

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

Reopened after Five Years!

Minato Municipal Azabu Library



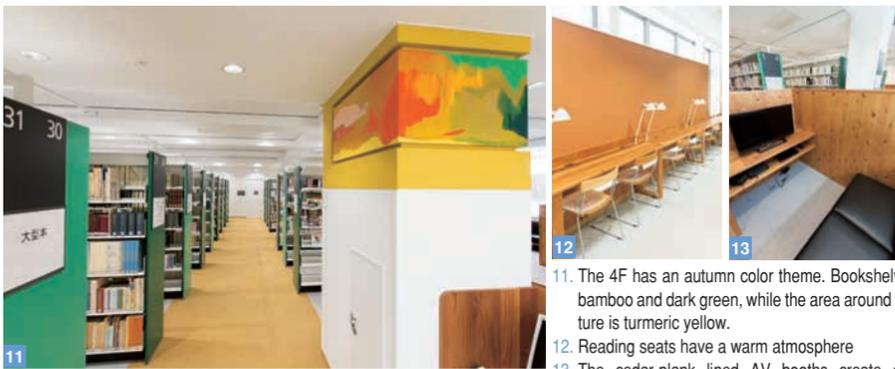
[Building Data]

1. Located at the end of the street next to the Juban Inari Shrine.
2. The Entrance Lobby. On the left is Appy Azabu.
3. The fifth floor is decorated in winter colors. The picture frame is burgundy red, while the elevator is dark lilac.
4. The stylish geometric flax-leaf design.

The building structure makes ample use of cypress from Takayama City in Gifu Prefecture under an agreement with Takayama to promote the use of timber from forest thinning. This building has been accredited under the Minato Model Carbon Dioxide Fixation Certification System. This is the only project in Japan where a city and rural community are working together to prevent global warming. Other eco-friendly design features include wall greening, solar power, and LED lighting. In addition, each floor features artwork by Manika Nagare and other artists in seasonal themes using traditional Japanese color schemes, and signs for the toilets and nursing rooms have a flax-leaf (Asa) design in tribute to Azabu.



[4F Books (Foreign Books) and CDs/DVDs]



11. The 4F has an autumn color theme. Bookshelves are bamboo and dark green, while the area around the picture is turmeric yellow.
12. Reading seats have a warm atmosphere
13. The cedar-plank lined AV booths create a calm atmosphere.

Message from Library Staff

We aim to create a library that plays a useful role in and is loved by the local community. Please come and visit!



●Library Director Ms. Miki Murai

I strongly feel everyone's expectations for the library and the interest in the community. To enable us to fulfill these expectations, we are currently planning events and organizing the book lineup so that the library can play a relevant part in everyone's lives! We look forward to your visit.

●Information Desk Staff Members

Altogether, there are 22 counter staff members, including two who speak foreign languages. We are happy to help you with any questions about books, items you are looking for, or reference books. Please do not hesitate to ask!



Minato City Library website:
www.lib.city.minato.tokyo.jp/

5-12-24 Roppongi, Minato City Tel: 03-3585-9225
 Closed on every third Thursday, and at other times
 (please check before visiting the library).

Opening hours Monday—Friday: 9 a.m.—8 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, December 28: 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

[2F Children's Library]



5. In the Storytelling Space, books are read and picture-story shows are presented to young children.
6. Placed in a circle, the bookcases feel fun, like a maze.
7. Is this a refrigerator? No, this "book shower" sterilizes books with ultraviolet light rays and gives them an aromatic scent.
8. A place has also been provided for parking children's prams and strollers.

[3F Information Desk and Books]



9. These beautifully designed wooden chairs allow you to relax read a magazine or newspaper in comfort.
10. Books recommended for junior high and high school students in Minato City are displayed side-by-side.

Closed since March 2009 for renovations, the Azabu Library reopened on July 1, much to the anticipation of many. Designed with wood and greenery, the exterior has a modern yet warm, soothing atmosphere. Another Azabu symbol is born! We immediately went to check out the new library for a full report.

Azabu Library has a long, storied history. It was established in 1911 on the grounds of Nanzan Elementary School as the Tokyo City Azabu Reference Library; the library was moved to its current site, and a new building constructed in 1973. With a larger site area and enhanced volume, the new building had five floors, with Appy Azabu—a child-raising plaza providing temporary care for infants—located on the first floor. In 2009, Minato City introduced a designated administrator system, and the MINATO CITY TRC GROUP, a private corporation, took charge of the library's operation. Working in cooperation with the Minato City Library (Shibakoen, Minato City), which is a core library facility in Minato City, the Azabu Library aims to ultimately increase its collection to approximately 165,000 books, 160 magazines, and 6,500 CDs and DVDs (currently the library collection contains about 84,000 books).

Looking at the library's characteristics first, there is the child-raising support the facility provides. The entire second floor is dedicated to children, and there is a Storytelling Space in the center of the floor where children can take off their shoes, spread out and relax, either reading or being read to. Parents can enjoy spending time with their children reading books together. The spacious nursing rooms and men's toilets are equipped with baby seats—a first for a library in Minato City

—paying much appreciated consideration to the active roles fathers play in child-raising.

In addition, as the Azabu area is characterized by the large number of foreign nationals living and/or working here, the library also includes books in English, Korean, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish on the fourth floor. Currently the library has about 4,000 foreign-language books and intends to continue to enlarge and improve its collection in the future.

Aiming to be a library that walks hand-in-hand with the local community, the Azabu Library is planning to hold various exhibitions and events in the future, such as events held in cooperation with Appy Azabu, visits to elementary schools in the Azabu District for classes in conducting research and to promote reading, book-themed displays, film viewings in the Hall (5F), lectures, and mini-concerts. In July alone, the library held ten events that attracted many visitors. In October, the library will implement library tours introducing library services and enabling visitors to experience using book-related equipment (vinyl coating), and so on.

It looks like this library will fill the needs of a diversity of people living in Azabu Town, so it looks like we can expect great things from it!

