

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

Azabu Nursery School

As has been published in the articles of newspapers, and other outlets, both the National and Tokyo Metropolitan Governments have been making a great effort to secure arrangements for childcare support and eliminate the "Childcare Waiting Lists." What is the childcare situation in Minato City? We interviewed a Minato City Office staff member and visited the Azabu Nursery School and Nishi-azabu Nursery School, both renovated and re-opened in November last year.

This nursing school opened in Moto-azabu in 1951, as the first nursing school in Minato City. A renovation plan was proposed because it had become too old. In 2008, it was relocated in a temporary building in Torii-zaka Slope.



1. Childcare rooms are spacious and a variety of play activities and games are available due to a layout change in the corner areas. In addition to a childcare expert, the Principal Ms. Kazuko Imai, there are 22 staff members.
2. Outside view from a road going to Torii-zaka Slope. The location is close to Roppongi Station: One of many excellent advantages of this facility.
3. On the interview day, a rice-cake pounding event happened to be held. Children enjoyed it very much with the help of their parents.
4. Roof garden with the view of Roppongi Hills, a typical view of the Azabu District.
5. There is a nursing room for babies under one year of age, where relaxing childcare time is available.



Interviewee: Ms. Kazuko Imamura, Principal of Azabu Nursery School
 Address: 5-16-46 Roppongi, Minato City
 Tel.: 03-5545-7135

In the open air, nursery school children can enjoy a good dose of sunlight.

Completed next door to the Asabu Regional City Office, this Azabu Nursery School has a large yard even though it's in the center of Tokyo. It is one of the best features of this school. Compared to the temporary building before, the capacity has also been greatly increased from 79 to 150 students. Presently, the application for classes for children under one year old (as of January 2015). A lot of wood was used for construction and the interior material in each of the nursery rooms. From each room, a bright and spacious balcony deck is easily accessible. In the yard, an artificial hill with a tunnel, climbing poles and a slide attached to the emergency staircase have been laid out for maximum fun. In the roof garden, vegetables will be grown from early spring (Interview was held in January). In the schoolyard, outdoor life can be enjoyed to the fullest.

Present Situation of Children's Day Care in Minato City

Capacity Increased in Nursing Schools in Azabu

Recently, in Minato City, large-scale condominiums have been constructed one after another and the population has increased. The birth rate also increased from 1,983 in 2008 to 2,610 in 2012. Accordingly, children on waiting lists increased. At the peak time in 2008, there were 274 children on the waiting list counted in April. However, it decreased to 45 in 2014. There are 176 children as of December 2014. Of those, 135 are infants less than one year old. (In April, the figure decreased because of their enrollment in nursery schools).

Minato City's plans to eliminate the Childcare Waiting Lists: At first, the municipal nursery schools capacity should be increased, as suggested in Minato City's Basic Plan, when the out-of-date facility is renovated. In the Azabu District, in addition to the above introduction of two nursing schools, the above plan will also apply to "Hommura Nursing School" in the large health and welfare general facility (Address: 4-chome, Minami-azabu) completed in September last year. Also, plans to open an emergency temporary nursing facility for a limited period by Minato City, and inviting private nursing schools that satisfy the City's standards are included. In April 2015, the numbers of Municipal and private nursery schools, and emergency temporary nursing facilities, are 11 and two respectively. The total capacity will reach 1,282 (planned). Many say that Azabu has a large housing area, and the number of the children in Childcare Waiting Lists is the largest out of the five districts in Minato City. We should keep an eye out for future trends.

Childcare Charge Free from the Second Child

One of the great features of nursery schools in Minato City is the large amount of space per student. For licensed nursery schools, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government specifies an area of about 3.3m² per infant less than one year old. However, as much as 5.0m² is generally available in the nursery schools in Minato City. In line with the new "Children and Child Care Support New System" policy starting from April 2015 in all nursery schools in Tokyo, Minato City also reviewed childcare charges. For families with a child already going to a licensed nursery school or kindergarten, childcare from the second child becomes free. As this is the first program in Tokyo's 23 cities (part of countermeasures to the falling birthrate) this program has attracted attention even in other cities. On the other hand, the upper limit level for childcare charges based on the resident tax has increased. For more information, contact the Health and Welfare Subsection, Residents Support Section at each Regional City Office.

Interviewee:
 Minato City Office
 Child and Family Support Department
 Tsuneyoshi Yamakoshi, Chief of Childcare and Facilities Support Subsection, Child and Family Section
 Ryoko Goto, Chief of Nursery School Subsection, Child and Family Section
 Azabu Regional City Office
 Interviewee: Masanori Murase, Chief of Facility Management Subsection, General Administration Section
 Kazunori Taoka, Subsection Chief of Health and Welfare Subsection, Residents Support Section

Nishi-azabu Nursery School

The opportunity for interaction with seniors and nursery school children is provided.

Established close to the Nishi-azabu crossing, Nishi-azabu nursery school is located in a complex of facilities with "Iki-Iki Plaza" and "Appy Nishi-azabu" (child-care plaza and for short-term child-care service). Compared to the temporary building before, the capacity has increased from 102 to 129 students. Presently, this school is quite international, as there are three to five foreign children in each class (as of January 2015). Some tie-up events with Iki-Iki Plaza, a facility for the silver generation, are being planned. They can experience various events such as Bon Festival dance classes and tea ceremonies, and entertainment events they can participate in. By exchanging information with Appy Nishi-azabu, this school continues to support childcare in Minato City.

Interviewee: Ms. Nobuko Tagawa, Principal of Nishi-azabu Nursery School
 Address: 2-13-3, Nishi-azabu, Minato City
 Tel.: 03-3409-4924



6. There are various ways of using the childcare rooms by opening/closing and arranging the sliding doors. Together with Ms. Nobuko Tagawa, the Principal, there are also some male childcare workers for the children.
7. In the modern common entrance used with "Iki-Iki Plaza" and "Appy Nishi-azabu," drawings of new and promising Minato City artists are displayed on the walls.
8. In the lunchroom overlooking Gaien Nishi-dori Street, there is a warm atmosphere shutting out the hustle and bustle outside.
9. At first glance, it looks an office building. This nursery school opened in 1971 and relocated to a temporary building at the west side of Aoyama Cemetery. Later, it reopened here again.
10. Children can play freely and easily, even though tall buildings surround them.



麻布びと

"Azabu — A Human Story"

"Azabu, the birthplace of the manufacturing industry in Japan" is to be passed down to future generations.

Mr. Tokuzo Watanabe, who has operated a tool shop for a long time in 2-chome, Minami-azabu (former Azabu Shinbori-cho), took an active part as the second generation of Watanabe Shokai Inc. Now, even more than 10 years after his retirement, he continues to contribute to the district as the Cultural Section Manager of Minami-azabu Shinbori Association, which has 892 households as members (as of April 1, 2014). He is known to comment, rather matter-of-factly, that "Azabu is the birthplace of the Japanese Manufacturing Industry." We interviewed Mr. Watanabe, who has moved through life keeping pace with the development of the industry in Japan.

