



The articles which were written in Japanese are directly translated into English.



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外務省
外交史料館



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The Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On the way to the Ikura crossing from Ikura Katamachi on the Gaen Higashi Dori Street, along with the Azabu Post Office stands a handsome establishment, the Ikura House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This building is used for high level meetings, international conferences and receptions. In addition, the Diplomatic Record Office was established in April, 1971, as the research of the diplomatic history had rapidly progressed in post-war Japan.

[Main Building]

- 1 Built by Isoya Yoshida, an architect who was active in the Showa era and known for his *sukiya* style and modernistic architecture. The diamond shaped pattern on the top is Japanese style.
- 2 Exhibits introducing activities by the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and archives are available in the lobby. Travel documents at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate did not have any photographs as identification and the expression used on them were such as "this person is of noble being and no hooligan" which is very interesting.
- 3 One can sit down and take time to read the documents in the Reading Room.
- 4 Postwar documents on microfilms can be copied on a special machine and be read.
- 5 205 volumes on *NIHONGAIKOBUNSHO* (Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy) have been published as of today. Documents up to the Taisho era are available in digital archive format and can be read free of charge on the internet. (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/annai/honsho/shiryo/archives/>)
- 6 Handwritten original documents which reflect history itself. People in the past had good handwriting.
- 7 Specialists work hard to conserve historical documents.

The archive material is diverse, and the largest part is made up of over 60,000 files consisting of Foreign Ministry records. Let's take a look at a part of these interesting archive materials. The oldest material available are the *Tsushinzenran* and *Zokutsushinzenran*, collections of diplomatic documents that are vital to the understanding of foreign policy in Japan at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate. In addition are treaties, dated between the end of the Tokugawa era and the end of World War II, the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the U.S. (in 1858) which is classified as an important cultural asset, the 1895 Treaty of Peace with China, and 1919 Treaty of Versailles, etc. An 1861 letter from U.S. President Abraham Lincoln to the 14th Tokugawa Shogun Iemochi is also available (these treaties and letters can be viewed at the Annex Building.) Travel documents, in other words, passports are also preserved and one can notice the changes which took place.

Visitors can read the documents after completion of the application procedure. Pre-war documents are mainly original documents and many of the post-war documents can be seen in the format of microfilms. One can go first to the counter in the Reading Room and select the document from the directory available open for reading, and if it is an original document, you will have to wait as these documents are brought up from the basement archive every 30 minutes. Microfilms can be read on a special machine. I read a document from the Meiji era and I noticed that it was written on an old paper using ink (sumi), red seals and alphanumeric typed characters. Notes were written on the margin and the ink was blurred but very real. One is glued regardless of whether you are a history fan or not when coming in contact with these documents which are something one can only see on photos and descriptions available in textbooks.

The majority of the visitors are researchers of history of foreign policy, international politics and students, however, recently there are history lovers and those who come to search travel documents of their ancestors who immigrated abroad.

On the other side of the Ikura House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stands the Annex which was donated by the late Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru Memorial Foundation where general exhibitions are held as well as special exhibitions which are held regularly. Why not drop by and get a first hand view on the history of Japan's foreign policy as you take a walk?



[Annex]

- 8 The Exhibition Room is quiet like a museum. An exhibition titled "Takashi Hara and Japan's Foreign Policy in Transition" is on exhibit until the end of June.
- 9 Documents related to Shigeru Yoshida are on general exhibit in the Exhibition Room of the Annex. This cane was his favorite in his later years which has the crest of the chrysanthemum that was presented by the Imperial Family to celebrate his 88th birthday
- 10 Photographs of Shigeru Yoshida taken at his residence in Oiso is exhibited at the entrance of the Exhibition Room. Very stylish indeed.



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Facing the Gaien Higashi Dori Ave. and very close to the Roppongi Crossing, on the 1st floor of a dignified building which reminds one of a postcard from Europe, stands U. Goto Florist. Founded in 1892 and was the first florist in Japan to offer western flowers in 1919 and currently offers fresh flowers, art flowers, holds events to decoration for weddings and is a store which constantly attracts attention. At first glance, Naosuke Goto (47 years old) looks like an artist, however, is the 4th generation owner of this florist which represents Japan.

A special space only found here.

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"AZABU - A Human Story"



"I can't part with the spirit of Azabu"

U. Goto Florist Co. Ltd.
Naosuke Goto
(47 years old)



117 years here since it was founded... yes, I also agree that it's a long time, but, there are even older shops in Europe. My grandfather and grandmother were the owners during the war and this whole area was burnt down by the air raid, and, of course, there was no one during those times who would buy flowers, so my grandmother at one time thought that she would change this into a Japanese cake shop. She happened to mention her idea to a customer who dropped in to buy flowers and was scolded and told, "I'm sure there are people who would think about opening food shops during these times, but, because we're in these times, at least somebody, at least you should sell flowers, because, if not who's going to soothe people's hearts?". But I heard that thanks to that advice, although she was about to give up, she decided to continue. Our generation used to live here until we renovated 14 years ago. Roppongi in the past was quiet. It changed around the times of the Tokyo Olympics when the subway opened and it became the Roppongi it is now.

You could imagine that the florist must have been a very sophisticated spot just by hearing that the business started during the Taisho Period. Naosuke's father, who was the former president, went abroad to study which was unusual during those days and his father recommended that he should study abroad as well. Just by listening I felt indeed that it was very global.

