



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



## Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 20

# Now Four Times Larger, the New Azabu Police Station Opened in February



Azabu Police Station in 1932



The old Azabu Police Station used up to February 2019. The new Azabu Police Station building land area was obtained with the exchange of equal value method, from Tokyo Metropolitan Government-owned land. Therefore, the site where the old building is currently located, is now owned by The Tokyo Metropolitan Government. At present, there is no plan for the old building. Whether it will be demolished or not is yet to be decided. (As of May 2019)



The exterior wall of the new Azabu Police Station building, with its striking checkered pattern.

The old Azabu Police Station was built in 1972, and was located at Roppongi 6-chome, nearby Roppongi Crossing. 47 years, about a half-century, is a long time for a building like a police station, and it had aged beyond its useful life. The new Police Station building was built on the former site of Mikawadai Junior High School, close to Tokyo Midtown. The opening in February 2019 was most auspicious, as this was just before the inauguration of the New Reiwa Era. We visited this new, bigger and better eight-story Azabu Police Station.

**The new and very impressive checkered pattern facade on the front of the building fits perfectly for a Police Station situated in Azabu.**

The façade of the new Police Station building resembles a checkered square. The place name Azabu comes from "hemp cloth" and we heard that is the motif used in the design of the facade. The area neighboring this new Police Station is full of buildings of all shapes and sizes—a very Asian, very Azabu scene, with all the small restaurants in nearby alleys. The new Police Station building really stands out here, a proud display covering a floor area of about 16,400m<sup>2</sup> four times that of the old building. The site area in total is about 4,000m<sup>2</sup>.

**An environmentally friendly facility, barrier free, with LED lighting and a solar power generation system**

The reception counter of the old Police Station was located on the 2nd floor, accessible only by dark and narrow stairs. Now, even from the parking lot, visitors in wheel chairs etc. can use an elevator. This is a significant improvement. The reception is large, bright, open and inviting. All the facilities are of course handicapped friendly and a wheelchair accessible restroom is also provided.

LED lighting is used throughout the building, and solar panels are installed on the roof to generate power. Any shortfall regarding electric power is supplied from the local power company. There is a panel on the wall on the 1st floor that shows how well it is performing.

On the 3rd floor, there is a tatami-floored martial arts gym. We could hear the enthusiastic shouting of policemen practicing their Kendo (traditional Japanese style of fencing), or Judo, which comes in handy given their job. Part of the facility is open to children, but there are private rooms that we couldn't enter, so the whole building is not open to the public. It is a Police Station so there are also detention rooms and a row of meeting rooms.

**The history of the Azabu Police Station started in Toranomon.**

As we delved into the history of the Azabu Police Station,

we found information online that the original station was established in Toranomon in 1875. This police station was renamed "Azabu Police Station" in 1888 and the old Azabu Police Station building was completed in 1972.

At present, the Azabu Police Station's jurisdiction covers a large area including part of Roppongi 1-chome, and the whole area of Roppongi 2 to 7-chome, Nishi-azabu, Moto-azabu, Azabudai, Azabu-mamianacho, Azabu-nagasaki, Higashi-azabu, Azabujuban and Minai-azabu. More than 50 Embassies are located in this area. There are many foreign residents living in the area, and they make up more than 10% of the population. The Roppongi downtown area in particular is known as a town that never sleeps, and as this is right in the Azabu Police Station's jurisdiction area, the police are busy 24hrs a day! The policemen need to work hard around the clock considering not only the size of their jurisdiction but also due to language, culture and customs considerations. We got the impression that the Station is at the center of a very diverse melting pot of many kinds of people from all over the world.

Our Azabu Police Station employs more than 430 staff members, another indication of the scale of this operation. We would like to express our gratitude to all the police men and women whose daily task is to keep our town safe and peaceful, working 365 days a week, 24 hours a day, four shifts a day. Our visit really impressed upon us that we should never forget the constant debt of gratitude we owe the police and the peace of mind we can almost take for granted. We are assured that the new era of Reiwa will continue to be safe and peaceful.

**Address:** 7-1, 4-chome, Roppongi, Minato-ku  
**Tel:** 03-3479-0110

**Operating Hours:** Weekdays from 8:30am to 5:15pm  
Not on Saturday, Sunday, Holiday,  
New Year's Holiday

● Research Support  
Azabu Police Station



Mr. Mitsuyoshi Sakai, Assistant Inspector and Chief of Police Affairs Section, Police Affairs Department, Azabu Police Station. "The hallways in the old station were so narrow that it was difficult for us to pass by one another. However, everywhere in the new building is really spacious, and we can work more effectively."



Reception counter in the center of the 1st floor.



The performance of the solar power generation system current is displayed on this panel.



A wheelchair-accessible restroom "Daredemo Toilet" (Barrier-free Restroom) has been installed.



The slogan "Ika no Osushi" (Squid Sushi) to be distributed with "Kodomo 110ban Text" (Telephone Number 110 for Children): Do you understand? "Ika" from "Ikanai" meaning "Do not go anywhere with a stranger." "No" from "Noranai" meaning "Do not get into a stranger's car." "O" from "Ookii Koe wo Dasu" meaning "Shout loudly." "Su" from "Sugu Nigeru" meaning "Run away immediately." "Shi" from "Shiraseru" meaning "Let somebody know." We hope that all the children spend every day safely with the slogan "Ika no Osushi" in mind.



# 麻布 びと

Azabu - A Human Story

Advisor for Toho Co., Ltd.  
Mr. Hideyuki Takai  
(78)

## The Intoxication of Movies, on the Big Screen and with their Big Sound: It is the secret of longevity

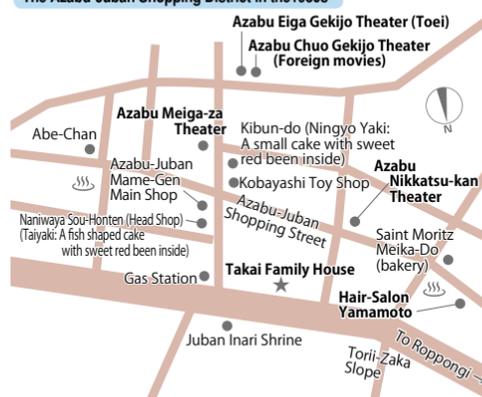
Mr. Hideyuki Takai, our subject for this page this time, lived in Azabu-Juban for 54 years from 1952 when he was a fifth grade elementary school student to 2006. From the end of the War to 1965 in the Showa Era, there were four movie theaters in the Azabu-Juban area (see map). He first discovered the charm of movies here, and in particular he became fascinated by foreign movies. During a 10-year period, from junior high school all the way through university, he spent all the time he could spare at the movies. It is no surprise to hear then, that he started working at Toho Co., Ltd. in 1964. Thirty-eight years later, in 2002, he had moved through the ranks all the way to President of the company. He spent 9 years doing the job of Toho Company President before retiring in 2002.