Interview subjects: Minato City TRC Group Azabu Library Director Ms. Miki Murai
 Minato City Library: Library and Cultural Properties Department, General Affairs Section Chief Mr. Yutaka Watanabe

(Interviewed and written by Yoshie Osawa, Yukiko Takayanagi, Aki Tanaka)



The street performance flag he received from his local neighborhood association

I want to carry on the tradition of Japanese street performance and folk performing arts

“Hey, hey, hey! If you’re not in a rush and you have nothing better to do, listen up and look here! If you can’t look, just listen!” On stage, wearing traditional kimono and a sword, Azabu Jubei delivers his pithy lines in a booming voice. His to-and-fro with the audience is important communication. Today, traditional street performer Azabu Jubei is again on stage, honing his live performance routine.

During His Businessman Days, He Simply Lived in Azabu

“Welcome! Come on in!” Azabu Jubei (real name: Kotaro Kayaki) greeted us with a booming voice and beaming smile. A third-generation Azabu resident, his grandfather owned a haberdashery in Azabujuban, Mr. Kayaki is spending his post-retirement life as Street Performer Azabu Jubei. Born in 1946, his family home was destroyed during World War II, and he grew up in the Ginza District until the third year of junior high school. The family later returned to Azabujuban, where his grandfather and father had been raised, and he is still living here today. Saying with a bitter smile, “My father and daughter both attended Higashimachi Elementary School, and this is supposed to be my hometown, but I was the only one who didn’t go to school here,” Mr. Kayaki’s life had absolutely no connection to traditional street performance.



Top left: The final New Year at the old house. Today Jubei lives in a condominium complex in the same location.
Bottom left: A photograph from the time Jubei was stationed in the United Arab Emirates. He was working non-stop every day as a corporate soldier.
Right: Jubei in his university student days, when he would practice Kendo every morning and evening; the photograph was taken in Amishiro Park.

Mr. Kayaki was studying at the University of Tokyo during the period of student unrest in Japan and belonged to the varsity Kendo Club, achieving the rank of 3rd Dan. Unable to attend university classes, he trained day-in and day-out with the 50 or so other club members and took the *chuken* (third/middle team player) position in group tournaments. When he entered the world of business after graduation, it was at the height of Japan’s period of rapid economic growth. Mr. Kayaki was stationed overseas in Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, where he was involved in offshore development and telecommunications. The job involved much travel and many late nights—the majority of which involved socializing with other companies—and he had virtually no interest in the town where he lived.

Post retirement, an easy decision to learn street performance

After such a career, why did Mr. Kayaki decide to become a street performer in his post-retirement life? His wife had said to him, “Why don’t you find yourself a hobby after you retire? Perhaps something that isn’t expensive like golf?” Having sworn that his hobby was work during his hectic days as a businessman, he was unable to find something that appealed to him. What sparked his interest was a scene of the Toad-oil Salesman routine which he had seen by chance at Kamakura Cinema World. He had thought to himself, “I’d like to try that someday” and suddenly that feeling came back to him after his retirement.

Mr. Kayaki had always enjoyed speaking in front of people, and he had been a member of the *Rakugo* (comic storytelling) society during his days at Mita High School. He said with a smile, “Ever since I was a child, I have had a very outgoing personality. What was useful from my experience in the business world was the ability to act and make decisions quickly.” Once the idea was in his head, Mr. Kayaki searched the Internet and discovered the *Daidogei Kenkyukai* (Street Performance Society), which he immediately joined, and he has been honing his skills and self-discipline ever since.

The first act he wanted to try was the Banana Bargain Sale routine. However, one of his senior performers advised him to perform the Toad-oil Salesman routine instead because he had experience with kendo and his voice quality was suited to the act.



One of his juniors in the *Rakugo* (comic storytelling) club at Mita High School became a *Rakugo* storyteller



Edo spinning-top act (performance in Koto Ward)
Both the spinning top and the spinning technique are exquisite traditional Japanese arts.



Top right: Essential for the Toad-oil Salesman routine! Jubei pulls out a huge toad!
Top left: This Edo spinning-top act has the audience mesmerized.
Bottom: A highlight of the show—Jubei demonstrates his deftness with a sword

The persistence Mr. Kayaki had cultivated through his kendo training produced results, and his post-retirement life is now blooming. When he was practicing kendo, he could have had no inkling that he would one day use a sword for a completely different purpose—street performance.

Street Performer Azabu Jubei Debuts!

For three years before making his debut in front of an audience, Mr. Kayaki immersed himself in his new hobby, and today he can perform more than 10 acts. Learning a rich variety of street performance acts—such as the Toad-oil Salesman, Nankin-tamasudare (Nanjing Lily), and Koma-gei (Spinning-top Act). His stage name, Azabu Jubei, was chosen as an affectionate tribute to the district where his family has lived for generations. Currently, Jubei is serving as the 6th president of the *Daidogei Kenkyukai* (Street Performance Society), and he performs his traditional acts anywhere he is invited, from Minato City and other cities in Japan, and even other countries – last spring, he participated in the Japan-Vietnam Cultural Exchange Festival held in Vietnam.

Mr. Kayaki feels a sense of happiness, satisfaction, and fulfillment when people tell him his performances remind them of old-time festivals, give them a sense of nostalgia, or were interesting and enjoyable. Since embarking on this hobby, his ties with the local community have deepened. Beginning with volunteer performances at welfare facilities, his reputation has spread by word-of-mouth. Now, he not only performs at New Year parties and festivals, but also serves as an office-bearer in his local neighborhood association.

As he performs in more venues and for many different audiences, he has had the good fortune to develop a network of new friends and acquaintances.

I Want to Spread Traditional Street Performance Bilingually from Global Azabu

Says Mr. Kayaki, “During my businessman days, I only focused on my family in the day-to-day process of my life. However, since taking up traditional street performance, I have become involved in the community, and I even act as DJ or MC for bon-odori dance festivals.” Those around him acknowledge him to be the “International Boss.” Capitalizing on his overseas experience, he also uses English to encourage foreign nationals living in the neighborhood to participate in events, saying, “Why don’t you join with us?” He emphasizes that, “Knowing even just one word of Japanese deepens understanding of the overall performance.”

