Kaitokaku, from the maintenance and management company Mitsubishi Estate Co, Ltd., and to have a full tour of the building and its gardens.

The completion of the Takanawa Residence

In 1889, IWASAKI Yanosuke, the second head of the company, bought an empty lot (which had belonged to ITO Hirobumi) of 16,500 tsubo (approx. 54,450 m²) for 100,000 yen, and used the land for a detached residence for the main Surugadai residence. Yanosuke's primary hobby was building residences and gardens, and between 1901 and 1905, he dismantled and moved the Japanese gate (main gate), Japanese building and Shakado Hall of the main residence of the remains of the Ikeda family's Bizen Domain daimyo residence in Marunouchi to this plot and moved in here. In August 1908, four years later, the Takanawa residence was finally completed as an impressive Western-style building surrounded by a Western-style garden designed by Josiah Conder. Unfortunately, in March that year, Yanosuke passed away without seeing it finished.

Naming the Kaitokaku

After Yanosuke's death, the residence was occupied for several years by the fourth head of the company and Yanosuke's oldest son, Koyata, and his wife, before being used as a place to

receive guests and Mitsubishi in-house friendships. In 1938, the lot and building were transferred to the Mitsubishi company, and it was named the Kaitokaku at this time. The name was derived from a line from the "Tale of Gongsun Hong" a Chinese book from the Han dynasty, which, translated, said that Gongsun Hong of the Han dynasty, who became prime minister after a late education, built a guest house in his official residence, opened (kai) the east gate (the tokaku), and invited in a wise man to ask his opinion.

The destruction of the residence and rebuilding after the war

The air raids in May 1945 caused the inner buildings to be entirely destroyed, though part of the stone outer wall remained. The Japanese gate, Japanese-style building, and Shakado Hall, designated National Treasures in 1944, were also destroyed. In December that year, Koyata also passed away with the end of the era, almost as if it was fate.

For around 10 years after the war, the building was confiscated by GHQ, and after its release it was restored with the cooperation of the Mitsubishi companies; the present-day Kaitokaku was completed in September 1964, retaining the original form of its façade. It has since undergone internal restorations and base isolation work.

Note: As the building is not open to the public, you will not be able to receive a tour or visit even if you inquire after reading the article.



The exterior of the present-day Kaitokaku



The Kaitokaku as seen from the garden side



Well-maintained gardens

Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa

70 years of **history** and connection with the **local community**

The suburban residence of the daimyo of Satsuma Domain stood in Takanawa 3-Chome during the Edo period; this was owned by the chief retainer of Tosa Domain, GOTO Shojiro, in the Meiji period, and after this the Takeda-no-miya Imperial Residence, a western-style building (now the Kihinkan), was completed in 1911 as a residence for the Imperial family. After the war, the Takanawa Prince Hotel was opened in November 1953, and celebrated 70 years since its establishment last year. We asked Ms. KITANI Yuri of the hotel about its 70-year history, the cultural properties in its grounds, and its connection to the community.

70 years of history

Display panels in the lobby offer explanations and an introduction to the three hotels and ryokan the organization currently runs, when they were opened, and more. The opening reception, which took place in November 1953, was attended by then-US Vice President Nixon and his wife.

We were also surprised by the fact that a golf center was located here in the Takanawa area, though it was a driving range.

Designated Tangible Cultural Properties and historic buildings

The Japanese garden was created by KUSUOKA Teiji, who worked on the new Imperial Palace building, when the new building of the Takanawa Prince Hotel was opened in March 1971. The garden is home to around 210 cherry trees of 17 different species, and is a famous spot for cherry blossoms in Minato City. The garden contains the “Kannon Hall and Sanmon temple gate (and eleven-headed, half-lotus-seated Kannon statue from Chokyu-ji Temple in Nara Prefecture moved and situated in the Kannon Hall in 1954)” and the “Bell Tower (constructed in 1656, moved from Nenbutsu-ji Temple in Nara Prefecture in 1959),” designated as Minato City Tangible Cultural Properties in September 2021. It also has a “Bronze Lantern (moved from the mausoleum of the ruling Tokugawa family)” and guardian “Komainu lion dogs (from the Qianlong period of 18th century China. Moved from Shinagawa Prince Hotel in 1990).” The Japanese garden also started fantastical displays of over 400 bamboo lanterns as part of the elegant Takanawa Nijurokuya (26th Night) moon-waiting experience in April 2023. You can enter the garden freely, so take a stroll during the seasons for cherry blossoms and fall leaves.

