



A community information paper created and edited by people who live in Azabu.

A Baluster style architectural structure (supports shaped like flower bulbs or layered discs) was employed for the roof terrace and to the right and left of the entrance hall. A very regular square or rectangular design is emphasized with a lot of windows and columns at the front of the building.  
Photo provided by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo



Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ⑬

## The Building of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tokyo

The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo is located in a quiet part of the Azabudai area, and it is similar to a magnificent palace in that it appears suddenly on high ground. There are not any adjacent houses or buildings to the site. The Embassy moved here from Yoyogi Uehara in July 2008. The former old conference building for the central government agencies (Chuokancho Godo Kaigisho) was completely renovated and transformed into this exotic and sophisticated embassy building.



From the front, this building looks like a two-story building with a rooftop structure. However, viewed from the rear, the two office area basement floors are visible, revealing this to be a four-story building. On the other side of the rooftop structure (around the pole for the national flag) a small dome can be seen (photo taken in 2008).

Photo provided by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo



This work was created by Yar Taraky, and it portrays young people enjoying performing an Afghan traditional dance called "ATTAN." There are several other paintings in the building, including one drawing of the "Stone Cave in the Bamiyan Valley".  
Photo provided by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo



Entrance Hall: On the right-hand side is a hall named after "Maulana Jalaluddin Muhammad Balkhi Rumi," a famous poet from the 13th century. The stairwell on the left side is a very popular photo spot.



H.E. Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, ambassador, is reading a book about the people who conducted the relocation project under the instruction of H.E. Mr. Amin, the former ambassador. Looking back at the time when the project was completed, he told us, "I remember this as a time when we had to overcome a lot of difficulties. However, it was an exciting time because we could see that our efforts were bearing fruit." Symbols of the era are proudly displayed on the column behind him.



Main carpets have the letters meaning "The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo" woven into it.

The entrance hall, with its dazzling white plaster-coated walls, has thick beams arranged at even intervals on the ceiling, which seem to draw visitors in rather invitingly. As we entered the hall, the winding stairs to the dome at the top of the structure that were immediately visible to the right also struck us. On our left, there is a hall with an impressive capacity of 300 people.

The vivid and colorful carpet that lines the floor was specially made to order and sent directly from their home country of Afghanistan. The paintings hanging on the walls are also from Afghanistan, created by the Afghan painters Yar Taraky and Siddig Zhakfar, along with some others. These wonderful paintings, together with the carpet, produce a remarkable ethnic atmosphere. From the terrace on the roof, a magnificent view that includes the nearby Tokyo Tower can be enjoyed.

In the library on the basement floor, there is a collection of more than 4,000 books, most in the Afghan official languages of Dari or Pashto, as well as some in English and Japanese. Adorning the upper section of the four columns in each corner of the room are various symbols showing four eras important in Afghan history (a Zoroastrian flowerpot, a Greco-Bactrian\* torch, a Buddhist lotus, and an Islamic lattice pattern). This design is quite unique to Afghanistan, and it is also a hint at the fact this country was once a very important and strategic point along the Silk Road.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, and for much of its history (even from the prehistoric age), it was very influenced by the Mesopotamian civilization to the West and the Indus civilization to the South. The Great Expedition of Alexander the Great formed Hellenistic culture in this place.

Also in the distant past, Buddhism was introduced to Japan through Afghanistan from along the Silk Road. Afghans have other things in common with Japanese people that you might not expect, such as drinking green tea and warming them-



In the formal reception space, the picture of the President of Afghanistan, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, is flanked by the national flag of Afghanistan on the right and the national flag of Japan on the left.

selves in a Kotatsu (a foot warmer with a quilt over it) in winter. They feel great affinity for our Far East island country that unexpectedly won the Russo-Japanese War. Since the Meiji Era, friendly relations have been fostered between us, with the tireless efforts of diplomats, the Afghan royal family, and Japanese Imperial family members. Many official visits (by soldiers, politicians, etc.) on both sides have further strengthened our bonds. In 1933, the Afghan Legation in Japan was established in Iikura, and this was later raised to the status of an embassy. In the late 90's, the embassy was temporarily closed due to civil strife in their home country, but it was reopened in 2002 when the conflict finally came to an end. This year, the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan was held in Tokyo.

In 2006, the consultant Mr. Kenichiro Murakami was asked to give advice about the relocation of the new Embassy building by the Afghan Ambassador at the time, H.E. Mr. Haron Amin, and other dignitaries. Mr. Murakami told us, "We selected a building of universal design, but that also captures the true color and character of Afghanistan. The ultimate goal was to have the building be a lasting symbol of the past and future friendship between Japan and Afghanistan". The staff members of the Embassy are proud of this unique building; they say, "It has the best functional beauty of all the Afghan Embassy buildings in the world". This Embassy building was returned to Azabu area after some ten years, and clearly displays the charm of Afghanistan.

\*An area influenced by Greek culture that had become prosperous in the Bactria region around the 3rd century BC

● Data Collection Support ●  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tokyo  
H.E. Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, ambassador  
Culture and Public Relations Officer  
Ms. Allyson DIAZ  
Accounting and Administrative Affairs  
Mr. M. Ashraf BABURI  
Mr. Kenichiro Murakami, Consultant



An Afghan traditional craftsman in Kabul created this library door, with its impressive delicate craftwork.  
Photo provided by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo



In a typical Afghan house, a carpet is placed on the floor for the family to sit together on the carpet. The character and culture of Afghanistan is well represented here, with its low floor chairs and small ethnic handicrafts on the table.

# 麻布びと

"Azabu - A Human Story"

## From Father to Son: A History of Three Generations of Hospital Presidents

On the front page of Furukawabashi Hospital's (Minami-Azabu 2-chome) brochure, there is a bold statement: "Our organization provides integrated elderly care and medical care services for a bright future." I interviewed both the second-generation and third-generation presidents, and I felt that their enterprising spirit and forward vision lives on, having been passed down through the generations.

**Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki:**

"I was born on June 2, 1923 (the 12th year of Taisho). Six multiplied by 2 equals 12. This is quite easy to remember, don't you think? My father was born on May 1, 1896 (the 29th year of Meiji). I have a picture of our Furukawabashi Hospital taken in 1924, immediately after the hospital opening. It was located in Shinbori-cho,\* a little further away from the present location. The baby in his arms in this picture is me! The spirit of enterprise was quite strong in my father, and he wanted more than what his family's farming business had to offer. Although what he really wanted to be was a politician, he first became a veterinarian. Unsatisfied with this, he then came to Tokyo to become a medical doctor. To do this, his parents were generous enough to sell part of their farmland to cover his school fees. Eventually, after my father had achieved a measure of success in the hospital business, he bought back this land and restored the farm to its previous condition. This bronze statue of him was created as part of his seventieth birthday celebrations, so in this statue he still looks rather young. He lived for many years after that, and he passed away at 95. He was a strict, but understanding person."



Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki, Second-Generation President: He graduated from the Medical Department of Keio University in 1946, majoring in thoracic surgery.

Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki enjoyed "playing soldiers" etc., with his friends in his early childhood, and was often seen around the neighborhood. A little later, he entered the Tokyo Prefectural First Junior High School (old-education system) and after graduating, he entered the Keio University preparatory course for Medical School. It was around the time that the Pacific War broke out.

**Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki:**

"The students in the science courses were recognized as 'special cases' and were therefore able to avoid the draft, or 'student mobilization' as it was called then. Students in the art courses were not so lucky and were sent to war with a gun on their shoulder. Miraculously, the hospital building in Shin Hiroo-cho\* did not burn down in the air raids on Tokyo, and it remained intact. I began to understand that I was destined to follow in my father's footsteps, that it was almost preordained that I become a medical doctor."

After Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki graduated from the Keio University and was sent to the Kitazato Institute as a member of the medical office of the Keio University, he had many adventurous experiences that were only possible in that period immediately after the war. He told us one story, as follows.

**Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki:**

"In 1949, I applied for the position of a ship's doctor on an oil tanker, and we sailed to Iran. Not long after arriving in Iran, I came upon a local fellow who was suffering a high fever from a head cold or something like that. I treated him as he requested, and he soon responded very well to the medication and made a full recovery. He was very grateful, and the story of his rapid recovery spread widely. Soon after, I was surprised to find myself with a long line of patients in front of me! It was quite unexpected. My erstwhile patient asked me what I wanted as compensation. After thinking for a moment, I answered "I am a smoker, so I would be happy if you could find me some oil for my lighter." He then returned with a whole bucketful! (laughs). On the ship, an American officer happened to be sailing with us as an inspector. One problem we had during the voyage was that there was often nothing to do, so we passed the time teaching each other our languages. Thanks to this, I learned a lot of English. Later, I stayed in Okinawa for three months in 1957. Okinawa was then still under American rule. Tuberculosis was unfortunately common in Japan at that time, and I was asked to perform about 100 surgeries on patients. It was a busy time, and I was in surgery all week from Monday to Friday. However, this provided me with a lot of experience, and my skills greatly improved. This was a particularly good opportunity for me, as young doctors on the mainland of Japan were generally not offered chances to get this level of experience. Moreover, the social position of medical doctors was higher in American society than in Japan, and I was also a medical specialist. It was quite an experience to be so highly regarded that I even received salutes from officers in public. Before this, I had something of an inferiority complex regarding Americans, but I now felt a strong sense of equality."

**Dr. Yukio Suzuki:**

"As the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo approached, a new highway was being constructed, and our three-story building needed to be



Viewed clockwise from the front, "Present Hospital Building," "The Same Building before Renovation," "Biography of Dr. Tokuma Suzuki, First-Generation President, which he wrote when he received the Fifth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure (at the age of 88)," and "Document Collection prepared at the time of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the hospital."



(Upper Left) Statue of Dr. Tokuma Suzuki (1896-1991), First-Generation President (Upper Center)

Photo showing the Furukawabashi Surgery Hospital in 1924 (Shinbori-cho) at the time of opening

(Upper Right) Photo showing the Furukawabashi Hospital in 1931 (Shin-Hiroo-cho) at the time of the completed renovation (Viewed from left to right)

Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki, Dr. Tokuma Suzuki and Dr. Yukio Suzuki (photo shot around 1974)



moved. Our hospital was relocated to the present site as arranged by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The government actually offered us a much larger site as well, but it was much further away. We had no difficulty selecting this site, as the option to remain in familiar surroundings was ultimately more attractive."

In 1974, Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki became the second-generation president of the hospital, and then in 1998, his son, Dr. Yukio Suzuki, took over as the third-generation president. The following year the hospital was renovated, which coincided with the opening of the Senior Citizens Health Facilities "Renaissance Azabu" in Minato City in the same building. The hospital made a significant change in direction as a management facility for integrated medical care and welfare.

**Dr. Yukio Suzuki:**

"At around that time, my father was recovering from a serious illness, so his health condition was not perfect. It was because of this that I, as third-generation president, conducted this project mostly by myself. The recession had also hit the hospital operation industry, and most of the small hospitals like us had closed. In Minato City, there were still rather a lot of large hospitals, but the number of small hospitals had dwindled to about three. We had a sense of impending crisis, so I announced that "If we continue on as before, we might not survive." Because of this decision, we were able to get a subsidy from Minato City, and open a senior citizens health facility. More precisely, we were able to find a method for "cooperation between medical care and nursing care." Subsequently, we started "EXE Azabu," a preventive care training facility to enhance the level of physical function for geriatrics. Highly qualified staff provides "the persons with required support," where physical training is provided to improve the level of physical condition to the point where "long-term nursing care" should not be needed. Moreover, our hospital also offers home-visit medical care services for about 200 patients. We believe that we make a significant contribution to community-based medicine through our efforts regarding home healthcare and preventive care rehabilitation. We aim to reduce the number of patients whose conditions degrade to the point of "Needed Nursing Care" level in cooperation with the other facilities."



Dr. Yukio Suzuki, Third-Generation President: He graduated from the Post-Graduate School of Jikei University School of Medicine, majoring in cardiovascular medicine.

**Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki:**

"The elderly commonly have complaints regarding pain and skin conditions. Our hospital is located on the upper floor of the same building as the preventive care facility, and this puts the seniors who come for rehabilitation at ease. Actually, I am personally put at ease knowing my son will continue to run our hospital in this way as well."

The fact that this facility is so close to the residences of the people who need such a facility surely creates a feeling of safety for the people living around here.

Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki goes on his rounds on each floor of the senior citizens health facility every morning and is surrounded by a crowd of facility residents while they are having meals.

\* Shinbori-cho and Shin-Hiroo-cho are both old town names, the previous names for the present Minami-Azabu 2-chome.



### Furukawabashi Hospital

**Dr. Tatsuo Suzuki**  
(94 years old),  
Second-Generation  
President

**Dr. Yukio Suzuki**  
(63 years old),  
Third-Generation  
President



Furukawabashi Hospital Lobby: Designed to provide a warm and gentle atmosphere, with indirect lighting, curved columns and ceiling.



Her Excellency Mrs. Svetlana Tatiana IOSIPER,  
Ambassador of Romania to Japan

**Romania**

Area: About 238,400 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Population: About 19,760,000 (in 2016)  
 Capital City: Bucharest  
 Head of State: President Klaus IOHANNIS  
 (Inaugurated in December 2014:  
 Service Terms of 5 Years)  
 Legislature: Bicameral System

Reference: Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/romania/index.html>

Interview Support: Embassy of Romania to Japan

Romania



Visiting Ambassadors 40  
**From the "World" of Azabu**

# ROMANIA

**Nishi-azabu has been proud to host the Romanian Embassy for the last forty years, especially since this embassy is open to the community. The Ambassador, who was once a student in Japan, plays a very active role.**

We met the Ambassador on one of Tokyo's consecutively hot summer days, where the temperature rises above 25 degrees Celsius. She made a dashing appearance wearing a wonderful red sleeveless dress and said to us, "It's a fine day today, so we can go out without jackets!" with a big smile. She arrived at her new post as the Ambassador to Japan in September last year, together with her two daughters and her husband. Her husband was inaugurated as Minister Plenipotentiary to Japan at the same time.