There are many foreign nationals in Minato City, and Mr. Kayaki is continuing his endeavors to enable them to enjoy traditional Japanese performing arts as much as possible. At the Azabujuban Summer Night Festival, he spoke in English, calling his rendition of the Toad-oil Salesman routine the “International Gama Oil Sale.”

Mr. Kayaki says that his goal for the future is to carry on the tradition of Japanese street performance and folk performing arts bilingually. Capitalizing on his life experiences within the multi-ethnic coexistence that is a characteristic of the Azabu District, Mr. Kayaki hopes to convey the good aspects of Japan to non-Japanese audience members. His newly found hobby has now become an integral part of his life, and will truly form the core of his life in his golden years. I would like to toast to the future activity of Mr. Kayaki ... I mean, Azabu Jubei.

Azabu Jubei’s website <http://www1.odn.ne.jp/jyubei/>

(Interviewed and written by Rieko Ogura, Yukiko Takayanagi)

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"Azabu — A Human Story"



Traditional street performer and 6th President of the *Daidogei Kenkyukai* (Street Performance Society)

Azabu Jubei

(Real name: Kotaro Kayaki)



Jubei’s specialties:
Toad-oil Salesman and Koma (Spinning-top Act)

The Faces of Readers in the Space between Imagination and Creativity

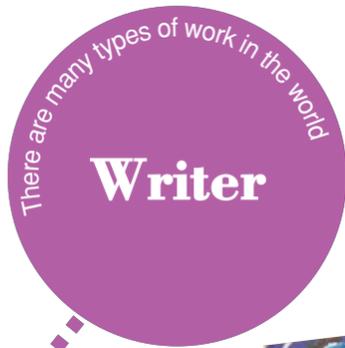


Mr. Kageki Shimoda

Novelist, author of children's picture books, and TV personality

Mr. Shimoda received the Naoki Prize for his novel *Kiroy Kiba* (Yellow Fang). He began reading picture books to children 15 years ago, and together with educational lectures, he performs storytelling sessions around 100 times a year.

You can see and hear Mr. Kageki reading to children on his website (<http://www.kageki.jp/>).



This issue's theme is the job of writer. Three second-year students from Minato Municipal Roppongi Junior High School spoke with writer Kageki Shimoda, whose office is located in Azabu.

How did you get your start as a novelist?

In the old days, there were many young literary buffs and people wanting to become writers. I changed jobs a lot, and consequently had relatively rich life experience for someone my age, and so I thought I could write a novel based on my actual experiences. When I was 28, I entered the first novel I wrote in a newcomer's prize contest and made it through the second round, but in fact it took seven years before I received the Shosetsu Gendai Prize for New Writers for *Yattoko Tantei*. After that I was finally able to make as living as a writer.

How long does it take you to write one book?

I create several drawers inside my head where I keep various ideas and themes that come to my mind, and then I slot in materials and data to "ferment" the story. This run-up period can take up to several years, but once I actually start writing, I finish even a long novel in around four months.

Where do you get your ideas for your novels?

When you observe things very carefully, the themes and ideas are limitless. In the case of period novels, lots of questions arise when you read historical materials. I create mystery for myself, asking if there could possibly be some kind of hidden secret, and then I write the novel to solve that mystery.

As a writer, what aspects of your work are you especially careful about?

The most important question is, how do I chew over numerous materials and ideas and make them my own? Rather than rushing into an ego-centric creation, I am constantly conscious of the question, are the readers emotionally involved and enjoying themselves?

Why are your hair and clothes so colorful???

Even though humans are born with pure hearts, when they acquire knowledge and wisdom they also tend to stick unnecessary notes on their hearts, such as envy, vanity, and arrogance. My heart having grown heavy with these notes, I wanted to free myself, and the way I express this is through my clothes. It is more comfortable for me to pay no heed to the opinions of those around me and wear whatever I want to wear and make my hair colorful.

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

KIDS' Hello Work



Books he recommends for junior high school students to read include *The Crab Cannery Ship* (Takiji Kobayashi), *Tsugaru* (Osamu Dazai), and *Shion Monogatari* (Jun Ishikawa). He says it is important to not only read books that are recommended, but to also make effort to discover books for yourself.



Mr. Shimoda sometimes also illustrates his own picture books. Including all his novels, essays, general books, and historical novels, he has written several hundred works—he is indeed a prolific writer.



We also had the pleasure of listening to him read his recent work, *Kirin ga Kuru Hi* (*The Day the Giraffe Came*).

(Interviewed and written by Nichino Iwabuchi (2nd Grade, Roppongi Junior High School), Rin Kanazawa (2nd Grade, Roppongi Junior High School), and Ruka Kumasaka (2nd Grade Roppongi Junior High School); Interview support: Kyoko Ideishi)

地域社会
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16

"The Local Community"

Azabu Region Horticultural School and Rental Farm The Motoazabu Farm Links Professional Farmers with the Azabu District

The Azabu district is known for its diversity. While you will find rows of cutting-edge IT businesses if you go to Roppongi, in Motoazabu there is also a horticultural school and rental farm dedicated to assisting local residents in growing their own vegetables.

This issue, we report on the Motoazabu Farm, which is located near Motoazabu Hills up the slope from Azabujuban. The farm does not stop at renting out vegetable plots; but also enables people to experience farming while having strong contact with farmers. The farm has become a popular spot that now has people lining up for vacancies.



Motoazabu Farm Today

Motoazabu Farm

This farm provides classes as a school for children that enables participants to experience the farming process from the soil preparation stage to growing vegetables. The farm also provides rental farm plots that can be rented by anyone, from operating companies to members of the public. In either case, one of

the features of the farm is that users can directly receive advice from professional farmers who make a living farming in Niigata Prefecture and elsewhere. For example, "My tomatoes are being eaten by crows. What can I do?" When such problems arise, users can ask a professional farmer about measures that could be taken. Motoazabu Farm is characterized by the fact that users receive back-up from farmers from Niigata and other regions of Japan.

Motoazabu Farm Today

Motoazabu Farm currently has 70 to 80 users, all of whom are growing vegetables in their own plots to suit their respective lifestyles. Most of the people renting plots live within walking or biking distance from Azabu. Men dressed up in suits pop in just before attending a wedding; children come on their way home from soccer practice, still wearing their uniforms. "That sort of thing is very typical of Azabu," says Ms.

