









Visiting Embassies 38

## From the "World" of Azabu



His Excellency Mr. Jukka Siukosaari  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan

Finland

### Republic of Finland

Area: 338,000 km<sup>2</sup> (a little smaller than the land of Japan)  
Population: Approx. 5,490,000 (as of the end of April 2016)  
Capital City: Helsinki  
Head of State: President Sauli Niinisto (appointed in March 2012, six-year term)  
Legislature: Unicameral System (four-year term, 200 seats)

Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/finland/index.html>

Article Cooperation: Embassy of Finland



# FINLAND

## The Country of Aurora, Moomin and Santa Claus The Limitless Charm of Finland

2017 is a commemorative year for the people of Finland, as they celebrate the centenary of independence from the Russian Empire.

Japan is the first country in Asia to recognize the independence of Finland, and 2019 is the 100th anniversary of Japan-Finland Diplomatic Relations. In the same year, the "Moomin" theme park is scheduled to open in Hanno City, Saitama Prefecture. "Moomin" is a well-known and lovable character emblematic of Finland. There are likely to be more projects and events like this in cooperation with Finland. H.E. Mr. Jukka Siukosaari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan (hereinafter referred to as "the Ambassador"), was assigned as Ambassador to Japan in September 2016, after postings in Ireland, Italy, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Argentina. He took time from his busy schedule to speak to us.

### Finland Has a Lot in Common with Japan

The Ambassador came to Japan for the first time for an international conference in 2005. At that time, he was so busy he only went back and forth his hotel and the venue for the conference. The second time he visited Japan was just a preliminary inspection with his family, when he had not yet finished his post as Ambassador to Argentina in Buenos Aires. It was a snowy day in January. All members of his family were actually very pleased with this, because they felt like they were coming home! Japan is the first country in Asia he has been assigned to as a diplomat.

When we asked him about his first impression of Japanese people, his immediate thoughts were that there are many similarities between Japan and Finland.

"There are many people who are somewhat shy or reserved here, and it takes a while to get to know new people. However, once a relationship is established, long friendships and great mutual respect are common to the Japanese and the Finnish people." We all nodded, as we could really appreciate this point. He added that they have an orderly society that functions, and a common characteristic such as following rules, just like the Japanese people.

He pointed out that another remarkable thing we have in common is that they eat raw fish, which is quite rare in Europe. He further added, with a big smile, that most Finns could eat sashimi and sushi without any difficulty.

### 75% of the Country is Covered in Forest and Lakes Cover 10%

Finland is about 1,000 km long from north to south. 75% of the country is forest and Finns have about 188,000 lakes and ponds (\*1). They maintain a lifestyle of coexistence with nature even in urban areas. They take great care of their towns and cities. Trees



Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Jukka Siukosaari and his wife; his daily routine is walking with dogs from Argentina, his former post.  
Photo by Petri Asikainen

and flowering plants are even planted between buildings, not just in parks. This is also true in Japan. The Ambassador routinely takes a daily walk with his two dogs. His favorite spot is Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, where he exchanges greetings with his "friends with dogs" (people who became his friends through their dogs).

### The Country of Moomin and Santa Claus

The Ambassador has three children and their favorite character is, of course, Moomin. Finns love the Moomins, characters popularized by the Finnish artist Tove Jansson (1914 to 2001). The Ambassador had also read all of Jansson's Moomin books by the time he was 11 years old. He reads the same books to his children.

Coexistence with nature is the essence of these stories. The sea is an important factor for them. They also include a philosophical factor. A variety of age groups can appreciate these tales in their own personal ways.

Surprisingly, the animated cartoon of Moomin was



Creator of Moomin  
Ms. Tove Jansson  
Photo by Per Olov Jansson  
© Moomin Characters™

In 2019, a Moomin theme park is scheduled to open in Hanno City, Saitama Prefecture.  
Photo: Producer Mr. Dennis Livson/2016 MOOMIN CHARACTERS™ & DENNIS LIVSON/Visit Finland

first created in Japan and reimported to Finland. Globally, Moomin is the most known and loved in Japan next to Finland. The first Moomin theme park outside Finland will open in Japan (in 2019), and this is something we are quite proud of.

Children all over the world eagerly anticipate Christmas, and Finland is famous as the country where Santa Claus lives. In the northernmost area there is a mountain called "Korvatunturi," and Santa Claus lives there. The transfrontier area named "Lapland" is home to about 8,000 Sami people in Finland, the last nomadic people in all of Europe.

Christmas is the most important family time of the year. A bell tolls in the 700-year-old Turku Cathedral at noon on Christmas Eve, and a "Peace Declaration" is held in the open space in front of the Cathedral. This is broadcasted all over Finland, and also in many

other countries.

