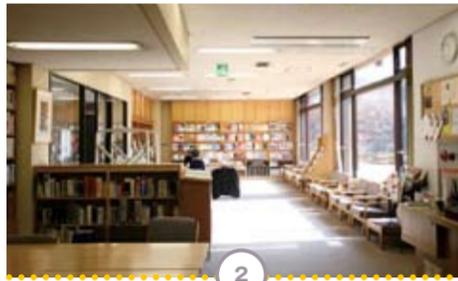


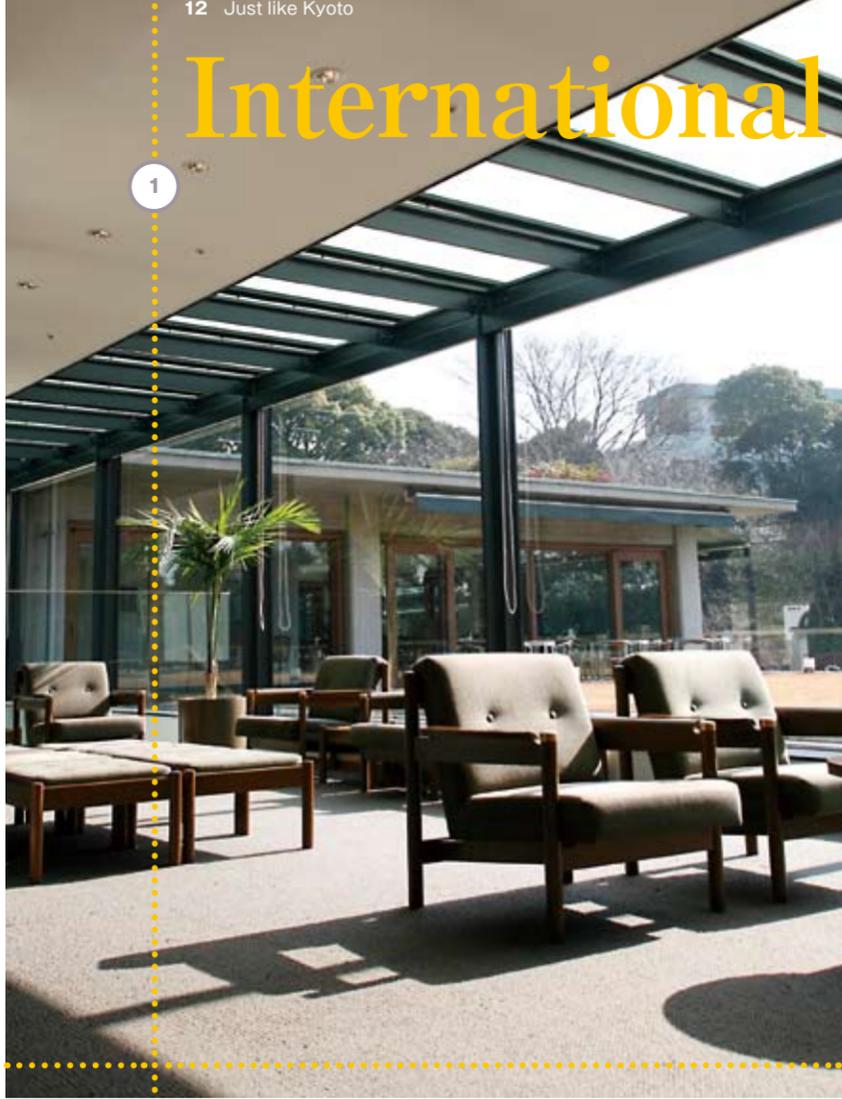


The articles which were written in Japanese are directly translated into English.

- 1 Lobby
- 2 The library is for members only
- 3 Carps swim in the pond
- 4 The harmony of light and shadow is beautiful
- 5 Books of Shigeru Yoshida are exhibited in the hallway
- 6 The cafe where you can see a great view of garden designed by the great landscape artist
- 7 Comfortable chairs are available
- 8 Geometrical beauty
- 9 The beauty of the hallway
- 10 The bustling city surrounds the facility
- 11 Memories of Musashino
- 12 Just like Kyoto



International House of Japan 国際文化会館



One can truly feel history going down the road that goes through to Azabu Juban from the Roi Building. The brick walls and old trees soothe those who walk down the street. As one goes past Toyo Eiwa and right before Toriizaka, an Edo period construction white wall stands with its distinctive brick wall which is the entrance to the International House of Japan.

A very handsome modern concrete building can be seen at the end of the long approach from the entrance, however, because it is surrounded by so many trees, even though it's a very efficiently built, the atmosphere is very warm and relaxing.

One reaches the glass entrance area as you walk past the huge cherry blossom tree. It is hard to imagine that the facility is located only 5 minutes from the bustling town of Roppongi as you step inside and face the beautiful traditional Japanese garden in front of you. The reason why one feels as if he or she is in Kyoto is because the trees which stand on the top of the slope hide the buildings close by. You also notice that the quiet atmosphere is different from a conventional hotel and quickly understand why because the majority of its members are from the academic society domestically and internationally.

The facility's history dates back to the Edo period and originally used to be the mansion of the feudal lords of Tadotsu Fief. Early in the Meiji era the ownership shifted to Kaoru Inoue, Prince Kuninomiya, the Akaboshi, and the Iwasaki families. Finally, it passed on to government ownership after World War II and was disposed of to the International House. It is probably a combination of this history and location and its members who create this serene and sophisticated atmosphere in addition to this academic building which makes this space so attractive.

International House was not known to the public that much because of its membership system established to utilize the facility under the purpose of promoting cultural exchange and intellectual cooperation internationally, however, under the movement of modernization represented by Corbusier, in 1955 the House building was constructed under the collaboration of Japanese architects Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura, Junzo Yoshimura. The House building was registered by the Agency for Cultural Affairs as registered tangible cultural properties and the garden designed by the seventh-generation famed Kyoto landscape artist Jihei Ogawa was designated as a place of scenic beauty by Minato City.

The House has a library and research rooms for its members to provide a quiet atmosphere but, also has a cafe and restaurant which is available to visitors. Dropping by to take a peak in this historical and sophisticated facility as you take a walk may be something which the Azabu region can only provide.



麻布びと

"AZABU - A Human Story"

It's worthy to focus on continuing to do one thing for a long time.

Aoyama Book Center Roppongi Branch
Mamuro Michiko



It was a couple of years ago, but, a POP (point of purchase) made by a shop staff of a book store in the countryside attracted the attention of many people all over Japan, and although the book titled, "To Dance With A White Dog" had been published several years ago, the book was made into a movie. It was an incident in which the reliability of book store staff increased tremendously. We would like to introduce you to Ms. Michiko Mamuro of the Aoyama Book Center, Roppongi branch. This book store is known as ABC which has many fans such as those who love to read literature, the mass media and publishing company. Michiko is an opinion leader and also a book reviewer who transmits information to all over Japan starting from Azabu.

Let's Go To The Book Store

Yes, I've been working at this store in Roppongi for over 20 years. Quite a long time, don't you think? I worked one year at the Shinjuku store (note: 1) at one time, then all my customers followed me and changed to that store. It's a very honorable action but I'm not a hostess so was a little surprised. (Laughs). When I graduated university, Japan was in an "employment ice age" and I couldn't find a job. I wanted to go to New York, so I did part time work, saved money and went to the U.S and came back and found another part time job and went to London... so I traveled around a bit. My third part time job was here. I used to live in Higashi Azabu at that time, it was during the bubble economy and it was when Maharaja (disco) was in business. (Laughs) I just happened to be passing in front of this store and there was a want ad for a shop clerk. Since my house was close by and I thought why not because I love to read books. You see my parents own a book store in a place called Ichinoseki in Iwate. So I was surrounded by books from when I was small and reading books and being in a book store was very natural for me but this store was the first book store I worked at. I had done part time job at a florist and publishing company. I sort of thought that being a daughter of a book store owner and actually working in a book store was different but I gradually felt that this was the place for me. And so I ended up working here for all these years. (Laughs)

It is very easy to imagine that Michiko, who was brought up as a daughter of a book store owner was a very bright bookworm. Ms. Mamuro, has a cute and clear voice as if she was a voice over artist of animations. Her name not only appears in the columns of magazines and internet book reviews but she also gets numerous offers to appear on television and radio programs.

I suddenly received a phone call from the Japan Braille Library one day and they asked me to read books aloud once a month. In actuality, it's recording my essay of a book I think is interesting. This is then sent to the families of the visually impaired. I started this from fall last year. I also introduce photo books at times. I felt that because the stories on these books are interesting that I should share this information with them so they know that these types of books exist as well. I have also been invited to appear on Mr. Kazuya Fukuda's radio program...he comes often to this book store. He was kind enough to introduce our book store as the "Treasure of Tokyo" in his newly-published book, "Tokyo No Ryugi" (Tokyo's Tradition). We feel much honored to be mentioned.

There are many famous people who love this unique book store on Roppongi street. This book store has filed for bankruptcy protection twice in the past and had to close down but people provided support even during that period.

We were able to put out a one page ad on Asahi Newspaper then and writers such as Ira Ishida and Amy Yamada wrote a sentence of support for ABC. I was confident that all these famous people were taking action so that we would be able to open again. What was really funny was the fact that many believed we would open again but that it would take some time, so I had many writers tell me, "I'm sure you have nothing to do so here are the best 3 books for you to read". I even got faxes from many people saying the same thing (laughs)... so I read what was recommended. It was time for me to refresh my batteries. I also created a lot of POP's. I thought that my level should be higher than before we closed the store so it was like I read books and created POP's.

Book store clerks to me in the past were those who would put paper covers on books at the cash register and that they were all book lovers who worked diligently in the book stores. They were people who were a very far existence to me. However, they are POP craftsman and book writers who write reviews on magazines and appear on television and to me now are the source of information. Ms. Mamuro who reads over 60 books monthly is also a ballot staff (note: 2) of "this mystery is great!"

I used to love sitting in my closet with a lamp and reading books when I was small. (Laughs) The very first book I read was "Tenko chan and Anton" (note: 3) I think that was the start of reading mysteries. Solving the puzzle is fun. I then read Greek myths, junior detective stories by Rampo Edogawa, Sherlock Holmes... I read all of them. But I never liked Lupin. I finally have become

close friends with mystery writers (laughs)... but it seems that the votes split into two, those who prefer Holmes and Lupin. I think that Lupin is a coward. (Laughs) I left home but I never left books. Many young people often say they go on a search of themselves. People say why do the young generation quit in 3 years but there's tons of people who quit in like 3 months. I guess, it's whether you think what you are doing is appropriate for yourself. I feel that pursuing something for a long time is the correct thing to do. I think that if you pursue something for a long time you can feel the joy of achievement and reading is one of them.



The Book Store Award which Ms. Mamuro was in-charge of. The Book Store Award is an award of books which book store clerks from all over Japan chose as a book they thought was number one or one that they wanted to sell. The award has an organizing committee made of book stores nationwide and the criteria for selection is newly published books. (including those introduced on the internet) Ms. Mamuro chose the books which she read and felt was interesting and what she wanted to recommend and sell. The books nominated go through a 1st and 2nd nomination and in the end is narrowed down to one book. It is truly a literary award of the book which is most recommended to sell.

I'm a very fast reader and people often ask me "how can you draw a POP in 5 minutes?" Well, that's because I've read lots of books and have made of lots of POP's. Genichiro Takahashi, the author, told me, "If there is something you like and think you can continue for a long time, then, that is probably God's gift to you." I guess the young people are not that interested in something you can continue for a long time. I really appreciate this word Mr. Takahashi gave me. So I feel that this work is God's gift to me. I don't have any intention of saying that I am a book version concierge or sommelier. I can't go out and tell the world that this is the book for you. I'm not that knowledgeable yet. (Laughs) But if I was asked about a book, I will do my best to provide the best information with all my heart and knowledge. I would like to stay and work here... forever, if the company will let me.

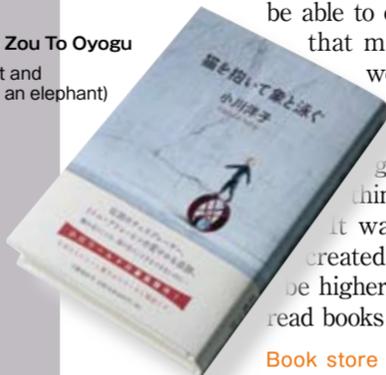
The tendency to read as decreased and many types of entertainment have appeared and it is said that more and more people are drifting away from books. This reality to me is very sad because I like to go imaginary trips from the books I read but similar to the economic crisis, there are people who are energetic and those who aren't. The books in the pictures are books which Ms. Mamuro recommends as the Best 3. Listening to her tell me about the books has already made me want to read them all. For those of you who want to find about the book reviews we couldn't introduce to you on this article, please go to the book store. If you can't make up your mind on which book to read next time, go to this book store. You will be in good hands. Ms. Mamuro has painted quite a different picture from the stereotyped image we had of a book store clerk which everyone thought was just hard work.

(Note 1) Currently closed.
(Note 2) Mystery book ranking which was started by Takajima Publishing from 1988. It has become the source of evaluation for mystery book readers now.
(Note 3) A German children's book. Author-Erich Kästner
(Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Miyuki Ito, Written by: Miyuki Ito)

BORO Tsugi, Hagi, Ikasu
(Using left over cloth to mend books.)
Aomori no boro nuno bunka
(A culture which exists in Aomori.)
Written by:
Yukiko Koide, Kyoichi Tsuzuki

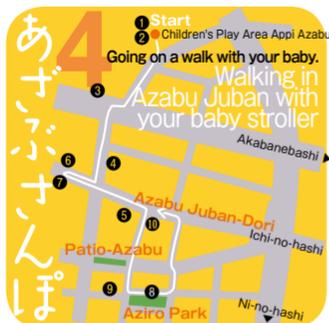


Neko O Daite Zou To Oyogu
(Carrying a cat and swimming with an elephant)
Written by:
Yoko Ogawa



Rikyu Ni Tazunero
(Ask Rikyu)
Written by:
Kenichi Yamamoto





New Fathers Need Not Be Scared. Go on your first date with your baby in a baby-friendly shopping arcade.

This time it's a daddy and baby walk down Azabu Juban which all of you are familiar with. On one nice holiday, mom is out and daddy and baby are alone. I'm sure that there are probably fathers who don't know how to spend the day at times like this but, take advantage of this precious time with your baby and why not go on walk to Azabu Juban? Let's first go to the new facility for child rearing, Appi Azabu and warm up. ① Appi Azabu uses solid wooden flooring and so it feels good to your skin and this space greets your baby with a warm atmosphere. ② In addition to conventional toys, there are intellectually educational toys available as well as a wooden slide which will keep your baby occupied. The staffs are all veterans in bringing up children so can give you advice when you're in trouble. There's space to eat and drink next to the play area so you can drink coffee while you watch your child play. You can relax and enjoy your time there. (Information- A)

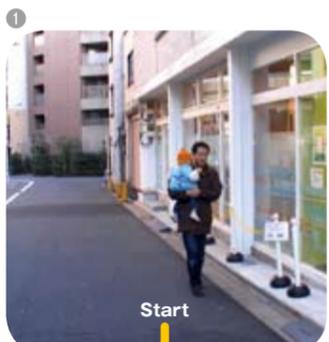
If your child seems to be tired of playing, let's leave for your walk then. You can drop by the Azabu Juban Inari Shrine close to Appi and show your baby the frog statue which your baby will probably smile at. ③ Why not make a reservation ④ to buy taiyaki's in the shopping arcade as a gift to mom and go on a window

shopping stroll. ⑤ You may discover something new going on a walk with your baby even though it's a place you walk everyday. ⑥⑦.

Let's drop by Aziro Park ⑧ which is on the way to Nino Hashi so you can take a rest. There are many benches and there's even a table to change your baby's diaper in the restroom. You can drop by the kaleidoscope shop by the park which is colorful and will soothe both you and your baby. ⑨

Date time with your baby is coming close to an end. Let's head back toward the Azabu Juban Shopping Arcade ⑩ and pick up the taiyaki you reserved then head to your meeting point with your wife. There is an elevator which takes you underground at the "Da Vinci Jewel A Building" which is close to the Azabu Juban subway or the Shin Ichi over path. There are also many buses available so Azabu Juban should be easy access to everyone.

Azabu Juban is a child friendly shopping arcade and has restaurants which provide tables to change your baby's diapers and beauty salons where you can go with your child. Please check the details on "Yochi Yochi", a convenient booklet for child rearing which will be published by the Azabu Regional City this spring. Please look forward to it.



Information A

Information on Children's Play Area Appi Azabu

Business Hours: 10:00-18:00
Those eligible: Babies 0- 3 years old and their parents residing in Minato City
Usage: Need to make pre-bookings
For Inquiries: Telephone: 03-5114-9900

(Interviewed by: Kiyohiko Ozaki, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Toshie Suzuki
Photo and written by: Toshie Suzuki)



The gold pins on both collars are to prove that the person is a regular member of Les Clefs d'Or, which is a global concierge organization. There are 16 people who wear these pins in Japan. Kay Abe, Chief Concierge.



Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

KIDS' Hello Work

To provide warm hospitality to the hotel guests

There is a hotel called Grand Hyatt Tokyo at Roppongi 6 chome in Minato City. We visited Ms. Kay Abe, the chief concierge along with our junior editor, Hibiki Omura, 9 years old.

Hibiki was impressed to hear that a concierge helps guests who have problems.

What kind of work do you do?

My job is to make sure that the hotel guests enjoy their stay. I do my best to respond to any request unless it is not illegal and unethical.

I provide information and guidance, information on restaurants in the hotel and outside, arrange rent-a-cars and tickets, plan trips and provide business support as well. I also sometimes get requests to look for people or for items.

I dig deep to get information on requests or questions I receive and do my best to get the answer. The joy of being a concierge is the moment you find a hint of what you are looking for. On the other hand, what is difficult about this job is that you have to read into people's minds.

A big help to a concierge are people who help you when you don't have the answer. That's why I take care in creating teams and networks. I also feel it's important to build relationships with colleagues in the same hotel as well as other hotels and business partners.

How can you become a concierge?

There really isn't any special qualification or study you need to do to become a concierge. What is important is that you are curious



Please listen what people say with an open mind and also read a lot of books.

about many things; always have your antenna up and the desire to know everything. Gather accurate information with your 5 senses; create a pool of resources and practice to think well. That's why I go on walks around the town frequently. I also go to different locations to gather information about the Azabu community. There's a lot of information I can provide to the guests here in Azabu such as parks, facilities and museums, exhibitions, various events and different types of shops. You also need to know foreign languages, general knowledge and common sense in order to understand your guests. I do my best to provide this information politely with hospitality to the guests. I think that my attitude in always trying to enjoy everything I get involved in helps keep me healthy.

A hotel has a different atmosphere from your everyday life. Please do not hesitate to ask anything or to make requests. I look forward to meeting you at the concierge desk.

Ms. Abe told us that she used to be always good at listening to her friends' problems since she was a child. Hibiki thought, no wonder.



Top: The hotel lobby
Left: The Concierge Desk

(Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Hibiki Omura, Tsuneko Ishiyama, Shiori Ito
Written by: Shiori Ito)

Madagascar



Republic of Madagascar
 Area: 587,041 square kilometers
 (1.6 times the size of Japan)
 Population: 19.6 million
 (2007 statistics of UNFPA)
 Capital: Antananarivo
 (population 4.84 million in 2003)
 Ethnic groups: African, Malay, approximately 18 tribal groups
 (Merina, Betsimisaraka, others)
 Official languages: Malagasy, French, English
 (added April 2007)
 Religion: Traditional religion 52%, Christianity 41%, Islam 7%
 Foreign Ministry website:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/madagascar/data.html>

Interview cooperation from the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar



From the "World" of Azabu



Madagascar: An enchanting "Treasure Island" of abundant nature

When one thinks of Madagascar, baobab trees and lemurs come to mind, as well as flora and fauna unique to the island. I wondered what the true identity of the country was, and what its people were like. I headed toward the Embassy of Madagascar, looking forward to what I would discover.

A slender green stone monument stands in front of the Embassy: the green, white and red flag of Madagascar above an engraved outline of the island country. Located off the southeast coast of Africa, the country extends broadly north-south, is approximately 1.6 times bigger than Japan, and is the fourth largest island in the world. Madagascar's culture has both African and Asian influences. Malagasy, one of the official languages along with French and English, is of Indonesian origin. Like many Asian countries, the staple food is rice, several varieties of which are eaten three times a day. In addition to those who follow the traditional religion and Christianity, Muslims of Arab descent constitute about 7% of the population.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, H.E Mr. Ramiandrison, was kind enough to meet with us amidst his busy schedule. We asked him first about the lives of the Madagascar people.

Approximately 70% of the population live in rural areas and is involved mainly in agriculture and farming. Madagascar is the world's largest producer and exporter of vanilla, representing between 60-70% of global exports, in addition to cotton and other spices. The government has been working to attract foreign investments. Among other things, Madagascar is known for producing high-quality cotton and its low labor cost. Some famous U.S. apparel manufacturers have opened factories in Madagascar and recruited growing number of employees. You may find "Made in Madagascar" on tags inside American brand-name apparels, so popular here in Japan. Blessed with abundant natural resources mining is also an active industry. In addition to nickel and cobalt, sapphires and rubies have also been found. Japanese companies are also investing heavily in these mining projects.

The country puts a lot of effort into tourism since visitors from around the world flock to Madagascar for the unique plants and animals. I thought there was only one species of baobab, but discovered that of the nine in existence worldwide, seven are found in Madagascar.

Madagascar is also famous for its lemurs, which are endemic primates. The ring-tailed lemur is well known in Japan but there are actually over 30 distinct species of lemurs. Madagascar, which is thought to have separated from the African continent 120 million years ago, is home to a great number of native species and is truly a "treasure island." The ambassador showed me a visitor's booklet filled with creatures I would like to see in person at least once in my lifetime. A long vacation at one of the country's high-class resorts to experience the unique natural landscape sounded very attractive.

H.E Mr. Ramiandrison told us that Japan is his first appointment as a diplomat. Appointed one year ago, he is a young ambassador of 40 year old. He was a CEO of a large Insurance Company in Madagascar before being appointed to his current position. He told us that he enjoys meeting people from different countries and exchanging opinions.

Madagascar's history as an independent nation is still short. The country flourished as a kingdom for a long time, followed by British influence and many years of French rule, finally gaining independence in 1960. The Embassy of Madagascar in Japan opened in Akasaka nine years later, and moved to its current location in Azabu in 1973. H.E Mr. Ramiandrison and the embassy staff like Azabu for its convenience. The embassy frequently holds events that welcome local residents, and Ambassador Ramiandrison invites readers to visit their website (madagascar-embassy.jp) for details.



(Interview by: Chie Kato, Yoshimi Takeda<Executive Committee>
 Written by: Chie Kato)

- 1 Tourists from around the world visit Madagascar to see the baobab trees and ring-tailed lemur. (Photo provided by the Embassy of Madagascar)
- 2 Vanilla beans and spices are major agricultural exports.
- 3 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E Mr. Ramiandrison has a strong background in business.
- 4 From the top: a basket made from vanilla bean pods; an ox horn belt; cinnamon-plum and an unusual ginger jam; raffia bags. An ox horn belt of a different design from the one shown above was given to former Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi. The jam is sold at Bon Repas in Azabu Juban.

Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



Belarus Home Cooking [MINSK] general manager
Barysiuk Viktoryia

Offering the taste of a Belarus' mother's home cooking in Azabu

The shop which Viktoryia works at in Azabu is along the Azabu Elementary School and is a restaurant which offers Belarus cooking. The Republic of Belarus is located in East Europe with Russia, Ukraine and Poland as its neighboring countries. The restaurant's name Minsk, is the capital of Belarus.

It's been 7 years since she arrived after her niece recommended she come. She first was studying Japanese but it just so happened that when she cooked for someone, this turned out to be the chance to start the restaurant which was 6 years ago.

"I just happened to offer Belarus home cooking and everyone said it was delicious and that there was no place to eat this cuisine in Japan which turned out to be the opportunity to start this business. Things went very smoothly and the current owner asked me to manage this business. I didn't come to Japan originally to open a restaurant." Viktoryia told us as she thought back about the past 7 years.

The recipe served at this restaurant has basically been made by Viktoryia. She chooses Belarus dishes which were not that salty and oily so it matched the Japanese taste. The Belarus cuisine served uses a lot of potatoes and vegetables and has a heart warming taste to it. 80% of the guests are Japanese. And fans of Minsk continue to increase.

Although Viktoryia has now settled down in the town of Azabu, she also went through a culture

shock in the beginning 7 years ago. She was surprised at how short Japanese men were, surprised at people sleeping in the trains, surprised to see Tokyo Tower and the high rises and everything she saw was so different from Belarus.

"I was really absorbed in learning Japanese back then. I would always read the ads in the trains which was something we didn't have in Belarus. I would ask people close by when I couldn't read what was written." quotes, Viktoryia in fluent Japanese now.

The current restaurant she works at is very popular and she has no time to take off. She can eat all kinds of Japanese food from tuna, sukiyaki to even noodles.

"When I have a day off, I go on a walk in Azabu Juban or go to Odaiba and I even like the hot springs of Hakone. I would like to someday get a driver's license and go on hot spring trip..." She really likes Japan.

Viktoryia's dream for the future is to open a Minsk Bakery which offers homemade bread, cookies and cakes. Let's look forward to what kind of taste she will have to offer.

(Interviewed by: Shiho Ito, Toshie Suzuki, Yasuhiko Ozaki
Written by: Yasuhiko Ozaki)



Belarus home-cooking, the kitchen of Minsk
General Manager Barysiuk Viktoryia and her niece, Elena



K's Nursing Care Memo ⑤

I don't know what to do.....

K's legs became suddenly weak this January and I became worried but shortly thereafter she incurred a high fever and we had to call the ambulance and she was hospitalized. I was deeply worried, as this hospitalization occurred exactly one year after her hospitalization in critical condition two years ago. But we got her to the hospital quickly this time so she was discharged at an early timing.

It's really important to act quickly rather than whiling away observing the situation.

In caring K, for her personal needs, we always take K to the "toilet", don't leave her alone, have her feel the family presence close by, and alternately have her lie in bed and sit on a chair enabling her to lead as normal a life as possible. Although K is very light, moving her is not easy and our muscles always ache. "Care" for a person needs tenderness, but also need a lot of strength.

Talking about tender care, I remember one time when she was hospitalized under an emergency situation.

About 4 years ago, she collapsed from what is called a complete atrioventricular block, a heart disease, and was hospitalized as an emergency case. The doctor said that she needed to be operated on. We didn't know whether being operated on was a life or death situation, whether she would be the same after she recovered or was there an option of curing this with medicine. K always used to say that she wanted to be healthy until the moment she dropped dead, at that time she was 94 years old. We thought that K herself would probably be sad if she had to live under a vegetable state even if she survived. The young doctor recommended surgery; here

was me wanting her to live life naturally and there was a veteran doctor who calmly listened to our conversation. Having this conversation about "surgery and maintaining the quality of life" and "life and death" was a heavy topic. I could trust the doctor who was trying to save her but at the same time I didn't want her to spend the rest of her life in bed. I was afraid about the "what if" and what it meant to have her lead a natural life and just didn't know what to do. But in the end, we chose medication. It has been 4 years since, and we are fortunate that K is living and spending her life with us at home.

We had two more crises after that. She couldn't eat anything because of pneumonia.

When she was hospitalized under emergency situation two years ago, she was really in critical condition and the doctor asked us what we wanted to do about putting her on emergency survival equipment. I think what it means is that in the worse situation, she would have to get artificial respiration, a heart massage or electric shock to her heart but would there be a meaning of living under such a state of coma? I didn't have an answer to that.

I timely replied "Doctor, please give her rehabilitation." I felt, of course, having her alive was important, but above that, wanted her to live a normal life and truly felt that I could make her healthy again. K's pneumonia got better, thanks to the treatments given by the doctors and nurses and rehab by the physical therapists. We quit giving her I.V fluid, and started giving her "easy to swallow" food; only to be diagnosed with pneumonia again. After she recovered from pneumonia, we had her undergo "rehab" to make

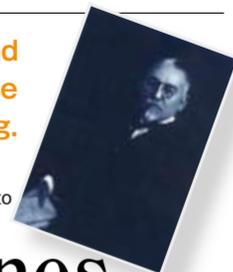
muscles active around her mouth and throat. The doctor commented, it wouldn't work. But we did this for one week. But, 4 days after we started feeding her, her inflammation index went up ~ meaning, she got pneumonia again. If the food can not go through the throat, no nutritional support can be provided. I truly felt, "life" depends closely with throat function. Ways to provide nutrition, other than from the mouth, are intravenous hyperalimentation or tube feeding from the nose or percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, which is directly feeding nourishment through a device to the stomach. The doctor explained all these options to us and finally commented, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy would be the best choice.

Anyway, I felt what was the point, if she couldn't enjoy the taste of what she were eating. I really didn't know what to do, because I would be depriving her the fun of eating.

After going through this dilemma for a week, we chose percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, a method which would allow K to live with us at home and lead as normal a life as possible. We have gotten used to this method and feel, we made the right choice.

Recently, I realize, thinking of the physical and mental health of those giving the "care", caring is indeed difficult. Without the help of "Care Insurance System" and from everyone around us, both patients and caregivers would collapse. For caregivers, may I ask, to please consider your own health, capacity of your caring spirit, and think of ways to catch your breath. However...this is what I always tell myself - "Yes, we can."

The Southern Manchurian Railway Company is known to many as "Mantetsu". It was established in 1906 and in addition to the railway business; the company was also involved in the development of coal mines, diverse businesses such as hotel operation and known as a company which was involved in a large scale city planning. We looked into the lives of the two people whose lives were enrooted in the cities of Azabu and Dalian.



Shinpei Goto

麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

From Azabu to Dalian- The railway connecting the lines.

The Southern Manchurian Railway Company- Tokyo Headquarter (Azabu Anagumacho)

Azabu, the place of origin of "Mantetsu"

"Mantetsu" had approximately 80 subsidiary companies at its peak. The place of origin of this company was behind the Russian Embassy at Azabu Anagumacho 4, Azabu-ku (currently Azabudai 2 chome, Minato-ku). (note 1) (note 2).

Although it was for a short time, the Headquarter was in Tokyo when it was first established in 1906 and after it re-located to where the current Mitsui O.S.K Lines is, the company'-owned housing stayed there for awhile. The residence of Count Shinpei Goto, its first president, was where the current Chinese Embassy is located and the residence of his successor, Yoshikoto Nakamura, was where the current Shiba region is. Minato City is deeply connected to these two gentlemen by fate and both of them after retiring from the position of president of "Mantetsu", were appointed as Mayor of Tokyo. In comparison to Shinpei Goto known for his aggressive style, Yoshikoto Nakamura, who succeeded the business from him, was known as a careful businessman.

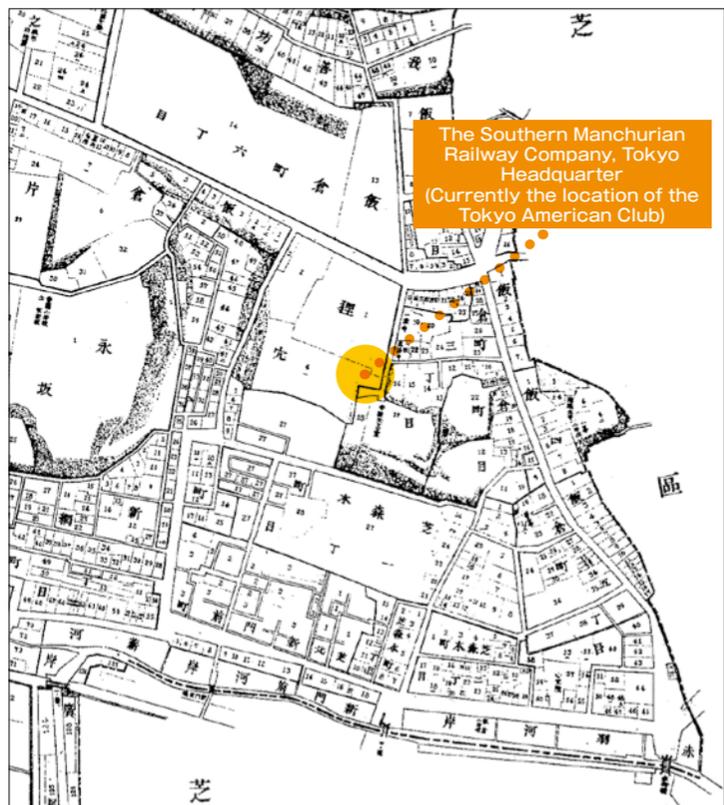


Yoshikoto Nakamura (left) with Nobutaro Inuzuka and Soseki Natsume
Photo: Provided by Tadahiko Ogawa

Yoshitomo Nakamura is known as a close friend of author Soseki Natsume. The travel of Soseki in Manchuria who was invited by Nakamura is accounted for in "Mankan Tokoro Dokoro". Teishimei Futaba, also interviewed Nakamura when he was a correspondent for Asahi Newspaper. (note 3)

Ideas of Goto still remain in the city of Dalian

A square, 700 feet in diameter was built in the center of the city and 10 avenues in all directions were built from this square. The gas lamps which surrounded the center of the square would emit a bluish white light at sun set and create a mysterious atmosphere. (Middle part) The sweet fragrance of acacia would envelope the city of Dalian in May and many would take walks under the white flower truss. (By Kazue Matsubara-Maboroshino Darien)



Anakumacho in 1896 (Currently Azabudai 2 chome)

I visited Dalian at spring. There is no trace of "Mantetsu" in the current day Azabu, but, western architecture from the days of the Southern Manchurian Railway such as the Yokohama Bank, Yamato Hotel and Chosen Bank still remain in the large square of the city of Dalian, even though it has been over 100 years. Light poles have been buried underground.

The headquarter of "Mantetsu" is currently being used by the railroad authorities of Dalian, however, the Dalian Mantetsu Exhibition Hall was completed 2 years ago using half of the left hand side of the building to introduce the history of Dalian and Mantetsu for the first time. The president's office and the chapel were open to the public for the first time as well. One can go on a tour by going through the local travel agent.

The city of Dalian has strong traces of Shinpei Goto's ideas. Goto strongly felt that instead of reinforcing the strength of the military that efforts should be made in the development of the railway and

port, industrial economy, and the development of culture such as education, health and art to promote smooth relationships externally. Efforts were put in reinforcing transportation such as refurbishing the port and expanding the railway and on the other hand, he built the Yamato Hotel to make the train station the center of the city. He also fixed the waste supply and sewerage system from hygienic perspectives which very much reflected the medical aspect of Goto. He also worked on the educational development of human resources rooted in the area at the Manchurian Medical University. He also planted acacia, poplar and willow trees to contribute to the esthetics of the city as well. (note 4) (note 5)



Photo: Yusuke Tsurumi "History of Shinpei Goto 4" (Fujiwara Publishing Co. Ltd)

The Two Mayors of Tokyo and the Reconstruction of the Empire

The city planning of Dalian later became useful in reconstructing the empire after the Grand Kanto Earthquake in 1923.

This big earthquake was unlike the disasters of the big fire of London or the San Francisco Earthquake and is considered as one of the world's biggest disasters. The reconstruction project after the Hanshin Awaji Grand Earthquake took 10 years, however, due to the good collaborative efforts of the two mayors, Goto and Nakamura, reconstruction was completed in 6 and half years.

Goto built the Showa Street Yasukuni Street, and Harumi Street from the fire torn city of Tokyo and worked on the design plans of the urban areas from the Edo period to reflect it in the reconstruction. He also built the Eitai Bridge and other modern bridges, Tokyo Station, multiple housing complexes such as the Dojunkai Apartments and Yamashita Park in Yokohama.

The 1st to the 8th Belt Line Road Construction Plan was developed and a part of it has been realized. Goto's reconstruction plan is highly evaluated to this day as it is still very effective. (note: 6)

The basic foundation of the current JR is also an achievement of Goto who was the first head of the Railway Bureau. Hideo Shima, the son of Yasujiro Shima who was appointed as Chief Engineer of the Government Railways by Goto, built the Tokaido Shinkansen Line after being appointed as Vice President for Engineering when Shinji Sogo was the President of JNR. The names "Hikari" and "Nozomi" were derived from the express trains during the Southern Manchurian Railway times. (note: 7)

The "public" elements of Goto became increasingly important as capitalism started to upgrade as his ideas encompassed all the important aspects which was "medicine", "education" and "transpiration". Goto was the Home Minister, Communication Minister, Foreign Minister, the first director of the Tokyo Broadcasting Bureau, the forerunner of the current NHK in addition to being the person who named the watch given to him, "Citizen". One can not introduce all he has done in an article limited to one page. Please open the pages of the literature available for reference to find out more about Goto and Nakamura.



The current "Mantetsu" HQ

We were able to hear about Mr. Shinpei Goto from his relatives this time upon writing this article. Mr. Kaoru Kuroda, Bureau Chief of Japan Airlines Dalian Branch also cooperated.

- (Note: 1) The 10 year history of the Southern Manchurian Railway Company (The 1st 10 Year History of the Southern Manchurian Railway Company)- pg 101
- (Note: 2) Author Tatsuo Aoyagi (President of Mantetsu- Yoshikoto Nakamura and Soseki pg 53
- (Note: 3) Same book as above pg 73
- (Note: 4) The Pioneers of the Times Shinpei Goto 1857-1929 pg 155 (Fujiwara Publishing Co. Ltd.)
- (Note: 5) The "Works" of Shinpei Goto pg 24 (Fujiwara Publishing Co. Ltd.)
- (Note: 6) Urban Issues 150th Year Anniversary of the Birth of Shinpei Goto/ 17th Urban Issues Extension Lecture Economist Shinpei Goto About his life and career pg 16
- (Note: 7) Same book as above pg 19

(Interviewed by: Akiko Hashimoto, Satsuki Nishino, Tsuneko Ishiyama
Written by: Satsuki Nishino Title by: Hikaru Takahashi)



Living in AZABU

Beautiful May

It's beautiful May now.
Mr. M. Tachihara, a poet said,
"Make jelly with the soft May wind"
What a tender expression for this beautiful May.

We May born girls, Ico-chan and I
just love Lily of the Valley.
It's the symbolic flower of the season, for it's lovely
shape and sweet smell.
And roses are blooming, especially
Pierre de Ronsard, an old rose.
Dogwood, we see everywhere
on the street in our Azabu, one of our city flowers.
Favorite jasmine comfort flowers my feelings ♡

As for the "oishii" thing, Japanese cherry
Is exactly an edible jewel in this season!!

It's beautiful May, any way!!
Nice!!

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

How to Sort Out & Dispose of Garbage and Waste

Started from October 1st, 2008

Recyclable Plastic



Films / Plastic bags
Plastic Packages,
shopping bags, etc.



Food containers / Cups
Cups of instant noodle, daily products,
eggs, etc.



Trays
Plastic lunch boxes,
etc.



Caps / Lids
Caps of plastic bottles,
etc.



Tubes
Toothpaste, mayonnaise,
etc.



Bottles
Shampoo, detergent,
etc.



Cushions, Cases, etc.
CD cases, styrofoam,
etc.



Other Plastic Items
Plastics products for daily use,
etc.



How to rinse and take out plastic wastes



Check "plastic mark" when sorting out your waste.



Please put them all in a transparent or semi-transparent bag, and take it out once a week on the designated day.

"Minato Call" information service TEL: 03-5472-3710
Hours (every day) 7:00 - 23:00 FAX: 03-5777-8752

Minato Waste Management and Recycling Section
TEL: 03-3450-8273
Hours (Mon to Fri) 8:30 - 17:15 FAX: 03-3450-8275

Minato Waste Collection Office TEL: 03-3450-8025
Hours (Mon to Sat) 7:40 - 16:25 FAX: 03-3450-8063

To Our Readers Please let us hear your comments.

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



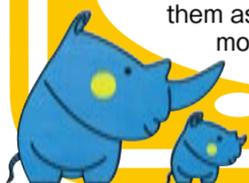
Towels with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments or opinion.

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

By telephone: 03-5114-8812 (Mon - Fri/ 09:00 - 17:00)

By fax: 03-3583-3782

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



Information from the Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from the Minato Regional City Offices

The Minato Regional City Offices have been providing even more sufficient service from April, 2009.

The Minato Regional City Offices were established in April, 2006 with the aim of "becoming a city office and regional city offices which if further reliable, convenient and close to its community." Evaluation of the effectiveness and achievements will be conducted as well as a review on the organization and its function to provide a further upgraded and sufficient service.

Division names have been changed.

The layout and business divisions of the Azabu Regional City Office is as follows:

For inquiries, please contact; Azabu Regional City Office, General Administration Section Tel 03-5114-8811



Counter Services Subsection

- Resident tax, national health insurance, medical care system for senior citizens, 75 and over, national pension, long-term care insurance system, etc.
- Certificate of tax payment, registration and discarded motorcycles (under 125 c.c)
- Others

Social Welfare Subsection

- Consultation on daily life, putting public livelihood assistance into practice and free bath tickets to families on welfare, distribution of metropolitan transportation tickets for families on welfare, others.

Health and Welfare Subsection

- Registration on welfare services to senior citizens,
- Registration on welfare services to the disabled
- Registration of child allowance, medical subsidies for children
- Registration of enrollment to nursery schools
- Maternal and child health handbook distribution
- Others

Public Works Subsection

- Maintenance management of supervisory areas which are roads; bridges; parks; public toilets; roadside trees; street lights; subsidies of maintenance construction of private streets and consultation and registration on subsidies of lighting for security purposes on private streets, etc.

Activities Promotion Subsection

- Regarding regional development
- Regarding disaster prevention and community safety
- Regarding environment and waste management
- Others

Facilities Management Subsection

- Operations, management and planning of facilities such as nursery schools, children's halls, welfare halls within the supervisory area.
- Hoka-go, after school club activities within supervisory area
- Facility planning of the Kids-To-Teens Hall in supervisory area

Community Policy Subsection

- Working out programs in the regional area, publication of community newsletters and programming, consultation on collaborative promotion for both residents and NPO and cultural exchange, promotions on residents participation on city policies, support for local shopping association promotions, consultation on housing for residents etc.

Coordination Subsection

- Service desk on opinions, requests and petitions from residents, realization of projects which reflect the voice's of the residents, application on list of community supporters and gathering and providing community policies, etc.

Community Development Support Subsection

- Promotion of regional business projects, arrangements of consultants on town development, dispatchment of consultants for town development consultation on traffic measures, encouragement, subsidies and assistance of greening projects and consultation on tree protection and assignments of green forests etc.

Announcement on Closing of Azabu Public Library

It has been over 30 years since the Azabu Public Library was built back in 1973 and since the aging of the facility is severe, the library has been closed while it goes under renovation. An alternative facility is available.

Outline of Alternative Facility

- Name: Azabu Library Service Center
- Place: Azabu Juban Nisshin Building 1st Floor 1-10-4 Mita Minato-ku
- Available Service:
 1. Rental of reserved books and CD's
 2. Browsing of magazine and newspapers, rental of magazines
 3. Browsing and rental of children's books
 4. Photocopy services
 5. Internet services

We apologize for any inconvenience and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

For inquiries please contact the Minato Library General Affairs Subsection Tel: 03-3437-6621

AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Chi-bus, Minato Library, Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Nishi-Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Ikura Community Welfare Hall, Hommura Community Welfare Hall, Ohiradai Minato-So, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office etc.
● Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

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Sub Chief Midori Ito
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Hikaru Takahashi
Satsuki Nishino
Akiko Hashimoto
Sanae Minato
Akira Mori
Ryozyo Yamashita

Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

Editor's Note

It has been 30 years since I have lived in Azabu and almost one year has passed since I have participated as a member of the editing staff of The Azabu. I commuted between my house and office for many number of years but have re-discovered so much about Azabu by sitting in at the editing meetings and hearing about episodes on the interviews which have been conducted. There's still a lot I don't know about Azabu so I have decided to go on a walk first around my neighborhood to discover the historical aspects of the town. There are a lot of interesting articles in this issue again which the staff have gathered so please enjoy reading them.

(Akiko Hashimoto)

"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

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