It was decided that I should take over the business when I was in my sophomore year of college, so I started working part time and had some knowledge of the business; however, I worked as an apprentice mainly at the best florists in the U.S and Europe for 4 years after I graduated. It's similar to apprenticeship chefs do at French and Italian restaurants. But I also learned about flower design and marketing which I was interested in and felt I needed to learn. I first started at a big florist in Chicago. My father happened to know the vice president of this florist then, so he wrote a letter and I was able to work there, but, for all the others, I wrote my own introduction letter and knocked their doors with my name card in my hand. I worked hard and they liked me, and introduced me to good florists in New York,



Washington, and San Francisco because florists have connections, so I bought a car and drove across the mainland everywhere. It was fun because you could go anywhere you like and study. Midway, I went to Paris, Amsterdam and Italy but settled down in Paris and studied there. There are differences depending on the country and region but Europe has a long history of western flowers and in those days, designs, color coordination and the technique was the most advanced and amazing but on the other hand, the U.S was the most flexible in business finance, so it was really interesting.

The interior of the store, lighting, furniture, events, who to hire from what country, selling champagne, holding concerts are all my idea. I took the best part of what I saw around the world.

Mr. Goto appeared in front of us in jeans and apologized saying, "sorry to be dressed like this". He had the atmosphere of a musician or an artist. He's in a t-shirt normally working in the store. We were thinking that he was probably a muscular built man because we had heard that although florists dealt with gorgeous flowers that it was hard labor and were surprised when he showed up in front of us...

Not an artist at all. I look more like an elementary school kid with a crew cut. (Laughs) And I was forced to learn judo. But it became fun and I enjoyed using the grappling techniques. (Laughs) But you learn to read others on when to use the techniques... so I guess you can say that it's a form of art. The good thing about judo was that at Keio during mid winter training, a 6 year old could practice



with the grandpas. Those kinds of opportunities are rare. You get to learn each others graciousness through judo. A senior will let a small child throw him by seionage (shoulder throw) purposely and fight the pain. It's not "sports" but "martial arts". That's what's great about judo. I admire Jigoro Kanoh very much. ※ 1

Mr. Goto lectured at the Resident's College on Learning about Azabu (co-sponsored by the KISS port Foundation and Toyo Eiwa University) last year. How does Azabu appear to Mr. Goto who was born and raised here...

During the lecture, I talked about the knowledge I had about how it changed from the Edo Period and also talked about the spirit the people of Azabu had from the past. To me I feel that this will reflect in showing the good things about Azabu region in the future. Like for example, there are a lot of stores like mine which was the first to offer something. Maybe it's because this area was one of the first to make exchange with different cultures. Maybe it's an inevitable conclusion because we have the spirit of going ahead of the times. The good thing about Azabu is that it doesn't make a sweeping generalization. It wouldn't be fun if everyone thought in a logical manner. There are so many things even though it's a small community. Good things are born from there. We mind our own business and don't interfere but show respect. It's awesome. That's the stylishness of Azabu.

I recall that I was surprised the first time I set foot in U.Goto Florist to walk into a spacious store with gorgeous and sophisticated looking flowers. We interviewed Mr. Goto while a live performance of the grand piano took place which was in the store and for some strange reason; Mr. Goto's clear cut Edo accent seemed to match the environment. He said he took the best part of everything but I felt that it was definitely no imitation. I felt that this space was packed with what he called the "stylishness" of Azabu.

※ 1 The founder of Kodokan. He started learning jujitsu for his own physical training and founded judo. He is known as an educator through his martial arts.

(Interviewed by: Kumiko Ohmura, Miyuki Ito Written by: Miyuki Ito)



Waroh Flats (Azabu Spain Village)

This article appears on The Azabu Vol 7 (September 2008 issue)

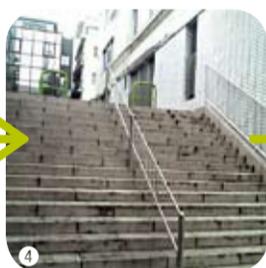
A "space-time tunnel" appears at the bottom of the stairs! Azabudai's touching nostalgic scenery.

We will be introducing you to a walking course using stairs and slopes taking you a "mini adventure" of Azabu for this edition's Azabu Walking. We start from the center of Azabu, the Azabu Regional City Office. ① We first go down the slope on the west side of the Philippine Embassy, ② and through a quiet residential area out to the main street. Take a left along the street which runs alongside the highway and up the slope ③ where you discover slightly steep steps. ④ You wonder what you'll find at the top and feel a little excited as you climb the steps to find out that it connects to a flat road which runs almost parallel to it and realize it was a false adventure. But you try not to let yourself down and continue walking towards the Iikura Katamachi Crossing and this time come across a bridge connected to a building from the overhead highway. ⑤ As you go close to it, you notice that the bridge is not connected to a building but that it was a slope which was a road used for emergency vehicles to get onto the highway. If you are lucky, you may be able to see the emergency vehicles depart for the highway.

At the end of the stairs leading down to the underpass which is located underneath the slope, ⑥ you realize its not just an ordinary

underpass but a three dimensional shaped dome which cuts across the highway. ⑦ As you gradually head towards the light looking at the cars on the highway, suddenly appears a quiet residential area which seems somewhat familiar. As you head towards your right coming out from the tunnel, out appears the Waroh Flats known as the Spanish Village district ⑧ which confuses you as to where this actually is. The Waroh Flats which consists of Building 1, 2 and 4 are residences and also has a café so why not drop by on your walk? ⑨ As you walk through the Waroh Flats, there's a road which makes a u-turn which leads to Gaien Higashi Dori street and takes you to the "Iikura House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" introduced on the cover page of this edition.