**She first fell in love with Japan while studying Japanese.**

About 20 years ago, the Ambassador came to Japan to study. The reason why the Ambassador selected the Japanese language at such a youthful age was because she loves challenges. She said, "the Japanese language is definitely more challenging than European languages for me." She never lost the love for Japan she developed during her stay; therefore, she was immensely pleased to be able to come back here again on business. We could really feel her excitement during our interview with her. After arriving back in Japan to take up her post as Ambassador, she presented her credentials in a special ceremony at the Imperial Palace. Upon seeing the Palace, she was deeply moved by the solemnity of the surroundings and the occasion, a feeling accentuated by the beauty of the red and yellow leaves of autumn. She told us that it was a wonderful and humbling experience. To experience more of the natural beauty of Japan in this season, she also visited Kamakura and Shizuoka. As she recounted her experiences, her eyes lit up.

**Women in Romania began to come to the forefront of the society in the 1990's.**

Ambassador IOSIPER is the first Romanian lady Ambassador to Japan. In December 1989, there was a regime change in Romania, and the country finally embraced democracy. These fresh winds of change brought improvements for women in Romania, and women were able to participate more fully in society. When she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there were not many women working there. Now, however, 19 of the 95 Romanian ambassadors are women. Surprisingly, about 73% of the judges



are women in Romania! Female politicians account for only about 10% of the total number of politicians, but in administrative organizations, female executives account for 45% and female middle managers account for 56%. These figures suggest that there may be many women interested in policy de-

velopment.

The number of people who find spouses in the workplace in Romania is quite high, and people take an accommodating view toward dual income families where both spouses work. When her husband was appointed as Ambassador to Israel, she was also dispatched there as a member of the Embassy staff.

Now, her husband is appointed along with her.

Currently, the birth rate is 1.34, which is even lower than that of Japan. However, the government is quite generous to parents. 85% of the salary is guaranteed for two years by the Government to support families.

**Romanians feel positively about Japan.**

In Romania, Japanese animation and comic books are very popular; there is even a high school where Japanese is taught as a second language. The Sibiu International Theatre Festival is held every year, where Japanese "Noh" and contemporary dramas are performed. In this way, many opportunities are provided for Romanians to experience Japanese culture. In the capital city Bucharest, there are as many as 13 Japanese restaurants.

The Ambassador herself loves Japanese food and fish in particular, which she can enjoy prepared in any shape. However, the food she has a real affinity for in Japan are hot pot dishes. She loves Sukiyaki in particular, but not the raw egg. She orders "Sukiyaki, Namatamago Nashi" (Sukiyaki without a raw egg) in Japanese.

**Romanian Traditional Foods**

Perhaps the most representative food of Romania is a dish that is mainly cabbage stuffed with stewed, pickled mincemeat and served with sour cream called "Sarmale." This is a homemade specialty dish, and as with most homemade specialties, it can vary from home to home. Recipes are transmitted from generation to generation. As it actually takes a long time to make, it is generally made mostly for special events. In place of minced meat stuffed cabbage, either green peppers or vine leaves can be used. This

is traditionally served together with something very similar to bread made from corn flour, called "Mamaliga."

She told us that she often makes "Clatite" (Romanian style crepe) because it is easy to prepare and her daughters love it. The one and only precious restaurant in Tokyo is called LA MIHAI, located in Kinshi-cho.

**Romanian Resort Spots**

The Ambassador majored in mass media studies when she was a student, so it's not surprising she has information about some good visiting spots that are not easy to find in a typical guidebook. Her first recommendation was a small town 200km from the capital city Bucharest called Ocna Sibiului. This town is not a seaside resort, so it is interesting that the nearby lake is full of saltwater. She also recommended a famous salt mine called "Salina Turda," which is also nice to visit. Romania has more than 12,000 limestone caves. The most attractive feature of this cave is the clean air that fills the enormous cavernous spaces. With salt creating its unique surroundings, this place has been referred to as a healing "power spot" for your body and soul.

Like Japan, Romania is famous for its hot springs. The places called Harghita (near an extinct volcano) and Covasna are the most popular spa resorts for Romanians. Last year, a new spa resort opened in the suburbs of Bucharest, which is easy to visit.

The Ambassador has a very warm personality. She clearly cares for the people around her. During the interview, her cheerful smile never left her face. Time flew under the very friendly atmosphere she created.

The Embassy of Romania to Japan has been a feature of the Azabu area for 40 years. It is open to the public at certain times, for example, during the Minato City World Festival. She told us that they would continue to foster an increasingly close friendship with the local community. We look forward to visiting the Embassy on such special occasions.



1 Romanian woodwork: shepherd's flutes, wooden spoon, and small wooden box

2 Earthenware made in Horezu with traditional patterns drawn by scratch-marking the glaze just before firing

3 The Romanian national costume with delicate embroidery

4 Scene of "Stamp Rally" (collecting series of stamps) at a Minato City World Festival

5 The Hot Spring Pool called "The Palm", in the spa resort of Therme Bucuresti located in the suburbs of the capital city Bucharest.

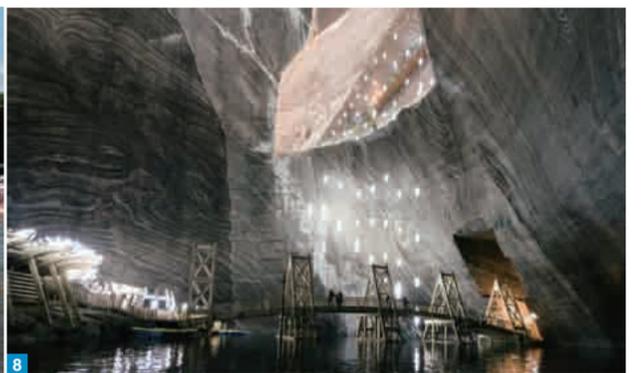
6 "Sarmale" (upper) with vine leaves and Romania style crepe "Clatite"

7 Salt-water lake in Ocna Sibiului

8 Salina Turda Salt Mine

4~8 The Embassy of Romania provided the photos #4 to #8

● Embassy website <http://tokyo.mae.ro/en>



# The “Natural Spots in Azabu” Guide Map to the locations of cool green space

— Based on photos from the Azabu Future Photo Studio —

Why not plan ahead to find refreshing and green spaces for a moment of relaxation in the morning or evening? This time, we asked the Azabu Future Photo Studio Subcommittee members to tell us about the spots they recommend for this season, and borrowed some of their valuable photos.

Basing our studies on the photos they lent us, we prepared an original guide map. In so doing, we gained a fresh awareness of the diversity of places around Azabu, remarkable for their verdure. This also seems to reflect that

people’s interest in the regional environment is quite high. In many of the residential areas, embassy sites, small and large parks, temples and shrines, old trees are well preserved. In more recently redeveloped areas, trees lining the streets are beautifully arranged, helping to create a modern townscape. Also, the Azabu area is rich in water resources with its rivers, ponds and springs, where various creatures gather together.

We would like to help you find your favorite site.



## 1 High Ground in the Metropolitan Aoyama Park (South Area)



There is a quiet high ground behind the playing field alongside of Gaien Nishi-dori Avenue. From there, we can get a glimpse over the trees of the glass building of the National Art Center, Tokyo, and this helps create a cooler atmosphere. The “Azabu-Dai Commemorative Monument” built in 1987 teaches us a detailed history of this area, in particular, during and after World War II.