Wakabayashi, an employee of the company that operates the farm. Such scenes are possible in Azabu, a district where central city lifestyles and farming coexist.

According to Mr. Seto, another farm employee, the farm is also an attempt to connect Azabu, which is



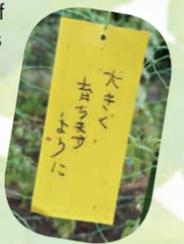
Mr. Daisuke Seto and Ms. Tomomi Wakabayashi of the Motoazabu Farm



in the center of Tokyo, with rural communities. By connecting people culturally and economically through the Motoazabu Farm, the aim is to provide mechanisms for achieving continual development in not only the central city but also rural communities.

The Vegetables Everyone Loves

When we asked which vegetables were popular, we were told, "In summer, the popular vegetables are tomatoes, eggplants, green peppers, and cucumbers; in winter, there are a lot of vegetables used in stews, such as daikon radish, carrots, and garland chrysanthemums." In many cases, mothers choose green peppers to encourage their children to eat them.



The Land Becomes Home

Due to the nature of the location, many of the farm's users are transferred or stationed overseas, but many of these people continue to visit the farm even after they have moved away from Azabu, and children continue to come to see the farm after they've graduated from the horticultural school. Observing this behavior, Ms. Wakabayashi says, "The land may become home for these people". As a town that can become a person's hometown in the central city, it appears that the appeal of the Azabu District is increasing.



Republic of Honduras

Area: 112,492m² (just under one-third the area of Japan)

Population: Approx. 8.1 million (World Bank, 2013)

Capital City: Tegucigalpa

Official Language: Spanish

Religion: Mainly Catholic and Evangelical Protestant (freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution)

System of Government: Constitutional Republic

Head of State: President Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado (Four-year term; reelection prohibited)

Legislature: National Assembly (128 members; four-year term)

From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/honduras/index.html>

Her Excellency Mrs. Marlene VILLELA de Talbott,
 Ambassador of Honduras to Japan

Article cooperation: Embassy of the
 Republic of Honduras



The Copan Ruins were designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has provided cooperation for the site's preservation. The site is the ruins of Mayan civilization, which prospered from around 400 to 800 AD. The poster on the left shows the Rosalila Temple, and the ruins include many other interesting sights, including stone steps made with hieroglyphs and a ball court.

Visiting Embassies 28

From the "World"
 of Azabu

Honduras



Of course, coffee is highly recommended. The weather in Honduras has temperature differences in the mornings and evenings, making the region highly suitable for coffee cultivation.



Replicas of accessories discovered at Copan Ruins. Their craftsmanship indicates the high level of civilization.



Honduras also has karamba (cup and ball toys), but compared to the Japanese version, the "cup" part of the toy is very small. The YUSCARAN is an alcoholic beverage made from sugar cane, and is the most typical strong alcohol drink in Honduras. There are other beverages from Honduras but this one has the name of the area where it is produced.

Honduras: A Latin American Country Famed for Its Coffee

Honduras is a country located in Latin America that is experiencing a continuous yearly increase in the production of coffee beans. We visited the Honduran Embassy in Azabu and spoke with Her Excellency Ambassador Marlene Vilella-Talbott, Ambassador of Honduras to Japan, who discussed her own relationship to Japan and expressed her passionate views about promoting the economic, cultural and diplomatic exchange between her home country of Honduras and Japan.

Relationship with Japan

The Ambassador's relationship to Japan goes back to 1977, when she first visited Japan as her country's representative in the Miss International beauty contest. She talked about her nostalgic memories of the Kabuki-za Theater and department stores in Nihonbashi.

The Ambassador's career as a diplomat began in Tegucigalpa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras and as an Ambassador-Permanent Representative at the organization of American states in Washington D.C., and after being stationed for eight years in Taiwan, she was appointed as Ambassador to Japan (currently she is also serving as Ambassador to the Philippines and Thailand while residing in Japan).

"Taipei, where I was posted, is a city that historically has been influenced by Japan, and in order to know Taiwan I also broadly studied Japan and its neighbors, Korea and China. Because I had already studied Japan while I was in Taiwan, I did not encounter too many difficulties coming to Japan," said Ambassador Vilella-Talbott.

Regarding her personal beliefs, with deep emotion she explained that "One cannot understand a country, in the true sense, without knowing its cultural and historical background. I am respectfully interested in the Eastern culture which differs from the Western cultures of my home country, which was influenced by Spain. To expand my knowledge of the eastern cultures, during my post in Taiwan, I attended Chengchi University to achieve a master's degree in Taiwan Studies, taking classes during the nighttime from 19:00 until 22:00 and returning home at 23:00. This hard lifestyle continued for two years, and there were times when I nearly gave up, but I was able to see it through." This experience undoubtedly helped the Ambassador to have a better understanding and a smoother way in her diplomacy and everyday activities in Japan today.

Regarding her impressions of Japan since coming here, she vividly recalls entering the Imperial Palace in a horse-drawn carriage for the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials to the Emperor in September 2010. She was very impressed by the fact that even children ride the subway alone freely.

The Ambassador's Passion for Coffee

Honduras is currently pouring efforts into its coffee export industry, and Honduran coffee is, of course, imported by Japan. Coffee is a very delicate drink, and the aroma can be influenced by the aroma of other plants growing near the coffee plants. For example, cocoa plants growing nearby give the coffee bean a cocoa aroma.

In Honduras, around 100,000 people are involved in the coffee industry, making it a significant element of the Honduran economy and society.

At national fairs where several hundred producers present their products, auctions are held for the specialty coffees produced by the 20 prizewinners, and in fact, 90% of the coffee auctioned here is bought by Japanese people.

According to Ambassador Vilella-Talbott, "I want not only coffee lovers but also general consumers to be more aware that this coffee is Made in Honduras. Also, we are making efforts to tailor coffees to the tastes of consumers in the countries to which they are exported (aroma, richness, acidity, etc.)."

Ambassador Vilella-Talbott was strongly conscious of not only increasing Honduras's coffee exports to Japan but also enhancing Honduras's visibility and reputation as a coffee producing region.