The darkness of the tunnel and the lights which shine beyond it, the noise of the traffic versus the quiet residential area, and the nostalgic atmosphere which spreads in front of your eyes truly stimulates your adventure spirit. The adventure using stairs and slopes will still continue so please look forward to the next edition.



(Research and photographs by: Takashi Ito, Toshie Suzuki Written by: Toshie Suzuki)



"I design digital cameras with foreign consumers in mind because these products are sold overseas as well. I aligned two buttons on the back of this digital camera and designed it to reflect a mobile phone." (Product Designer: Masazumi Imai)

There are a lot of different jobs.
Product Designer

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

KIDS' Hello Work



They are seriously taking photographs using the digital camera designed by Mr. Imai!

Creating image into something tangible



(Top) He showed us many images he drew before it became an actual product. (Bottom) Photo exhibits are held on a monthly basis at the gallery in FUJIFILM SQUARE.

What is a product designer? We interviewed Mr. Masazumi Imai who designs digital cameras and who works at the Design Center (Nishi-Azabu) of FUJIFILM Corporation.

The junior editors are Taichi (6 years old) and Hibiki (9 years old). They visited FUJIFILM SQUARE and were shown digital cameras!

Product Designer

A product designer is a person who designs the exterior of a product which is used by many people. In the case of Mr. Imai, he thinks about the function, shape and color of digital cameras. (The digital camera designed by Mr. Imai is one that was the world's smallest waterproof camera then ※1. It was designed as a user friendly product suitable for outdoor shooting scenes. The camera is thin, light, roundish in shape and comes with vivid colors.) "The flow of designing first starts with illustrating my image specifically. In order to get a clear idea of the total balance, I illustrate a

three dimensional shape which is smaller than the actual product so I can look at it from various angles. I also mold the shape from clay to get a clear image of what the actual product would look like. I simultaneously illustrate a flat and three dimensional image on the computer. At this point, the three dimensional shaped image will be colored and will be very close in image to the actual product. Finest details such as to the difference of 0.1 millimeters in size are important. This is because you can imagine what it will be like when holding the product and how it will look like, depending on the size.

Many people have various roles in making a digital camera. There are those who design the components of the digital camera such as a battery, lens, buttons, etc as well as those who design the interior, those who create material for the components, those who assemble components, those who think of the budget, and those who sell the product. You need to be particular about important areas when you want to create a good product and so you integrate with the staff and hold many meetings. It makes

me very happy when I know people all over the world are using the digital camera which was created after this long process."

How to become a product designer

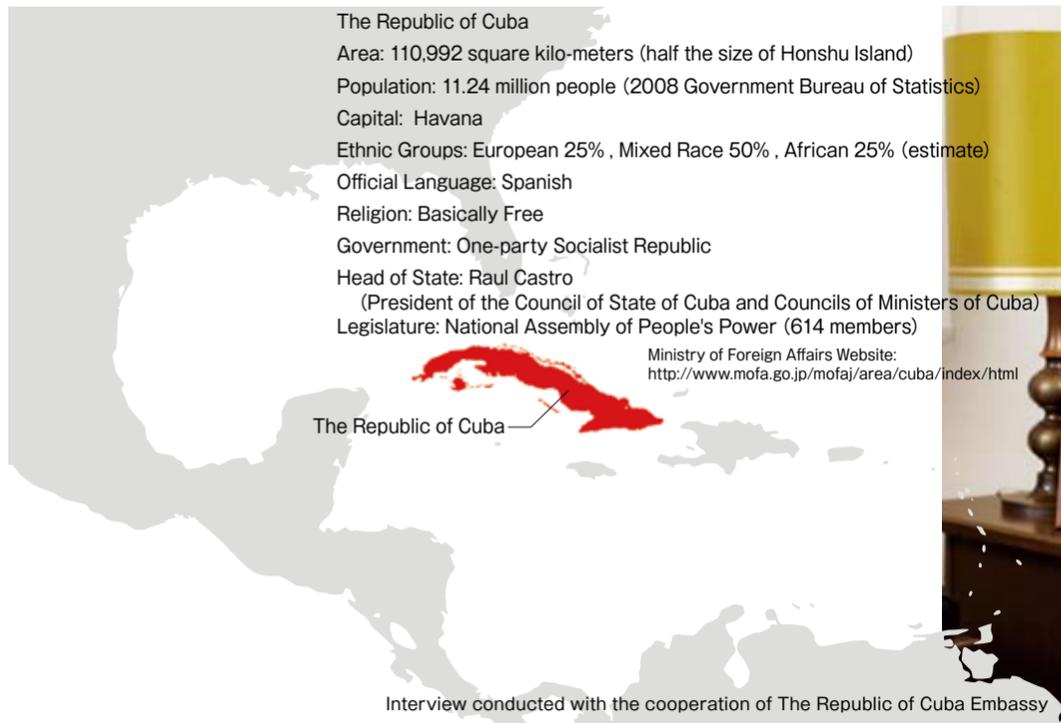
Mr. Imai majored in product designing at an art university. "I loved to imagine and plastic models when I was small and would assemble and de-assemble things all the time. And the people around me said I was good at drawing. I think of new designs of products now by always remembering the spirit of a child who wants to make his imagination move. In order to realize something from imagination, you need to put in a lot of effort to have people understand your thought and to truly feel positive about 'You never know until you try!'"

One can take an actual digital camera in your hand at FUJIFILM SQUARE which is a 5 minute walk from Roppongi Station. Taichi drew an image of a digital camera which had many lenses on it and gave it to Mr. Imai. Wouldn't it be great if his imagination became an actual product one of these days!

※1. As of November 2009

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Shiori Ito, Kumiko Ohmura, Hibiki Ohmura, Taichi Suzuki Written by: Shiori Ito)





From the "World" of Azabu



Cuba

Music and dancing, and its unique urban farm system which the whole world is interested in.

In the year 2009 Cuba and Japan met 80 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both countries developed a large commemorative program which included cultural and academic activities and parliamentary and entrepreneurial contacts. Sports, such as judo, baseball, volleyball and boxing have a high development in Cuba, which is known and appreciated in Japan, as well as music and dance expressions. The Cuban people develop their life in a society where there is no concern for access to all levels of education and quality healthcare since education and health in Cuba are guaranteed free through nationwide systems. The Cuban people are naturally cheerful, hospitable and communicative.

Cuba is the largest of the Caribbean Islands and since it was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, it has remained a colony of the Spanish Empire until 1898, when after a thirty years liberation war, Cubans conquered their independence. The Cuban population is a mix of ethnic groups and cultures primarily of Spanish and African origin, the latter transported to Cuba as slaves to work on the plantations of the country. Its location at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico made Cuba from the first years of colonization a key site for transport and trade between the Spanish Empire domains throughout the Americas and Europe, circumstances that contributed to the cosmopolitan nature of the country and of the Cuban people, who for centuries have been accustomed to interact with other peoples and cultures. With its dances and popular rhythms Cuba has brought the world the mambo, the cha-cha-cha, the salsa, the rumba and the bolero all of which are well known by the Japanese people. Cubans are gregarious and when families or friends gather they do so in an atmosphere of joy and music.

Cuba is a poor country but has no misery, whose economy has been seriously affected by the economic blockade set up by the US Government. With the demise of the Soviet Union a series of products which Cuba imported in favorable commercial conditions were affected. This gave impetus to the implementation of scientific solutions in the field of organic agriculture determining its quick application to procure food mass production. 24% of Cuba's surface is forested and 19% of the territory is officially protected by law as part of a comprehensive environmental protection program which includes extending forested areas and preserving biological diversity in the surrounding land and sea areas. The development of urban agriculture has been stimulated all around the country to produce vegetables and fruits which are marketed very close to the place of residence.

Let's take a look at how the food is cooked. It is a warm country in which the average temperature is over 25°C, and one might think that they must eat a lot of spicy foods, however, salt is also used and is very light tasted. Their main staple consists of cooked black beans and rice called congri and there are many dishes using pork with minced carrots and

onions which suits the tastes of the Japanese as well. Because their dishes are light tasting and they eat pork and rice, the Ambassador as well as the staff of the embassy has no trouble with food here in Japan. Alcohol is of course, rum, called "ron" in Cuba, and is made from sugar cane. Production of rum started from around the beginning of the 19th century and has since become the alcohol which represents the country. Rums range from 3 years of age up to 15 years of age.

The main industry of Cuba is the exportation of sugar and nickel, however, in recent years, much effort has been put into tourism. There are many beach resorts and great tourist spots such as Cienfuegos which was designated as a world heritage in 2005. Old Havana where old colonial buildings still stand is also popular among tourists from Europe and Canada. The Ambassador said that it was a little sad that only 6000 tourists annually visited his country from Japan citing reasons such as the considerable distance from Japan and lack of promotional activities. He intends to convey the attractiveness to Japan more aggressively in the future.

The cheerful people, dancing and music, the warm climate, rum and beach resort. I close my eyes to imagine this dream world. I now have one more country I would like to visit.



- 1 Held post as Ambassador in Canada, Mexico and United Kingdom. It was his first time to be posted to a country in Asia and he was very surprised when he was posted in Japan. Japan has a long history and very complicated history which deeply interests him.
- 2 In English and Spanish it is pronounced kooba and not Cuba. It is said to be the language of the Indios, the native inhabitants and the meaning is still unclear.
- 3 One remembers cigars when hearing the word Cuba. There was a magnificent box of cigars in the Ambassador's room as well. We were presented a lighter along with a tourist brochure as a gift. I felt it was so Cuban.
- 4 The very passionate music of Cuba spread all over the world. I asked the Ambassador if he was a good dancer and he said, "in the past".
- 5 Rum which is made from sugarcane. Cuba Libre which was named to celebrate its independence is made by mixing coke and lime juice.

Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



fashion model & jewelry designer
TAMY

Model, jewelry designer and nursing care aid. Doing what she can "do now" based on her lifestyle.

Tamy, who works as a fashion model for major magazines as Kateigaho and Eclat, lives in a house located in one of the corners of Nishi-Azabu. At the age of 16 in 1985, she became the winner of a Japanese generation Brazilian's beauty contest which was held in San Paolo, Brazil. She was invited to Japan and made her debut as a fashion model the following year. She became a very popular model immediately such as on the Coca Cola commercial, fashion shows and a model for magazines. She met her husband, Miguel, from Spain, who was a coordinator at one of these shows.



"He was living in Nishi Azabu and he loved this area so we started our new life in Minami Azabu."

We asked her what she found most attractive about Azabu area when she first moved to Minami-Azabu.

"The town is very cosmopolitan and easy for foreigners to live in. The town is not pushy yet not cold. There are a lot of parks and delicious restaurants as well."

She's a very young looking mom and it's hard to believe she is a mother of two sons, one in university and one in high school, Her children went to a public nursery school and elementary school, so they love Japanese food. Tamy, herself, even went to Japanese cooking classes and especially loves unagi (eels).



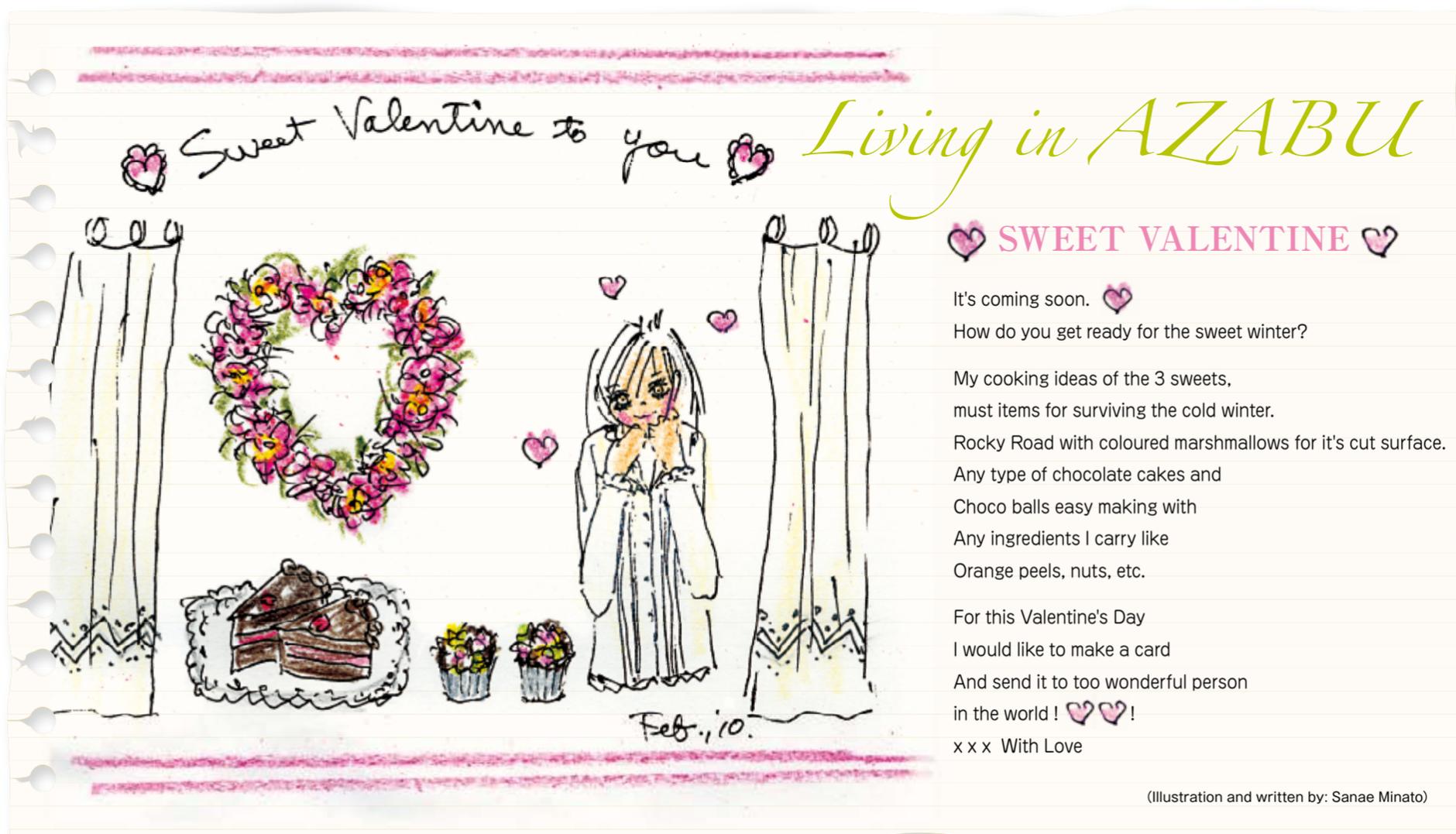
(Upper right)
Tamy who goes on a walk with her dog, May, knows a lot in detail about parks in the Azabu area.
(Upper left)
From "Eclat" of Shueisha Publishing. Very slender at 173cm, she looks good in anything she wears.
(Right)
A necklace designed by Tamy using Brazilian stones.

Although Tamy has been an active model for over 20 years, she also aggressively challenged other interests. One of those was jewelry designing. Her father who was a dentist passed away when she was 14 years old and Tamy who was an only child, called her mother over to Japan when she got married. Influenced by her mother who is a scientist on rocks,

she established her own jewelry brand, "Tamy" using natural stones of her home country, Brazil. She went to a vocational school to study the fundamentals and each of her pieces is handmade.

She is also a nursing care aid. She became certified as a 1st level nursing care aid after experiencing practical training. As a matter of fact, she called her grandmother over to Japan as well. She spent the last 6 years of her 88 years of life in Japan. She became interested in nursing care aid from this experience and went to school to study. She is very humble about it and one of her concerns of Azabu is that having so many foreigners living in the area, she, one day, could help elderly people who can not communicate well in Japanese language. She looks straight at you as she talks and her shining eyes and beautiful smile was very impressive.

(Interviewed by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Ayako Fukumoto Written by: Yukiko Takayanagi)



(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

"Town Development" Which Has Started To Move

We have continued to explore the pioneers who were active in Azabu until the last edition of Phenomena of Azabu. However, for this article, we decided to focus on the point regarding changes in the "town" taking place in Azabu such as like the development of Roppongi Hills or Tokyo Midtown. We also believe that this has provided an opportunity to the residents as well as to those who work and come to Azabu to become interested in these changes taking place in the "town". We went and interviewed people from the 3 communities of Azabu who recently registered in the "Town Development Council" with desires to also participate in the phenomena taking place in Azabu.

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Feature Article

The Future Phenomena of Azabu

1 Nishi Azabu 3 Chome Northeast District

This area which is located in Nishi Azabu 3 chome originates back to Sakuradamura of Kasumigaseki and used to be called the former Sakuradacho. With the necessity of expanding the property of the Edo Shogunate, the Sakurada Shrine was transferred several times from its original location of Sakurada "Azabu Nohara" was substituted as its land in 1624 and called Azabu Shinjuku and the town name became Sakuracho at the same time. It was governed under the town magistrate's office in 1713. ※ 1

One can see that on a map dated back in 1856, the following appears, Chokoji Temple, Myozenji Temple, Myozenji Monzen, Azabu Sakuradacho, Sakurada Inari Shrine, Kanmyoin Monzen: Betto Kanmyoin and Sakuradacho. It became Azabu Sakuradacho in 1872 combining samurai's property and temples and shrines. ※ 2

It is still Azabu Sakuradacho on the map as of 1907 and then in 1967, after execution of residence indication it became the Nishi Azabu community and which are currently now the buildings, shops, offices and condominiums etc. facing TV Asahi Dori Ave. and Roppongi Dori Ave.

"The Nishi Azabu 3 Chome Northeast Town Planning Council"

As the plan evolved to develop Roppongi Hills, old buildings in the Nishi Azabu 3 chome area, which was down the street, became noticeable in addition to pencil-typed buildings standing out which made them look like remnants of the past. The Town Planning Council was established from growing anxiety from the residents. The Nishi Azabu 3 Chome Northeast Town Planning Council was founded by posting Kensuke Tanaka as chairman encompassing 1.0 ha made up of the Sakurada Mutsumi Council and Kasumicho Council and registration to Minato City took place in October, 2007. The features of this area were that there were many temples and shrines and that many tenants were apparent due to the buildings located around the crossing of TV Asahi Dori Ave. and Roppongi Dori Ave. which made it a compound consisting of 210 residents and 70 judiciary foundations.

The basic principle of the "town planning vision" became "forming a safe and secure community and maintaining and enhancing business and commercial functions" as a basis and to aim at "promotion of a green district and conservation of a history and culture".

A presentation meeting on the "town planning vision" was held to the relevant personnel within the community in September, 2009 and after verifying agreement from the majority of the residents, it was registered as the "town planning vision" to Minato City.



(Map) Nishi Azabu 3 Chome Northeast District

Minato City Local History Museum Version
Minato City Modern Development Map of Azabu and Roppongi (1862)
Above ditto

2 Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern District

This area is located on a sloped land which is sandwiched between Nadarezaka and Yosezaka in between Ichibei-cho Dori Ave. and Roppongi Dori Ave. Ichibei-cho blossomed after it became governed under the town magistrate's office in 1713 and after Imaicho Teramachi and Kounji Monzen etc were developed and it said that tradesman houses started to crowd the area. ※ 3 In 1862 there was the Minbu Hatakeyama Residence, the Kounji Temple domain and 5 temples and is currently private land and The phonetic symbol of "Nadarezaka" was written as Chohsuizaka and Ryosuizaka. ※ 4

There was a theater called Fukuitei where storytelling performances (yose) such as Gidayu in the early Taisho period in which the name of Yosezaka is said to be derived from. ※ 5

In 1925, the streetcar route from Tameike to Roppongi started which then connected to the streetcar route of Aoyama 6 chome. There were many so called modernistic commercial businesses which lined the Roppongi Dori Ave. starting from the beginning of the Showa era up till the postwar period and then the No. 3 Shibuya Metropolitan Expressway was built in Roppongi Dori Ave. during the times of the Tokyo Olympics. Re-development of the area has been taking place recently and with the completion of T Cuba and the Izumi Gardens, commercial business from the past alongside Roppongi Dori Ave. started to disappear and transformed into office buildings and catering establishments.

Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern Town Planning Council
Mr. Gunji Adachi and Mr. Norio Mizuhashi



(Map)Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern District



"Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern Town Planning Council"

Construction of high rise buildings started as re-development projects on the west side of this this community. We also heard that a re-development project was planned in addition, on the east side sandwiched between Nadarezaka where the former Prince Hotel and IBM stand. Many of the residents and commercial businesses became very anxious of not taking any initiatives when thinking about the future of the town as it became surrounded by super high rise buildings.

After an organizational meeting by the residents, the "Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern Town Planning Council" was established based on the Minato City Town Development Ordinance and appointed Mr. Norio Mizuhashi as chairman and registered it to Minato City in October, 2008. This community's area which covers approximately 1.8 ha made up of the Roppongi Ichinishi Council, Imaicho Reunion Council and the Azabu Ichibei-cho Council has 550 residents (approximately 100 residents are foreigners).

Council meetings were held 9 times and explanation on the ordinance of Minato City was made from the city staff and in addition, study sessions along with the consultants sent from Minato City took place regarding the road maintenance and improvement and building standards laws. We have held discussions on how this community should be like after the completion of the re-development project taking place in the neighborhood and have also compiled results of questionnaires and exchange of opinions which have been held. The "town planning vision" drawn up based on the principle of "harmonizing with the city function and simultaneously showing respect to the people and the environment" and we are trying to get approval from our residents based on the regulation of the ordinance. And in addition, in order to share the topics of the council with the people of the town, we issue a newsletter in Japanese and English titled, "Roppongi 3 East Town planning NEWS-Town planning movements together with our people".