At home, gorgeous Christmas dishes are arranged on tables. His fondest memory is of his mother's porridge mixed with cinnamon and sugar. An almond is often thrown in as a kind of game, and whoever succeeds in finding it gets good luck. In addition, there are potato and liver casseroles (food cooked by boiling and stewing), a Christmas ham, and a pie called "Karjalanpiirakka," where rye dough with milk porridge is baked in the oven, eaten with egg butter on top. His mom's home cooking is surely hard work at Christmas!

### A Country of Fun and a Boom in Unique Sports

Finland attracts tourists from around the world for aurora viewing tours. From Japan, about 260,000 people visit Finland per year (\*2). Tourists are being drawn to Finland during seasons other than winter nowadays, as it has four beautiful seasons. There are many activities provided for us to fully enjoy nature in Finland. In winter, you can participate in a dogsled tour or drive a reindeer sleigh. The Ambassador generally loves sports, and enjoys them from time to time. He says modestly, "But there is no sport I can say that I am good at."

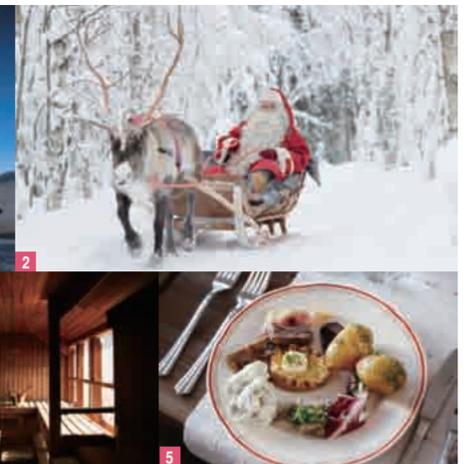
Ice hockey is very popular in Finland even though it is not a national sport. The number of children who play it is large, comparable to that of football. "However, my son is keen on basketball," he said.

In Finland, there are many unique competitions and many people come to join such competitions from all over the world. For example, "Swamp Football" is one of them. The venue is set intentionally in a swamp, and participants get very muddy as they play the game. He explained, "Even if you are not able to run fast, or you are not good at football, you can really enjoy this sport." The "Wife Carrying" race is also well known. Husbands run the course with their wives on their backs, which looks more fun than carrying them in their arms.

When we asked him, "Have you ever participated in this event?" he smiled and joked, "No, I haven't, but I carry her at different occasions." That's great!

One championship that he has participated in is called, "Boot Throwing." There is also a "Mobile Phone Throwing Championships". Another competition well known to the Japanese people is the "Air Guitar World Championships." In this competition, participants act as if they are playing a guitar and they compete with their performances. In the past, two Japanese won this contest.

They say that one of the national characteristics of Finns is their shyness. Surprisingly, they also demonstrate the opposite characteristic in these unbelievably unique competitions. "Finns loves rules, so there are strict rules in any competition, which is well understood among Finns." We also understand that well!



- 1 Natural mystery, Aurora Borealis fills the sky.  
Photo: Only in Lapland/Visit Finland
- 2 Santa Claus lives in the north end of Finland  
Photo: Juho Kuva/Visit Finland
- 3 Finns love coffee more than anyone else in the world. You can find coffee shops everywhere in Finnish towns.  
Photo: Elina Sirparanta/Visit Finland
- 4 Many houses have a sauna. Saunas have played an important role in the lives of Finns for centuries, and are indispensable to their lives.  
Photo: Harri Tarvainen/Visit Finland
- 5 In the center is pie "Karjalanpiirakka"  
Photo: Harri Tarvainen/Visit Finland

### A Prominent Country where People Love Coffee and Saunas

Finland is the world's No. 1 consumer of coffee per capita. We were very surprised to hear this. Statistically, Luxembourg is actually No. 1, partly because the tax rate in Luxembourg is low, so people from the neighboring countries visit to buy large amounts of coffee beans there. Finns drink an average of 3.3 cups of coffee a day, or 1,212 cups a year (30 times more than Japanese: 340 cups a year per Japanese) (\*3). They consume 12 kg of coffee beans (Japan: 3.4 kg) (\*4), which is twice as much as Italians. This figure is based on statistics for the entire population, so consumption per adult must be much higher.

"Robert's Coffee" is famous in Finland, and there is a branch of the shop in Fukuoka also in Japan. In Finland, there are many coffee shops in city streets. Drinking a cup of coffee is part of their daily lives at home and in the office. When a guest comes, a cup of coffee is always served. However, they don't let children drink coffee, just like in Japan. They start drinking coffee when they are around 15 years old. Ambassador started it at 18 years old.

One more interesting comparison is the number of saunas. They say that there are more than 3 million saunas for a population of 5.49 million (\*5). They are considered indispensable to the Finnish lifestyle. Amazingly, the Embassy has saunas for guests and staff members.