### ● Profile

He was born in 1941 in Tokyo. He graduated from Nanzan Elementary School and then Jonan Junior High School (Now Roppongi Jr. High). After graduating from Rikkyo University, he joined Toho Co., Ltd. After working for the Performance Division of Toho Co., Ltd. and as a Toho company staff member in theaters including the Yuraku-za Theater, the Scala-za theater, and the Hibiya Eiga Theater, etc., he was sent to the movie production work site. After excelling in the Movie Adjustment Department, he was appointed as President and CEO of Toho. In 2001, he retired from the position. He currently is an advisor for Toho, and he also serves as the Director of the Tokuma Memorial Cultural Foundation for Animation and Director of the ITM Itami Memorial Foundation.

### The Azabu-Juban Shopping District in the 1950s



### The Great Surprise of Hollywood Movies

Please tell us what you felt when you discovered the charm of movies for the first time.

I was born in February 1941. On December 8th of that year, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island in the US State (Territory) of Hawaii, and the Pacific War broke out. Four years later, in 1945, Japan was defeated and the War was over. I experienced an air-raid shelter and continuous air raids when I was 4 years old. In addition, I saw my mother having a very hard time during the post-war chaos. I grew up thinking there should be no more war. However, most of the movies we saw in school after the War were about the tragedy of war, such as *Jeux interdits* (Note 1) and *Nijushi no hitomi* (Note 2).

Though I was just a child, I felt that I didn't want to see such depressing stories any more. I wanted to see something happy and cheerful. It was in Hollywood movies that I was able to find this, in the movie theaters in Azabu-Juban. Most of the musicals, westerns, romances and science fiction films from abroad were spectacular and in full color. For me as a junior high school student, it was quite an eye opener and I was able to really learn a lot about the world. Maybe, I was being drawn into American propaganda. They were occupying Japan then and actively promoting the notion that America is Great! (Laughs). However, it is true that thanks to such movies I could more easily recover from the aftereffects of the War. It was a release from the mental strain of living in Japan at the time as well as the usual aspects of junior high school life.

### The Movie Theaters in Azabu-Juban

You described the theatres of the time in your book *Eigakan ewa Azabu-Juban kara Toden ni notte* (Photo [1]) (Take a streetcar from Azabu-Juban to go to the Movie Theaters). Please tell us about the theaters of Azabu-Juban.

### The Relationship with the Hair-Salon Yamamoto

How did you come to live in Azabu?

I came to live here because my mother built a house in Azabu-Juban. My father passed away from overwork in 1945, the last year of War. Four years later, my mother opened a beauty parlor. Her business went well and she built a house together with the shop in Azabu in 1952. The first employees were the two daughters (Ms. Reiko and Ms. Yoshiko) of the owner of Yamamoto Rihatuten (A Barber Shop, now Hair-Salon Yamamoto) located in Azabu-Juban. Basically, this relationship was the deciding factor regarding our choice to build our house here. At that time, I was a fifth grade elementary school student, and I felt that my life was really just beginning as we started our new life in this new house in Azabu.

This (Photo [3]) shows a 2-story wooden house and the residents lived on the second floor. When I was a senior



[3] His 2-story wooden house located across the road from the Juban Inari Shrine. The lower photo shows the present 9-story building.

high school student in the 1950s there were no high buildings in Azabu-Juban yet. In this photo (Photo [4]), the white sign of the NISSIN World Delicatessen can be seen in the distance. The shopping district of Azabu-Juban was very convenient for me because there was a bookshop, a stationary shop and two public bathhouses (sento), so I could find a little of everything. For me at the time, Azabu-Juban was a shopping district, not so much a luxury residential area.



[4] He was in Azabu-Juban when he was a senior high school student. The sign of NISSIN World Delicatessen is seen backwards.

There were four movie theatres in Azabu-Juban. On the site where Bio c' Bon is currently located, we had Azabu Chuo Gekijo Theater where foreign movies were shown, and Azabu Eiga Gekijo Theater that was later called Azabu Toei. The bright signs of these movie theaters could be seen from the front of my house located across the street from the Juban Inari Shrine. (Photo [2]) Every week, or whenever the program changed, I went to the theatre as soon as I could. The nearest theater from my house was Azabu Nikkatsu-kan Theater (Now, the Daiei super market), only minutes away. Even the opening bell started, I could be there in time for the start of the movie. The building was quite old and built before the War, so I often felt cold while the movie was playing. I usually carried a blanket with me. The Azabu Meigaza Theater where foreign movies were screened, in the place where it was a yose (storyteller's theater).



[2] The signs of Azabu Movie Theater and Azabu Chuo Theater. The sign on the left side shines brightly during the day, and the sign on the right side shines brightly at night.



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### The Evolution of Theaters Never Stops

Once upon a time, streetcars ran through Azabu-Juban, and everyone went to theaters in town to see movies. As we all know however, times change. The television industry gradually became more powerful and the movie industry changed a lot because of it. What do you think the future of the movie industry is?

Movies will exist forever, but how we see movies changes depending on the times and the changes in technology. We do not have to go to the theater to see movies anymore. I believe that no matter what, theaters will evolve and continue to appeal to us with their huge screens and big sound.

His love of movies started when he was a boy, and by the time he reached university, he was playing an active part in the movie club. He told us about movies advertised in a pamphlet called, All Japan Student Movie Festival. Every aspect of his stories was fascinating for us, as he told them like scenes from a movie. We were surprised to here that he watches at least two movies a day. We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Hideyuki Takai, a true cinephile from Azabu-Juban, for telling us such great stories.

Note 1: *Jeux interdits* (Forbidden Game), Directed by René Clément (France 1952)

Note 2: *Nijushi no hitomi* (Twenty-Four Eyes), Directed by Keisuke Kinoshita (Japan 1954)



[1] *Eigakan ewa Azabu-Juban kara Toden ni notte* (Take a streetcar from Azabu-Juban to go to the Movie Theaters) written by Hideyuki Takai (issued by Kadokawa Publishing Co. in 2010); After this story appeared in *Neppu* issued by Studio Ghibli, there were final edits. In 2012, a paperback edition was issued as part of the Kadokawa paperback series.



Mr. Kougo Sezaki, the 45th Azabu Fire Station Chief



Town's Tips

# Fire Station with a "Matoi"

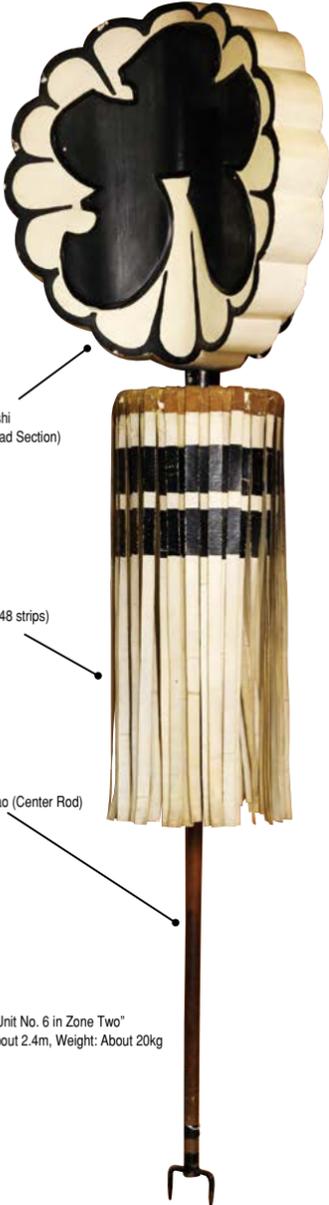
(a decorated portable "sign", used as the standard representing a specific fire brigade during the Edo period).