We have been able to get together with the relevant personnel of the town re-development project currently in progress to share information after the town council was established. The town council would like to work on a more specific sustainable future re-development of the town going into the future.

3 Azabu Juban Shopping Arcade District

Labor was gathered to clean out the river upon the expansion of the Shirokane Palace in 1698 and because this area was the Juban Group, it is said that the name Juban derived from there. The Juban Turf was founded in 1729 and after the tradesman house was authorized, it became Juban Babacho and then it was incorporated into Azabu Shinami-cho in 1872. Later Juban disappeared, however, Azabu Jubancho, reappeared in 1962. ※ 6

The area around Azabu Amishiro-cho and Shin-ami-cho which was governed under the magistrate's office during the Edo period was



(Map) Azabu Juban Shopping District

Azabu Juban Shopping District Traffic and Environment Improvement Town Planning Council
Mr. Tatsuo Sunaga
and Mr. Ryoichi Nishimoto



the popular name of Azabu Juban it was the leading entertainment spot from the mid Meiji period until during the war and it was an advancing entertainment area. There is a description which states that in 1929, "it was said that the bustle of the nightlife of Juban came from this so-called Ginza of Azabu, and that it exceeded the excitement of Dogenzaka shita and Shinjuku Dori Ave. with the waves of people and stalls which lined the streets." ※ 7

The Hibiya Line subway opened in 1961, however, Juban Station was not made. It was said in 1984 that the Azabu Juban Shopping District was inconvenient to access but very convenient by car and the people of the neighborhood wished for a community focused shopping arcade. The Juban shopping district aimed at a unique foundation based on stores types and grace and one which was "warm-hearted". ※ 8 The Azabu Juban opened the inauguration of the Namboku and Oedo subway lines in 2000 and in addition, Roppongi Hills, which is a neighboring district also was completed.

Azabu Juban Shopping District Traffic and Environment Improvement Town Planning Council

This shopping arcade has its own so-called Juban Rule, and has developed a community rooted shopping arcade under the motto of "Azabu Juban—the town with smiles". However, with the opening of the 2 subway lines and the opening of Roppongi Hills, the number of people coming into Azabu Juban became 4 fold and many condominiums have been built. With this change, the Azabu Juban Dori Ave. which is the community road became even more flooded with cars which have created an issue now of trying to protect the safety of community and the visitors. We have also been holding discussions with the Police Agency on aiming at trying to expand the street for pedestrians to be user friendly walkways.

However, it was decided that we should think once more on the town's development and in August, 2009, we appointed Mr. Tatsuo Sunaga

as chairman and established the "Azabu Juban Shopping District Community Traffic and Environment Improvement Town Planning Council" and registered it to Minato City. This area which covers 1.2 ha and is made up of 5 town councils; the Shinni Council, the Amishiro-cho Council, Sakashita Council, Juban Mutsumi Council and Miyamura Council. We are thinking of our town development focused on traffic issues.

In ending,

Each of the 3 councils has their unique targets on their approach towards town development based on the Town Development Ordinance. Each of the councils have started working on their future plans and we look forward on how they will work on their own "town development".

- ※ 1. Makoto Takeuchi Dictionary of Tokyo's Toponyms pg 166-167 Tokyodo Shuppan Edited by Masakazu Yoshida The history of Azabu Ward pg 806 Azabu Ward Office
- ※ 2. Makoto Takeuchi op. cit. pg 167
- ※ 3. Makoto Takeuchi op. cit. pg 36, 39- 4
- ※ 4. Minato Education Board Azabu and its eastern area pg 40 - 50
- ※ 5. Junichiro Oda Tokyo Meikan (book 2) © Daijyukyusho Yuran pg 10 Shuedo
- ※ 6. Makoto Takeuchi op. cit. pg 16
- ※ 7. Written by Jiro Matsukawa Zenkoku Hanamachi Meguri pg 82 Seibundo
- ※ 8. Azabu Juban Shopping District Promotion Association on plans regarding issues and improvement on modernization; Azabu Juban Shopping District Promotion Association

Reference: Supervised by Kenichiro Yoshihara, Motoaki Tawara Edo Meiji Tokyo Kasenchizu APP Company Ltd.

Interview cooperation by: "The Nishi Azabu 3 Chome Northeast Town Planning Council" Takashi Ito, Motoki Terao, Yoko Fukumoto
"Roppongi 3 Chome Eastern Town Planning Council" Norio Mizuhashi Gunji Adachi
"Azabu Juban Shopping District Traffic and Environment Improvement Town Planning Council" Tatsuo Sunaga, Ryoichi Nishimoto

Dispensed Mr. and Mrs. in the sentences

Correction and Apology: "Canada" deleted and corrected from the article of "Henkikan" in Phenomena of Azabu in the prior issue.

Minato City Community Development Ordinance Which Supports Town Development

Minato City revised the former Minato City Settlement Town Development Ordinance to the Minato City Community Development Ordinance in October, 2007 based on the changes of the city and increase in population. The new ordinance aims at the change from quality over quantity and states it to be "sustaining and creating a people friendly and high quality urban environment and living space" (Chapter 1).

This ordinance is based on the Master Plan for Community Development targeting how the town should be in 20 years. This Master Plan divides Minato City into nine areas such as Azabu area and Roppongi area, etc.

By gathering opinions and comments from the public, each area is aiming at "a town where residents can live for long periods," "an attractive town with distinctive features," "a town which is safe and secure," and "a town which can be sustainable."

The feature of this ordinance is to consider the neighborhood town watching the balance of whole Minato City and focus on the improvement of environmental infrastructure in addition it partly pays attention to "the maintenance and administration of the town," disaster prevention, crime-prevention, and supporting communities.

Chapters 8-12 of the Minato City Community Development Ordinance structured the system so that the residents proactively promote town development and approve the registration to the city on the town development organizations under a set condition. Under this ordinance, Minato City holds town development consultations, seminar delivery services, dispatching a professional person, and subsidy for public relations and activities.

(Interview and written by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi, Aki Tanaka, Akira Mori
Title: Hikaru Takahashi)



Do you know "Minato Tobacco Rule?"

This campaign is aiming to abolish smoking on the road or smoking and walking on the street in all areas of Minato City. Even if someone acts contrary to it, there is no penalty to control the person but relying more on trying to enhance manners and moral among the smokers. Minato City residents, companies, and the administrative institution will work together to enlighten not to smoke and littering cigarettes on the road. As a part of the enlightenment activities, campaigns will be held on a regular basis.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



Inquiries:
Activities Promotion Subsection,
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Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8802

To Our Readers Please let us hear your comments.

Please let us hear your comments about our articles or topics you want to be taken up. We would like to use them as reference to make an even more attractive newsletter.



Bandanas with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments or opinions.

Please contact the following with your name, age, address and occupation.

By telephone: 03-5114-8812 (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday)
By fax: 03-3583-3782

By post: Editing Department of "The AZABU" Azabu Regional City Office
5-16-45 Roppongi Minato-ku Tokyo, 105-8515



Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from Azabu Regional City Office

The Azabu Regional City Office intends to solve the various issues of the community by working and thinking together with the residents under the view point of our residents.

Regarding the Minato City Basic Plan and the Azabu Regional City Office Precinct Plan

Minato City drew up the Minato City Basic Plan in February, 2009 with foresight into the way it should be in the future. This plan is a six-year plan and consists of each of the five Regional City Office's precinct plans. After considering the community business and specific issues, the solutions and unique community business of each district which are the attraction of each area are included the plan.

The future vision which the Azabu Region is aiming at is "prioritizing residents and an international and cultural city where people can live safely and securely." This plan is based on the proposals from "the Azabu Draw-up Subcommittee for Master Plan of the Group of Discussing Azabu," this residents' participation group at Azabu district was consisted of citizens selected from among applicants. Minato City decided that this is the future which is realized with Minato City residents' and Minato City's cooperation and collaboration.

This plan was drawn up with the participation of the residents from the initial stages of planning. The accomplishments will be reviewed with residents' participation in the future.

We will introduce the 12 community projects as a series in this column regarding the Azabu Regional City Precinct Plan.

Regarding the Regional City Office Projects

1 Building a safety net in case of disasters

"Reviewing issues in executing the project"

The Azabu region has a mixture of people who work, study, and shop in Azabu on a daily basis and chaos can be predicted when disaster should strike. There also have been concerns from the town council and residents' association about how to help people who have trouble with returning home in case of disasters. In addition, we can not totally grasp the specific disaster prevention countermeasures formed by firms within the region.

[Content of Project]

We will align with the firms and the different community groups on specific countermeasures to address issues of those who will have difficulty returning home, as well as for the foreign people and the visitors in the event that disaster should occur.

2 Building parks focus on safety and security

"Reviewing issues in executing the project"

In Azabu area, there are several business quarters such as Roppongi. It is important that we secure safety or crime prevention measures regarding management at neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

[Content of Project]

In order to fulfill the initial role of a park, which is a place for residents to "relax" and "communicate," discussions about parks and play grounds will be held with local residents and we will renovate them from the view point of promoting safety and security at times of disaster and anticrime measures.

3 Project for children to come in contact with art

"Reviewing issues in executing the project"

These days there are many DVDs on sale in the field of art therefore; there are fewer opportunities for children to actually come in contact with art at venues. In order to nurture the humanity and creativity of children, we will invite professional artists so the children can watch them work and learn how art forms are created; a pomp-field of live act and the effort and cooperation of the other side; the hardness of practice and then children will be able to experience touching moments and enjoyment.

[Content of Project]

We will make requests to the art and culture facilities within the city as well as to professional artists to provide first hand experience on how they prepare their works and what takes place at actual venues to elementary, Jr. high, and high school students.

(To be continued in the next issue)



This is a list of the main parks within the Azabu region.

#3 Sakurazaka Park

Location
6-16-46 Roppongi

Outline of Facility

Area : 1,539.65 Sq. Meters
The park is located on the southern tip of Roppongi Hills.
The tin toys within the park became the concept for the robot shaped tower which sends a message to adults to remind them of their childhood and to enjoy the park.



Access

A 10 minute walk from Roppongi Station of Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line and Toei Oedo Line

Inquiries:

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AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Chi-bus, Minato Library, Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Nishi-Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Ikura Community Welfare Hall, Hommura Community Welfare Hall, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office etc.
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Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

Editor's Note

Jan.5.2010

The name Azabu is said to have come from the fact that farmers living near Moto Azabu during the Edo Period were making linen (asa in Japanese) bags (fukuro) and one can sort of imagine that the products were of good quality. Just by pronouncing it Azabu with a consonant and not Asabu for some reason sounds very profound and high class. There are many embassies in the Azabu region as well as a cosmopolitan atmosphere to it which creates a unique look to it. The impression that people make of the area add a special touch to it. Indeed, "Azabu" itself has become a brand of its own.

(Yasuhiko Ozaki)

"Minato Call" information service.

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