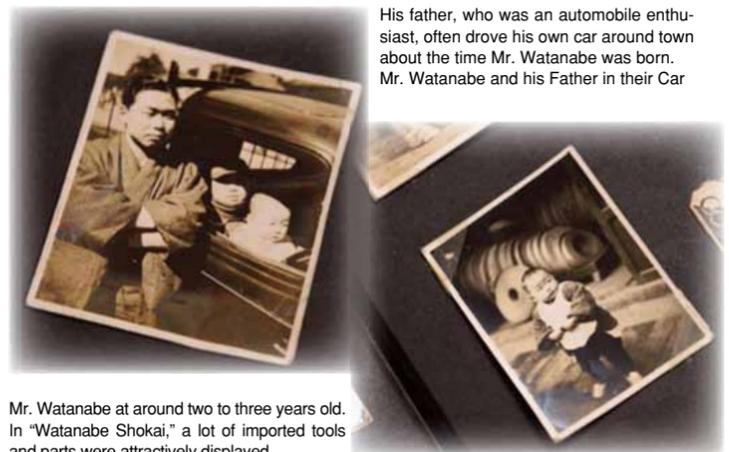
The tool shop was moved into Shinbori-cho before the end of WWII.

Mr. Watanabe was born in 1936. At that time, his father, the late proprietor of the shop, "Watababe Shokai," was already operating a tool shop. He learned that his father's shop was located around the rear side of the Hiroo-jinja Shine. He remembers that there was a "Dog Shop" (what is now called a "Pet shop") in front of his house in his early childhood.

Watanabe Shokai mainly dealt with machine belts to be used in factories (fan belts etc.). As a consequence of WWII, the shop had to move out of Tokyo, so he moved away from Azabu to Fukushima Prefecture and then, from the lower grades of elementary school to high school, to Hanyuu City in Saitama Prefecture. Before the war ended, Watanabe Shokai moved to Azabu Shinbori-cho, the present location of his house. Since then, Watanabe Shokai has continuously operated their business here. The name of "Azabu Shinbori-cho" (new canal town) came from the fact that both the East side and South side of the town expanded along the Furu-kawa River (Shinbori-gawa River). (Source: Minato City Official Web Site)



On the interview day, Mr. Watanabe brought a lot of photos full of memories.



His father, who was an automobile enthusiast, often drove his own car around town about the time Mr. Watanabe was born. Mr. Watanabe and his Father in their Car

Mr. Watanabe at around two to three years old. In "Watanabe Shokai," a lot of imported tools and parts were attractively displayed.

Azabu: A Densely Populated Area of Small Factories

From the age of about 20, Mr. Watanabe worked at the family business. At that time, Japan was enjoying a period of high economic growth. There were always two or three live-in workers in Watanabe Shokai. They say that at that time, there was a high density of small-scale factories in the area presently ranging from 2-chome Minami-azabu to 1-chome and 2-chome, Shirokane. Every type of small factory for craftsmanship such as turneries, valve factories, bolt factories and so on stood there roof to roof.

"Nowadays, if most people are asked where such small-scale engineering factories are clustered in Tokyo, Ota City, would surely come to mind – in particular, the area around Kamata. However, originally it was Azabu. Azabu is the birthplace of the manufacturing industry in Japan." We cannot help but feel the weight and importance of Mr. Watanabe's words, as one who has continuously supported Japan's recovery and the development of the manufacturing industry from here in Azabu district.

For Mr. Watanabe, "Azabu Toka Kai" is the Association of proprietors like him participating the manufacturing industry. This Association was named so because they held meetings on the 10th day (Toka) of every month. It is still very important for him. This Association was formed by people of Mr. Watanabe's father's generation, and is proud of its 68-year history. Even



(Left) Tools manufactured by HAZET in West Germany (at the time), were also handled. (Below) Mr. Watanabe may have retired from work, but his excellent tools will last a lifetime. His tool collection is still there, at his home. This is one of HAZET's tools.

though the number of small-scale factories has greatly decreased in Azabu, they still hold meetings and exchange information.

"Although what is dealt with or manufactured by each company is different, parts for each product are required to complete, for example, every single car. People around us operated businesses helping each other out. We were very close and our businesses were lively."

The Association was established under such conditions, and the system of cooperation is still maintained.

Businesses unique to Azabu

Watanabe Shokai was also a Japanese agent of BOSCH, the German power tool company. Mr. Watanabe (a natural collector) sold a wide assortment of imported tools. Not only Japanese, but also people from overseas visit his shop for its wide range of products. For security reasons, embassies have most of their construction work contracted out to builders from their own country. Such construction workers often visited his shop. "Even though we cannot understand each other because of language, when we see the tools, we can communicate." Such visitors were only seen in Azabu where many embassies are located.

Foreign visitors increased through word of mouth, and our business was going smoothly.

With globalization, the standardization of tools has greatly increased with the times. Also, with the spread of the Internet, he concluded that the role of his shop as an agent had finished. This meant Mr. Watanabe's retirement.

"I thought I could have a relaxed life after my retirement. However, a boom in housing construction occurred around our area and the population increased suddenly, which made us very busy." Everyday, Mr. Watanabe works diligently helping operate the neighborhood association with his hope of newcomers living comfortably together with local people. At present, the Minami-azabu Shinbori Association has 300 members. He is always active in giving chances to newcomers to become familiar with Azabu, by carrying a portable shrine with the town people in festivals, travel organized by the association, as well as meetings and events.



Former Tool Shop Owner

Mr. Tokuzo Watanabe (78)



The BOSCH illustrated calendar of genuine tools is also valuable memorabilia for him.



Mr. Watanabe managed "Watanabe Shokai" located along Meiji-dori Avenue until 1989.

(Interviewed and written by Chiaki Tezuka and Yukiko Takayanagi)

ワタンも 麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

We would like to introduce your dear "family" in this section.



My name is Bianca, and I came from Fukushima after escaping a natural disaster.

You can enjoy splendid cherry blossoms from my house in Nishi-azabu. I love cherry blossoms.

● The whole story before I came to Nishi-azabu

In the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11 2011, more than 18,400 people died or were lost. More than 400,000 houses were totally or partially destroyed. My owner's house in Fukushima also suffered damage. No pets were allowed in the temporary refuge shelter, so I had to live together with many other cats in a large cage.

Volunteers came to Fukushima from all over Japan to take care of such homeless pets. My current owner was one of those who participated in the activities and cleaned the pet cages and fed them. A friend of my new owner voluntarily came to Fukushima many times after that and took charge of some cats, myself included, at her house in

Tokyo. She took care of stray cats around her house, so as many as seven cats were living together at one time in her house. She called her friends and colleagues to ask them if they could take care of any of her cats.

Seeing me in a photo, my current owner accepted me and I moved to her house in Nishi-azabu. It was on March 11, 2012, one year after the Great Earthquake. My name, "Bianca" was given to me by my former owner in Fukushima. I grew up as a house cat, so my condition deteriorated somewhat during my time living in two different evacuation shelters. I received a health check in an animal hospital in Tokyo and they provided medication and skin-care. Of course, they gave me a bath!

● More Roommates

After I had spent one relaxing year in Nishi-azabu, a stray cat had kittens in my owner's garden. My gentle owner accepted them as her other house cats. They are twins, Tiki and Lola. For

three months before their vaccinations, we were living separately in the same house. I would have been 4 to 5 years old. So, these twins are like my children. Too young to be considered rivals, instead I felt like their mother. I groom them a lot and they love me. I got used to the Portuguese language my owner speaks. My owner hugs me every day, calling me "My Princess." I'm very comfortable and happy. I no longer live with my old owner in Fukushima, but I would like to tell her that I am living in Tokyo happily.



"Bianca" means "White" in Italian. I am living happily in a house with a family of four.



In 2013, when I met Tiki and Lola for the first time, they were so affectionate, I (Bianca) felt like their mother.



A recent photo of us. We are a true family. On the left is a boy, Tiki. On the right is Lola and in the center is me, Bianca.

Please introduce the animals which are popular in your town

Please enclose a picture along with your story to the address below. It can be a story written by the owner as well. If we should get many applications, we may have to hold an editor's meeting to decide which story to introduce. Please note that we will not be able to reply to any inquiries about whether your story was chosen or not. If we decide to cover your story, we will be in touch with you regarding the scheduling of the interview. We look forward to receiving your application. Thank you.

"Call me Azabu-kko" Application Desk, Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8515

We're waiting to hear from you



(Interviewed by Yukiko Takayanagi)

Grasping the condition of the dough



L'Atelier du pain
Chef
Mr. Takeshi Mitsuhashi

Chef Mitsuhashi has 14 years experience as an expert bread maker and works as the Head Chef with 5 staff members.
latelier-du-pain.com/

There are many types of work in the world
Bread Maker

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

KIDS!!! Hello Work

The theme this time is bread maker. Two second-grade students from Minato City Municipal Roppongi Junior High School interviewed Mr. Mitsuhashi, chef of "L'Atelier du pain" in Roppongi.

◎How long does it take to make bread?

From the mixing of wheat flour to completion of bread baking, it can take up to 24 hours. However, at other times it only takes a little over ten hours, depending on the type of bread.

◎What time do you come to the shop?

The shop opens at 7:30am, but I arrive before 4:30am. I arrive before the first train in the morning, as I come to the shop from my house in Shinagawa City by bicycle.

◎What is the specialty of the bread in this shop?

After adding yeast, the dough is fermented for a long time at a low temperature. It is then baked in the oven. Usually, the dough is fermented at a temperature of 40°C, because when it is raised carefully at a low temperature, the amount of yeast can be reduced. This method makes the bread sweet and delicious: an improved flavor. The dough is prepared the day before and in the early morning bread baking starts.

◎How do you create new products?

Each generation has particular preference for bread, I keep in mind that bread types everyone can enjoy should be chosen. Not only my own ideas, but also those of young staff



In the bakery shop with the fresh aroma of bread, I unconsciously crack a smile. "I will have toast tomorrow morning."

members are welcomed. When try out new breads and agree they are delicious, we decide to include them in the menu. When I just became a bread maker, I sometimes failed because the bread I envisioned did not. Now I can imagine what the bread can become before starting.

◎Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to be a bread maker?

My grand master, whom I respect deeply, is a really wonderful person, both as a bread-making expert and as a person. I'm still inexperienced and far from the level of my grand master, and sometimes I feel the job is challenging because it starts early in the morning. However, I set and achieve goals one after another, and someday I hope to become a bread maker like my grand master, who can advise other staff members.



The reason why Mr. Mitsuhashi selected this job is that he realized the creative possibilities of bread making when he was part time worker in a bakery.



He measured a large amount of dough and divided it into an amount for two red bean buns. Then, he divided it into half again for a rough estimate. Amazingly, when they are measured their weights are the same.



Lightly sweetened bean paste balls are covered with bread dough mixed with glutinous rice flour for dumplings, to make buns called "Roppongi An-Pan"



The stone oven temperature setting range is wide: from 160°C to 300°C, depending on the bread type. The baking progress check is an important part of a chef's job.

(Interviewed and written by Rikako Hiramoto and Chinami Fujiwara, interview supported by Kyoko Ideishi)



Republic of Ghana
 Area: 238,537 Km² (Approx. 2/3 the area of Japan)
 Population: Approx. 25,500,000 people
 (as of 2012: United Nations Population Fund: UNFPA)
 Capital City: Accra
 Head of State: President John
 Dramani MAHAMA
 (Inaugurated in January 2013 for a four-year term)
 Legislature: National Assembly (275 seats, four-year term)

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

His Excellency Ambassador Parker-Allotey,
 Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to Japan

Article Collaboration: Embassy of the Republic of Ghana

Visiting Embassies 30
From the "World" of Azabu



Ghana

Ghana: A Country that has taken the torch for Dr. Hideyo Noguchi's Yellow Fever Research and contributes to the Medical Care of Infectious Diseases

"Ghana is a country of abundant nature and resources. We would particularly like to establish a relationship between students," said His Excellency Ambassador Parker-Allotey, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to Japan, in his colorful national costume, who arrived at his post at the end of last year. Ghana is famous for chocolate and football team. This time, we visited the Embassy of Ghana in Nishi-azabu and heard about Ghana's history and its deep relationship with Japan.

History and Profile of Ghana

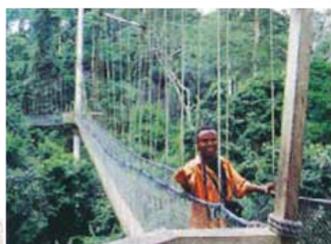
"The name "Ghana" originally came from a kingdom called "Ghana" that was located in the area from present Guinea and Mali (to the north of present Ghana). The kingdom prospered with gold and salt trading between the 4th to 13th centuries. Also, "Ghana" means "Wealth" in Arabic. This kingdom gained ascendancy and flourished on the Trans-Saharan Trade route." The Ambassador introduced his country Ghana, starting from the origin of the name. In the whole of West Africa, where current Ghana is located, various kingdoms came into and out of existence and reigned over the area. In this region, the gold trade with European countries, started in the 15th century, and the slave trade gathered momentum in the 17th century. Accordingly, castles and forts were constructed along the coast of current Ghana for accommodation and storage as the slave trade grew. Such facilities were also used as way stations for slaves. One of these facilities, the "Cape Coast



Bust of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi
 This is kept in the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in the University of Ghana in the capital, Accra.
<http://ghanachocolate.web.fc2.com/page10.htm>



Cape Coast Castle is registered as a World Heritage site, and was built by the Dutch as a trading base in the 16th century. It was owned by Great Britain in the 17th century and was used as a way station for slaves before being shipped to the US. After that, this building was used as a British Colonial Government building until the 19th century. It is currently a public museum.



National Parks
 Upper: The Kakum National Park is famous for its suspension bridge called "Canopy Walk."



Left: The Mole National Park is a nature preserve with broad savanna and forests.
 In these national parks, in addition to African bush elephants, there are a wide variety of animals and birds.

Castle," preserves this history for posterity and is registered as a World Heritage site. It receives many visitors from all over the world. In the 19th century when the slave trade was abolished, Ghana became a British colony.

After that, he explained about the independence of Ghana. "Ghana became independent from Great Britain. We were the first country independent from Great Britain in the African countries south of the Sahara. Then, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established with an appeal by our first president, Kwame Nkrumah, which supported the independence of neighboring countries." He gradually warmed up to this subject of history. "It was not enough that only Ghana became independent. Ghana hoped for the independence of all the countries of Africa, and was a founding member of OAU and also as a strong leader among African countries."

The Ambassador enthusiastically told us about the history of that time. We could easily understand his pride and respect for his ancestors from Ghana, which supported the independence of all African countries as the first independent country south of the Sahara. This spirit can be seen in their national flag. "Red represents our blood that flowed through the period of liberation of Africa, gold represents mineral wealth of Ghana, green symbolizes our abundant nature and agriculture, and the black star is a brilliant symbol of leadership in Africa," he explained. He added that progress after independence has not always been smooth because of repeated coup d'états.

To Control Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases

Ghana is the country where Dr. Hideyo Noguchi set off on a final life mission to research yellow fever, and ultimately passed away there. Still now, the name of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi is well known in Ghana. The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research was established in honor of his achievements, and continues to be a medical care facility for dealing with infectious diseases. This Institute supports the interaction of medical scientists all over the world, and as the surveillance center for tropical infectious diseases such as Lassa fever and dengue fever, besides yellow fever. When Ebola hemorrhagic fever broke out last year, this Institute served as the center for support activities from overseas. The work of the medical research institute supported medical research by representatives from West Africa, and analyzed the blood samples that contributed to reducing the spread of disease in the sub region. "No cases of Ebola have been identified yet in Ghana. There seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about it, and the number of tourists to Ghana has significantly decreased." He told us with some chagrin. It is a serious blow for Ghana, because it has a lot of sightseeing spots, popular with Japanese tourists, including beautiful beaches, and the Mole National Park with its savanna and forests. We wish Ebola hemorrhagic fever to vanish as soon as possible, and to clear up such misunderstandings.

The Unexpected Relationship with Azabu District

When we asked him about the relationship between Ghana and Japan. He answered, "Our friendship has continued for about 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic

Ghana's Special Products
 "Kente," Ghana's famous fabrics, are completely hand-made and have the remarkable features of vivid colors and complex designs. Ghana is also promoting spirits (strawberry and cocoa liqueur products), chocolates and accessories.



Woodworks



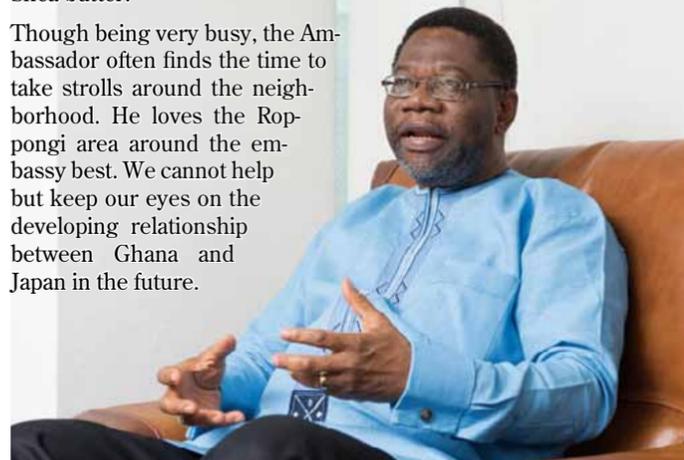
Shea butter products.
 Shea butter is made from the oil taken from Shea tree fruit that grows wild in the north area of Ghana, and is processed into body cream or soap. The cream is used regularly as a natural skin moisturizer.

relations. Not only our political and economic relationship, but also the relationships between younger people such as students which is important. We promote the exchange of senior high school students in the Azabu district and Ghana." He explained about the activities that take advantage of the fact that Ghana's Embassy is located in Nishi-azabu. Also, they accept visiting students from Minato City municipal elementary and high schools at any time. Last year, the students of four elementary schools visited Ghana's Embassy in December.

The Ambassador's Future Plans

As for the ambassador's future efforts he said, "At first, I need to arrange everything for our President's visit to Japan this year." He explained to us that this is the first time for the current President of Ghana to formally visit Japan on state visit. In addition to preparation and arrangement for the formal visit of their president, Ghana's Embassy is promoting their principal products such as cacao beans, timber, craft products, jewelry, seafood, cashew nuts, alcoholic beverages and Shea butter.

Though being very busy, the Ambassador often finds the time to take strolls around the neighborhood. He loves the Roppongi area around the embassy best. We cannot help but keep our eyes on the developing relationship between Ghana and Japan in the future.



The Azabu Future Photo Studio

- Over the Meiji, Taisho and Showa eras - Torii-zaka Slope (1)

Area worthy of special mention in modern Japan

Around the Torii-zaka Slope area where the Minato City Azabu Regional City Office and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin are currently located,



there were mansions and facilities of people associated with the history and culture of Japan from the Edo to Meiji, Taisho and Showa eras. This area is a very remarkable spot in modern Japan. The historical photos of such buildings and facilities on this page look back at the times.

Origin of the Name

The reason why this slope is called Torii-zaka Slope is that Torii Hikoemon Mototada was awarded a mansion from the Shogun on the east side (right side in the photo) of the slope at the beginning of Keicho era (1596–1615).

Also, there is another report that the Second Torii (Shinto Shrine Gate) (or Third Torii) of the Hikawa-jinja Shrine was located there.

Originally, there was no slope.

In the Enpo era (1673–1681), this street came to an end, and there was no Torii-zaka Slope (Refer to the lower left figure “Map from Enpo era”). After that, in the “Map of Edo” in the 12th year of the Genroku era (in 1699), Torii-zaka Street appears (Refer to “Map of Edo in the 12th year of the Genroku era (1699)”). It looks like the current Torii-zaka Slope was created using a part of the Torii family site in the Genroku era.



Map from Enpo era (1673–1681)



Map of Edo in the 12th year of the Genroku era (1699)



Looking up the Torii-zaka Slope from Toriizaka-shita crossing (in 2010)
The angle of the slope is more than meets the eye.

Main Buildings in and around the Torii-Zaka Slope

Toyo Eiwa Jogakko

Miss Martha Cartmell, a missionary sent from the Women’s Missionary Society Methodist Church of Canada (presently United Church of Canada), came to Japan in the 15th year of the Meiji era (1882).

In 1883, Mr. Cochrane and Mr. MacDonald arrived from the Methodist Church of Canada Missionary Society. Their mission was to establish a boy’s school (presently Azabu High School) in Azabu, Tokyo. There was a vacant lot (in 14, Higashi-toriizaka-cho), and a former beer brewery in the lower section of the planned construction site of the high school (13, Higashi-Toriizaka-cho).

In 1884, Miss Cartmell established Toyo Eiwa Jogakko in 14, Higashi-toriizaka-cho, with the cooperation of Mr. MacDonald.



Positional relation between old Toyo Eiwa Jogakko and current site



Picture provided by Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin
This picture shows the area around 14, Higashi-toriizaka-cho in 1885. Toyo Eiwa Boy’s School is seen there on the hill.



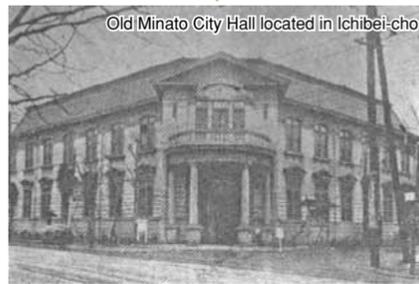
The area at present around Toriizaka-shita (2010)

From Elementary School to City Hall

Azabu Elementary School was located on the site where the Minato City Azabu Regional City Office is currently located.



Picture provided by Minato City Municipal Azabu Elementary School
Azabu Elementary School in 1903



Source: “Minato Kugikai-shi Tsushi-hen” (Minato City overview of assembly history volume)
From the end of the Meiji era to the beginning of the Showa era: Azabu City Hall
Azabu City Hall completed in Ichibei-cho in 1909



Minato City Hall around 1935
Source: “Minato Kugikai-shi Tsushi-hen”

1903: Azabu Elementary School

↓
1933: Azabu Ordinary Elementary School

1935: Azabu City Office moved from Ichibei-cho 2-chome (presently Roppongi 3-chome) to this location.

1947: Minato City Azabu Branch Office (Renamed Azabu Regional City Office from 2006).



Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University in Musashino City (2010)
The building moved to this site in 1937, and survived the war. It is still used as a school building.



Azabu Regional City Office Building (2010)

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.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu region that you feel should be preserved and passed on with a view to the future, please contact the Azabu Regional City Office. For details, please contact the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.
Tel: 03-5114-8812



Hanako Muraoka
(Maiden Name: Hana Annaka)
(June 21, 1893–October 25, 1968)

Azabu-Toriizaka, the Home of Hanako Muraoka, Translator of *Anne of Green Gables*: Part 2

Hanako Muraoka (1893 - 1968) was the first translator of "Anne of Green Gables" into Japanese. Hanako (Hana Annaka) was a student at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko girl's school (now Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin) in Azabu-Toriizaka between 1903 and 1913. The story of the 10 years she spent in Azabu, how she met her close friend Akiko Yanagiwara (Byakuren), and her curious encounter with Kimi Sano, the model for the children's song "Red Shoes," are traced. In part 2, the relationship with Byakuren is focused on.

As mentioned in Part 1, Hanako Muraoka enrolled at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko at the age of 10. She lived in the school as a boarder for 10 years until her graduation from the Collegiate Department at the age of 20. The daughter of a poor tea-leaf dealer in Shinagawa, Hanako was able to enroll at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, a school attended by the daughters of "good families" amongst the aristocracy, due to the efforts of her father, who had a connection with the school's founder through their shared religious faith. However, she was classified as a "stipend student" - in other words, a scholarship student.

About the Yanagiwara Family, Akiko Yanagiwara's parent's house

When five years had passed since Hanako started studying at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko (now Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin) in Azabu-Toriizaka, a beautiful transfer student suddenly appeared in Hanako's midst, then fifteen years old. She was Akiko Yanagiwara (Byakuren) (hereafter called "Akiko"), eight years older than Hanako. It seems that Hanako developed something like a teenage crush on Akiko, akin to a boyfriend. According to writings from that time, Akiko is described as a woman of radiant beauty, and referred to as one of the three most beautiful women of the Taisho period.

Akiko's maternal grandfather was Masaoki Shinmi (1822 - 1869) (hereafter referred to as "Shinmi") who was sent to Washington as the formal chief delegate for the exchange of instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Amity Commerce in 1860 at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

It was the Edo Shogunate on the Japan side, which proposed the exchange of ratification instruments in Washington, in the US. This is because, after a long period of national isolation, Japan did not know much about foreign affairs, and wanted to obtain as much information about the US as possible. Therefore, this delegation was destined to have an important role. Tairo (Chief Minister) Naosuke Ii was in a position to select the suitable people. Under ordinary circumstances, Tadanari Iwase and Kiyonao Inoue, the two excellent foreign magistrates who navigated the negotiation with Townsend Harris for this treaty, were the right people. However, the Nanki group (Nanki-ha) was fighting with the Hitotsubashi group (Hitotsubashi-ha) for the succession race of the 13th Shogun of the age, Iesada Tokugawa. These two foreign magistrates were dismissed immediately following the completion of the negotiation, as they were members of the Hitotsubashi group. After that, two foreign magistrates, Nagai Genba-no-Kami (Director of Genba) and Mizuno Chikugo-no-Kami (Director of Chikugo) were appointed to go as envoys. However, they were then also dismissed for similar reasons. These four individuals continued to be highly regarded even after the Meiji Restoration.

It seems that Tairo Ii's selection criteria for the formal chief delegate was their physical appearance. Surprisingly, Shinmi, who had been a pageboy for Shogun and had no diplomatic experience, was tapped for the mission. His family's social standing consisted of holding a fief yielding 2000-koku of rice, so there was no barrier to becoming a foreign magistrate. However, he might have been embarrassed to suddenly be appointed a formal chief delegate.

In Japan, the selection of delegates sent to foreign countries was based on their appearance. It was felt that their looks had to be up to certain standards to prove themselves as equals among the foreign people visited. This had been true from ancient times, since the time of Ono-no-Imoko, a Japanese envoy to the Chinese Sui Dynasty. Tairo Ii was perhaps following a precedent. He then appointed Oguri Kozuke-no-suke who was described as a person of superior ability, as an inspector for the delegate, and therefore appropriate to take an important role.

"Shinmi was so handsome that women in the ladies' chamber in the palace often told him so, even when he was a pageboy. His manners were very refined, and he always conducted himself with great dignity". (From "Oguri Kozuke-no-suke - Forgotten Tragic Shogunate Retainer" written by Taiken Murakami, one of the Shinsho series published by Heibon-sho)

Also, according to a note written by Captain James Johnston who escorted Shinmi to the US aboard his ship the "USS Powhatan," "He does not look particularly sharp, but I can sense that he has a gentle and kind heart from his appearance. He is from a noble family, so as expected his appearance and behavior are graceful and refined."

Shinmi was formally selected as Chief of the Japanese Embassy to the United States in 1860, and with his noble appearance and good looks he succeeded in his mission. He came home 10 months later. After that, he served as one of the Osoba-shu (close advisors) of the Shogun. In 1866, he transferred the leadership of the family to his nephew and died of an illness in 1869 just after the Meiji Restoration.

The Shogunate came to an end and the Shinmi family lost their lord. Shinmi's wife was also prone to illness and with no lord the family became destitute. The two daughters, Oetsu and Oryo, descended into the world of the red-light district and became geisha girls to economically support their mother. Both girls had a fair complexion and were very beautiful. Before long, they became some of the most popular and top-ranked geisha girls in Yanagibashi. In the era of the Meiji Restoration, it is said that there were many women from samurai family who were reduced to becoming geisha girls.

At this point, Count Sakimitsu Yanagiwara (hereinafter abbreviated to "Yanagiwara") at last appears in this story. Yanagiwara was a member of the government after the Meiji Restoration, and as a court noble, played an important role together with Tomomi Iwakura. He appeared on the scene during the Satsuma Rebellion and the negotiation for the Sino-Japanese Amity Treaty at the beginning of the Meiji Period. He served as the



Nagasaka Kojoin in 1908; Hanako continued her volunteer work in Nagasaka Kojoin for 10 years until she graduated from Toyo Eiwa Jogakko. Kimi, who died at the age of nine, is believed to be in the above photo.



Lord President of the Council as his last post. Yanagiwara's sister "Aiko" was a concubine of the Meiji Emperor and gave birth to a boy who later became the Taisho Emperor. Yanagiwara himself was also a noble person who was famously known as a stylish playboy. (From "Madam Byakuren in Love" written by Fudei Yase and published in 1921 from Jiji Shuppansha). He was seen frequently around the Yanagibashi area almost every night, in aristocratic style. In Yanagibashi, Yanagiwara was captivated at first glance by a geisha girl named Oryo, who was Shinmi's daughter. He became her regular customer, and even fought a fellow called Hirobumi Itoh over her. Following the advice of her sister, Oetsu, who did not like the Satsuma and Choshu people (those from present-day Kagoshima and Yamaguchi Prefectures), Oryo decided to be Yanagiwara's mistress. Akiko is the daughter they had. Therefore, she was a cousin of the Taisho Emperor.

In the Meiji Period, Count Yanagiwara's family had a large mansion in Azabu Sakurada-cho (now Moto-azabu 3-chome), behind the current Azabu Fire Station. Akiko was temporarily raised in the Yanagiwara mansion in Azabu, but according to the customs of noble families at that time, she was fostered out to the family of Kuni Masuyama, her wet nurse, who lived in Shinagawa. When she was seven years old, she returned to the Yanagiwara house and attended what is now Nanzan Elementary School. Later, she changed to another school after being put up for adoption to Viscount Kitakoji's family when she was eight years old. After that, she entered a girl's high school for the next stage of her education. Then, when she was sixteen years old, she was forced into a marriage for political reasons with the Kitakoji family, one of their relatives. Even though she had had a son, she could not put up with her difficult circumstances any more. She was returned to the Yanagiwara house when she was twenty years old. She was an ill-starred girl, and was treated, in a sense, like a nuisance in the Yanagiwara family. It was a desperate but necessary measure taken under pressure for the Yanagiwara family when they transferred Akiko into the Toyo Eiwa Jogakko girl's school when she was twenty-three years old.

The Story up to Hanako and Akiko becoming "bosom" friends

Akiko was a daughter of a Count who later became famous as the poet "Byakuren," and as a woman of great beauty. Akiko's age and background were totally different from those of Hanako, who came from an ordinary family. However, somehow they got along well with each other. They called each other "Aki-sama" and "Hana-chan" and each promised to the other a lifelong friendship. For Hanako, who had almost no chance to communicate with any person of the opposite sex, Akiko was almost like a first love (From "Ann's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka" written by Eri Muroka; published by Shinchosha Publishing Co., Ltd.).

Unexpectedly, an unfortunate incident broke up their friendship. In 1911 before they graduated from their academic courses, news appeared in the newspaper that Akiko was going to marry a second time to Denemon Ito, king of the coal miners, in Kyushu. Hanako knew that Akiko had already experienced a miserable and unhappy married life. To first hear about the marriage from the newspaper, and not directly from her friend, was a severe blow. That, combined with the knowledge that again Akiko was going to have a loveless marriage, drove Hanako into despair. Hanako declared the end of their relationship, saying "It is sinful to give your body without giving your heart," as she walked away. (From "Ann's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka" written by Eri Muroka; published by Shinchosha Publishing Co., Ltd.).

It wasn't until after Hanako had graduated from Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, and left for a new position as an English teacher at Yamanashi Eiwa Jogakko, that Hanako finally understood Akiko's hidden feelings of distress, and the friendship between them recovered.

Miraculous Encounter with Kimi Sano, the Model for the Children's Song "Red Shoes"

At the end of the Meiji Period, there was an orphanage for girls called "Nagasaka Kojoin," in the place currently

Azabujuban 1-chome, where the Juban Inarijinja Shrine is located. It was a two-story building. On the first floor, a Sunday school was held by Azabu Church (the present Toriizaka Church).

Regarding "Nagasaka Kojoin," we found a description in "Ann's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka" written by Eri Muroka, as follows.

"On a (Sunday) morning, before attending the Sunday service in Azabu Church, some scholarship students including Hanako went to the Sunday School in "Nagasaka Kojoin" operated by Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, to serve as teachers, which was an obligation of scholarship students. Azabujuban is the area down the Torii-zaka Slope and very close to their school. However, at the foot of the slope, there was a bustling amusement district with rows of many popular shops. This was a totally different atmosphere than at the top of the hill [...] A girl wearing red shoes" in the popular children's song "Red Shoes" (by Ujo Noguchi) in the late Taisho era, was modeled after Kimi Sano, who was in the "Nagasaka Kojoin," at the same time when Hanako was serving as a Sunday School teacher in this orphanage".

It is amazing that Hanako, who wrote many works and translated books for children, encountered this girl, the model for the children's song in that small school in Azabu at the end of the Meiji era. As this children's song was published at the end of the Taisho era, even if Hanako remembered anything, it would be only that there was a girl named Kimi who died young. Actually, truth can be stranger than fiction.

Kimi Sano, the model for the children's song "Red Shoes"

Kimi Sano (1902 - 1911) was a daughter of a single mother, Kayo Iwasaki, who came from Shizuoka ("Sano" is her family name as it appeared in the family register). Kayo moved to Hokkaido and married Shiro Suzuki. They settled in a farm for settlers in Hokkaido. However, because the life and work were very hard, they left Kimi's upbringing in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, American missionaries. Some years later, Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt had to return to the US. At that time, because Kimi was suffering with tuberculosis, they could not take her to the US. Kimi was left in "Nagasaka Kojoin" in Azabu, Tokyo, and died at the age of nine. Her mother believed that Kimi had moved to the US together with

Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt and was never informed that she had died in an orphanage in Tokyo.

The poet Ujo Noguchi formed a deep friendship with Shiro Suzuki and his wife, Kayo, while working for a newspaper company in Sapporo City. He wrote a poem about Kimi. Nagayo Motoori set Ujo Noguchi's poem to music, and the children's song "Red Shoes" was born in 1922.

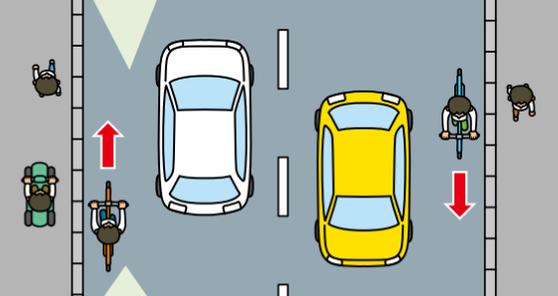


Five Rules for Safe Bicycle Operation

1 Ride bicycles on the road, not on the sidewalk. Riding on the sidewalk is to be done only in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional Circumstances:

- Riding a bicycle on sidewalks is allowed when indicated by traffic signs, etc.
- When the driver is 13 years old or less, 70 years old and over, or a disabled.
- When riding on the road is difficult because of roadwork or lines of parked cars.



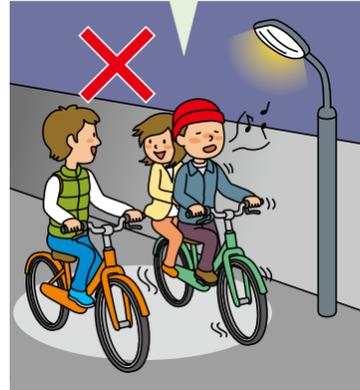
2 Use the left lane of the road.



3 Sidewalks are pedestrian priority zones. If a driver has to ride on a sidewalk, ride slowly and as close to the road as possible.

4 Follow the safety rules.

- Tandem riding and riding side by side are not allowed.
- Drinking alcohol and riding is prohibited.
- Turn on your headlight at night.
- Stop and confirm safety at all crossroads.



5 Children should wear a helmet.

When tandem riding with an infant is to be performed, or a child is to ride a bicycle, make them wear a helmet.

We are recruiting foreign volunteers to participate in Azabu area activities.

Why don't you participate in volunteer activities in the Azabu area, and learn more about the town of Azabu? An English interpreter is available during such activities. If you are interested in getting involved in community activities and sharing local information with others in the community, please join in our activities.

Eligibility

Foreign nationals 20 years of age or over who are interested in volunteer work

Activity

Keeping the environment clean and patrolling the neighborhood for about one hour during the night. Volunteers are recruited for each occasion. One-time-only participation is acceptable.

Schedule

Please see the Minato City website.

Area

In the vicinity of Roppongi Crossing

Application

Please call or fax your name and phone number to the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office by 3:00pm by the day before the event.
Tel: 03-5114-8812 Fax: 03-3583-3782

These activities are unpaid volunteer work. Your understanding is most appreciated.

The activity will be cancelled on rainy days. In such cases, we will contact you the day before the event.



Corrections for the "Minato City Guide 2014 for Living"

There were some errors in the articles of "Minato City Guide 2014 for Living" issued in November 2014. We apologize and will correct them.

We are very sorry for any inconvenience they caused.

Article pages to be corrected:

- (1) Child-rearing Calendar (P56 and P57)
- (2) Dispatch of sign-language interpreter and a summary note (P119)

Corrected Items

	Corrected Section
Childcare calendar, Consultation and class	Book Start (until 1 year old birthday)
(1) Immunization	BCG (Less than 1 year old)
	4 kinds are mixed.
	Pneumococcus vaccines for infants (2 months old - less than 5 years old)
	Measles Rubella (1st period)
	Public Health and Disease Prevention Subsection, Public Health and Disease Prevention Section
(2) Application and Inquiries	Tokyo Sign-language Interpreters, etc., Dispatch Center 5 th Floor, 3 rd Hikari Bldg., 2-15-27, Shinjuku

For more information refer to the Minato City Official web site.
<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp>

Inquiries: Public Relations Section, Office of the Mayor of Minato City Tel: 03-3578-2036



Come and join us! Our "Azabu Junior Fire Department" is recruiting new members

Members of the Azabu Junior Fire Department Members range in age from first graders in elementary school to the junior high school third graders, and enjoy vigorous training and fun activities. With the basic notion of mutual cooperation and teamwork, activities include rope-working, fire-fighting, first-aid and rescue training. Activities are conducted once a month on Sunday at the Azabu Fire Station. In addition, the department plans to have a tour of the Tokyo Fire Department New Year's fire brigade parades and the Summer Disaster Prevention Camp for two days and one night. Why don't you join our activities, and wear a cool uniform? (The following photo shows the rope works training).

Inquiries:
Hasegawa, Responsible for AZABU JUNIOR FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS administrative affairs, Azabu Fire Station
Tel: 03-3470-0119 ext. 322



Information from Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

The Bureau of Waterworks is promoting the Tokyo Tap Water Project.

Potable and delicious Tokyo water has the following benefits.

★ Eco-friendly and budget-friendly

Tap water: Turn on the tap and water will be delivered to you immediately. The production and transportation of tap water is well managed, energy efficient and eco-friendly. (Approx. 0.2 yen/liter)

★ Essential-to-daily-life

Clean running water for washing your hands, gargling, cooking and bathing - Tokyo Water is always close by providing support for hygienic living.

*A promotional video can be viewed on your smartphone.

Inquiries:
Minato Sales Office, Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
1-3-27, Mita, Minato City, Tokyo. Tel: 03-5444-2091



Information from the Metropolitan Tax Office

New Information: Payment by Credit Card is acceptable for Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax!

The number of tax items that can be paid by credit card has increased since 2015. Fixed asset tax and city planning tax can also be paid by credit card. Access the dedicated web site ("Metropolitan Tax Payment by Credit Card" web site) using your PC or mobile phone to pay these taxes. This web site is very convenient for you because you can access this site to pay tax at home or outside without worrying about your time.

For more information, access the "Payment by Credit Card" web site (<https://zei.tokyo>)

Notification about the Relief Measure for Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax in FY2015

1. Reduction measure lowering the upper limit charge level of Fixed Asset Tax/City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc.
2. Tax Exemption for Fixed Asset Tax/City Planning Tax for small non-residential land
3. Relief Measure for City Planning Tax for small residential land

The above measures are also applied continuously in FY2015. For more information, refer to our web site or contact the office as follows.

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City Fixed Asset Section, Minato City Metropolitan Tax Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

Information from Azabu Regional City Office



The Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (FY2015 – FY2020) has been laid out.

An International Resident-oriented Cultural City: Safe, Livable and Peaceful (Aiming at “AZABU” connecting regions and further to the world)

Recently, the five Regional City Offices including the Azabu Regional City Office decided on a “District Basic Plan” (hereinafter called the “District Plan”) to be carried out over 6 years up to 2020.

While laying out this plan, we made efforts to reflect the opinions and suggestions received from the participating citizens organization “Azabu-o-Katarukai (The Association to Discuss Azabu Matters) - Azabu District Basic Plan Decision Sectional Meeting” (hereinafter called “Citizens’ Organization”). Also, the citizens were informed of this plan (draft) through the Citizens’ Organizations, Residents’ Briefing and Minato City web site, and other means, and their opinions and suggestions were obtained in the period from October to December in 2014.

The responses from Minato City to the opinions and suggestions for the plan (draft) were included on the Minato City web site. The plan can be read or purchased from the Regional City Offices after April.

Azabu Regional City Office will faithfully carry out this plan based on a firm relationship with citizens and the people in the district. A relationship built through participation and cooperation with them.

What is the Azabu District Plan?

The Azabu District Plan has a first half term of three-years. Activities are to be undertaken independently by the Azabu District and are formulated with a focus on local projects. It incorporates measures for resolving local issues and further enhancing the appeal of the Azabu District while optimizing the district’s characteristics.



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

Local Projects

These projects are to be formulated during a three-year plan based on the issues and characteristics of the district, with the objectives clarified.

Azabu District Local Projects

Items marked with a star (★) are new local projects.

Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project
Disaster Prevention Network Building Project
★ Minna de Eco Project
Azabu Future Photo Studio
Azabu International Fureai Project
Azabu Festa
★ Project to Invigorate Azabu through “Local Power”
★ Exchange Project with other regions
Local Salons (Cafes for just dropping by)
Toy Library
Azabu Expert Club

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

Certified and Recommended Business Offices supporting the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” in FY2015, have been chosen.



六本木
安全安心
憲章
賑わい綺麗なまち
六本木を目指して

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

As part of efforts to spread the charter to shops and businesses (hereinafter called “Businesses, etc.,” Minato City has established the Minato City Certification System for Recommended Businesses Supporting the Minato City “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind”. In this system, shops and businesses that agree with the Charter are being recruited. Of those, the “Businesses etc.,” that approach local projects positively and independently are certified as Recommended Businesses, etc. Minato City supports the projects of each business and their activities are widely reported. In 2015, it was decided that out of 317 businesses, etc. (as of recruiting time), which agreed to the charter, 14 businesses, etc., would be certified (refer to the table). A Certification Sticker (as shown in the following figure) will be sent to each of the chosen Recommended Businesses, etc., and a certificate of commendation will be issued in a certification ceremony.



Certification Sticker

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

FY2015 Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drill will be conducted (in Azabu Venue). – Everyone is welcome to join! –

Date: 9:30am – 11:00am on October 18 (Sun), 2015 (planned)

Location: Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Ground and Gymnasium

Aimed to enhance “Self-Help” Attitudes!

In time of disaster, in addition to general cooperation in the district, individual preparation is required.

In our country, Japan, we have a lot of natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons compared to other countries. We have often had large-scale disasters. The larger the scale of the disaster, the lower the public support function becomes. In such situations, it is very important that every resident acquires the necessary knowledge about disaster prevention and is ready to take appropriate action.

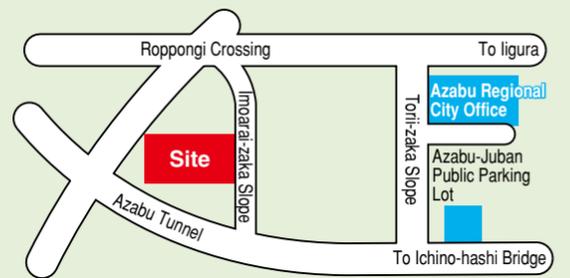
This time for the disaster preparedness drill, we will assume that an M-7 class Tokyo Inland Earthquake has directly hit the Tokyo area. There is a 70% probability of this occurring in the next 30 years, with large-scale damage



to buildings and significant loss of life. Therefore, a variety of training courses are to be conducted. If you participate in these courses, you will have a good opportunity to improve your disaster prevention attitude and plan what you need to do in time of disaster. We strongly recommend that you participate in this Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drill (Azabu Venue) to prepare yourself and your family for a large-scale disaster.

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

**Azabu Site: Roppongi Junior High School
6-8-16, Roppongi**



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 are not limited), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following address:
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 web site.



AZABU

●Locations of the Newsletter: Roppong 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo and Azabu Juban subway stations, Minato City Community Bus (Chii Bus), Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-Azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-Azabu, Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.
●The usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

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Editor’s Note

When I came back to my house in Azabu after traveling out of Tokyo for a while, I felt greatly relieved, even more than usual. According to one of my friends, “it must be due to my age.” But, I felt that this was not entirely correct. In my town, foreign languages are heard here and there as usual. There is a quiet residential area, and at the same time, there is a busy shopping street full of local atmosphere. Shining skyscrapers reflect the sunlight. If you look carefully, historical slopes, shrines and temples can be seen. Even at first glance, doesn’t it look stimulating? More than anything else, in fact, doesn’t Azabu embody a great abundance of various cultures and harmony? I came to realize that the reason for my pleasant relief is not only “it must be due to my age”.

(Ryozo Yamashita)

The original article is written in Japanese.

“Minato Call” information service.

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

※ English speakers are also available.

Minato Call :

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

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