## Butterflies Flying in the Grass



You can expect a chance to encounter beautifully patterned butterflies, as if they’ve flown off the pages of an illustration. The Indian Fritillary (left) and the Chinese Yellow Swallowtail (right)

## 5 Mamiana Inari Daimyojin in Mamiana Park



Mamiana Park is located in the valley at the foot of the Azabu Mamiana-cho Town slope. It is marked with three red “torii” (shrine gateways). Walking in the shade of a Yoshino cherry tree, and up a short slope and stone stairs, you can see the Mamiana Inari Daimyojin. This area is one of the “Seven Wonders of Azabu” we have from the Edo Period. Mamiana stands for a raccoon dog hole. There are various stories regarding the origin of the area’s name. For example, there used to be a large hole where a female raccoon dog lived. Here, you can enjoy the very mysterious atmosphere.



## 2 A Ginkgo Tree in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park



This ginkgo tree is the pride of the Azabu area. It grows steadily year after year, now with its lower branches easily within reach. When standing right under the tree, we feel as if we were nestled within its arms. The townscape viewed from the lobby of the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library through its glass windows is breathtaking. This is the spot we strongly recommend you to come in autumn because the color of the leaves turns to a gorgeous yellow.



## 3 A Newly Emerged Cicada in the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park



From around 6:00p.m., cicadas venture out from their homes in the ground and climb up the trees. As it becomes darker, the number of cicadas increases. This photo was shot at around 8:00p.m., close to a large tree in front of the park office. Don’t you think it is exciting to find cicada shells early in the following morning?

\* From the end of July to the beginning of August.



## 4 Yanagi-no Ido on the Approach to Azabu-San Zempukuji Temple



In the lowland of Azabu, groundwater flows up from just below the surface as a natural spring. Observing the surrounding moss and slow moving algae is a relaxing experience. This is one of the “Seven Wonders of Azabu”, and we have a legend that this spring appeared at the spot on which “Kobo Daishi” prayed to the gods of Kajima and planted his crozier. We need to remember that the water of the spring was actually the water of life that helped Minato citizens survive after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, and after the firestorms created by air raids in World War II.

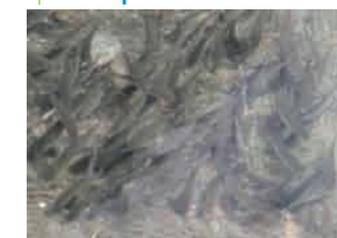


## 7 Creatures in and around the Furukawa River Spotted-billed Ducks

Spotted-billed ducks are rather sedentary birds that live on rivers or ponds all year round. In the daytime, we can often see pairs of ducks hunting for food at the bottom of the pond, with their rear ends pointing upward out of the water from Tengenji-bashi Bridge to Tanuki-bashi Bridge. If you are lucky, you can see spotted-billed ducks being followed closely by their ducklings.



## 8 Creatures in and around the Furukawa River Large Schools of Striped Mullet



We heard that relatively large striped mullet can be seen from the Ichino-hashi Bridge to Shinbori-bashi Bridge because the river is deep around there. This includes the Furukawa-bashi Bridge area mudflats exposed at low tide in Tokyo Bay, and it is during high tide that schools of fishes swim all the way up to the Kameya-bashi Bridge.



## 10 Mohri Garden in Roppongi Hills



This was originally a feudal lord’s garden in the Edo Period. At the beginning of the Showa Period, Nikka Whisky and then TV Asahi obtained this land. More recently, the Mohri Garden was created at the same time as the opening of Roppongi Hills. Mature trees such as ginkgo trees and Yoshino cherry trees, in particular, were arranged along with a variety of plants to encircle the pond. These trees and plants blend perfectly, now 14 years after the opening of the garden. This place is like an oasis between modern buildings.

## Guide Map



## 6 Cherry Trees Line a Street in Izumi Garden



There is a new town called Izumi Garden, and it is directly connected to Roppongi Itchome Station. Cherry trees line the Izumi-dori Street, the main street of the garden town. The length of the tree-lined street is about 1km, in addition to the Spain-zaka Slope in front of Roppongi Ark Hills and Sakura-zaka Slope. Even in the middle of summer, it is a comfortable promenade with green trees arching overhead.



## 9 Azabu Library Wall Surface Afforestation



“Wall Surface Afforestation” has been adopted as a strategy to counteract the heat island phenomenon in Tokyo. This is where building walls are covered with plants creating an insulating effect. Recently, this tactic has been applied more and more in the Azabu area, and the Azabu Library is one example. Different types of plants have been arranged in layers, mille-feuille style, which fascinates onlookers.

# The Azabu Future Photo Studio

## —The Point where Legend and History Meet—

# Ipponmatsu-zaka Slope

Even now, there is a large lone pine tree there. We can be sure that this is where the slope got its name, because “Ipponmatsu” stands for “lone pine tree”. Because of the unique topography of this slope from which many downhill roads diverge, some slope lovers might well say that this is a “Mecca for Slopes”. Based on the legend described on the signpost, one would think there are perhaps many competing stories that haven’t come to light, and these should be regarded as “legends”. I would be very happy if you bear with me for a little while.

### Minamoto no Tsunemoto (Tsunemoto Minamoto)

According to the description on the signpost, “Minamoto no Tsunemoto nado no densetsu wo mochi, korai uetsugarete iru Ipponmatsu ga, saka no minamigawa ni aru tame no na dearu” (as found in the description on the signpost). (There are legends regarding this slope related to Tsunemoto Minamoto. The slope was named because of Ipponmatsu (lone pine tree), also because the same tree exists on the south side of the slope for a long time. As the old tree ages and nears death, a new tree is grafted from it to replace it. This is a very old tradition.)

Famous persons with the family name “Minamoto” (meaning “Genji”, Minamoto Family) are usually Yoritomo Minamoto and “Yoshitsune Minamoto, so the name of “Tsunemoto” isn’t the first you’d think of. As many of you might know well, he is the ancestor of Seiwa Genji (Minamoto Clan). And as one might expect, he is certainly the direct ancestor of Yoritomo and Yoshitsune. It is not too much to say that he is the “Original Samurai”. What is the legend in relation to “Ipponmatsu”?

### Tengyo no Ran (The War in the period of Tengyo)

According to my research on the subjugation of Taira no Masakado, Tsunemoto asked for a night’s lodging after scouting Masakado’s house. The next morning, he changed his clothes under the Ipponmatsu, and hung some of his clothes there for a while. Actually, all he did was just lodge near there long enough to change his clothes, hanging them on the tree, but it became a legend, and a great one! Such a thing only he, the “Original Samurai” could do. However, because I felt it is too much of an exaggeration to modern ears, I followed Tsunemoto’s personal history a little more. Then, I found a story that seemed to be remotely related to the cause of Tengyo no Ran. He left for a new position in Musashi-no-kuni (Musashi Province, presently Kanto Region) from the central government of Japan (in Kyoto) in 938. There, he quarreled with Takeshiba Musashino, (amazingly it is not a place name, but a person’s name) from a local powerful family. Takeshiba asked Taira no Masakado to mediate and help settle this quarrel. However, Tsunemoto did not agree and accordingly ran back to Kyoto.

Tsunemoto scurried back, and reported to the Imperial Court that Taira no Masakado had risen in revolt against the central government. Based on an investigation by the Imperial Court and accused by Masakado, Tsunemoto was demoted due to the false charge.

In other words, an officer (Tsunemoto) arrived at his new post from the central government, and quarreled with the local government officer (Takeshiba) over power and authority. Then, the powerful local politician (Masakado) served as a mediator between them. The pride of the central government officer was severely hurt and because of grudges and hard feelings, he presented a mixture of fact and fiction to his supervisor. As a result, the central government officer was arrested and confined to his home. I felt even for someone as distinguished as the “Original Samurai”, it seems horrible that he would make up such a story. However, Tsunemoto’s made-up “story of mixture of fact and fiction in his report” was unexpectedly realized. Taira no Masakado attacked “Kokufu” (presently the Metropolitan Government Offices or Prefectural Government Offices) in succession in the Kanto area, and became a pretender to the throne “Shinno” (New Emperor). In 940, he started a civil war later called “Tengyo (Taira no Masakado) no Ran”. Because of this, Tsunemoto suddenly returned to the central government as a member of the punitive force against Masakado. Then, the “Ipponmatsu” where Tsunemoto had hung his clothes, became a legend. It may be said that the event made “Azabu” a chapter in the history in Japan. Anyway, the “Original Samurai” had some hard times!

As a result, the central government officer was arrested and confined to his home. I felt even for someone as distinguished as the “Original Samurai”, it seems horrible that he would make up such a story. However, Tsunemoto’s made-up “story of mixture of fact and fiction in his report” was unexpectedly realized. Taira no Masakado attacked “Kokufu” (presently the Metropolitan Government Offices or Prefectural Government Offices) in succession in the Kanto area, and became a pretender to the throne “Shinno” (New Emperor). In 940, he started a civil war later called “Tengyo (Taira no Masakado) no Ran”. Because of this, Tsunemoto suddenly returned to the central government as a member of the punitive force against Masakado. Then, the “Ipponmatsu” where Tsunemoto had hung his clothes, became a legend. It may be said that the event made “Azabu” a chapter in the history in Japan. Anyway, the “Original Samurai” had some hard times!

### The Present Ipponmatsu

The present pine tree of the Ipponmatsu is somewhere between the third to fifth-generation pine. It was consecutively destroyed by fire and replanted each time. It is one of “Azabu’s Seven Wonders” and we still have pictures that were drawn sometime between the Edo Period and the Meiji Period. The pictures show the pine tree in various shapes, suggesting several generations of this grafted tree. Looking up at the silent and magnificent Ipponmatsu now, we imagine there are many more legends hidden in its history.



“Azabu Ipponmatsu”  
Source: “Edo no Hana Meisho Kai: Azabu” collected in the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library Newly Collected Books, Books written in Japanese.



“Ipponmatsu” in 1959: Photo provided by Minato City Local History Museum



In 2017: The present Ipponmatsu is on the right hand side of the picture. It is clear that this tree grew larger compared to the one in the photo in 1959.



“Azabu Ipponmatsu”  
Source: “Edo Meisho Zue” (Edo Sightseeing Spot Drawings) collected by Minato City Local History Museum



“Drawing of Azabu Ipponmatsu”  
Source: “Shinsen Tokyo Meisho Zue” (New Tokyo Sightseeing Spot Drawings) collected by Minato City Local History Museum



## Activities of the “Azabu Future Photo Studio” are introduced!

(Data collected and written by Yasuhiro Tanaka : Photo taken and text edited by Marika Oba)

**Our goal is to pass down to future generations records of the historical and cultural resources of Azabu, and encourage people to understand its value through the photos.**

“Azabu Future Photo Studio” is one of the local projects conducted by the Azabu Regional City Office and collects old photos of the Azabu district, as well as taking photos at fixed-point locations. Town walks (photo shooting) and panel preparation by sub-

committee members are undertaken every year, with a panel exhibition at the end. In the future, we would like to expand our activities, in cooperation with universities and businesses.



Panel Exhibition in FY 2016

The panel exhibition was held at a total of 4 venues, including the FUJI Film Square mini gallery and the Azabu Regional City Office lobby.



Subcommittee Members

There are 14 active members from a wide range of age groups (as of April 1, 2017). Welcome call extended by them: “We enjoy it very much and we are waiting for as many people as possible who participate in our activities.”

We take the photos.

The panels we have prepared up to now, and activity reports can also be accessed from our website.

<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>

### Azabu Future Photo Studio is:

- Looking for old photographs,
- Searching for a venue for a panel exhibition, and
- Inviting new members.

For inquiry or application, please contact  
Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration  
Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

Tel: 03-5114-8812



NH 44611 USS Swatara © NHHC

## The Pioneer of Photography: Kazumasa Ogawa

(also known as Isshin or Kazuma Ogawa)

Have you ever heard of Kazumasa Ogawa? He photographed the Meiji era novelist Sōseki Natsume, pictured on the renowned 1,000-yen bill. During this time, photographers were referred to as “pioneering photo masters”. Ogawa lived at 71 Miyamura-cho in Azabu, between the 33rd and 44th years of the Meiji era (1900-1911). The area, located on high grounds of Mt. Uchida, is now known as Moto-azabu 3-chome near the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa’s residence. Ogawa also owned a house with “Tengo-An”, a cottage for Japanese tea ceremony to be held for his guests, at 2-banchi Kasumi-cho (presently Nishi-Azabu 1-Chome). It was here that Ogawa held iconic garden parties, exhibiting his high social status and affluence. So, how did he climb up this ladder of success?

### The Meiji Era Born Innovator

Born in Bushū-Oshi-han (now the city of Gyōda in Saitama Prefecture), Kazumasa Ogawa was the second son of Shozaemon Harada, a member of the lower ranked Kobushin-gumi samurai class. At the age of 3, Ogawa was adopted into the family of his father’s colleague, Ishitarō Ogawa, being renamed Kazumasa from Asanosuke due to the arrangement. At the age of 6, he was admitted to “Baikondō”, a school for children from samurai families. Two years later, in 1968, the Meiji era began. At 13, he obtained a scholarship from the former Lord of Oshi-han, Tadori Matsudaira, majoring in civil engineering at Hokoku Gakusha in Tokyo. There he met a teacher from England who was a camera aficionado, and gained profound knowledge by assisting in photo-shooting activities over the weekends. Following his graduation, Ogawa had no money to pursue further education and reluctantly returned home. He found a job near his hometown in Kumagaya, working under a photographer and learning the collodion (wet plate) process. At the age of 17, he set up his own photography studio in Jōshū Tomioka-chō (Gunma Prefecture), an area known for its bustling silk spinning industry and home to the government-owned “Tomioka Silk Mill” factory. Many daughters of former samurai families were recruited nationwide to work at the silk factory for a salary of 2 yen a month. However, Ogawa’s skilled photography caught the interests of these young women, who were willing to fork out the large sum of 75 sen for self-portraits. At the age of 20, he made enough money to return to Tokyo and enrolled in the Tsukiji Daigakkō (Ballagh School in Tsukiji). The following year, he won a prize at the Second National Industrial Exhibition photography competition and broadened his interest in the Western techniques of photography and art. At the age of 22, he sold all his equipment and landed a job as an interpreter at the Yokohama Police Station.