Talking with the Ambassador was very interesting, and there seemed to be no end to the topics we could discuss. He told us many stories. Their pride in the coffee and baked sweets they served for us during our interview was wonderful, and very much appreciated.

\*1 Based on page 5 of "FINFO-Facts about Finland" issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 2015

\*2 Based on the "Embassy" page on the website of the Embassy of Finland in Tokyo

\*3 Based on the "Monthly coffee market report" issued by the International Coffee Organization in January 2012

\*4 Based on page 9 of "FINFO-Facts about Finland" issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 2015

\*5 Based on page 19 of "Clean Finland" issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 2014

Embassy of Finland in Tokyo website: <http://www.finland.or.jp>



The building seen from the left upper tree shade is Azabu Post Office. The remarkable high-rise building on the right is Tokyo Midtown. (Photo taken in 2013)



View from the top of the Sannen-zaka Slope in 1975



View from the base of the Sannen-zaka Slope in 1975



Looming on the upper right is Sengoku-yama Mori Tower in Ark Hills. Seen at the left upper distance is TV Tokyo's new main office building. (Photo taken in 2014)



Photos taken by Masanori Taguchi in 1975 and provided by Shigehisa Taguchi

# The Azabu Future Photo Studio

—The Slope where people and their spirits come and go—

## Ochiai-zaka Slope

This time, a slope along the Azabu Gazenbo-cho that was described in the last volume (*Ochiai-zaka Slope, Vol. 38*) is reintroduced. Various episodes might be hidden there. I expected so, and decided to research it.

### There was no name for the slope!

The signboard standing on top of the slope says, "It is uncertain when this slope was finally named, or who named it, but in the era when Tokyo was called Edo, this slope had no name". "Oh my gosh! I had at last found a slope with no name!" I said to myself. I gazed at the view from the top of the slope. The name of the slope now is "Sannen-zaka", but in the Edo Period, people might not have recognized this as a slope. Presently, stone stairs have been installed and the road has been paved. (However, in the Edo Period, this road might have just been an inclined bumpy street). There are many slopes that might have had no name in Minato City, but this case is quite interesting because it is unknown when the slope was named, or what the origin of the name is.

Apart from that, the view from the top of the slope is breathtaking. This would be because of the large difference of elevation between Azabu-dai and the valley, but the contrast of old townscape in the valley in the front against the new high-rise buildings in the distance is wonderful. Sannen-zaka slope is quite steep, so now stairs have been installed, which look tasteful together with this breathtaking view. On the left side, we can see the dignified rear view of the Azabu Post Office. On the right side, there is Ark Hills Sengoku-yama Mori Tower, and in front of us, the Tokyo Midtown building rising high in the distance (\* the highest building in the area). It seems to benefit from this rolling landform, and the townscapes of the past and present are beautifully viewed together.

### In fact, there are many "Sannen-zaka" slopes.

As stated in the signboard previously mentioned, "Sannen-zaka" (three-year slope) is also written as 'Sannen-zaka' (three-sense slope), and there are other slopes with the same name. In fact, there is a slope with the same name close to Shimizu in Kyoto". It is mysterious that there should be various interpretations. However, I had a question: "What did the name 'Sannen-zaka' (three-sense slope) come from?" So I looked into it. It is said "when a person tumbles down to the ground on the slope, the person will die within three years unless the person licks the soil on the slope three times". How frightening is that?! This slope is very steep, so falling down would be quite possible for visitors. According to this saying, we should just lick the soil three times to survive. However, it is unknown when, who, and why the slope was named like this. Because this slope had no name in the Edo Period, the mystery deepens even further. On the signboard, it is concluded, "It would be romantic if a person long ago put their feelings of nostalgia for their hometown of Kyoto in the name of the slope". "Romantic" also seems mysterious, but I hope that the hometown of the person who named this slope was Kyoto. This is of course a popular version, not the real origin of the slope.

Because the origin is so mysterious, we can imagine a variety of interesting episodes around it.

### Surging New Waves

In this area where new and old townscapes are viewed together, and even a frightening origin story has been conceived, an unavoidable "New Wave" has arrived. A redevelopment project is coming around the corner. It is natural that the town changes little by little, as people have been living there for a long time. There is only a little time left for viewing such a beautiful contrast of the past and present, but we look to the future of Azabu, which no one has seen yet.



Panoramic view of the area around Sannen-zaka Slope: Ark Hills Sengoku-yama Mori Tower on the right hand side. It can be seen that the redevelopment wave literally surges over the area. (Photo taken in 2011)

### About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

Since 2009, the Azabu Regional City Office has been organizing activities with Azabu Future Photo Studio in an endeavor to capture the changes to the cityscape of Azabu. They've been working together with local residents and businesses to collect old photographs of the Azabu region, as well as taking photographs at fixed-point locations.

Through the collection and preservation of things from the Azabu region, these activities are designed to preserve and pass down historical and cultural resources that are familiar to long-time local residents down to future generations, as well as expanding their utilization in the future. At the same time, the project aims to make the history and culture of the town known to even more people, contributing to the deepening of their affection for the town.

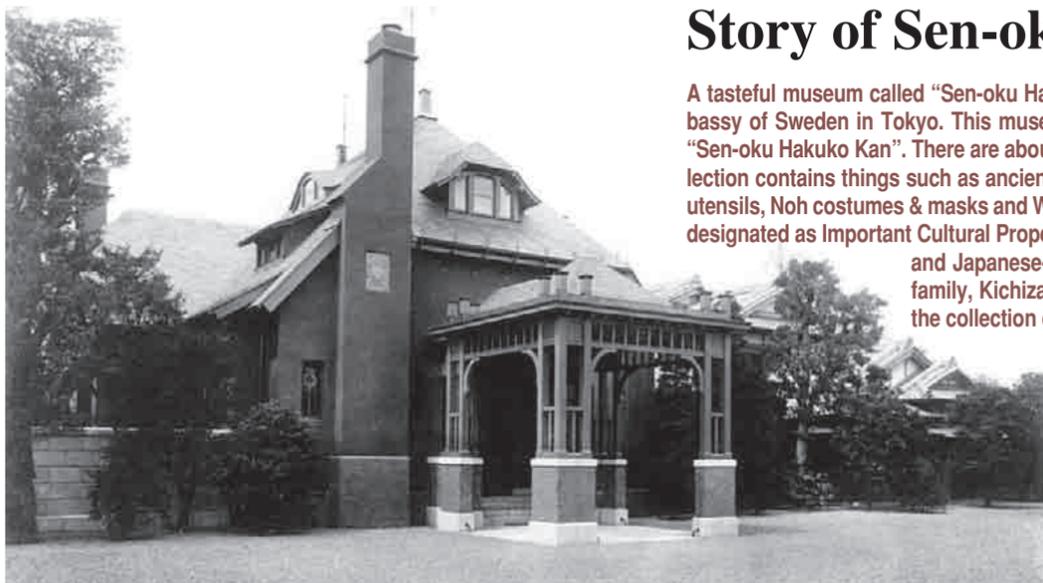
### The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu region that you feel should be preserved and passed on with a view to the future, please contact the Azabu Regional City Office. For details, please contact the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

**Inquire: Tel: 03-5114-8812**

## Story of Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo)

A tasteful museum called "Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo)" is located in a corner of the Izumi Garden in front of the Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo. This museum was opened in 2002 by a public interest incorporated foundation of the same name, "Sen-oku Hakuko Kan". There are about 3,000 items in the Sen-oku Hakuko Kan museums' collection (Kyoto and Tokyo). The collection contains things such as ancient Chinese bronzes, Chinese and Japanese paintings and calligraphic works, Japanese tea utensils, Noh costumes & masks and Western paintings, including two items designated as National Treasures and nineteen items designated as Important Cultural Properties. At the site of this museum, there used to be a second house including Western-style and Japanese-style buildings in Azabu Ichibei-cho, constructed by the fifteenth head of the SUMITOMO family, Kichizaemon Tomoito SUMITOMO (the pen name of Shunsui: 1864 to 1926), who was involved in the collection of such art objects.



The SUMITOMO Family Azabu Second House (reprinted from "Kenchiku Kogei Sousei" (architecture and craftsmanship magazine), Second Period, Volume 21, July 1916)



# 麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena  
of Azabu

### SUMITOMO Family and Baron

It is said that Tomoito SUMITOMO is the person who built the foundation of the modern SUMITOMO group today.

For the SUMITOMO family, the first head Masatomo SUMITOMO was a Buddhist priest, and became a merchant in the 17th century. He provided hints for merchants in his book "Monju-in Shiigaki". His brother-in law Riemon Soga operated a copper-refining factory in Kyoto, and his first son Tomomochi became an adopted son of Masatomo SUMITOMO. Tomomochi established Izumi-ya SUMITOMO as the head house of the "Nanban-fuki" copper-refining technique and established the "well curb" trademark associated with "Izumi" (fountain) from the meaning of "Izumi-ya".

In the history of the SUMITOMO family, since receiving permission to open the Besshi copper mine from the Tokugawa Shogunate in the Edo Period, in exchange for "Unjokin" Edo Period business taxes, they continued to operate this mine as one of the foremost private mines in Japan for 300 years up to the Showa Era. In the national isolation era in Japan, the SUMITOMO family supported Japan as a copper-producing country through international trade through Nagasaki. In the periods of confusion before and after the Meiji Restoration, they maintained their right to manage the copper mine, and after that increased copper production in the Meiji Era under the government policy of encouraging new industry for a prosperous country.