Honduran coffee is cultivated amidst a rich natural environment, and in recent years, its quality has improved dramatically, so that the country is attracting attention as a producer of high quality

specialty coffees. Honduran specialty coffee has an exquisite aroma and balanced flavor.

Expectations for Exchange with Minato City Residents

Ambassador Vilella-Talbott especially wanted to convey the following to Minato residents on this occasion: "Going forward, I intend to promote exchange between Honduras and Japan not only at a national and governmental level, but also between people at a grassroots level. Although Japan is well known in Honduras, I would like Japanese people to know more about Honduras. Beginning with common interests such as soccer, I hope we can build up an even greater friendship between our two countries. It can take time for arrangements to be made between the embassy and various government organizations, and so I hope that we can carry out activities, perhaps using schools, etc., that enable us to have mutual exchange with the Minato residents and facilitate greater mutual understanding."

The Ambassador's Dreams for the Future

Due to the influence of her father, Ambassador Vilella-Talbott studied law and became a lawyer and a notary. She subsequently entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and after working at different embassies and international missions for 32 years, she can say that this is the perfect job for her (the day of the interview was the birthday of her beloved late father). With regard to the future, the Ambassador said that she wanted to be even more active in the diplomatic world and has a dream of becoming involved in university education, teaching others what she herself has learned.

And a Little about Soccer, Too...

The day of the interview was immediately after the semifinal match between Brazil and Germany in the Soccer World Cup, in which Honduras also competed. The Ambassador said that she was very shocked by Brazil's defeat, and hoped that Argentina would put up a good show as representative of Latin America. Since she had been cheering enthusiastically throughout all of the World Cup matches, Ambassador Vilella-Talbot said she was a little tired, but also that she loved the sense of solidarity that can be achieved through soccer (date of interview: July 11).

All of the staff involved in the interview wanted to support this passionate ambassador and her home country of Honduras.

(Interviewed and written by Yasuhiro Tanaka, Hisayoshi Watanabe)



Snapshots of the event when the Ambassador came to Japan as Representative of Honduras in the Miss International contest. The kimono certainly suits her. Recently she bought a new yukata (summer kimono) to wear when viewing fireworks.



The Azabu Future Photo Studio - A Slope both Old and New - Ichimi-zaka Slope



After the Tokyo Olympics

Ichimi-zaka Slope is a slope running along what is now Roppongi-dori Street on the border between Roppongi 3-chome and Roppongi 4-chome. At the top of the slope is the overpass for the Metropolitan Expressway Route 3 Shibuya Line. Going by former district names, the substantial slope previously cut through three districts: the former Azabu Mikawadai-machi, at the top, the former Azabu Ichibei-cho in the middle right, and the former Azabu Imai-cho at the bottom left.

Although Ichimi-zaka Slope is a relatively new slope (or street) built in the late 1880s, following the Tokyo Olympics the road was widened and an expressway was constructed at the top of the slope. Therefore, the cityscape before and after the Tokyo Olympics is completely different.

It could perhaps be said that the fact that the slope is relatively new conversely resulted in it undergoing major changes. The atmosphere of the slope is completely opposite to that of Kurayami-zaka Slope, which was featured in the last issue of The Azabu, and comparing before-and-after photographs, the transformation of the slope is truly astounding.

Turbulence Embodied

Let's begin by comparing the features of Ichimi-zaka Slope then and now.



Circa 1945



1961 Source: Minato Shashin Sampo (A Photographic Stroll through Minato)

Around 1945, immediately after World War II, the area was a scorched wasteland. The Reinanzaka Church can be seen in the distance on the rise (slightly right-of-center at the top of the photograph). In the 1961 photograph, the town has recovered and tram lines can be seen. Again, the Reinanzaka Church can be seen in the distance. Today it is hidden by the expressway and can no longer be seen from this position.

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

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

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

For nearly 20 years after the end of World War II, the face of Ichimi-zaka Slope did not change significantly, but when it is mind-boggling to consider how much it has changed in modern times. Just looking at the photographs, it is difficult to believe that they are photographs of the same slope, even though the images have been shot from virtually the same position. Ichimi-zaka Slope can be said to be a historically precious slope that embodies the turbulence of the Showa era. These photographs look up towards the slope's peak, the view shifting from the Tani-machi Junction towards Roppongi and Shibuya.



1965 Source: Minato Shashin Sampo (A Photographic Stroll through Minato)



2009

The Metropolitan Expressway (between Tani-machi JCT and Shibuya) was opened in 1967, the same year it was decided to abolish the Toden (tram) system, and in December of that year the Toden 6 system (Kasumicho Line) was abolished.

If the expressway overpass were to disappear, I get the sense that a shadow of the slope's features might remain, but the scene still feels as if we are looking at something entirely different. In less than 40 years, the area has evolved from a town to a city.

Today, Ichimi-zaka Slope lies quietly in the shadow of the expressway. Although there is a touch of sadness that traces of the area's small-town character are fading, the slope can surely be called a sight of Azabu with much romance - old-yet-new and new-yet-old.

The "godparent" of Ichimi-zaka Slope: What was the origin of the town's former name?

Ichimi-zaka derives its name from the "Ichi" in Ichibei-cho and the "Mi" in Mikawadai-machi, taking the first character of each district name. If you get the feeling that there are rich anecdotes hidden in these district names, you wouldn't be wrong. Let's dig a little deeper.

Ichibei-cho

Ichibei-cho is said to have been named after the local village headman in 1695. Comprising a plateau on the northern edge of what is today the Azabu District (now Roppongi 3-chome), Ichibei-cho has had a complex neighborhood since its establishment and is divided into 1-chome and 2-chome, with each area expressing a different character.

Mikawadai-machi

During the Edo Era, Mikawadai-machi included the residence of Matsudaira Mikawa-no-kami (Matsudaira Tadanao: the heir of Tokugawa Ieyasu's second son, Yuki Hideyasu, head of the Fukui Domain in Echizen; he is lauded for his defeat of Sanada Yukimura at the Summer Siege of Osaka Castle), and the area was nicknamed Mikawadai, which is how the name Mikawadai-machi originated.