On the arrival of the US Asiatic Squadron’s USS Swatara at the Yokohama Port in 1882, Ogawa applied to work as a crew member. Departing from Yokohama on July 7 later that year, he headed to Boston without telling a thing to his parents. During the job interview held beforehand, he strongly appealed to Rear Admiral Cooper saying, “I have no money at all, but I promise I’ll do anything if I could get on board (to the US), for I need to get a job at a photography studio to study new photography techniques”. Cooper, the commander of USS Swatara, was a person of great courage and played a key role in the US Civil War. Ogawa joined the crew and set sail for five months, demonstrating his persistence and practicality while engaging in rigorous and harsh duties. A

particularly dangerous storm that hit them on the journey even caused the death of a crew member. In the official report, Ogawa received honorable mention for his strong and admirable nature. Rear Admiral Cooper and Lieutenant Spicer then presented him with letters of introduction and a cover letter to Cooper’s mother in Brattleboro, Vermont. Ogawa arrived at a railway station of the Vermont mountain village in December witnessing a vista of snow-covered hills. Brattleboro is located at the 42nd parallel north, with a similar climate to Sapporo. Upon his arrival at the police station in front of the railway station, the policeman offered him snow boots to put on and gave him directions despite it being late at night. Cooper’s mother was surprised to suddenly receive a visitor at night. However, she welcomed him like family and even taking him to church on Sundays. The local community welcomed him with open arms doing all they could to help Ogawa achieve his dreams. Later, Ogawa found a job at “Ritz & Hastings”, a photography studio in the centre of Boston. One of the managers was an acquaintance of Lieutenant Spicer, so the letter of introduction was a valuable gift indeed.

The photography world in the US was in the midst of an era of technological innovation. Ogawa learned photography techniques such as the dry plate process, the carbon process and the collotype printing method, bringing back his newfound knowledge to Japan in 1884. Upon his return, Ogawa took great effort to spread the knowledge he gained and the practical implementation of advanced photographic techniques throughout Japan. He was responsible for the photography of the Department of the Imperial Household’s examination of old temples and shrines: Japan’s national treasures. In the first issue of the magazine “Kokka”, Ogawa was in charge of collotype printing, together with Tenshin Okakura. During this time, he also photographed geisha girls and young upper-class women for Japan’s first beauty contest, contributing to the accelerated popularisation and commercialisation of photography. He also contributed to the development of Japan’s mass media, photographing iconic scenes and events such as a total eclipse of the sun, the Nobi Earth-

quake, the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War and the Forbidden City. Ogawa disliked the secretiveness and monopolization of knowledge common in Japan at the time. To counteract this, he made his techniques and knowledge open source to the public, catapulting the development of photography and printing in Japan as photographer, businessman, and educator.

### Popularity: Fame and Fortune

Despite being a photographer, Ogawa rose to wealth joining the top taxpayers of Japan at the time. However, he managed to maintain his reputation as a person of great virtue. During his time in the US he lived poorly, but his Japanese friends studying abroad worked together to support him. For example, when his friend, Kōitsu Sakakibara sent an emergency message to Nagamoto Okabe (see The AZABU No. 36 “Tanbadani-zaka Slope”) who was studying in England at the time, Ogawa soon received financial support for his education along with a letter of encouragement. This was Ogawa’s first encounter with Okabe. When he came back to Japan and established the Ogawa Photo Studio, “Gyokujun-kan”, in Iida-cho, Kojimachi-ku, Okabe helped choose the name and provided the necessary funds. Okabe was also Ogawa’s business advisor, recommending him to create photo albums for foreigners, featuring iconic images of Nikko and Mt. Fuji. Many of the photos of Mt. Fuji were taken from Okabe’s holiday house in Shizuoka. Okabe was a particularly well-known and active person: the last lord of the former Kishiwada-han, the Foreign Vice-Minister, the Minister of Justice, and finally the Governor of Tokyo Prefecture. Okabe was instrumental in facilitating Ogawa’s introduction into the upper echelons of Japanese society.

As a businessman, Ogawa established a dry plate manufacturing plant and a photoengraving factory, as well as creating an annexed photo studio and photo platemaking shop. He managed a business empire of photography, printing and publishing. That being said, the business finances were managed in cooperation with his friend, Rokuichiro Masujima. Masujima was also a remarkable person. He was Japan’s first modern lawyer, or barrister. He lived at the Mohri Kainokami House site. This area is now known as the famous Mohri Garden in Roppongi Hills. He studied law in England, and was supported by Yataro Iwasaki, the founder of the Mitsubishi Corporation. He was involved in the establishment of the England Law School, now Chuo University, and was appointed as the first president of the Law School. Records of Masujima introducing Ogawa as a guarantor still exist today.

Together with Hiromichi Shigyo (The AZABU No. 32, “Historical Footsteps of Azabu”) living in Iikura, Ogawa published a total of 12 volumes of the “Japan Art Folio” for wealthy people and art lovers both within and outside Japan. This art magazine at a size of 50cm x 20cm with a large Kyoban (holding board) inserted, was issued once a month. It consisted of six pages, and was priced at 150 yen per volume at a time when the starting salary of a teacher was 30 yen. Japanese artistic masterpieces, such as Houitsu Sakai and Kiitsu Suzuki, were introduced in fluent English and Japanese.

### Three Marriages

Ogawa’s first marriage was when he was 24 years old, to a woman named Ichiko, daughter of Yoichiro Iizuka, in Oniishimachi (presently Fujioka City, Gunma Prefecture). Soon after the marriage, his first son Kazuo was born. A daughter and a second son followed, but both of them did not survive childhood. His wife later died of illness. After this, Ogawa married again to a woman named Hanako from Nagoya, but unfortunately, she also passed away. His third and final marriage was at 43, to a woman named Enko, the third daughter of Taisuke Itagaki. The story goes that when meeting Ogawa for an arranged marriage to his daughter Itagaki studied his demeanor and said, “you must be a true samurai”. In the Tokyo Asahi Newspaper dated November 23, 1903, the marriage celebration banquet announcement reads, “From 1 o’clock on November 22, 1903, a garden party was held inviting men of distinction both in and out of government to the mansion in Uchidayama. In the garden, there were booths for Tempura, Amazake (a sweet alcoholic drink made from fermented rice), and Yakiimo (baked sweet potato), and beautiful geisha girls from Shimbashi served drinks and food. For entertainment, there was a professional “Rakugo” comic storyteller and a company of magicians especially for the garden party. This was topped off by a buffet-style dinner”.\* Enko served as a secretary for the Azabu Branch of the Patriotic Women’s Association, among other endeavours, and died in Hiratsuka City on April 28, 1926.

Kazumasa passed away on September 6, 1929 at the age of 70.

\* It is commonly accepted that Ogawa’s marriage with Enko was held “around 1905”. However, a letter sent from Masayoshi Kato to Ogawa dated June 30, 1903, states “今般婚儀首尾能御整幾久敷芽出度奉祝候、此品甚夕輕少之至二候得共右御祝之段迄二進呈仕候間受納可被下候”.



1860.9.29 – 1929.9.6

Source: “Thirty Year History Book Commemorating the Company’s Anniversary” at the Gyoda City Folk Museum

# 麻布の軌跡

Historical Footsteps  
of Azabu



“Tengo-An”, a tea house built by Kōbori Enshū in Kyoto. In 1878, Kiyoshi Watanabe dismantled and reconstructed this house in Azabu. Then presented to the Tokyo National Museum.

Source: the Tokyo National Museum



At the World Columbian Exposition in 1893

From left, Kazumasa Ogawa, Hiromichi Shigyo and Rokuichiro Masujima

Source: “Thirty Year History Book Commemorating the Company’s Anniversary” at the Gyoda City Folk Museum



Kazumasa’s wife, Enko (the 2nd from right in the front row), Kazumasa (behind her),

Taisuke Itagaki with a white beard, and his wife, Kinuko (Itagaki’s left).

Source: “Thirty Year History Book Commemorating the Company’s Anniversary” at the Gyoda City Folk Museum

### ● Research Support:

Minato City Municipal Minato Library: Ms. Yoko Arakatsu, Ms. Makiko Ono and Ms. Kazuko Yamazaki  
Gyoda City Folk Museum: Mr. Kimio Suzuki  
Japan Camera Industry Institute (JCII)  
The Museum of Modern Japanese Literature  
Administration and Legal Division, Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Finance

### ● Key References:

Ogawa Alumni Association, ed, Thirty Year History Book Commemorating the Company’s Anniversary, Ogawa Kazumasa Publishing.  
Kiyoshi Ozawa, Life of Kazumasa Ogawa, a Pioneer in Photography, Kindai Bungeisha.  
Hiromichi Shigyo ed., Japan Art Folio, Kazumasa Ogawa.  
Gyoda City Folk Museum ed., Japan 100 years Ago: Kazumasa and Pictures in the Late Tokugawa Shogunate and Meiji Era, Gyoda City Folk Museum.  
Gyoda City Folk Museum ed., List of Kazumasa Ogawa related Materials, Gyoda City Folk Museum.  
“Mr. Kazumasa Ogawa’s Wedding Party,” Tokyo Asahi Newspaper, November 23, 1903.  
“Tenkyo Shigekichi Mihara,” Tokyo Asahi Newspaper, December 7, 1917.  
Swatara II (ScSlp) Naval History and Heritage Command.  
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/swatara-ii.html>

(Data collected and written by Mimi S Koike)

## Roppongi with Zero Rule Breakers is our Goal! Our Slogan is “ZERO ROPPONGI” (Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind).

The more closely rules are observed, the better we can enjoy our freedoms. We are promoting this project to ensure that the many people of a variety of cultures who gather in Roppongi can maximize their freedom and enjoyment.



Also in FY2017, we continue campaign activities with neighborhood associations, resident's associations, store associations, businesses, and concerned administrative organizations. These activities are conducted once a month, with the main themes being "Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities" and "Patrol for Prevention of Touting," same as last year.

Participation by as many city residents and businesses, etc., as possible is welcome. If you are interested in our activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Shops and businesses that support the Charter are being recruited. We are looking forward to hearing from you.**

Minato City is developing the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" Certification System for Recommended Businesses as part of efforts to increase awareness of the Charter. Shops and businesses that support the Charter are always being recruited.

Also, those that actively and independently support this effort are certified as Recommended Businesses.

**Eligibility** Businesses etc., located in, or active mainly in the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7).

**Application** Send your application by post or submit it in person to the appropriate counter at the Minato City Office. Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.  
\* The names of the certified businesses, etc., will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as "Recommended Businesses, etc."

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

For the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind", access from here →  
Minato City website <http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>



Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

### That's Not Good! Illegally Parked Bicycles! You Should Know Better!

Bicycle No-Parking Zones around the Roppongi Station are being expanded!

The no-parking zones for bicycle, etc., around Roppongi Station will be expanded on August 1, 2017. Please note that any bicycle parked within any of the Bicycle No-parking Zones will be immediately removed based on the "Minato City Ordinance for the Prohibition of Leaving Unattended Bicycles etc., and Arrangement of Parking Areas for Bicycles etc."

Bicycles are safe and convenient vehicles to ride; however, when they are left on the road or sidewalks, they become obstacles to pedestrians' safe passage, and so there is a risk of injury or accidents occurring. Also, in the case of a disaster, they would interfere with evacuation or rescue operations.

Minato City will continue to remove illegally parked bicycles and any other obstacles around Roppongi Station in order to create a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

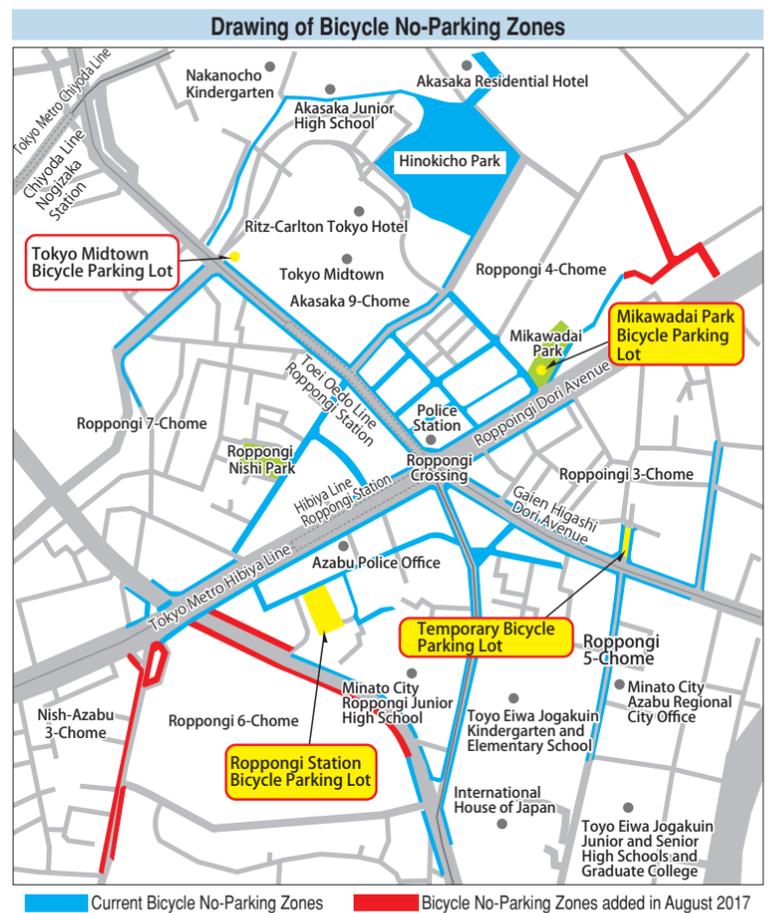
**Inquiries:** Community Development Support Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802

#### Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot Opened!

The Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot has been opened. Please use it.

Location	Parking Lot Name	Capacity	Fee (Monthly)	Hours
6-15-19, Roppongi, Minato-ku	Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot	Bicycle Only 428 units	Only for regular usage General: 1,800 yen Students: 1,300 yen	From 04:30 to 25:30

**Inquiries:** Roppongi Station Bicycle Parking Lot Manager Room Tel: 03-3470-4186



### Review of the Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (FY 2015 - FY 2020)

The Azabu Regional City Office is reviewing the "Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan" (FY2015 to FY2020) for the last 3 years. In this review, we will make an effort to reflect the suggestions and opinions received from the participating citizens' organization, Association for Discussing about Azabu (Azabu-o-Katarukai), at the "Azabu District Basic Policy Decision Sectional Meeting."

In the near future, when the draft has been formulated, briefings will be held for ward residents. We will invite residents to leave their opinions in Koho Minato and on the Minato City website, so we can receive their comments and suggestions, etc. For the details of time schedules, refer to the "Koho Minato" to be issued on November 11, 2017.

#### ● Review Schedule for Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (for last 3 years, planned).

Time Schedule	Description
April to October 2017	Review of the Plan (for last three years)
End of October 2017	Formulation of Draft for the Plan (for last three years)
November to December 2017	Inviting opinions from ward residents
Middle to End of November 2017	Briefings for residents * They will be held at Arisu Iki-Iki Plaza and the Azabu Regional City Office.
January 2018	Decision of the Plan (for the last three years)

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

### Information from the Metropolitan Taxation Office

#### Notification about the Relief Measures for Fixed Assets Tax and City Planning Tax in FY2017 (within the 23 Wards of Tokyo).

1) Measures to reduce the upper limit charge level of Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc. 2) Tax exemption for Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax for small non-residential land. 3) Relief measures for City Planning Tax for small residential land. The above measures are also applied throughout FY2017. For more information, access our website or contact the office as follows:

**Inquiries:** For properties located in Minato City, Minato Taxation Office, Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

#### For Metropolitan Tax Payments, Bank Transfers are Safe and Convenient!

When a bank 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 to this service by the 10th of the previous month of the month when the payment is started. In case that such 10th of the month is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, apply by the next opening date of the Tax Office.

#### Bank Transfer Available for Metropolitan Taxes

\*Individual Enterprise Tax, Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax (Land and Houses)\*, and Fixed Assets Tax (Depreciable Assets)\*  
\* The assets within the 23 wards of Tokyo are subject to taxation. Bank Transfer Services for irregular taxes (tax imposed as required) are not available. For more information, access our website or contact the office as follows.

**Inquiries:** Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division,  
Tel: 03-3252-0955 (For weekdays, from 9:00am to 17:00pm)

# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



## 2017 Minato City Disaster Prevention Drills will be conducted (Azabu Site) : Raising Awareness/Promoting Self Reliance and Community Cooperation!

**Date and Time** **November 12 (Sun), 2017**  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm

\* This event may be held only in the gymnasium, if the weather conditions are bad. Contact Minato Call (City Information Service) at 03-5472-3710 on the event day.

**Site** Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Ground and Gymnasium (6-8-16, Roppongi)



Bring your toys that you no longer play with.

Co-located Event

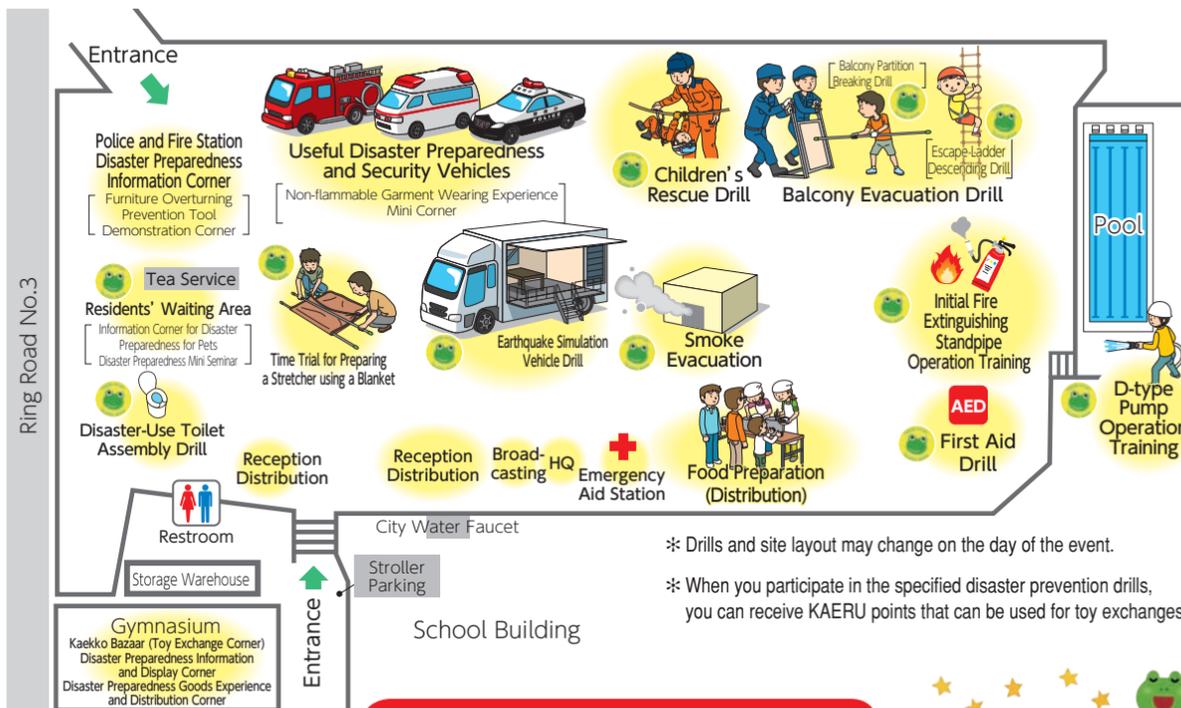


What is "Let's Go! KAERU Caravan?"

This is a new type of disaster preparedness program, where disaster preparedness drills are combined with the toy exchange event "Kaekko Bazaar." In this program, participants gain disaster prevention knowledge and skills while enjoying the event.

<http://kaeru-caravan.jp/en.html>

### Site Map



\*: Drills and site layout may change on the day of the event.  
\*: When you participate in the specified disaster prevention drills, you can receive KAERU points that can be used for toy exchanges.

### Gymnasium Guide Map



### Time Table

9:30	Opening Ceremony Kaekko Bazar (Toy Exchanging)
9:50	Disaster Prevention Drill Experience-based Program
12:00	Kaekko Auction * It will be closed when there are no more toys to be exchanged.

### Disaster Preparedness Drill Tour with English interpreters

The Minato City Disaster Prevention Drills (Azabu Site) welcome foreign participants. Casually join our disaster prevention drill tour to visit training sites and practice training. You will be accompanied by English-language interpreters.



**Time** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Admission** Free (Advance application is required)

- **Application Period:** To November 10 (Fri), 2017
- **How to apply:** Please call providing the following information: (1) your name, (2) your address, (3) your telephone number, (4) Japanese level.
- **Tel:** 03-5472-3710 Minato Call (City Information Service) (English language service provided) Telephone Answer Service Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm

**Admission Free**

Anybody can participate in these drills. Come to the site to join us on the day of the event.

**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 Chii 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

During the visit to the embassy for data collection, I was able to get to know the country much better. In the Azabu Future Photo Studio, I was able to see the changes of the times with my own eyes. Whenever I collect data from people and see the things and places related to each title, I make new findings, which always add to the excitement and surprise.

I really felt that truth is stranger and more precious than fiction... In the future, this newsletter might be a precious reference material for the history of Azabu!

(Misaho Kasho)

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 :**  
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