The historic Western-style building (now the Kihinkan) was created by Imperial Household architect KATAYAMA Tokuma, a representative architect of the Meiji period, who worked on the State Guest House of Akasaka Palace and more. The Western-style building (Kihinkan), as a former building of the Takanawa Prince Hotel, retains its original façade, but was repaired based on designs by MURANO Togo, who worked on the repairs to the State Guest House of Akasaka Palace, in March 1972. Customers who have used it for wedding ceremonies have said that both the interior and exterior are wonderful.

Connections with the local community

Last summer, neighborhood associations around the hotel, including the Takanawaminami Neighborhood Association, Takanawa Shimbokukai, and Nishimachi Neighborhood Council, were involved in organizing the first Takanawa Summer Festival 2023 Bon Odori Dance, which was a huge success. The hotel wants to continue hosting this next year too, for the local people.



The exterior of the Kihinkan (former Takeda-no-miya Imperial Residence)



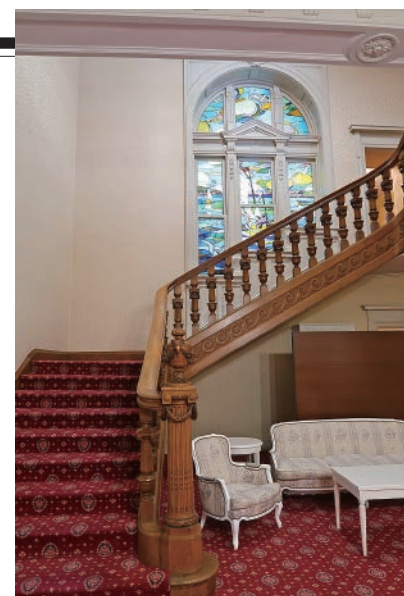
Kannon Hall

The hotel was also registered as a member of the Self-Defense Fire-Fighting Drill Review Board organized by the Takanawa Fire Department (held in a contest format), and the Takanawa District Safe Living and Environmental Beautification Council, and cooperates with the environmental beautification of the Takanawa area.

The hotel also creates New Year Plans, one of which involves an approximately 1-hour walk around famous places and historic spots in the area of the hotel: the Visiting History Walk. We felt that this was a good plan to deepen people's understanding of the local area around the hotel.

Future redevelopment of the area around the hotel

The hotel is easily accessed from the direction of Shinagawa Station, but the sidewalk on the Nihonenoki-dori Street side is narrow and, unfortunately, access to the hotel on foot is not always good. It seems there are plans to widen Nihonenoki-dori Street and create green spaces and parks in the area through future redevelopment (based on the “Tokyo Metropolitan Government Master Plan for City Planning Areas Shinagawa Station West Exit Area District Plan”). After the redevelopment, we expect there to be improved access to the hotel from the Nihonenoki-dori Street side and easier use of the hotel for everyone, including residents of the Takanawa area.



The interior of the Kihinkan (stained glass and stairs)



Sanmon gate and bamboo lanterns



Takanawa Summer Festival 2023 Bon Odori Dance



Self-Defense Fire-Fighting Drill Review Board

Comment from INOUE Katsuki, General Manager

We have recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa. This is truly thanks to the customers who give us day-to-day patronage and the support of people from the local community.

To ensure we can remain a hotel loved by all, we will work hard every day, treasuring our connection with the people of Minato City.



(Left) Mr. INOUE Katsuki, General Manager



(Right) Ms. KITANI Yuri (Supervisor, Sales & Marketing Department)

Everyone is welcome!

Introducing a Shopping Street

A place where a townscape of old-world charm remains

Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association

The Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association, located between the Kitasato University Hospital area and the Ebisu 3-chome crossroad, runs along Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street. You'll find rows of stores from times past here, in a warm and nostalgic atmosphere that you wouldn't think could exist in the heart of the city.

We asked Mr. Sato, President of the Association, about the shopping street's charms.

Mr. SATO Nobuhiro

He has served as President of the Association since 2013. He is the owner of Sato Eijiro Shoten (limited partnership), which has been running since 1926. The store sells electric tools, construction hardware, and home hardware, as well as offering lock fittings and replacements.



History of the Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association

The Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association has been rooted in the area for a long time as the Sanko Toyosawa Shopping Association. It has buildings that are over 100 years old, which escaped the destruction of the Tokyo Air Raids to survive until today; many of its stores are housed in these buildings, and were opened after the building was repaired.

Shirokane Awa Odori Dance (July each year)

Since 2017, further exchanges have been carried out with the home of the Awa Odori, Anan City in Tokushima Prefecture. When this event first started it was small in scale, but now, with the help of all of the local area and Anan City, it has become a wonderfully dynamic happening.

Safe urban development with peace of mind

The Shopping Association sees a large number of people coming and going to its shops but also to schools and the hospital. It runs along a narrow metropolitan road, and since this is also used as a bus route, it has a



high volume of traffic.

Because of this, the Shopping Association is proactively working on installing street lights and security cameras for local crime prevention and to stop accidents, and is focused on ensuring that member stores and local people can pass their time here safely and with peace of mind.

"Community development for physical health" in cooperation with Kitasato University Hospital

Kitasato University Hospital is also a member of the Shopping Association. Thanks to that connection, the Association is actively promoting "Community development for

physical health." The hospital, the Association, Minato City, and local residents have even come together to hold "Preventative Medicine: The Festival."

There are also eateries where you can enjoy a reduced-sugar menu recommended for a healthy body.

To finish the interview

"This is an unusual shopping association that stretches from Minato City to Shibuya City, and we hope to be visited by customers from both areas," said Mr. Sato.

Head on over to the Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association, which can offer you peace of mind wherever you go.

Points of note

Introducing the retro stores of the Shirokane Kitazato-dori Street Shopping Association!!



Western Cuisine Hachiro (center)



Kodaka Living (far right) and Yakitori Torihei (far left)



Ohashi Jidosha Shokai



Hoshinoya liquor store (far right)



Handmade Soba Kikko



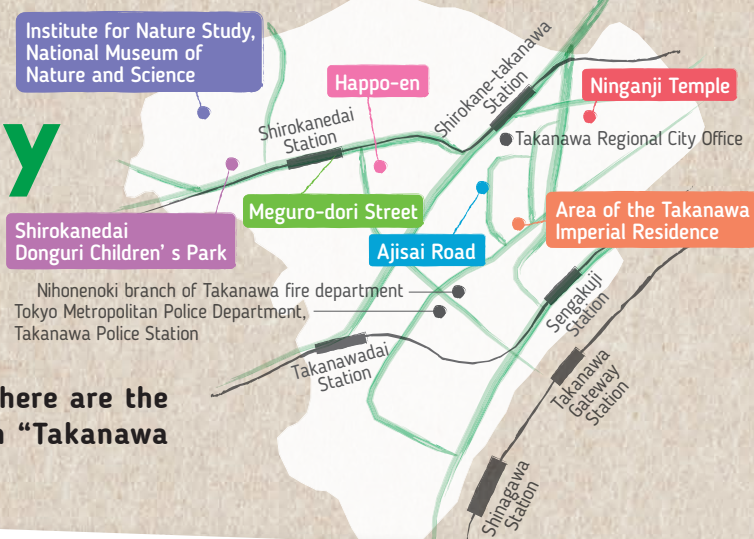
Okamura (far right)



Entrance of Okamura

The Takanawa area's Flowers and Greenery

The Minato City Greenery Survey (10th), created in March 2022, indicated that the greenery coverage in the Takanawa area was as high as 28%, and that this is an area blessed by greenery in the heart of the city. Different flowers bloom in each of the four seasons—a real feast for the eyes. In this issue, we introduce the flowers that bloom from late spring to summer. The photos used here are the work of local photographer HIRAO Kyoichi, and were published in “Takanawa Hana Goyomi,” a booklet he created, and on his website.



April



Meguro-dori Street: Flowering dogwood, the tree of Minato City

April



Shirokanedai Donguri Children's Park: Wisteria

May



Institute for Nature Study, National Museum of Nature and Science: Irises

May



Happa-en: Azaleas

May



Area of the Takanawa Imperial Residence (the former Sento Karigoshō, residence of Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita): Roses, a flower of Minato City (Princess Michiko)

June



Ajisai Road (Takamatsu Junior High School): Hydrangeas, a flower of Minato City

August



Ningenji Temple: Crape myrtle

(Staff: Hirao, Ando, Abe, Shimizu, Ikeido)



The official X account of the Takanawa Regional City Office has been established to share information from the Takanawa District more widely. The account posts a wide variety of information, including upcoming events and local happenings, as well as information on disaster prevention and environmental improvements. Please follow the account!

► Search for the Takanawa Regional City Office account



What is Minatop?

This is a community-based information paper that has been published in the Takanawa area since 2006 and is created in collaboration with the local people and the ward.

The contents are diverse, such as “local events and community activities,” “local history and resources,” and “people who are active in the community,” and you’re sure to discover something new. Read Minatop and become attached to the area.

I hope that this information paper will help some people to become interested in or like the area called “Takanawa”.



Open until 7:00 p.m. on every Wednesday. ※Services handled are limited. Please check in advance.

Counter Service Subsection, Residents Support Section: ☎5421-7612 / Health and Welfare Subsection: ☎5421-7085