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

The House at Azabu (2) Two British Japanophiles

At different times during the same year, 1890, two British Japanophiles both lived in the House at Azabu (see *The Azabu* Vol. 28). One was Sir Edwin Arnold (1832–1904), a journalist and poet who used the saying, *Wataru Sekai wa Oni wa Nashi* (“I have wandered all over the world without meeting one demon!”) for his personal seal and published *Japonica* in 1891.

The other was Major General Henry Spencer Palmer (1838–1893), whose gravestone was engraved by grieving friends with the phrase *NON OMNIS MORIAR* (“Not all of me will die”) from a poem by Horace, a famous Roman poet. Known as the “Father of Yokohama’s modern waterworks construction,” Palmer was involved in the construction of Yokohama’s port; he was also a journalist, an astronomer, and an advisor to the Japanese government.

In recognition of their contributions, the Japanese Government awarded both men the Order of the Rising Sun.

Here I would like to present a portrait of these men and their histories, as well as pursue the mystery of how they both came to live in the House at Azabu (formerly 41 Azabu Imai-cho, Azabu, Tokyo) during the same year.

麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena
of Azabu

Sir Edwin Arnold

On March 25, 1904, the *New York Times* reported that Sir Edwin Arnold, author of *The Light of Asia*, had passed away the previous day in Great Britain at the age of 72.

Born in England, Sir Edwin Arnold studied at Oxford University, where he demonstrated his literary genius, receiving the Newdigate Prize for his poem *The Feast of Belshazzar*, and graduating at the early age of 20. He served as the principal of Poona College in India, and after returning to England, worked as a journalist and editor for the *London Daily Telegraph* newspaper. In Britain he is famous as a poet. Sir Edwin Arnold traveled to Japan twice, visiting Kamakura, Nikko, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto, and Nagasaki. He was made a Knights Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire and was deeply knowledgeable about Buddhism, gaining fame for his poem *The Light of Asia* and writing numerous other works.

Sir Edwin Arnold’s first wife was British. After she passed away he remarried a young American woman soon after he first laid eyes on her when she was painting a copy of a work by the Renaissance artist Perugino at the National Gallery of Art in London, but she also passed away. In 1892, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun for his contribution to Japan in writing *Japonica* and returned to Japan to accept his award. At this time, he married his third wife, a Japanese woman 37 years his junior named Tama Kurokawa (1869–1962). Tama was devoted to her husband, and was referred to as Lady Arnold in Britain. She was greatly admired for her beauty and intelligence, including her English proficiency, as well as her virtue.

Sir Edwin Arnold’s was the life of a poet, it was rich with emotion and intuition, including his marriages. In addition, based on *Japonica* and his other works, it can also be said that he was a man of great intelligence.



Image of
Sir Edwin Arnold

Source: Sir Edwin Arnold. *Japonica—First Paper—Japan, The Country*. Scribner’s Magazine Volume 0008 Issue 6 (December 1890)

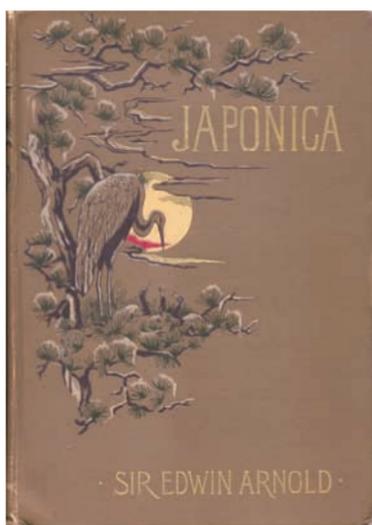


Seal of Sir Edwin Arnold. It is engraved with the saying, *Wataru Sekai wa Oni wa Nashi* (“I have wandered all over the world without meeting one demon!”).

Henry Spencer Palmer

On February 18, 1893, *The Japan Weekly Mail* reported the passing of Major General Henry Spencer Palmer on February 10, and the details of his funeral on February 16.

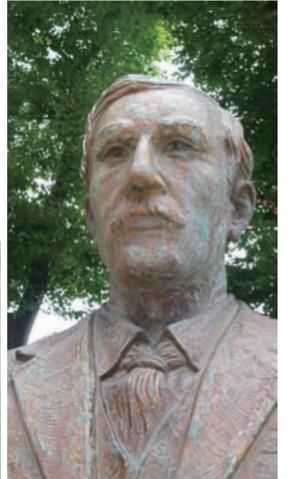
Born in East India, Palmer graduated from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. He was posted to Canada, where he undertook exploratory surveys and supervised road construction. He was later posted to New Zealand to conduct astronomical observations of the passage of Venus across the face of the Sun. He subsequently was stationed in Hong Kong for five years, where he formulated draft plans for an astronomical observatory. Palmer first came to Japan in 1879. Through the vice-consul to Hong Kong, Taro Ando (1846–1924), Palmer submitted a petition to the Japanese Government to construct an astronomical observatory in Japan, which led to the construction of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory in Azabu. Around this time, Palmer began writing as a journalist about the current situation in Japan for British newspapers and other publications. In 1883, while in Yokohama on his way home to Britain, Palmer received a request from the British Consul-General to Japan, Sir Harry Smith Parkes, and the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs,



Original copy of *Japonica*
(Collection: Junko Rothwell)



Japan’s oldest modern-day water pipe. It is located in the Nogeyama 3-chome Park in Chuo Ward, Yokohama City.



Bust of Major General Henry Spencer Palmer
Sculpture: Collection of the Nogeyama Zoological Gardens, Yokohama

Marquis Inoue Kaoru, to participate in the construction of a water system for transporting drinking water as requested by the Yokohama Concession. Palmer explored water sources and surveyed channel construction, prepared waterworks reports, and proposed the construction of modern water facilities that did not require wells. In 1885 he was appointed supervisor of waterworks construction using the Sagami River as the water source and construction commenced. In the same year he was promoted to the rank of colonel. Construction of the waterworks system was completed in 1887, and Palmer was subsequently promoted to the rank of major general of the British Army. For his accomplishment in completing construction of the Yokohama waterworks, Palmer was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun in 1887. For Yokohama City’s next harbor construction project proposal, Palmer—who had been recommended by the local Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry—competed against Dutch engineers employed by the Home Ministry’s Bureau of Civil Works. Palmer’s proposal was adopted in 1888, and he was employed as an honorary engineering advisor by the Bureau of Civil Works. However, he became entangled in a feud over the quality of cement used in harbor construction amongst bureaucrats, politicians, and the concrete manufacturing industry, and it was in the midst of this that conflict that he passed away in the House at Azabu. He had one daughter with a refined Japanese woman named Uta Saito (1873–1922).