In 1893, the SUMITOMO family accepted Takamaro Tokudaiji from a court noble as an adoptive heir, and as the head of the family. He was a very sophisticated person who studied Japanese classical literature and books written in Chinese when he was in his early childhood, and acquired a court noble's academic traditions and elegance. Then, he studied in the Gakushuin School.

He adopted the name of Kichizaemon Tomoito SUMITOMO and worked hard to develop the family business. He aimed at modernizing the management of the Besshi Copper Mine, and the diversification of the SUMITOMO family businesses. In 1895, he established SUMITOMO Bank Ltd., and built a foundation for the related companies of the next generation such as SUMITOMO Warehouse Co., Ltd., and SUMITOMO Shindo-jo (copper foundry), etc. In 1896, he revised the family constitution. The success of his business is proven in records that show Kichizaemon SUMITOMO was at the top of the list of millionaires in Osaka Prefecture with 70 million yen in 1916.

On the other hand, Tomoito SUMITOMO asked Koun Takamura (1852 to 1934), a professor at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts and others to create a statue of Masashige Kusunoki (a military commander in the 14th century) to mark the 200th anniversary of the Besshi Copper Mine in 1980. Tomoito donated it to Japan in 1900. This statue still exists in Kokyo Gaien, the Outer Garden of the Imperial Palace, National Garden. In 1904, He donated the Osaka Library to Osaka Prefecture.

In 1911, Kichizaemon Tomoito SUMITOMO was given the title of baron.

### A Short History of the SUMITOMO Family's Second House in Azabu Ichibei-cho

One of the episodes related to the relationship between the SUMITOMO family and Azabu is that they purchased land of about 3,400 tsubos (11,220m<sup>2</sup>) in 1-113, Azabu Ichibei-cho (presently 1-5-1, Roppongi) previously owned by Marquis Nakahiro Ikeda, in 1912. A German traditional-style brick main house and attached Western-style house and Japanese-style house were designed by Yutaka Hidaka (1875 to 1952), a graduate from Tokyo Imperial University and a staff member of the Building and Repairs Section at the SUMITOMO Head Office. This was completed in 1916, and called the Azabu Ichibei-cho Second House.

On September 1, 1923, when the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred, the Azabu Second House sustained only slight damage such as to roofing tiles and walls. In the main building, families of the company's staff whose houses were more seriously damaged were accepted, and a temporary building was constructed in the site to offer shelter.

On September 5, 1923, 111 tons of rice and 1000 blankets, etc. were sent from the Kansai region by ship. Part of this was put into the hands of the temporary disaster relief office to help others also at risk for disaster.

After the February 26 Incident in 1936, Kinmochi Saionji (1849 to 1940), Tomoi-

to's elder brother by blood, immediately visited the palace, and stayed at the Azabu Second House. On March 6, 1936 he recommended the inauguration of the Koki Hirota (1879 to 1948) Cabinet. He maintains that on March 8, 1936 the song of a bush warbler in the garden gave him inspiration, such that his work was successfully done, and he went home.

A detached house designed by Eikichi Hasebe (1885 to 1960), an architect and former staff member of the SUMITOMO Building and Repairs Section, was built on the site of the Second House in 1940.

In the middle of the night on March 9, 1945, a fire broke out in the Ichibai-cho Dori area because of the Great Tokyo Air Raid just before the end of WWII. Kafu Nagai's (1879 to 1959) house "Henki Kan" burnt down in the blaze. The SUMITOMO Second House survived, and Kafu accepted the offer to establish the Neighborhood Association Office in the SUMITOMO Second House site. In his diary "Dancho Tei Nichijo", he wrote that in this place, postal matters were accepted and monetary gifts from volunteers in the town were offered to those suffering during those hard times.

SUMITOMO-Kaikan Hall was constructed in 1965 and Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo) was built in one corner of Izumi Garden in the redevelopment project conducted by SUMITOMO Realty and Development Co. Ltd., in 2002.

### The Cultivated Taste of Shunsui

Shunsui (Tomoito) SUMITOMO had many hobbies, such as Tenkoku (seal-engraving), as well as the arts of the sencha tea ceremony and the matcha tea ceremony, Noh stage art and calligraphy since his early childhood, and loved old bronzes and bonsais (dwarf potted trees).

Shunsui's pursuit of beauty would begin based on his own "taste", but also on Western-style housing architecture and culture. He learned about Western art and interior and exterior garden and house design (they decorate the house and garden with art objects) when he travelled to Europe and the United States in 1887. What he learned is evident in the Western-style SUMITOMO houses in Kansai and Azabu.

The first oil painting that Shunsui purchased was "Chousho" (Morning toilette), painted by Seiki Kuroda (1866 to 1924) through an introduction by Kinmochi Saionji. Later, he purchased some more works by Kuroda, but most of them were lost or damaged in the war, as was the SUMITOMO Suma House where such works were displayed. In 1897, he purchased Claude Monet's "Parc Monceau" and "Road to the Saint-Simeon Farm", and other Western-style paintings from Tadamas Hayashi (1853 to 1906), an art dealer in Paris. Also, he supported Takeshiro Kanokogi (1874 to 1941), an oil painter, for his study in Paris and also supported Chu Asai (1856 to 1907) who came back from Paris and became a professor of Kyoto College of Technology, for the construction of the school buildings of Kansai Bijutsuin (Fine Arts Academy of Western Japan) when he established the new Kansai Bijutsuin. Shunsui also purchased their works. In addition, he purchased French and Japanese oil paintings and collected the works of the artists of the same period, including the ceramic art of Hazan Itaya.

In the introduction to his illustrated old Chinese bronzes book, Shunsui SUMITOMO wrote that "I collected old Chinese bronzes which were not appraised by any expert, but suited my taste and my judgment based on various books I studied". In "Shunju Sashiden" (Zuo Zhuan), a Chinese history book reportedly written by Confucius, which he probably read in his early childhood, it was said "the character of a man is judged based on his refinedness, and a product of culture or civilization should be judged based on its dignity". We imagine that Shunsui understood products of culture or civilization as an expression of the noble character of a man and collected a wide range of art objects from bronzes and ceramics to Oriental-style and Western-style paintings, according to his own cultivated taste.

The cultivated taste of Shunsui exceeds the domain of a private hobby, but contributes to the support of cultural assets for posterity.



Hashimoto (left) who is in charge of public relations and Morishita, curator, Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo)

Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo): 1-5-1, Roppongi, Minato-ku  
Tel: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial Service) <http://www.sen-oku.or.jp/>



Map of Azabu-ku, Tokyo City in 1924 ("Zouho Minato-ku Kindai Enkaku Zushu Azabu Roppongi" (Additional Minato-ku Modern History Illustration Book, Azabu and Roppongi) (issued by Minato-ku Board of Education)).

### Reference

- Special Guide for Tokyo Venue for "The Compelling Beauty of Arita Ceramics in the Age of the Great International Expositions" Exhibition held by Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Sumitomo Group Public Affairs Committee <http://www.sumitomo.gr.jp/>
- Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Pamphlet
- "SUMITOMO Shunsui" edited by "SUMITOMO Shunsui" Editorial Committee
- "SUMITOMO Shunsui - Bi no yume wa owaranai" (Shunsui SUMITOMO - The Dream of Beauty is forever) edited by the Fine Arts and Literature Department, Sen-oku Hakuko Kan, a public interest incorporated foundation, published by Sen-oku Hakuko Kan
- "Sumitomo Monogatari" (SUMITOMO Story) written by Shirayanagi Shuko published by Chikura Shobo
- "Hanse Monogatari First Volume" written by Saihei Hirose, Hirose Collection Version
- "5. Design of Commercial Town" in Japanese Architecture "Meiji, Taisho and Showa Eras" written by Katsuhiko Sakamoto, published by Sansendo Co., Ltd.
- "Kindai Nihon, Kenchikuka no Ashiato, Hasebe Eikichi" (Modern Japan, Footprints of an Architect, Eikichi Hasebe), in Kenchiku Bunka (Architectural Culture) magazine, September 1990 issue, written by Junichiro Ishida
- "Dancho Tei Nichijo Second Volume" diary in Iwanami Bunko library, written by Kafu Nagai, published by Iwanami Shoten
- "The Complete Works of Seiki Kuroda" written by Eisaku Wada, published by Shinbi Shoin
- "Jiji Shinpo-sha Chosa Zenkoku Goju-man Ijo Shisanka Hyou" (Jiji Shinpo-sha Investigated All Japan Wealth Person List with 500,000 yen or More): the 3rd Investigation by Jiji Shinpo-sha, published by Jiji Shinpo-sha
- "Chotto Paris Made, Zutto Paris De" edited by Koichiro Noji, published by Sen-oku Hakuko Kan, a public interest incorporated foundation
- Data Collection Support
- Aiko Morishita, Curator and Asako Hashimoto, person in charge of public relations in Sen-oku Hakuko Kan Museum (Tokyo)
- Fine Arts and Literature Department, Sen-oku Hakuko Kan, a public interest incorporated foundation
- SUMITOMO Historical Archives

(Data collected by Sumie Koike, Yasuhiro Tanaka and Akira Mori, written by Akira Mori)

**“Azabu Dialogue Committee Azabu Regional Policy Subcommittee” has submitted its investigation results report to the Mayor of Minato City as a proposal.**

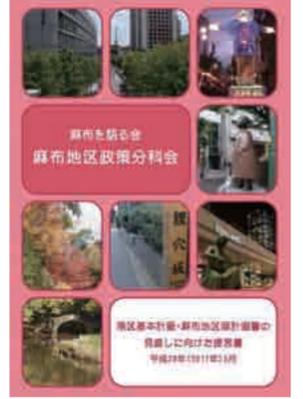
A Minato City proposal ceremony for resident participating organizations from all districts was held on Friday, March 24, 2017, and the ward resident participating organization “Azabu Dialogue Committee Azabu Regional Policy Subcommittee” handed the resulting report of the many discussions to Mr. Masaaki Takei, the Mayor of Minato City, as a proposal.

The “Proposal for the Review of Minato City Basic Plan/Plan for the Azabu Region” compiled by the members of the Azabu Region Policy Subcommittee can be obtained at the counter of the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office or accessed from the website of Minato City.

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



Scene of the Proposal Ceremony



Front Page of the Written Proposal

**The 14th Large Meeting for the Promotion of Youth Health Development will be held in Roppongi, as part of the 67th Brighter Society Campaign.**

The Brighter Society Campaign is a nationwide movement that seeks to deepen the understanding of all people in Japan regarding crime prevention and delinquency and the reform of criminals. They join forces in their respective areas, and aim to create a bright society without crime or delinquency. This year marks the 67th Brighter Society Campaign.

Come and bring your friends along.

**Date and Time** Saturday, July 8, 2017  
 Memorial Ceremony: 1:25 pm to 3:45 pm  
 Parade: 4:00 pm to 4:40 pm

**Venue** Memorial Ceremony: Roppongi Hills Arena (6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato City)  
 Parade: Starting from Roppongi Hills Arena - Keyaki-zaka - Azabu-juban Shopping Street - In front of Resona Bank at Ichinohashi Crossing

**Precautions** This event might be canceled in case of bad weather. Confirm if this event will be held or not by calling Minato Call from 9:00 am for the memorial ceremony and from 3:00 pm for the parade on the day of the event.  
 Minato Call: 03-5472-3710



**Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, Tel: 03-5114-8802**  
**Welfare Activities Support Subsection, Health and Welfare Section, Public Health and Welfare Support Department, Minato City Office, Tel: 03-3578-2379**

**Information from Azabu Fire Station**

**Take care not to get heatstroke!**

Immediately after the rainy season is over, the hot summer will begin. Heatstroke can occur not only outdoors, but also indoors. Even when you are indoors, pay attention to the room temperature and drink water frequently.



- **Take care in your activities!**
  - Choose to walk in the shade. • Choose to be in cool places. • Take a rest as necessary.
  - Decide to go out or not by referring to the weather forecast.
- **Choose your clothes carefully.**
  - Use sweat absorbing and quick-drying clothes. • Loosen your collar for ventilation.
  - Use a parasol or wear a cap.
- **Manage your living environment.**
  - Insulate against outside heat (with window shades, reed screens or shading film, etc.).
  - Well ventilate your space (with screen doors, wellhole, etc.).
  - Use air-conditioners (turn on the AC without hesitation).
  - Drink water before you feel thirsty or go out to a hot place.

**Inquiries: Fire Protection Management Branch, Fire Prevention Section, Azabu Fire Station, Tel: 03-3470-0119 (ex. 520)**

**The restaurant “SASARA” opened on the 2nd floor of the Azabu Regional City Office.**

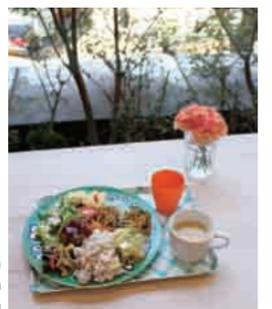
SASARA provides a weekly rotating lunch menu, featuring healthy ingredients drawing on the staff members’ experience cooking in a nursery school. Its concept is “Heartening Dishes” that are easy-to-digest meals and just like mom’s home cooking.

**Hours** Lunch Time: 11:30am to 2:00pm  
 Tea Time: 2:30pm to 5:00pm

**Closed** Saturday, Sunday and National Holidays

**Location** 2nd floor of the Azabu Regional City Office

**Inquiries: Restaurant “SASARA”  
 Tel: 03-6441-0304**



Lunch Plate (with Dessert and Coffee)  
 Size M: 900 yen  
 Size S : 700 yen

**Guidance for Account Transfer for Metropolitan Tax Payment**

**Notification about the Relief Measures for Real Estate Tax and City Planning Tax in FY2017 (within the 23 Wards)**

- 1) Measures to reduce the upper limit charge level of Real Estate Tax/City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc.
- 2) Tax Exemption for Real Estate Tax/City Planning Tax for small non-residential land
- 3) Relief measures for City Planning Tax for small residential land are also applied throughout FY2017.

For more information, access our website or contact the office below:

**Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City  
 Real Estate Tax Section, Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office,  
 Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Main)**

**For Metropolitan Tax Payments, Account Transfers are Safe and Convenient!**

When an account transfer service is used, the tax payment from your bank account is automatically performed on the last day of the tax payment period (deadline for tax payment). Apply for this service by the 10th of the previous month of the month when the payment is started. If the 10th of the month is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, apply by the next opening date of the Tax Office.

**Account Transfer Available for Metropolitan Taxes**

Individual Enterprise Tax, Real Estate Tax /City Planning Tax (Land and Houses)\*, and Real Estate Tax (Depreciable Assets)\*

\* Assets within the 23 wards are subject to taxation. Account transfer services are not available for irregular taxes (tax imposed as required).For more information, access our website or contact the office below:

**Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division, Tel: 03-3252-0955 (week-days, 9:00am to 5:00pm)**

# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



## Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind



### We Are Continually Looking for Shops and Businesses that are in Agreement With the Spirit of the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind!!

The town of Roppongi promotes projects related to the local independent rules "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind", accommodating the five concepts, "Crime Prevention," "Environmental Beautification," "Smoking Rules," "Usage of Streets," and "Business Operation", in cooperation with the district and its administration.



Certification Sticker to be sent to the certified recommended businesses, etc.

As part of efforts to make the charter as widely known as possible, the Minato City Certification System for Recommended Businesses Supporting the Minato City Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind has been established, and shops and businesses that are in agreement with the spirit of the Charter are being recruited as follows.

#### Recruitment Details

- Eligibility** Shops and business enterprises, etc. located in, or active mainly in, the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)
- How to apply**
  - Step 1:** Check that you understand the purport and contents of the Charter by looking at the Minato City Official Website.
  - Step 2:** Obtain a Letter of Agreement from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, or from the Minato City Official Website.
  - Step 3:** Fill in the required information on the Letter of Agreement and either send it by post or submit it in person to the counter at the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

The contents of the Charter can be viewed in full on the Minato City Official Website or obtained from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

For further information on the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind, please see below.

Minato City Official Website  
<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>



Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

Search

The names of shops/business enterprises that support the charter will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as "Businesses that are in Agreement with the Spirit of the Charter"

\* An application form for certification as a "Supporting/Recommended Business" will be sent to "Businesses that are in Agreement with the Spirit of the Charter". The application is screened, and shops/businesses that are granted certification are presented with a certificate and certification sticker. In addition, their name and details of their activities will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters.

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

## FY2017 Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site) will be conducted. — Everyone is welcome to join!

Aimed to enhance "Self-Help" Attitudes! In a time of disaster, in addition to general cooperation in the district, individual preparation is required.

For this disaster preparedness drill, we will assume that an M-7 class Tokyo Inland Earthquake has directly hit the Tokyo area. There is a 70% probability of this occurring in the next 30 years, with large-scale damage to buildings and significant loss of life. Therefore, a variety of training courses are to be conducted. If you participate in these courses, you will have a good opportunity to improve your disaster prevention attitude and plan what you need to do in time of disaster. We strongly recommend that you participate in this Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site) to prepare yourself and your family for a large-scale disaster.



Scene of Exercise for Early Stage Fire-Fighting in FY2016 Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site)

- Date and Time** 9:30am – 11:30am on Sunday, October 22, 2017 (planned)  
 \* English speaking tour starts at 10:00 a.m.
- Location** Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Grounds and Gymnasium  
 6-8-16 Roppongi, Minato City



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

**Going shopping? Visit our local shopping streets.**

Please send us your comments or requests regarding **The Azabu**



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 not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).  
 ● Tel: 03-5114-8812 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We are looking for **Editorial Staff**

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City website.



**AZABU**  
 ● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane-bashi subway stations, The Chi Bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-azabu, Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.  
 ● Usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

- |                 |                   |                    |
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#### Editor's Note

I participated in the editorial meeting for the first time because I wanted to know much more about Azabu. I read articles while listening about how data was actually collected, making me feel as though I was at the scene. Also, I was very surprised with the volume of information possessed by the editorial staff members and the sensitivity of their data collection antenna. One day I would like to disseminate information in these newsletters by enhancing my ability to gather information about new discoveries in my daily life.

(Akiko Horiuchi)

The original article is written in Japanese.

#### "Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a city information service about services provided by City Hall, facility guide, event information, etc., available from 7:00am to 11:00pm everyday.

\* English speakers are also available.

**Minato Call :**

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752

E-mail: [info@minato.call-center.jp](mailto:info@minato.call-center.jp)