During Japan's Edo period, fires that leveled large areas of the burgeoning Edo city happened repeatedly. The city of Edo (modern day Tokyo) had the largest population of any city in the world in the 19th century. The fast growing population and resulting social pressures, meant that quarreling and even fights in the street were often witnessed. At the time, people said ironically that "Fires and Fights are the Flowers of Edo". These words give us some insight into the character (a bit short tempered, but full of vitality) of true "Edokko", those who were born and raised in Edo city.

The Great Fire of the Meiwa Period ("Meiwa no Taika") occurred in April 1772 (the 9th year of Meiwa), and Azabu, together with other areas of Edo, was caught up in it. In those days, the "Matoi" was an important symbol deployed at fire sites to indicate that a firefight was in progress. As time passed, the "Matoi" for our local area has been displayed at the Azabu Fire Station Chief's Office. There, staff members work around the clock to protect the people of the Azabu and Roppongi areas from fire and disaster. Mr. Kougo Sezaki, Chief of Azabu Fire Station, told us, "Azabu, with its constantly changing faces, is a wonderful area where the new and contemporary coexist with tradition. The "Matoi" is one of the symbols of Azabu, so with pleasure!" he said, as he happily responded to our request for an interview



Mr. Tsuyoshi Fujinami



Matoi of "Unit No. 6 in Zone Two"  
Height: About 2.4m, Weight: About 20kg

This "Matoi" is for "Unit No. 6 in Zone Two", and is one of two "Matois" that are owned by Mr. Kiyooki Shibazaki, Chairman of "the Edo Firemen's Preservation Association Inc." (\*1) and Leader of Unit No. 6. It was borrowed from him in December 2008 and has been on display since then with the hope that many local people can see it in person. The Chairman and association members join the New Year's fire brigade parade wearing "Hanten", (\*2) a traditional short coat. This is a yearly recognition and confirmation of an enduring close relationship. The other "Matoi" is still on active duty at various events throughout the year.

\*1 Descendants of the "Machibikeshi" local fire brigade established this association in 1939 in the Edo period, along with the "Shibu Shobogumi", a pre-war fire brigade. In 2018, a gala memorial ceremony for the 300th anniversary of the Edo local fire brigade system was held.

\*2 Uniform for the local fire brigade

## "Matoi" and the History of the Fire Fighting System

The fire fighting system was established in the Edo Period. Sixteen Daimyo families (feudal lords) organized groups called "Daimyo-bikeshi" and ten Hatamoto (Shogunal retainer) families organized groups called "Jobikeshi" for fire extinguishing activities for the Edo Castel and samurai residences. Yoshimune Tokugawa, the 8th Shogun, ordered Tadasuke Ooka, the Governor of Echizen Province and Machi-bugyo officer (town magistrate), to organize the fire brigade for local areas ("Machibikeshi"). It was a large organization of around 10,000 people in 64 units. In addition to the 48 units named "I", "Ro", "Ha", etc., 16 units in the Honjo and the Fukagawa areas also joined, and each individual area covered all their own costs. The firefighting strategy of the day most often did not involve trying to put out specific fires directly, but to pull down neighboring structures to prevent it spreading. The tools used to do this were of course first the "Matoi", and then to tear down structures, bamboo ladders ("Takebashigo", broad axes ("Masakari"), fork-shaped implements to push down structures ("Sasumata"), long hooks to pull down structures ("Tobikuchi"), and of course hand-pumps ("Ryudousui"). Courageous, agile and technically accomplished construction workers called "Tobi" were selected to fight against the raging fires, risking their lives, with only these basic tools. The "Tobi" with the greatest physical strength and the most high-spirited of the unit, was chosen to bear the "Matoi". When a fire broke out, he hurried to the site, climbed to the rooftop of a house downwind of the fire, and strenuously waved the "Matoi" to gather and motivate the firefighters of his unit. It was considered a great honor to bear the "Matoi", and it was the duty of the unit to contain the fire before it reached the member carrying it. The excellent teamwork of the brave members of these brigades was widely celebrated, and greatly admired as the true "Flowers of Edo".

Samurai generals originally used the "Matoi" in the Sengoku period. In the beginning of the Edo period, Shogunal retainers used it in case of an emergency, and it was similarly adorned with images representative of the Shogun. This was however, a time when many forms of ostentation were forbidden by the government, and only the colors of black and white were allowed. The heart and soul of "Edo-Machibikeshi" (Edo local fire brigades) were on full display with their black and white "Matoi".

This "Matoi" in Azabu Fire Station originally represented "Unit No. 6 in Zone Two". Later, units No. 3 あ "A" and No. 5 江 "E" of fire brigades around Azabu area changed the name to "Shibu Shobogumi" (fire brigades in pre-war Japan) during the Meiji Restoration and re-formed as "Unit No. 6 in Zone Two". The Shibu Shobogumi was active until 1939, when the "Keibo-dan" (defense unit) was organized.

## Azabu Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department

On September 23, 1908, the Second Fire Station Morioka-cho Branch opened at the address "2, Morioka-cho, Azabu-ku" (presently Minami-Azabu 5-Chome). In 1924, this office was elevated to the Azabu Fire Station Division and two years later, to Azabu Fire Station. In 1975, it was relocated to the present site, and a new building was constructed. The total area of this 8-story fireproof building is 2,399 m2, and has been reinforced to resist earthquakes. The Iikura Fire Station Branch has been located under the elevated structure of the Metropolitan Expressway Inner Circular Route since 1968.

There are 143 Fire Station staff members with a variety of jobs who are sent out to fires or accident sites to extinguish fires, administer first aid or conduct rescues, and are divided into three units. They are alternatively on stand-by or on-call on a 24hr basis. When they are called out on emergencies, the 20 kilograms of equipment they carry includes a full fire suit, a helmet and an oxygen tank, etc. Because of the high level of their ongoing training and fitness, they are able to do this even in the heat of midsummer. While we were doing

our research, we witnessed this training as they ascended ladders and scaffolding etc., all the while shouting encouragement to each other. With such great effort and attitude, I imagine they do a fantastic job when we need them.

## Fire Fighting Vehicles, etc. (Total No. of Vehicles in Azabu Fire Station and Iikura Branch)

Fire Truck	4 unit	Ladder Truck	1 unit
Ambulance	1 unit	Command Van	1 unit
Equipment Truck	1 unit	Inspection & PR Car	4 units
Crew Carrier	1 unit		

## Total No. of Dispatches of Fire Engine in Azabu Fire Station and Iikura Branch in 2018

Disasters	Fire: 46 cases (Dead: 0 and Injury: 8) Others: 416 cases
First-Aid	3877 cases (Ambulance + Fire Truck: 1672 cases, Ambulance only: 2205 cases)

\*: The most common fires occur in kitchens or are caused by careless smokers. The No. 1 reason for an ambulance being dispatched is heatstroke.

Japan is prone to natural disasters, and when they occur, the fire station goes beyond their duties as a local fire-fighting unit. They are sent as members of rescue parties when any great disaster occurs in Japan. Sixteen staff members of the Azabu Fire Station were sent to the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake disaster in 1995, and fifteen staff members were sent to the area of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

In addition, they actively engage in fire and disaster prevention activities, for a "Safe City Tokyo" where everyone can have peace of mind that fire is less likely than ever. In particular, they are using the slogan, "STOP Kitchen Fires!" as they engage in awareness activities for fire prevention in restaurant exhaust duct and home kitchen.

You can attend a lecture called "Fire & Disaster Prevention Diagnosis in Your House" given by the fire station free of charge. How about taking advantage of it?

## The current "Shobo-dan" (Volunteer Fire Corps) embodies the spirit of "Machibikeshi"

The spirit of "Machibikeshi", as symbolized by the "Matoi", was taken on by "Shobo-dan" reformed from "Keibo-dan" in 1948 (introduced in The AZABU Vol. 41 and Vol. 42). They are so good, that the Chief of the Azabu Fire Station Mr. Sezaki told us, "The Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps and The Azabu Fire Station work together closely, and are indispensable to local fire and disaster prevention. In essence, the Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps leads the way creating safety and peace of mind for those who live in the Azabu area." The Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps consists of 100 members in four divisions, and they regularly engage in a lot of practical training. They play an active part in various well-known events, including the Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills, the Fire & Disaster Prevention Challenge Day (held at Patio Juban Square), and guard the Azabu-Juban Noryo-matsuri (Summer Festival), etc.



Appearance of Azabu Fire Station: An ambulance left the building and hurried away during the interview.



Ladder Truck



Fire fighters like to have their noodles served separately from the soup: Noodles are dipped in the hot soup and then eaten. This is because they can be called out at short notice, but when they return, they only have to heat the soup again.



Matoi with the Members (Tobi: Construction Workers) of the Unit No. 6 in Zone Two



"Hashigo Non" (acrobatic performances on a ladder) by the members



The mark of the Fire Brigade is the symbol of Unity. A cross section of a Matoi is designed on the center of the cherry mark.

**Azabu Fire Station Division** 3-4-42, Moto-Azabu, Minato-ku Tel: 03-3470-0119  
**Iikura Fire Station Branch** 1-30-5, Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku Tel: 03-3584-0119

- **Coverage Support** .....  
Azabu Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department  
Mr. Kougo Sezaki, The 45th Chief of Azabu Fire Station and Assistant Chief  
Mr. Yasuhiko Hattori, Assistant Section Chief in Fire Prevention Section and Captain in Fire Protection Management Branch, and Fire Captain  
Mr. Tsuyoshi Fujinami, Fire Protection Section and Fire Lieutenant
- **References:** .....  
"Azabu Fire Station, a Chronicle of 70 Years" (the 70th Anniversary of Azabu Fire Station Commemorative Publication Project)  
"Edo Machibikeshi 300 nen" (300 years of Edo Local Fire Brigade History) (issued by General Incorporated Association Fireman's Preservation Association Inc.)  
"Shobo Zatugaku Jiten" (Fire Fighting Trivia Encyclopedia) (issued by the Tokyo Fire Department)  
"Shobodan no Rekishi" (History of Fire Brigade) (issued by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency)



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Area: 652,225 km<sup>2</sup> (About 1.7 times larger than Japan)  
 Population: 29,160,000 (based on 2016-17 statistics from the Afghanistan Central Statistics Office)  
 Capital City: Kabul  
 Language: Their official languages are Dari (also known as Afghan Persian, or Farsi) and Pashto. However, there are as many as 40 minor languages including Hazaragi and Tajik.  
 Head of State: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai  
 Assembly: Upper House (102 seats: 34 members selected from the Prefectural Assembly and the County Assembly respectively, and 34 members designated by the President)  
 Lower House: (249 seats)

His Excellency Dr. Bashir Mohabbat  
 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the  
 Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Japan

 **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/afghanistan/index.html>

Interview Support: Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Visiting Ambassadors 47  
**From the "World" of Azabu**

# AFGHANISTAN

All around the town of Azabudai, located between Tokyo Tower and Roppongi Station, there are many diplomacy-related facilities. We went up to the Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Azubudai, passing by the Embassy of Russia, and then the Tokyo American Club. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Japan (hereafter called "Ambassador"), His Excellency Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, and his Japanese wife Yasuko welcomed us. It has been forty three years since he set foot in Japan. He is a true Japanophile to the extent that he can say, "My body is Afghan, but my soul is Japanese". We listened to his stories as he spoke fluent Japanese, along with his wife.



People celebrating New Year around the Blue Mosque in Herat

**His life in Japan began as a student**

The Ambassador arrived in Japan at Haneda Airport on September 20, 1976, when he was 19 years old. His uncle had served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Japan from 1964 to 1967, and this connection provided him a good chance for him to study in Japan.

The country of Afghanistan is located on the old Silk Road route, and was still peaceful at the time. It was common for people from many countries to visit regularly. On the contrary, few foreigners were visiting Japan during the same period.

When the Ambassador had completed his studies he planned to return home and join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. However, because of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 he was unable to do so, and had to remain in Japan. After the overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001, he was at last able to return to his country in 2003. He had not been home for 27 years, but was able to achieve his dream of entering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. In the same year, he began working as a diplomat in Japan since the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo opened again. Then he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Japan in 2017.

Recently, more than 10,000 young Afghans have been studying abroad and returning to provide much of the human resources and talent Afghanistan lost in the civil war. Less than 10% of the students who studied abroad came to Japan, more than 750 people. He told us "During the last 18 years, Japan has kindly offered Afghanistan a great deal for support with medical care, education, infrastructure, construction and road works, etc. They fulfill their promises, and

the quality of their work is excellent. Also, they are able to adjust and accommodate the customs of Afghanistan and respect our religion. Our Government and the Afghan people really appreciate all that Japan has done for us."

**The Culture of Afghanistan was Created by the Silk Road.**

Afghanistan has four seasons like Japan. It is now largely an Islamic country, but it had previously been a Buddhist country for more than 1,000 years. In The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley, a World Heritage Site, we can see a lot of evidence of this today. His wife explained, "Afghan culture is different from that of China, but rather resembles that of Japan. I feel that many positive aspects of Japan's Meiji Era echo in the cityscape and customs of Afghanistan".

The Afghan people have the custom of drinking Japanese or English tea. When they are asked what they would like as a souvenir from Japan, their answer is generally "Japanese tea". As the Ambassador commented that "Collaboration between Afghanistan and Japan", we don't see such a unique example, except in this country located on the Silk Road.

They have various noodle dishes. In addition to "somen" (fine noodles), they have as many as 80 types of noodle dishes. Many cultures have interacted and blended over thousands of years to create the culture of Afghanistan, which is like nowhere else.

**About their International Marriage**

The Afghan dish that the Ambassador most recommended, is "Kabuli Palaw", that is like "Takikomi Gohan", where Indica rice is seasoned and cooked with various ingredients such as meat and fruits. He praised his wife's "Kabu-



Women wearing Afghan national costume and traditional folk dance

li Palaw" saying, "It is very, very good!"

He met his wife when they were schoolmates. The Ambassador was a graduate student in Nagoya at the time. She had an interest in Indian music, and they enjoyed discussing current affairs in Afghanistan, which was attracting wide press coverage every day. It was in this way that they gradually became closer. Mrs. Mohabbat had previously studied in Germany and worked in Los Angeles and said, "I can easily adapt to the new environment in any country". She seemed to feel that many aspects of Afghanistan's culture and customs have something in common with Japan's. After marriage, she devoted herself to the Persian language so diligently that she became fluent in Persian. "If I hadn't learned to speak the Persian language, I would not have been able to understand their culture. So, I really understand how hard interpreters have to work!" We could imagine the difficulties of such an international marriage from her words.

She has just established an NPO to support children in Afghanistan. After the civil war, a new constitution was established and Kabul was revitalized. Although things are getting better in Afghanistan, both of them hope conditions regarding poverty and the restoration of public order will continue to improve. The voices of hope wishing that Japanese people could travel freely in Afghanistan again soon, have reached the Ambassador and his wife.

After our pleasant chat in such a friendly atmosphere, we moved from the Ambassador's office to the roof and our enjoyable time together con-



tinued. From the roof of the Embassy building on the Azabudai tableland, the Ambassador's favorite building, Tokyo Tower, can be seen close by. It was a splendid scene of Minato City in Central Tokyo. It was terrific that we could share the superb view under a blue sky with the ambassador and his wife.

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
<http://www.afghanembassy.jp.com/jp>  
 2-2-1, Azabudai, Minato-ku



Band-e Amir  
 Height above sea level: 3,000m. A superb natural view emerging from the desert



Manti: It sounds like Chinese "Mantou" (dumpling), but the shape resembles "Gyoza" (potsticker); One of the traditional Afghan dishes



Kabuli Palaw: Afghan style "Takikomi Gohan" (rice seasoned and cooked with various ingredients)

# The Azabu Future Photo Studio



The view from halfway up to the top



Looking down on the "Otafuku-zaka" slope from the top (Map A)

—The Slope where the Old Humor of Azabu still Remains—

## Otafuku-zaka Slope

This slope has the humorous name of "Otafuku" (A homely woman, but having good fortune), so it must be a very happy slope. According to the signpost, "This slope begins with a gentle incline that flattens out and then drops again. This refers to a well-known mask called an "Otafuku-men," a humorous mask of a homely woman's face with a very small nose." This slope was named after "Otafuku-men," but it is admirable that the inclination was compared to the shape (of a mask). Exactly when this slope got its name is unknown.

### On the old map

The name of this slope is "Shiomi-zaka" on the old map "Edo Kiriezu Azabu Ezu 1851 (Kaei 4) nen" (Edo Cutout Picture of Azabu in 1951).

Currently however, the "Shiomi-zaka Slope" exists on the south side under the "Otafuku-zaka" Slope. It's possible that the slope used to be called "Shiomi-zaka" slope, which would have included the present "Otafuku-zaka" slope. The word "Shiomi" (observing the sea) is evidence that the sea would likely have been visible from the slope, and would also have been a superb view. On another old map "Gofunai Basue Oukan Sonohoka Enkaku Zusho 1862 (Bunroku 2) nen" drawn 10 years after the one mentioned above, the name of the slope is absent. The name "Otafuku" would have been given to it somewhere between the time of the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the beginning of the Meiji Era.

### Nakayashiki (spare residence) of Matsudaira Tanbanokami (Lord of the Feudal Domain of Tanba)

This residence used to be located on the site where Toyo Eiwa High School is now.

The name "Matsudaira Tanbanokami" on the map refers to Mit-

suhisa Matsudaira, the last feudal lord of the Matsumoto Domain, now Nagano Prefecture. This family had a surprisingly long history, going back even before the Kamakura Era. The family received the name Matsudaira from Ieyasu Tokugawa, who originally bestowed it on a member named Yasunaga for his distinguished military service from around the end of the Civil Wars to the beginning of the Edo Era. This family survived until the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate as a Fudai Daimyo, or hereditary vassal daimyo. Over time this family developed many branches. The head family was called "Toda Souke" or alternatively "Nireki Toda-ke," and led the land ruled by the family. Although their family line is very complicated, we know that as the first-generation of Matsudairas, Yasunaga was identified as a son-in-law of Ieyasu Tokugawa. He also was appointed as the guardian of the third Shogun Iemitsu Tokugawa and was a trusted confidant of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

### Otafuku-zaka Slope as it is today

This slope is in a quiet spot, between the Naga-saka Slope on the right and the Torii-zaka Slope on the left side, viewed from the foot of the slope. It is a rather special slope because it includes a partly flat road section. We still don't know when or who named this slope, but it is a wonderful spot where some of the "Old Humor of Azabu" remains.



"Otafuku-zaka Slope on Edo Kiriezu Azabu Ezu 1851 (Kaei 4) nen"  
Source: Digital Collection in the National Diet Library  
The red circle on the map is where the Otafuku-zaka Slope is now. The name "Shiomi-saka" can be confirmed. Magojuro Toda was a member of the Monju-Toda family and Toda-Hayato-no-Sho (Official court rank of Imperial Guards). This may have been the title of a Shogun retainer.



"Gofunai Basue Oukan Sonohoka Enkaku Zusho 1862 (Bunroku 2) nen"  
The name of this slope is not indicated on this map. "Nagasaka" is indicated on the left and "Torizaka" on the right of the present day Otafuku-zaka Slope. The premises on the left of the slope is owned by the same Toda Family, but the larger area is shown as owned by the Naka-Yashiki of the Toda Head Family.

- 1 Halfway up the hill it is really flat. The building on the right-hand side is the Tokyo Eiwa High School building. (East Gate)
- 2 View from the foot of the slope in 1975 (Photo shot by Mr. Masanori Taguchi and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi)
- 3 View from the foot of the slope in 1975 (Photo shot by Mr. Masanori Taguchi and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi)



1



2



3



References: "Zoho Minato-Ku Kindai Enkaku Zushu Azabu Roppongi" (Minato City Modern History Illustration Book; Azabu and Roppongi Enlarged and Revised Edition) (Minato City Local History Museum)

### About the Azabu Future Photo Studio

The Azabu Regional City Office conducts activities that endeavor to capture the changes to the cityscape of Azabu, preserving and passing down its history, in order to contribute to strengthening the affection of the town among residents.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio Association consists of local residents, workers and students in the Azabu area, and has been actively organizing activities such as taking photographs at fixed-point locations and collecting old photographs of the Azabu area. The photographs collected are shown as panes in the Minato City Website and at local exhibitions. The Azabu Future Photo Studio Association hopes to broaden knowledge of the history and culture of the town to as many people as possible.

### 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.

Inquiries: Tel: 03-5114-8812



Seisensui Ogiwara in his youth (picture owned by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature)

# 麻布の軌跡

Historical Footsteps of Azabu

## The Father of “Free-Verse Haiku” Mr. Seisensui Ogiwara

When we think of the traditional Japanese poetry known as “Haiku”, we generally think of seasonal phrases (“Kigo”), and verses that total 17 syllables (five-seven-five syllables). It’s generally accepted that this is what defines Haiku poetry.

He insisted that, “Arbitrary rules like sticking to seasonal topics and only using seventeen syllables is total nonsense” (\*1). “Haiku firstly represents natural heart-felt emotions and then your state of mind, so therefore should have a free rhythm to be good poetry” (\*2).

He is inextricably linked with Azabu at all the key points of his life, such as his school, where he worked and where he lived. We will explore his life and progress during his more than 91 years.

**In his boyhood, he was a precocious and clever boy!**

Seisensui was born in 1884, in Shiba-Shinmei-Cho, and his family operated a grocery store. His family thought that education was not a high priority for life as a merchant, but he disagreed and successfully applied to Seisoku Jinjo Junior High School. However, 3 years later in 1899, he wrote articles critical of the school authorities in the school newspaper and was expelled together with some of his schoolmates. Fortunately, in the following year he was able to transfer to Azabu Junior High School, which was founded just 5 years earlier. This was thanks to the philosophy of Soroku Ebara, the Principal and Founder of Azabu Junior High School. He said that, “Good students become better when they are left alone to learn and grow. Education is important in particular for bad students, as they can improve the most.” (\*3).

He was 15 years old around this time, and he contributed a piece titled “An Opinion on the Improvement of Japanese Characters” to the Yomiuri Newspaper, and it appeared on the front page. This was indeed very clever and quite precocious for such a young boy.

**He was inaugurated into Haiku society when he was just in the first year of The First Higher School, but ironically he was held back a year.**

After graduating from Azabu Junior High School, he entered what was called the First Higher School (“Ichiko”) which is presently the University of Tokyo College of Arts and Sciences. It was at this time that he really developed his passion for Haiku. He was inaugurated into the “Ichiko Haiku Kai” (First Higher School Haiku Society) and received guidance from Hekigotou Kawahigashi and Kyoshi Takahama, etc., who were pupils of the famous Japanese Haiku poet “Shiki Masaoka”. He held a Haiku gathering for the famous novelist Soseki Natsume, who at that time was still unknown and, he had just become a professor of the First Higher School after returning from England.

Seisensui was so engrossed in his haiku compositions that he failed his German language class, and was held back when he was in the second grade. He stopped composing haiku temporarily and burnt his books because he worried that this failure had upset his mother, who had become a widow. After he entered university, he managed to be a good student and a good writer. He studied linguistics in university and graduate school.

**He started “Souun” magazine and composed avant-garde haiku poems!**

In 1911, when he was 27 years old, he started a haiku magazine titled “Souun” (stratus), and was motivated to compose much more avant-garde haiku. He won the endorsement of Hekigotou Kawahigashi, who approved of this new style of haiku. The “Souun-sha” company office headquarters was also in his mother’s single-storied house, built in 1904. It was located at Azabu-Shinbori-Cho 3-Banchi, present day Minami-Azabu 2-Chome.

**“Wazuka no Hana ga Chirikere ba, Ume ha Soumi ni Meguminu” Seisensui (After a few flower blossoms fall, leaf buds appear all over the tree) Composed by Seisensui**

He composed this haiku poem because he was impressed by the vitality of a plum tree in his small 6.6 m<sup>2</sup> garden.

In 1914, he married his wife Keiko. However, in this year, he broke off the relationships with the Hekigotou school people, who had been his good friends since the inauguration of “Souun” magazine. Differences of opinion had grown too wide, unfortunately. At that time, Seisensui’s poems were becoming more and more avant-garde. This was much ahead of what was known then as “New trend haiku”, and towards free verse haiku with no seasonal references and no fixed form. In his later years, he looked back on his aspirations at that time enthusiastically in a newspaper column.

“I advocated that not only conventional haiku that have 17 syllables, there should be true haiku... Also, I could not bear that Kyoshi Takahama had so over popularized the haiku revolutionary spirit of Shiki Masaoka. At that time I was still in my 20’s and overcome with the idea of a revolution in haiku; the “New Trend”. I also thought I should think of this as fundamental to the act of writing haiku. This means that haiku should be created naturally from everyday life and with respect for nature at its heart. This is at the core of our existence, and fundamentally a different way of writing poetry: True haiku”. (Yomiuri Newspaper on December 2, 1972)

Seisensui doesn’t deny the natural feeling of seasons, but he thought that a flourish of rhythm directly from the heart was more important. This is why he could no longer tolerate the old rules regarding seasonal topics and a framework of 17 syllables.

**The Great Kanto Earthquake and Deaths of His Wife and Mother**

When the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred on September 1, 1923, he and his wife were living at 37, Azabu Miyamura-cho, present day Moto-Azabu 3-Chome. Fortunately, they were not injured. Immediately after the Earthquake, he began writing detailed reports. On the third day after the Earthquake, he reported from Juban-Dori, where many merchant houses had collapsed. He said “A thriving street market had sprung up there, and survivors were buying all sorts of foods; canned foods, dried fish, salted plums, etc., anything they could find”. He remembers buying things randomly all on his own as his wife was not up to it. (\*4). He added, “We were used to living in an urban environment where we thought we would always be able to buy anything we needed for our lives so long as we had money, but suddenly that was not true any more. We never imagined the possibility of experiencing such conditions.” (\*5) It would probably happen this way again today, if a similar situation came about.



First Issue “Souun” (April 1911) The picture on the cover was drawn by Fusetu Nakamura, a famous Western Painter. (Owned by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature)



Seisensui with his students in front of the “Souun-sha” company in Azabu-Shinbori-Cho. The person on the right hand side is Seisensui. (Owned by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature)

Most unfortunately, he lost his wife only one month later and his mother passed away early in the next year. He had lost all his family in just a short while, so he moved to Kyoto with the intention of becoming a Buddhist monk.

**Reunion with Hosai Ozaki**

In Kyoto, he met Hosai Ozaki for the first time in 10 years. Hosai was an old friend of his from their “Ichiko Haiku no Kai” years. Seisensui was also a teacher of Free-Verse haiku, and he sometimes greatly corrected Hosai’s many poems. For Hosai, who had left his job and cut off the relationships with his family, haiku was the very reason for living.

**Seki wo Shitemo Hitori Hosai**

**(Even though I cough, nobody cares and I am all alone) Composed by Hosai**

This haiku poem clearly shows Hosai’s state of mind, and is one of his more famous Free-Verse Haiku poems. It was composed in the hermitage located at the back of the temple garden on Shodoshima Island in Kagawa Prefecture, where Hosai had settled as arranged by Seisensui. Hosai lived an extremely simple life, and died alone of pharyngeal tuberculosis at the early age of 41. Unlike Seisensui of the same generation, who lived a long life, when Hosai died, he was even before reaching middle age of his life.

**Remarriage and Post-War Years**

In 1929 when Seisensui was 45 years old he married his second wife, a woman called Wakaju, and his first son was born a year later. Soon after came his first and second daughters. Blessed with three children, Seisensui became a devoted father in the latter half of his life. He had evacuated to Kamakura during the war, and ultimately settled down in the area. His time there seems to have been relatively quiet.

I listened to what Dr. Asahiko Ogiwara had to say. He is 60 years old, a medical doctor, and Seisensui’s grandson. He remembers Seisensui because they lived together when he was a child. According to his aunts (Seisensui’s first and second daughters), Seisensui’s daily routine was as follows: “He woke up around seven o’clock in the morning, and soon got busy with his work. He took breaks for coffee, lunch, naps, an afternoon snack like his favorite oshiruko, and a glass of black beer with dinner. After dinner, he took a nap again and work”. He would read through and correct a large amount of haiku poems sent for “Souun” magazine by readers. He continued to produce his personal magazine “Zui” (the theme of which was “Zuiin Zuien”. He wrote anything he wanted to, always hoping there would be reader out there that would like it). Many business friends visited their house, keeping his daughters very busy welcoming them, serving tea etc., leaving little time for their academic work.

**He lived out his natural life at the age of 91 years and 11 months.**

In 1955, he was inaugurated as a professor at Showa Women’s University, and in 1965 he became a member of the Japan Art Academy. In 1966, he received the 3rd class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure as a Person of Cultural Merits. Seisensui traveled actively all over Japan for haiku inspiration and lectures until the age of 90. On May 20 1976, he passed away due to a stroke, at the ripe old age of 91 years and 11 months.

**Utukushiki Kotutubo Botan Kawararete Iru (Beautiful urn with peony drawn) Farewell Poem**

According to his will, a beautiful white porcelain pot was used as his urn, and he was put to rest at the ancestral grave of the Ogiwara Family in Myozo-ji Temple. Thirty-one years after the company building of “Souun-sha” in Azabu-Shinbori-Cho burned down in one of the Great Tokyo Air Raids, Seisensui had at last come back to Azabu.



Myozo-ji Temple where Seisensui rests in peace (Picture shot in April 2019)



In the house garden located in front of Kenchoji Temple in Kamakura on June 6, 1950 From the left, his first son, Kaiichi, Mrs. Wakaju Ogiwara, Seisensui, his first daughter, Fujiko and his second daughter, Ryuko (picture owned by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature)



Seisensui with his grandson, Asahiko in 1961 (provided by Mr. Asahiko Ogiwara)

\*1 “Souun Daikku-shu: Shizen no Tobira” (Souun First Haiku Collection: Door of Nature) on page 23, written by Seisensui Ogiwara (issued by Shinonome-do Shoten in 1914)

\*2 “Kononichi 60nen” (I have been doing this for 60 years) on page 7, written by Seisensui Ogiwara (issued by Shunyodo Shoten in 1978)

\*3 “Watashino Rirekisho Bunkajin 1” (My Personal History: A Cultured Person No. 1) on page 166, edited by Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc. (issued by Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc. in 1914)

\*4 and \*5 “Daichi ni Nageku” (Grieving for the Earth) on page 57, written by Seisensui Ogiwara (issued by Bunko-sha in 1924)

※ In the quotations, an old character form has been changed to a new one.

● **Research Support** .....  
Mr. Asahiko Ogiwara  
Ms. Yoko Nomiyama, Staff of the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature

● **Other References** .....  
“Onibi Sokono Nuketa Hishaku” (Demon Fire: Ladle without a bottom) written by Nobuko Yoshiya (issued by Kodansha in 2003)  
“Haiku Sono Miryoku Ten” (Exhibition of Haiku and Its Appeal) edited by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature (issued by the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature in 2006)  
“Eureka: Gendai Haiku no Atarashii Nami” (New Wave in Modern Haiku) written by Osamu Ikeuchi (issued by Seidosha in 2011)  
“Zusetsu Haiku” (Diagram of Haiku) written by Miho Araki (issued by Nitto Shoin in 2011)

(Researched and written by Kumiko Omura)

## Let's widen the circle of people to improve manners among businesses together: Recruiting Members to Join the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance"!

Minato City wants to create a town where "people follow smoking rules regardless if they are a smoker or not, so everyone can live comfortably". Minato City is making a great effort to promote the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance Project", so that all the smokers who work in or visit Minato City voluntarily follow the "Minato City Smoking Rules".

**"We (name of the company) understand and agree with the purpose of the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance Project" and will actively follow the Minato City Smoking Rules!"**

Businesses that are in agreement with the above can simply apply and register through the Minato City website. Please search: "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance" for details.

A registration certificate along with in-house enlightenment activity posters, stickers, and goods appropriate for your action plan to promote the activity will be provided when you register. Also, information regarding registered businesses will be posted publicly on the Minato City website.

### Sample of Enlightenment Goods



Smoking Areas Map



Registered Business Emblem



Registration Certificate

We would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation to build momentum promoting the notion, "People who work in Minato City are those who follow the city rules and have good manners" through the cooperation of the many businesses that support the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance".



**Inquiries: Environmental Policy Subsection, Environmental Section, Environment and Recycling Support Department, Minato City Office, Tel: 03-3578-2487  
Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, Tel: 03-5114-8802**

## Issue of the new "Yawaragi" Shopping Vouchers for the New "Reiwa" Era. (Minato City Premium Shopping Vouchers)

"Yawaragi" Shopping Vouchers for the New Era "Reiwa" will be offered (Minato City Premium Shopping Vouchers) in order to alleviate the impact of the consumption tax increase in October this year on tax-exempt households and especially households raising children.

Eligibility	People in Tax-Exempt Households	Households with children
	Residents who were not levied the municipal residence tax on a per capita basis in FY 2019. Dependents, etc. of any resident who was levied the municipal residence tax are not eligible.	Households with children born between April 2, 2016 and September 30, 2019 *The number of Shopping Vouchers that can be purchased is equal to the number of children which qualify.

● **Each eligible person can purchase a Shopping Voucher valued at 25,000 yen for 20,000 yen.** Shopping Vouchers can be purchased in five instalments: Shopping Vouchers valued at 5,000 yen can be purchased for 4,000 yen per time.

### ● Shopping Voucher Validity Terms and Shops

October 1 (Tue), 2019 to March 31 (Tue), 2020

"Yawaragi" Shopping Vouchers can be used in about 1,000 shops (planned) in Minato City.

### ● Notification is to be sent from Minato City to all eligible persons.

### ● Refer to our website for details. <https://premium-gift.jp/minato>

**Inquiries: Premium Shopping Voucher Subsection, Industry Promotion Section, Industry and Community Promotion Support Department Tel: 03-3578-2320**



Be careful of bank transfer scams or leakage of your personal information with undesirable elements potentially taking advantage of the opportunity the Shopping Voucher issuance presents.

## Information from the Metropolitan Taxation Office (September)

### The due date for the payment of the real estate tax and the City Planning Tax in the second quarter falls in September (Within the 23 Wards)

Please pay your taxes by September 30, 2019 (Monday) at any of the financial institutions or convenience stores listed on the reverse side of your payment statements. Through the Minato City website, much easier means of payment by account transfer became available from April. Payment by Pay-easy service ATMs in financial institutions or in post offices, Internet banking, mobile banking, or credit card via PC or smart phone is also available.

For more information, access our website.

**Inquiries: Payment by Account Transfer, Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division Tel: 03-3252-0955**

## The Hanako Muraoka Memorial Lecture in 2019FY will be presented.

The Minato City and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Joint Project called the "Hanako Muraoka Memorial Lecture in 2019FY" is to be held.

The "Hanako Muraoka Memorial Lecture" began in autumn of 2016 as a joint project by Minato City and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin to explore Hanako Muraoka's unique character and personality; she had a very diverse career, and was a translator, an author of children's stories, a poet, an educator, an editor, a broadcast writer, and even a social activist. The purpose of this project is essentially to give an opportunity to the local people to learn about this amazing person of historical interest.

The year 2019 is the 135th anniversary of the establishment of Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin and the 30th anniversary of the founding of Toyo Eiwa University. This is an ideal time to present lectures on events and persons connected with Hanako Muraoka and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin.

The details of the four sessions have been finalized. Please come and join us!

### First Session

#### "The Educational Support Work carried out by a Toyo Eiwa Missionary in a Japanese Internment Camp in Canada"

Lecturer: Ms. Chieko Mizoue, Professor and Chief of Information and Media Science, Faculty of Library, University of Tsukuba

From 14:00pm to 16:00pm on Saturday, November 11, 2019, Classroom #201, Toyo Eiwa University Graduate School (Roppongi Campus)

### Second Session

#### "Books, Children and Picture Books"

Lecturer: Ms. Rieko Nakagawa, Writer and Author of children's books such as the "Guri and Gura" series

From 14:30pm to 15:40pm, Saturday, December 7, 2019, Large Lecture Hall (New Margaret Craig Memorial Hall), Toyo Eiwa Junior/Senior High School (Roppongi Campus)

### Third Session

#### "W. M. Vories, an Architect, and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin"

Lecturer: Mr. Tomoyuki Serino, Advisor to W. M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha, and non-regular researcher of Public Interest Incorporated Foundation OMI Brotherhood Company

From 14:00pm to 16:00pm, Saturday, December 14, 2019, Classroom #201, Toyo Eiwa University Graduate School (Roppongi Campus)

### Fourth Session

#### "Ms. Asako Hirooka; a marvelous lady who lived a full, energetic and dynamic life throughout Japan's modern period"

Lecturer: Mr. Takuma Ogawa, Executive Officer, Daido Life Insurance Company

From 14:00pm to 16:00pm, Saturday, February 22, 2020, Classroom #201, Toyo Eiwa University Graduate School (Roppongi Campus)

**Time:** From 14:00pm (From 14:30pm only on Saturday, December 7, 2019)

**Session Fee:** Free of Charge

**Venue:** Toyo Eiwa University Graduate School, Classroom #201 (5-14-20, Roppongi, Minato-ku) or Toyo Eiwa Junior/Senior High School Large Lecture Hall (5-14-40, Roppongi, Minato-ku) (Only on Saturday, December 7, 2019)

**Applications:** Apply to the Lifelong Learning Center Yokohama Campus Office by e-mail, facsimile or return postcard.

In your application please provide: your name, address, telephone no. and the session(s) desired to attend

※ To alumni: Application for the second session lecture given by Mr. Nakagawa is not required if you attend the Alumni Association Christmas Mass Service

(If you wish to join the lecture as a member of the general public, apply to the Lifelong Learning Center).

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be taken up to exactly two weeks before each session (First-come-first-served basis with a capacity of 200 seats for each session)

### Application and Contact

Toyo Eiwa University Lifelong Learning Center

Yokohama Campus Office: 32, Miho-cho, Midori-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture 226-0015

E-mail: [shougaictr@toyoeiwa.ac.jp](mailto:shougaictr@toyoeiwa.ac.jp)

TEL: 045-922-9707 FAX: 045-922-9701

Organized by Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin and Cohosted by the Minato City Azabu Regional City Office

# Information from Azabu Regional City Office

## Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site) will be conducted. Let's Learn about Disaster Prevention of Japan

In the Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills, in addition to the basic-type drills such as initial fire extinguishing drills, etc., the experience-type drills such as balcony evacuation drills (balcony partition breaking drill and escaping ladder descending drill), are mainly provided.

At the Azabu Site, there is a toy exchange event for children, and a disaster preparedness drill tour with English interpreters provided.

**Date and Time** 9:30am – 11:30am on Sunday, November 10, 2019 (the first year of Reiwa) (planned)

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



**Toy Exchange Bazaar** Collect points corresponding to the level of drill difficulty achieved, and exchange them for your favorite toys! Have fun experiencing our disaster preparedness drills.

**Disaster Preparedness Drill Tour with English Interpreters** Practice the drills with English interpreters to gain disaster prevention knowledge and skills in Japan. You can participate in this event individually or in a group.

Anyone from children to adults living or working in this area can gain the knowledge and skills for disaster prevention while enjoying the event. Come to the site and join us on the day of the event!



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

## Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations! Our Slogan is "ZERO ROPPONGI" — Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind —



**Rules are important, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our goal is for everybody to enjoy their freedom and their time as comfortably as possible in Roppongi, where many people from a variety of cultures gather.**

We conduct a number of campaigns and activities with neighborhood associations, residents' associations, store associations, businesses and concerned administrative organizations, brought together to promote "Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities" and "Patrols for Prevention of Street Solicitation".

If you are interested in our activities, don't hesitate to contact us.

**More shops and businesses that support the Charter are being recruited.**

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

- Eligibility** Businesses, etc., that are located in, or are active mainly in the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)
- How to apply** Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post or deliver it by hand to the Collaboration Project Section counter of the Azabu Regional City Office. This can also be done online at the Minato City website listed below.

※ The names of the certified businesses etc., will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as "Recommended Businesses etc."

To obtain the application form for the "Letter of Agreement" access the following URL:

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

**Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind**



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

### Azabu Future Photo Studio welcomes people who are interested in its activities.

The Azabu Regional City Office has been collecting old photographs of the Azabu region as well as taking photographs of recent cityscapes in participation with the residents of Minato City.

We have been conducting walks around the town to take these pictures in the hope that they will deepen locals' affection for the area. The images are collected and displayed in the form of panels to spread information about the old and new Azabu region.

We always welcome photo lovers and people interested in the history of Azabu, and want to deepen their affection for the region. Please don't hesitate to contact us.



Photo showing people walking around the town

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

### Introduction of the Framework of Community Development using the Minato City Community Development Ordinance

Minato City supports community development activities mainly by the people living in the community, so that local issues are solved within the community. Community development is promoted based on community initiative and agreement. At present, there are four community development organizations registered in the Azabu region as shown in the figure on the right (as at September 1, 2019). If you are interested in such activities, contact the Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section of each Regional Office.

#### Community Development System Procedure



**Inquiries:** Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section, Azabu Regional City Office **Tel:** 03-5114-8815 **※ Japanese only**



**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**

I am a newcomer and have participated in editorial meetings only twice. However, I was appointed as the person in charge of this Editor's Note due to the persistent requests of the other editorial staff members. For this edition, I participated in the interview and research for the Embassy of Afghanistan and the Azabu Police Station. I shot the photos of the front of the Azabu Police Station building. I now feel that I made a meaningful contribution to the research and editing of this information paper despite my great confusion as a newcomer. This information paper with its high-culture atmosphere (my newcomer's assessment) sets a high bar to reach. I hope that the faith the editorial staff members have put in me is well placed. I wonder if this information paper is prepared with unreasonable requests to each other in the editorial meeting? Just my personal thoughts as a newcomer.

(Masahiro Someya)

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)  
 Inquiry submission form: <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou/kuse/kocho/iken/form-inquiry.html>