Palmer was a man who demonstrated scientific and mathematical genius, skill in his work, and a sense of humor, and he was blessed with many friends. These friends carved their sorrow at his sudden passing into the headstone of his grave in the Aoyama Cemetery in Tokyo.

The Mystery of the House at Azabu

Arriving in Yokohama in November 1889, Sir Edwin Arnold was registered as residing at the home of his British friend and owner of the *Japan Weekly Mail* newspaper Francis Brinkley (1841–1912), a western-style house located at 5-16 Tamachi. However, Sir Edwin Arnold desired to see Japanese homes and lifestyles up close, and so he advertised for an available house through the newspaper, receiving a reply at the beginning of 1890 from Mr. Takehei Aso, the landlord of the Japanese-style house (the House at Azabu, located at 41 Imai-cho, Azabu, now 2-1 Roppongi) where Henry Spencer Palmer was registered as living.

However, looking at the 1890 edition of the *Japan Directory* (a listing of the names of foreign residents and organizations in Japan during the late Edo and Meiji eras), Sir Edwin Arnold was registered as residing at 5-16 Shibata-cho, whereas Henry Spencer Palmer was registered as living at 41 Imai-cho, Azabu (now 2-1 Roppongi). Despite this discrepancy, according to *Japonica*, Sir Edwin Arnold was living in the House at Azabu in 1890, and judging by this letter, he lived in the house for approximately seven months.

The key to this mystery is a report in the *Japan Weekly Mail* from January 18, 1890, which states that Palmer had sailed to England in order to survey materials for the Yokohama harbor construction. He returned to Japan on May 25 of the same year. Therefore, Palmer had vacated the House at Azabu for the duration of his trip.

I am grateful to these two men who contributed so much to Japan during the Meiji Era, which was represented by the concept of *wakon-yosai* (Japanese spirit combined with Western learning). Sir Edwin Arnold introduced *wakon* (Japanese spirit)—that is, Japanese culture—to the world, while Major General Henry Spencer Palmer brought *yosai* (Western learning) to Japan in the form of modern Western technology. That these two British Japanophiles both lived in the *House at Azabu* drawn by Robert Bloom in the same year gives one a sense of the depth of the phenomena of Azabu.



Grave of Major General Henry Spencer Palmer in the Aoyama Cemetery, Tokyo

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The author wishes to thank the Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum and Junko Rothwell for generously providing materials and information for this article.

We are recruiting volunteers in Azabu area

This will be a great opportunity for you to contribute to the development of the town as well as interact with the people of the community and learn more about the town of Azabu. An English interpreter is available during the activity.

Eligibility:

Foreign nationals aged 20 and over who are interested in volunteer work.

Activity:

To keep the environment clean and to patrol at the Roppongi area for about one hour during the nighttime. The purpose of the activity will be explained before the start.

Schedule:

Please see the Minato City website.

Meeting Place:

Mikawadai Park (Roppongi 4-2-27)

Area:

In the vicinity of Roppongi Crossing

Application:

Please call or fax your name and phone number by 3 P.M. on the day before the event.

※ You can participate in both the cleanup and patrol, or either one.

※ There will be no reward.

※ The activities will be cancelled on rainy days. We will contact you on the day before the event if it happens.

Inquiries:

Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8812 Fax: 03-3583-3782



A Message from the Metropolitan Tax

The due date for the payment of fixed assets tax and city planning tax in the third quarter comes December in the 23 wards.

Please pay your taxes by January 5, 2015 (Monday) at financial institutions or convenience stores listed on the reverse side of your payment statements. Account transfer is a secure and convenient way for tax payments. For more details, please refer to Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the offices as below.

Contact:

<Taxation> Please contact the Fixed Assets Tax Group of the Tokyo Metropolitan Taxation Office having jurisdiction over your area, Taxation Branch Offices, or Island Branch Offices.

<Tax payment> Please contact the Tax Collection Management Group of the Tokyo Metropolitan Taxation Office having jurisdiction over your area, Tax Branch Offices, or Island Branch Offices.

Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03 (5549) 3800 (main number)

<Payment by account transfer> Coordinator, Automatic Deduction Payments, Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division, Bureau of Taxation
Tel: 03 (3963) 2177

Office hours during New Year holidays.

The services of tax declaration, tax payment, and certificates of metropolitan taxes are unavailable from December 27, 2014 (Saturday) to January 4, 2015 (Monday) at the Metropolitan Taxation Offices, Taxation Branch Offices, Island Branch Offices, Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Operations Center or Automobile Taxation Offices.

If you want to file a tax return or submit an application during holidays, please post in the mail box located at the Metropolitan Taxation Offices or Tax Branch Offices etc.

Contact: Tokyo Metropolitan Taxation Office having jurisdiction over your area
Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03 (5549) 3800 (main number)

FY 2014 Community Assistance Program Performance

With funding from the Japan Center for Local Autonomy provided through lotteries under its Community Assistance Program, the Minami-azabu Fujimi-cho Neighborhood Association built a portable shrine.

The purpose of the Community Assistance Program is to promote the social contribution of lottery proceeds in addition to advancing and encouraging the healthy development of community activities.



Formulation of a New Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan

The Azabu Regional City Office is currently formulating a new Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (2015 to 2020) (hereafter referred to as the "District Plan"). The District Plan incorporates measures for resolving local issues and further enhancing the appeal of the Azabu District while optimizing the district's characteristics. In formulating the new District Plan, we are doing our utmost to reflect the "Recommendations by Azabu District for Formulation of the Minato City Basic Plan: Azabu District" received from the Subcommittee on the Formulation of the Azabu District Basic Plan of the citizens' organization Azabu-o-Katarukai (Association for Discussing Azabu) (hereinafter referred to as the "citizens' organization"), which was selected to participate through public recruitment. In addition, in formulating the plan at the draft plan stage, we are also receiving opinions and proposals from residents through the citizens' organization as well as residents' briefings and solicitation of residents' opinions.



The current Minato City Basic Plan: Azabu District (2012 to 2014)

Recommendations by Azabu District for Formulation of the Minato City Basic Plan: Azabu District

Plan Formulation Schedule (Tentative)

Schedule	Item
April–October 2014	Recommendations reflected in the plan Formulation of the first draft
Late October 2014	Formulation of a draft plan
Mid–November 2014	◆ Residents' briefing (*1)
November–December 2014	◆ Solicitation of residents' opinions
January 2015	Plan is decided

*1 Residents' briefings are planned to be held at the Arisu Iki-Iki Plaza and Azabu Regional City Office.

◆ Details regarding residents' briefings and solicitation of residents' opinions will be provided at a later date in the Koho Minato newsletter

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

We Are Looking for Shops and Businesses Favorable to the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” Initiative. —Working towards a Clean, Bustling Roppongi—

On July 23, 2013, the Roppongi Council for the Promotion of Urban Development for Safety and Peace of Mind (hereinafter referred to as “the Promotion Council”) established the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” (hereinafter referred to as “the Charter”). As part of the Promotion Council’s efforts to inform as many shops and business enterprises as possible about the charter, the Minato City “Certification System for Recommended Businesses Supporting the Minato City Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” has been established.



Recruitment Details

Eligibility

Shops and business enterprises located or active mainly in the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)

How to Apply

1. After first ensuring that you understand the purport of the charter, fill in the required information on the Letter of Agreement and either send it by postal mail or submit it in person at the counter to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.
2. The names of those shops/business enterprises that apply for certification will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as “Businesses Favorable to the Charter.”
3. “Businesses Favorable to the Charter” will be sent an application form for certification as a “Supporting/Recommended Business.”
4. Based on the application form submitted by the shop/business, the enterprise’s activities are examined by a screening committee, and those shops and businesses carrying out activities independently and proactively in cooperation with the local community are granted “certification.” Certified shops and businesses are presented with a certificate and certification sticker in addition to their name and details of their activities being posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters.

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

Announcement of the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” Logo

A competition was conducted to select a logo design for widely promoting the charter, and following logo was selected.



The logo will be used in various scenarios in order to familiarize as many people as possible with the Charter, so be on the lookout!

Information from Twitter and Facebook

Minato City has distributed information in case of a disaster or emergency. The city will send out the information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures in English, Chinese, and Korean through Twitter and Facebook. Please utilize this service from September 1.

Twitter: @minato_city
Minato City, Tokyo

- Information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures

Information related to Minato City will be posted in times of disaster or emergency. If you retweet the post, please use only the official retweet command. In principle, we will not be providing replies.

Facebook: city.minato
Minato City, Tokyo

- Information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures

The same information as our Twitter posts will be posted.

Section in charge: Public Relations Subsection



Facebook



English



Chinese



Korean



Twitter



English



Chinese



Korean

“Azabu Street” has been decided as the nickname for Todo No. 415 (Tokyo Metropolitan Road Takanawa-Azabu Line)

**Inquiries: Promotion of Urban Development, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8815**

“Azabu Street” has been decided as the nickname for Todo No. 415 (Tokyo Metropolitan Road Takanawa-Azabu Line)

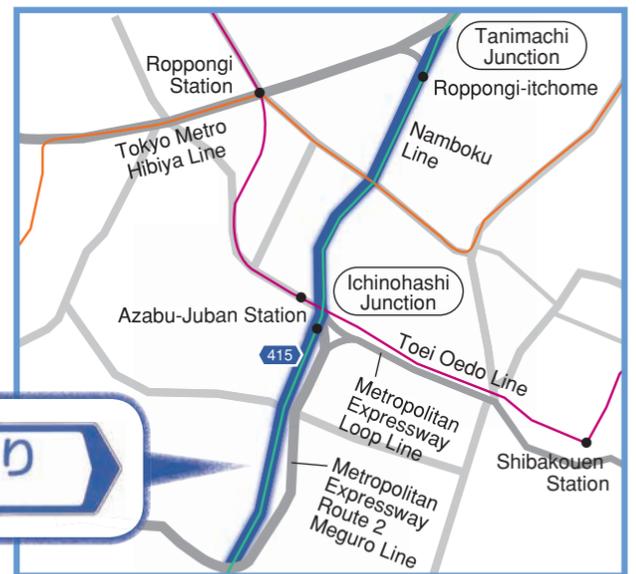
The nickname was adopted at the general meeting of the Committee for Nicknaming Todo 415 ‘Azabu Street,’ which was held in July 2014.

The request was submitted to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Bureau of Construction, and approved in September 2014.*The Committee for Nicknaming Todo 415 ‘Azabu Street’ is composed of the neighborhood association and the shopping district promotion associations along the route of the road, Minato City Assembly councilors, and Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Councilors.

[Location] Between Roppongi-itchome and Minamiazabu-nichome

Total road length: approx. 2.3km

麻布通り
Azabu St.



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 no limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).

● Tel: 03-5114-8802 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We Are Looking For Editorial Staff

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



AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Appy Azabu, Azabu Regional City Office etc.

● Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

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Editor’s Note

I became involved in reporting and writing for The Azabu with Issue 14, but because Azabu is so richly cosmopolitan, overflowing with various attractions both old and new, each issue feels fresh. I have been inspired by revisiting slopes that retain traces of the Edo era that I had reported on and was fascinated by, gained sensitivity about events in countries I learned about by reporting on their embassies, and learned about planning from exchanging ideas and opinions in our editorial meetings. I would be pleased if this newsletter were also helpful in some way to readers.

(Yoshie Osawa)

The original article is written in Japanese.

“Minato Call” information service.

Minato call is a new city information service, available in English every day from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

*English speakers are also available

Minato Call :

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

E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp