



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



Mr. DEKI Gakuto, a staff member



Mr. MAEJIMA Sota, a staff member



Editor's
Azabu Enjoy
Eating Report 7

Refreshing Forest Bathing on the 2nd Floor of the Azabu Regional City Office

HINARI CAFE Azabu Grand Opening



**A stylish cafe opened on September 12, 2024,
on the 2nd floor of the Minato City Azabu
Regional City Office.**

As I looked at the menu at the entrance of the cafe, a job supporter greeted me with, "Hello, welcome!" and a big smile. She cheerfully explained how to make cashless payments, which can be completed at the ticket vending machine. The aroma of coffee was enticing. Soon after, I found myself enveloped by the comfortable atmosphere. Plenty of sunlight came in through the greenery outside the window, filling the window frame. I felt as if I had found a secret place in the forest. Chairs and tables are comfortably arranged so that wheelchairs and baby carriages can move about smoothly.

In the HINARI CAFE Azabu, disabled people work as staff members together with their job supporters. I felt really comfortable with the proper services provided by the staff members, with the friendly and helpful supporters nearby.

Lunch Boxes

Four types of daily lunch are provided: Two rice bowl types and two lunch box types, nutritionally balanced with lots of vegetables and low salt. I selected the "negishio-yakiniku bento" (the packed lunch of grilled meat with green onion and salt), one of the menu items of the day, to try. They heated it in the microwave in the shop. I enjoyed the not-too-greasy flavor and the well-seasoned soft grilled meat. I could taste the "umami" flavor of each of the vegetables on the side. The lunch boxes some-



Negishio-yakiniku bento (packed lunch of grilled meat with green onion and salt)



Three-color rice bowl with grilled chicken and malted rice

times sell out at around 13:00. The menu for the next week is updated every Thursday, and you can take away a copy from the box at the entrance. According to Mr. MAEJIMA Sota, a staff member, the chicken and the hamburger are popular.

Coffee

The cafe serves "HINARI Blend" coffee. This is made with 50% Ecuador beans and 50% Thai beans, using a coffee brewer (drip-type brewer). The charm of this coffee was introduced as "a juicy grapefruit flavor and almond-like aroma." In terms of bitter taste and acidity, the coffee is mellow and blends well together. It has a moderate richness and aftertaste that made me want a second helping. Iced coffee is served with frozen coffee cubes that do not water down the coffee taste even when the ice melts. The cafe's proudly organic sugar syrup provides a smooth soft sweetness.

Packages of drip-type whole and ground beans are on sale for each drink.



The September 2024 "Challenge Coffee Barista" competition (a barista competition for disabled people) was won by the HINARI CAFE Team. They won the No. 1 blend award with their specially blended coffee "Kanade." The team was formed in the company main office, with the participation of Mr. DEKI Gakuto, and the staff members of HINARI CAFE Azabu. Unfortunately, this coffee is not served at the HINARI CAFE Azabu.

"Wa-Kocha": Black tea made in Japan

The fragrant black tea made in Makinohara City, Shizuoka Prefecture is instantly calming and easy to drink. You can also choose "wa-kocha au lait" (Japanese black tea au lait) with milk, to your tastes.

Snacks

The cafe also offers hand-made dorayaki (red bean pancakes) with

some whole red bean grains, hand-made soft rice crackers, and fluffy chocolate muffins, made in the "job support office." For their wonderfully moist pound cake, they use specially selected ingredients, and the taste changes seasonally. Mr. MAEJIMA highly recommended dorayaki together with coffee.



The cafe is operated by "CTC HINARI Corporation" (shortened to "HINARI")

HINARI is a special subsidiary company of the IT company "ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation." This company provides a place for disabled people to work with peace of mind, an environment for them to demonstrate their abilities, and to expand the types of work they can do. The heartwarming "HINARI CAFE Azabu" logo was designed by the disabled staff members (people with intellectual disabilities), as a new job created by the HINARI company. In HINARI CAFE Azabu, job supporters carefully organize and check the work flow to avoid order or handover mistakes.

Ms. INAYAMA Rina, a job supporter, told us: "I am very impressed when I see the growth of the staff members. My job is really worth doing."

Future Prospects

HINARI also has an agricultural work project with farmers contracted in Shizuoka Prefecture. Selling fresh vegetables in HINARI CAFE Azabu is also being considered. Mr. MAEJIMA continued, smiling: "I want to make this cafe a sunny spot where people who work or visit can always be full of energy and smiles."

"HINARI" also represents the desire to "grow day by day." I felt that the relationship between the job supporters and the staff members helps them grow together, and this trusting relationship created such a gentle space.

● HINARI CAFE Azabu

https://hinari.ctc-g.co.jp/special/cafe_azabu
2F Minato City Azabu Regional City Office 5-16-45 Roppongi,
Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8515
Opening Hours: Weekdays: 11:00 to 16:00
Days closed: Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays
Tel: 03-6441-0304



Hoshuku!

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Azabu-juban's Tori-no-Ichi (Open Market on Days of the Rooster)

Do you know about the “Tori-no-Ichi” held in Azabu-juban?
It started as a community-wide festival with the hope of good luck for the community people, and this traditional event celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024.
We asked Mr. YOSHIDA Takayoshi and Mr. WATASE Yasutaka, both priests at the Juban Inari Shrine, to tell us about Azabu-juban Tori-no-Ichi and its origins.



In the shrine, rakes are given at the counter of the shrine office.



Every year, information about the “Azabu-juban Tori-no-Ichi Bazaar” appears on page 2 of the “Juban Dayori” November issue.



Every year, stallholders set up their booths on the west side of the torii gate.



Lanterns arranged in lines on the right side of the torii gate, with the names of parishioners and worshippers on their surface. Red banner flags stating “Dedication: Tori-no-Ichi Centenary Anniversary” arranged on the left and right sides of the stairs.



Information boards on the left and right sides of the torii gate



On the top of the Haiden (worship hall), 酉の市祭 (“Tori-no-Ichi Festival”) lanterns are arranged in a row.



Open stalls are lined up along the street.

What are “Tori-no-Hi” (Days of the Rooster)?

In the Japanese almanac, 12 animals symbolizing the year, month, day, time, and direction are used as an “animal zodiac” called 十二支 ‘juuni-shi’. The 子(‘he’, rat), 丑(‘ushi’, ox), 寅(‘tora’, tiger), 卯(‘u’, rabbit), 辰(‘tatsu’, dragon), 巳(‘mi’, snake), 午(‘uma’, horse), 未(‘hitsuji’, sheep), 申(‘sarū’, monkey), 酉(‘tori’, rooster), 戌(‘inu’, dog), and 亥(‘i’, boar) are used in this order.

For example, January 1 this year was the “Day of the Horse” and three days later, January 4th, was the “Day of the Rooster.”

This is not shown on regular calendars, so check it with your smartphone, etc.

What is “Tori-no-Ichi”?

This is also called “Otori-sama,” and refers to an open market held on the Days of the Rooster in November every year in shrines dedicated to Yamato Takeru no Mikoto* or Ame no Hiwashi no Mikoto, in the hope of “prosperous business” and “safe households.”

The reason why the market is held on the Days of the Rooster is uncertain. Theories include the idea that “Yamato Takeru no Mikoto prayed for victory before his eastern expedition on the Day of the Rooster,” “he went on a thank-you visit on the Day of the Rooster,” or this is the anniversary of his death, etc. It is said that this market started at Otori Shrine, referred to as the “Hontori,” which is located in Hanahata (formerly Hanamata Village) in Adachi City. Originally, during the Edo Era (1394–1428), farmers in Hanamata Village held an annual festival thanking the local “Otori Daimyo-jin” (deity with super spiritual power) for a good harvest. Eventually, this festival changed to the “Tori-no-Ichi” open market where rakes and other agricultural tools were sold. In the Edo Period (1603–1868), the shrine bustled with many people. Now, the shrine itself is called “Hanahata Otori-sama.”

Otori Shrine and Chokoku-ji Temple in Asakusa, Hanazono Shrine in Shinjuku, and Okunitama Shrine in Fuchu City are famous as the locations of Kanto’s “Three Major Tori-no-Ichi.”

The Tori-no-Ichi also became known as the “Year-end Market” in preparation for the next year. It was held in November, a bit earlier than year-end, but that might have suited the impatient nature of the “Edokko Katagi” (Native Spirit of Edo).

Tori-no-Hi (the Day of the Rooster) comes around every 12 days. Therefore, sometimes there are two Tori-no-Hi in November, and other times, there are three. Last year was the “100th anniversary of the Azabu-juban Tori-no-Ichi,” and there were three Tori-no-Hi: on the 5th (Ichi-no-Tori, First Day of the Rooster), 17th (Ni-no-Tori, Second Day of the Rooster), and 29th of November (San-no-Tori, Third Day of the Rooster). To best enjoy the Tori-no-Ichi, visit the shrine in the early evening to buy a beautifully decorated rake, and then enjoy street food.

*Yamato Takeru no Mikoto is a legendary figure. According to the “Nihon Shoki” (Chronicles of Japan), he was the son of Emperor Keiko, the 12th emperor of Japan, and went on an expedition from Kyushu to Tohoku to fight enemies and pacified the country.

Why did “kumade”(rakes) start to be sold?

- A rake is an agricultural tool for sweeping things up, and later became a symbol of “sweeping up to collect good luck.” Then, inside of the rake, “lucky charms” such as an Okame mask; koban (oval gold coins); rice bags; pine branches, bamboo and plum branches; and brooms (as a tool to sweep in good luck), etc., were added. They are called “kakkome” in the industry.
- In the past, there were also thin, skewer-like rakes. There were some stylish visitors who “went back home collecting good luck,” inserting such small rakes in their collars or hair.
- At the shrine office, small (20 cm width x 25 cm length), medium (40 cm width x 87 cm length) and large (50 cm width x 95 cm length) rakes with simple decorations and an amulet, etc. are available. At stallholders, you can find various types of rakes from palm-sized rakes to large ones with gorgeous decorations, too big to hold and which can cost up to several hundred thousand yen.
- When choosing your new rake, it is said that you should get a “larger one than the year before.” However, visitors usually select the rake they like, such as “a rake the same size as last year” or “the smallest rake for back to basics,” etc.
- In October before the event, the shrine purchases 1,200 rakes every year in preparation.
- Rakes are sold from 9:00 am, when rake sellers at outside stalls can start decorating, until 23:00 pm.



When a visitor receives a rake, the rake seller strikes a flint to ward off evil spirits. When he sounds his wooden clappers “click-clack,” the people around say “Yo!” all together and clap their hands in unison. They clap their hands a ceremonial 10 times to express gratitude, and unexpectedly break into smiles.



There are many types of rakes in the stalls.

Suehiro Shrine Detailed Ledger Book

Volume 2



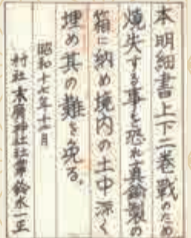
Original Suehiro Shrine Detailed Ledger Book Volume 2



Large signboards, 60.6 cm wide and 106 cm high, were put up in three locations: in front of the shrine, at the corner of Ichino-hashi Bridge and at the corner of Roppongi.



Map of Azabu-juban town: Red dotted lines show the places where lanterns were lined up in rows.



How to preserve it is clearly described.



Cover Page: The reprinted edition was bound using the data scanned by Mr. WATASE.

Isn't it strange that an Inari Shrine holds the “Tori-no-Ichi” market?

Originally, Suehiro Shrine was located at 41 former Sakashita-cho (presently 2-4 Azabu-juban), and Takecho Inari Shrine was located at 43 former Nagasaka-cho (presently 1-3 Azabu-juban). They both burnt down in an air raid on April 15, 1945. Both shrines were replaced at their present locations according to the Reconstruction Land Readjustment Plan in June 1950. After that, these shrines merged and were renamed “Juban Inari Shrine.” The Tori-no-Ichi market was inherited from Suehiro Shrine.

The story of how the “Tori-no-Ichi” market got started was recorded in the “Suehiro Shrine Detailed Ledger Book Volume 2” published in February 1942, by Mr. SUZUKI Kazumasa, a Shinto priest at that time. In December in the same year, volumes 1 and 2 of this book were sealed in a brass box and buried deep underground. As a result, these books remained undamaged in the War and survived as a valuable record for us.



Kids are fascinated by the games and toys provided by “Seinen Kai” (Young Men's Association)!

The Great Kanto Earthquake, which occurred on September 1st, 1923, caused severe damage. The damage in the Azabu area was less than other areas. However, Suehiro Shrine's main shrine and Kagura-den hall (sacred dance hall) were completely destroyed and all the other buildings were severely damaged.

In February of the following year, Mr. SUZUKI

KI had a chance to have a chat with a neighborhood friend and a member of the Tokyo Prefectural Assembly. During their chat, they agreed that “they should adopt the Tori-no-Ichi for the reconstruction of the town, because Suehiro Shrine is dedicated to Otori-sama, and the town would be revitalized.” They immediately started preparations for November 2 of that year (the Ichi-no-Tori, First Day of the Rooster).

However, stallholders refused to participate in the event, because they thought “not many visitors will attend.” Therefore, it was decided that stalls would be set up only by local people and the event would be supported by the whole town.

People associated with the shrine decided that “if there are any losses, we will cover them all.” They tackled the project with the enthusiasm of people sure of success. They prepared 1,000 leaflets and 500 posters. They installed large signboards in three locations. In many places of Azabu-juban town, “Tori-no-Ichi Lanterns” were displayed, with the support of the town's people. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the Tori-no-Ichi market was very successful and rakes sold out.

Because of the unexpected success, stallholders participated in it from “Ni-no-Tori” (the Second Day of the Rooster).

The Tori-no-Ichi now celebrates its 100th anniversary, after overcoming the ravages of war and COVID-19. The participation of the shops in the shopping street stopped temporarily after the War. However, their participation restarted in 1977 as the “Tori-no-Ichi Bazaar.” This will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027! We are looking forward to seeing what kind of shops open for Tori-no-Ichi.

Tidbit

1. The Tori-no-Ichi will be held twice this year. Please enjoy!
Ichi-no-Tori: November 12 (Wed); Ni-no-Tori: November 24 (Mon)
2. In the Kansai Region, the “Toka Ebisu” Festival (nickname “Ebessan”) is held rather than the Tori-no-Ichi.

The Toka Ebisu is held for three days, from the 9th to the 11th of January, every year in honor of Ebisu, the god of wealth. In this festival, powerful shouts of “Shobai hanjo de sasa motteko!” (“Bring bamboo for prosperous business!”) are heard, and “fukuzasa” (lucky bamboo branches) with lucky charms and amulets are sold. Japan's Three Major Ebisu (“Nihon Sandai Ebisu”) shrines worshipping “Ebisu-Sama” are Nishinomiya Ebisu, Imamiya Ebisu, and Kyoto Ebisu.



Dango (sweet dumplings) are a specialty of Azabu-juban Shopping Street. Please enjoy!



Cotton Candy is popular at any festival.



A shooting gallery! This feels so nostalgic!



The aroma of savory sauce! It's appetizing!

Note:

Please make sure to return the rake you bought the previous year to where you bought it. Then, buy a new one!

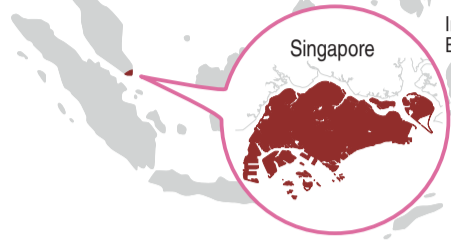
Juban Inari Shrine
1-4-6 Azabu-juban, Minato City Tel: 03-3583-6250

- References: “Juban Inari Jinja” <https://www.jubaininari.or.jp>
“Otori Jinja” <https://www.otori-jinja.or.jp>
“How to fully enjoy the Tori-no-Ichi, even if you are a first-time visitor” <http://www.jinja.com>

(Research and text by KASHO Misaho and KASHO Takehide)



Republic of Singapore
Area: About 720 km² (slightly larger than the total area of Tokyo's 23 Wards)
Population: About 5,640,000 (4,070,000 of those are Singaporeans and permanent residents) (based on 2022 census)
Languages: Malay (national language). English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil (official languages)
Head of State: President (term of office: 6 years: President Tharman Shanmugaratnam became the 9th president of the Republic of Singapore in September 2023)
Legislature: Unicameral System Total no. of seats: 93 (term of office: 5 years) (Ruling party: People's Action Party 83 seats; Opposition party: 10 seats)
Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/singapore/data.html>
Interview Support:
Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Tokyo



Singapore



Visiting Ambassadors
From the “World”
of Azabu



- Children in Singapore, a multiethnic country: Classes are held in the official language of English.
- There are six statues of the “Merlion,” the symbol of Singapore, in the country. This, the most famous, is located in Merlion Park.
- The central section of Singapore is beautifully maintained, and has become a center of cutting-edge technology and the world financial market.
- The Infinity Pool is located 150 m above sea level in Marina Bay Sands, and is a tourist's dream. From this pool, you can see the most breathtaking views of Singapore. Unfortunately, only the hotel guests can use this pool.
- Raffles Hotel, a colonial style luxury hotel which became the symbol of Singapore, was loved by William Somerset Maugham. He was an English writer and the well-known author of works such as “The Moon and Sixpence.” He stayed there for quite a while.
- Also, please come and visit the Botanic Gardens, Singapore's only World Heritage Site.
- Chinatown: we can see people from all over the world.
- Arab Street, where the Sultan Mosque stands tall.
- Little India: Enjoy a unique smell of spices as you walk around.



Singapore, evolving to become a place “Where Dreams Take Shape”

The Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Tokyo is located at the top of the steep Torii-zaka slope in a quiet residential area. The slope is one of the steepest in Azabu's Roppongi area, which is famous for its many slopes. Singapore is a very popular overseas travel destination for Japanese people—around 750,000 Japanese people visit Singapore annually. We visited the Embassy to speak to the ambassador appointed to Japan in 2023, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr. Ong Eng Chuan (hereinafter called “the Ambassador”), about the charms of Singapore in detail.

He is very impressed with Japan, where globalization continues to take place.

The Ambassador came to Japan for the first time in 1988. In his first year in Japan, he studied the Japanese language and after that, he received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology. When we asked about his impression of Japan at that time, he replied in fluent Japanese, “Around the time I came to Japan, my Japanese was so poor that I could only say a few greetings. There were no other foreigners around me to help, and when I asked questions in English to the Japanese people around me, they just ignored me. I had such experiences many times.” He added that he was very surprised at the high cost of living in Japan.

In 1996, he began a new post for the first time as a diplomat in Japan. After that, from 2005 he served as Minister-Counsellor and then Chief Minister for three years in the Embassy. In 2023, he took on his current post. After 37 years of living in Japan, how does he feel Japan has changed?

“I feel that the cost of living has not increased so much. 30 years ago, there were many Japanese people going abroad, but recently the situation has reversed. I feel that the sense of resistance (hurdles) to foreigners is lower. It is my opinion that Japan is at last becoming ‘globalized’.”

He added that relationships with other ethnic groups will increase in the future due to globalization, and it would be good for Japan to follow Singapore as a model.

What are some interesting policies of multinational Singapore that Japan can learn from?

“The population ratio of Singapore is 75% Chinese origin, 17% Malay and 8% Indian. The Singaporean Government promotes peaceful coexistence and actively encourages integration. The two major policies that have been very successful are public housing and working languages.”

Specifically, there is a large amount of public housing in Singapore due to limited space, and 85% of the population live in this. Residency in public housing is controlled based on ethnic composition as decided by the government, to deepen racial and cultural understanding. Multiracial living is the national policy of Singapore.

In Singapore, one of the official languages is English. The reason for this is that English is a neutral language, and this helps to avoid conflict between ethnic groups. English is also used for lessons for

children's education. In everyday life, a unique language called “Singlish” is used: English mixed with Chinese and Malay. In the Embassy, they speak English for work, but they communicate using Singlish in private.

His Many Favorites Spots in Minato City

We asked about his daily life. He lives with his wife in the ambassador's residence in the Embassy. Their daughter, who was born in Japan, is now living in Singapore. He and his wife enjoy walking around Roppongi. He talks about their favorite walking route. “We go down Torii-zaka slope to Akabane-bashi Bridge, then to the Russian Embassy via Tokyo Tower. After that, we go back to our residence over Iikura Katamachi Crossing, taking about 54 minutes,” he said with a smile. He also jogs the same route alone. The Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park and Ueno Park are also favorites of his.

“I loved a tonkatsu (pork cutlet) restaurant which used to be located along Roppongi-dori Avenue and often visited there.”

His favorite Japanese foods are ramen and tonkatsu. He said, “I love almost all Japanese foods, except natto,” while laughing.



When you visit Singapore, don't forget to have “laksa.”

We expect that there are many dishes he could recommend in the multiethnic country of Singapore.

“It's true. There are many multiethnic dishes. If you want to get to know Singapore, you can go to the usual restaurants, but make sure you also try ‘hawker’ street food.”

“Hawkers” are streets of food stalls formed along strict government hygienic guidelines. They can be found in different places, and are so good they're said to be the “citizen's kitchen.” Visitors can casually experience the taste of the common people of Singapore at reasonable prices. The Ambassador highly recommended “laksa.” This is a noodle dish that is eaten with special soup that has both spices and fruity acidity, just like Japanese ramen. Flavors vary depending on the shop. You can enjoy finding the best one for you.

Lastly, we asked him about his recommended tour-



- Hawker: a food court where food stalls are gathered together for locals. Visitors can enjoy these in safety and peace of mind.
- “Laksa,” the soul food of Singaporeans and highly recommended by the Ambassador: a spicy noodle dish, with different tastes and toppings depending on the shop.
- “Chicken rice” is a Singaporean signature dish, but is also familiar to Japanese people: Generally, boiled chicken is eaten together with rice cooked in the chicken broth.
- The high-quality dish “chili crab” uses a whole crab with tomato sauce mixed with spices

ist spots in Singapore.

“Please walk around Chinatown and Little India to feel the multiethnic culture.”

Singapore is a country of safety and peace of mind, where you can enjoy a cutting-edge high-tech landscape and also have fun walking around nostalgic streets. You can also encounter lush nature. Therefore, there are many highlights in Singapore.

We heard a nice comment from the Ambassador. He said that “The number of Singaporean visitors coming to Japan has increased rapidly.” I really hope that the international friendship between Japan and Singapore continues to deepen. The interview with the Ambassador really left an impression on us.

Singapore will participate in the “Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan” to be held in Yumeshima in Osaka from April 13 to October 13, 2025, with the theme of “Where Dreams Take Shape”. We have increasingly high expectations about what they will show us.

5-12-3 Roppongi, Minato-ku
Website: <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Mission/Tokyo/JPTokyo-JP>

This fiscal year, ten years have passed since the establishment of the Minato City Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall. The number of users has reached a total of 1 million. According to the Minato City Designated Manager System, the present operator of the hall is the “Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Jido Ikusei Kyokai (child development association). This hall has three functions: a Children’s Hall, a Toddlers’ Play Room, and a Pupils’ Club. These can be used by children of all ages – from infants to senior high school students. This facility is also a place where the adults who help cultivate children’s dreams and happiness can come together and connect with each other. They provide five age-appropriate programs^{*1}. Of those, we have interviewed the “Childrearing Program” and the “Infant Program” for half a year.

Everyone plays badminton seriously

“LET’S Play Badminton! Papas and Mamas Refreshing Time,” which started in August last year, is a program project created at the request of mothers with toddlers who use the hall. They practice and play games of badminton for 90 minutes in the Hall arena. Their children are watched over by other participants in turn. Staff members with badminton experience also watch over infants together with the participants, and also serve as coaches.

“I am a staff member of the Children’s Hall, and I have been playing badminton since I was about 6 years old. When I heard about this activity plan from the General Manager, I immediately asked, ‘Please let me do it!’ The participants not only enjoy games, but also do basic exercises. I feel that now, the program is progressing smoothly. When I see an infant suddenly starting to cry. As a staff member, I naturally go to take care of them without thinking. However, since there are other staff members and participants, I enjoy watching over the children together with their mothers.” (Ms. KINOSHITA Yuna)



Town’s Tips No. 17

Infant Playground

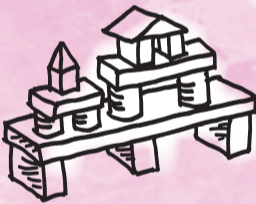


Dream guardians, doing their best with all their strength!

The “Childrearing Program” and “Infant Program” at the Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall

Ms. KINOSHITA Yuna

Ms. KINOSHITA is a new staff member, employed from April last year. Thanks to her excellent badminton skills, she became the deputy in charge of the new program from the start.



Picking up the Voices of the Local Community

The arena is a place where users can enjoy exercise and games freely while following the rules, except for times when projects organized by the Hall are taking place. The “LET’S Play Badminton! Papas and Mamas Refreshing Time” project was created in response to the voices of the Hall users.

“At first, we received a request from a mother who loved badminton, and wanted to play it here. She had played badminton together with her friends who were also mothers of children in the same kindergarten—they would gather together in Arisugawa-no-Miya Memorial Park. Before COVID-19, her friends exercised in the Hall while other mothers watched over the children. This time, too, we believed that the mother’s group could take the initiative to manage this project. I am a staff member of the Toddlers’ Play Room, where parents and infant children can play freely. We decided to go in the direction of responding to the requests of users. They can use the arena periodically, and can also make other parenting friends with the support of the entire Hall organization.” (Ms. SATO Miha)

After the program started, some fathers and mothers participated in it unofficially. Ms. SATO told us that at

present they only offer badminton. They invite new people by asking around; “Would you like to play badminton with us?” etc. She added that, “In the future, we want to sometimes provide something different.”

As the infants grow up, the chances for parents and their children to use the Hall together will decrease. Expanding the circle of participants, however, will increase the number of activities in collaboration with the local community.

Users of the Hall with pre-school children can participate in the program even if they don’t bring their kids on that day. Please note the information given in the Hall.

Ms. SATO Miha

Ms. SATO says that new friendly relationships with users will expand the number of opportunities for children. She does her best holding activities with children and managing operations from a broad perspective so that parents can have a good time with other parents and children can play with each other.



Supporting Children's Dreams

The staff members of both the Children's Hall and the "Toddlers' Play Room" plan how to proceed so that children can find things they want to do. They support children not only for their future, but also in what they want to do now, and in what only children can do. When children come up with ideas, the staff members support the process to realize their dreams. When the children, parents, and the local people work together, the options and possibilities grow.

"ASOB00 Time" is one of the "Childrearing Program" projects held on an irregular basis—usually once a month. Infants from 6 months to 2 years and 11 months old and their parents are eligible. This program provides time and space for parent-child contact and for parents to spend quality time with their children. In this program, various playtime activities are offered each month, such as parent-child contact play, material play, panel theater, etc. These are carried out by pairs of parents and children together. In spring last year, we covered "material play" using newspapers.

"We want parents to cherish time with their children, so we provide the time for them to enjoy playing together, and with the other parents and children, organizing activities they can't do in their own homes. The combination of casual friendships developing along with a specific program is a real chance for them to develop long-lasting relationships in the Toddlers' Play Room. There's a wide range of ages amongst the children, so the activities need to be adjusted accordingly. We make note of changing conditions and make changes as needed." (Ms. SATO Miha)

The program menu for material play took a while to put together. It needed to be designed so that children can experience the feel or size of things around them in their daily lives, and provide ideas for parents and children to play at home. The program seems to be slightly random, but is run smoothly by the staff according to their plan. Up until the moment they put the newspaper cuttings they were using in the game into the garbage, the participants enjoyed the activity as playtime.

The "Story Session" is a regular part of the "Infant Program," but is actually a project mainly for children, including elementary school children. It is held semi-regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. For this session, panels are set up in the rest area in the center of the Hall, a microphone stand is put in place, and mats are put out for visitor's seats. Many activities such as panel theater, Kamishibai (picture-story show), reading picture books, and the treasure box "Story Session" with many stories are enjoyed by everybody in the venue.

Letter for the Future

The most popular activity in the "Childrearing Program" is "Body Measurement." Children of up to about three years old are eligible. Sometimes reservations become full within the day applications become available. The venue is a large bright room called the "Toddlers' Play Room," in front of the resting space. On the measurement day, parents who applied bring their child to the venue, slowly matching their child's walking pace. After they sign in at the reception, the children's height and weight are measured, and handprints and footprints are taken. At times like this, the growth of the children is obvious. Parents sometimes do not notice how much their children have grown, because they are always at their side. Although height and weight can also be measured in the hospital or public health centers, most of the infant children stepped on to the scales calmly and voluntarily, because they were in a familiar atmosphere where they play. Sometimes, there are children who cry bitterly at their first experi-



Ms. SUIO Yumi
Ms. SUIO is the face of
the Azabu Kids-to-Teens
Hall, and she coordinates
its three sections. She
works to make sure that
this place is always a
comfortable space. She is
quite an impressive person.

ence. However, with the support of the experienced staff members and their mothers, their measurements are successfully taken. Then, clapping is heard in the room. When red hand and foot stamps are put on a card with measurement results, the measurement session is completed. The cards are the growth record of the children, which is kept for the future. After the measurement session, parents' chat time starts while the children play. On our research day, there was a public health nurse, who handled individual consultations and also joined in with the conversation. There were 20 pairs of parents and children, a lively scene, but the time passed peacefully.

The older generation also joins the dream project.

In the Azabu area, there are 26 nursery schools, 10 kindergartens and 2 daycare centers for pre-school children. In addition, there are 3 toddlers' play rooms, 11 parks, 15 children's amusement parks, and 2 playgrounds^{*2}, which are used by parents and children. The toddlers' play room in this Hall is a place that local infant children and their guardians can use casually, where they can make new discoveries and encounters.

The child-rearing generation in the area are not only young fathers and mothers, but also many elderly people who take care of their infant grandchildren. We would like to ask them, "Why not come to the Hall with your grandchild?" or "Why don't you support the children as a volunteer, for them to make their dreams come true?" We interviewed Ms. KINOSHITA Yuna, who leads the "Toy Hospital" program, in which children who want their broken toys repaired can participate. Volunteers who have the skills and the passion to participate repair the broken toys. Other volunteers also participate in the origami workshop and reading picture books in this Hall.

With a variety of events and programs, this Hall supports activities where children can do what they want or that could make children's dreams come true. In addition, guardians get a chance to expand their circle of friends with other guardians. There are also student volunteers.

This facility is open to the local community as a playground for infants, and a place for children where participants can meet people of all ages.

With the Local Community

Ms. SUIO Yumi, General Manager of the Hall, told us that "I wish this place to be comfortable not only for the local children, but a variety of people." Volunteers are valuable, and are always a breath of fresh air in the room. One of the great things about volunteers is that they provide new people for children to meet. Chances for the Hall to work with local people have increased every year. They work with members of two local neighborhood associations at local festivals and also PTA members and the Minato City Youth Affairs Administration Koryo Area Committee members. "Local people participate in our program to encourage us. Our program provides a place for children to connect with adults. In the local community, the number of face-to-face relationships has increased. We would like not only parents and infant children, but also people of various generations and positions to come to the Hall to expand their dreams. This place supports children for their rich growth. We believe that when they have rich experiences, they can enrich their minds. We would like people to have a look at our website and come to this Hall with peace of mind. Everybody is welcome, anytime."

The Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall is a place for children from infants to senior high school students, where they can nurture their dreams. The staff members, volunteers, and users all work together to nurture children's dreams and gently watch over them. We hope that this circle of cooperation will expand in this Kids-to-Teens Hall as a warm friendly space open to the local community.

^{*1} The Hall's programs are operations organized by the Hall. There are five age-based programs: The "Childrearing Program," the "Infant Program," the "Elementary School Students' Program," the "Teens' Program," and the "Common Program."

^{*2} This is correct as of December 2024, based on data provided by the Community Development Section, Azabu Regional City Office



Research and Shooting Support

Minato City Kids-to-Teens Hall

Address: 2F, Minato City Arisu Iki-iki Plaza,
4-6-7 Minami-azabu, Minato-ku

Tel: 03-5447-0611

Website: <http://www.azabu-plaza.jp>



Mitsui Family Lands and Buildings (Second Part)

—Main Residence in Kogai-Cho and the Surrounding Area after the War—



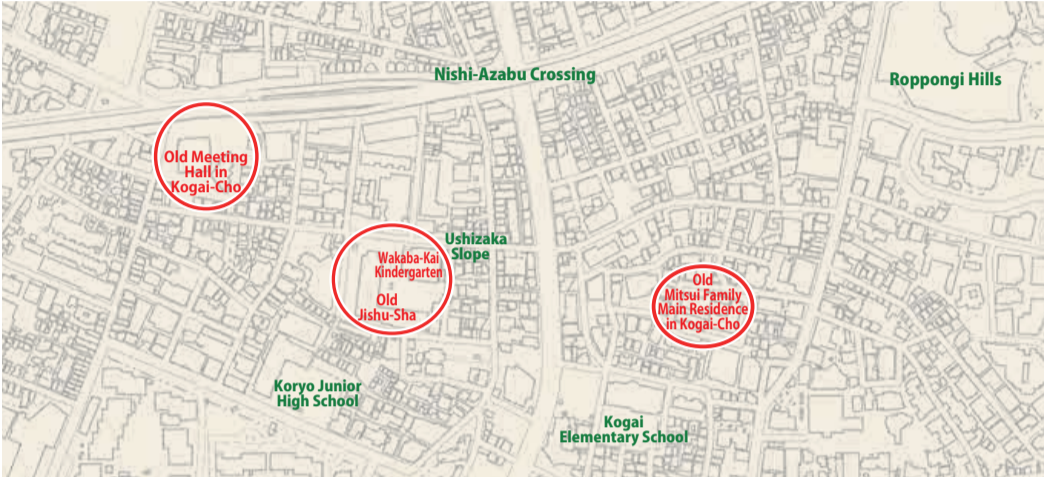
2 “Seisen Gakuryo” Dormitory

麻布の軌跡

The Historical
Footsteps of Azabu



1 Mr. MITSUI Takakimi



Children’s Educational Facility (Jishu-Sha and Wakaba-kai Kindergarten)

Mr. INOUE Kaoru was a famous politician and also a Mitsui Family advisor. He focused on the importance of the education of upper-class children from an early age and opened a dormitory called “Jishu-Sha” in his residence at Uchidayama (now Moto-Azabu 3-Chome) in 1897. The Jishu-Sha accepted and educated about 120 students in total, including imperial family members and the aristocracy. However, it was forced to close in March 1912 because Mr. Inoue became seriously ill. In the month following the closure, another educational facility for the Mitsui children opened under the same name, “Jishu-Sha.” They bought land with an area of about 9,900m2 halfway up the Ushizaka Slope, and built a new dormitory. Boys aged 10 or over, mainly children of the Mitsui Family and relatives, gathered here and lived together while undergoing training of their bodies and minds. The new Jishu-Sha also continued Mr. Inoue’s educational policy.

Later, the name was changed to “Seisen Gakuryo” 2, and facilities such as a tennis court and Kyudo (Japanese art of archery) hall were added, but gradually the number of residents decreased. The age group among residents changed from the late teens to the twenties. On the other hand, the number of pre-school children increased amongst the 11 Mitsui Families (descendants of the founder of Mitsui, who share Mitsui’s assets and businesses) in the early Showa Era. In 1929, a kindergarten called “Wakaba-Kai” opened adjacent to “Seisen Gakuryo”, and it still continues today. In 1932, “Seisen Gakuryo” closed and became a welfare facility called “Sanyu Gakusha”.

For a long time, the old site of the Sanyu Gakusha had been a huge vacant space recorded as a “Minato City Protected Forest” on the map. In 1976, when Kogai Elementary School was rebuilt, the space was provided free of charge as a playground for the elementary school students. (now the “Azabu Kasumi-Cho Park Mansion” condominium building site)

Meeting/Reception Facility (Kogai-Cho Meeting Hall)

Kogai-Cho was also home to a Mitsui meeting hall. The meeting hall was the place for the Mitsui Family to gather together on New Year’s and perform the reading ceremony of their “family precepts”. The Mitsui Board of Directors meeting was held regularly there, and this facility was also important because it was used as reception place for honored guests or for employees at no charge.

The first Mitsui meeting hall was built in Yurakucho in 1894. The site area was about 2,210m2, with a spacious garden with an “Old Building” and a “New Building”, with a total area of 330m2. However, the old building collapsed in the Great Kanto Earthquake. After that, temporary offices of Mitsui family companies affected by the Earthquake were built on the site, and Yurakucho was no longer used as a meeting place. (Now the Tokyo Midtown Hibiya site)

The new meeting hall was established close to the present day Roppongi Dori Avenue and Nisseki Dori Shopping Street. The Mitsui Family bought two mansion buildings adjacent to each other, one in 1919 and the other in 1922. One had an area of 4,620m2 and used to be the residence of Mr. KUROIWA Ruiko, a famous novelist, translator and journalist, and the other, which was about 2,100 m2, used to be the residence of Mr. TERAUCHI Masatake, the 18th Prime Minister of Japan. In Mr. Terauchi’s residence, there was a brick Western-style building designed by Mr. Georg de Lalande, a German architect, completed in 1911, adjacent to a Japanese-style building. Both buildings were renovated for use as a meeting place. After that, in 1929, the splendid “New Building” left in the old Yurakucho Meeting Hall site was relocated to the old Kuroiwa residence. This place was used as a meeting and reception spot, as well as the Mitsui Family’s Main Building and

As described in the First Part (The Azabu No. 66), the splendid mansions of the Mitsui Family and the executives of their associated companies were clustered closely in the Roppongi Area before the World War II. However, they were all destroyed in the fire bombings, and the old site of the Mitsui Family’s Main Building was requisitioned and repurposed into US Embassy staff accommodation. Mr. MITSUI Takakimi 1, the head of the family around then, had difficulty navigating the changing times after the war, such as the end of the Zaibatsu (business tycoons), the abolishment of the peerage system, expulsions from public office, and increases in property taxes. He selected Kogai-Cho (now Nishi-Azabu 3-Chome) as a place where their new residence would be built. He was familiar with this place because the children’s educational facility and meeting/reception facility of Mitsui were established there in the Meiji Era.

Banquet Hall in Imai-Cho, Second Residence in Tsunamachi town (now the Tsunamachi Mitsui Club Building). However, as World War II intensified, feasts and so on were suspended, and the halls were forced to become office buildings. Unfortunately, they were all destroyed in the War. (Presently Park Wellstate Nishi-Azabu site)

Mitsui Main Residence Land in Kogai-Cho

After living in a temporary residence immediately after the War, Mr. Mitsui bought land in Kogai-Cho in 1950. Two years later, Mitsui’s new main mansion was completed and he moved in. The site area was about 4,000m2. It cannot be compared with the original site of their former residence in Imai-Cho before the War, which was 44,550m2, but later in the early Showa Era, this land was sold and became a luxury residential area. The site was located almost in the center of former Baron Nishi Takeichi’s residence*, which was a stately site 3. A combination of curving and private roads were arranged in this land for sale. Cars are driven slowly in this gentle, quiet place. The House of Antonin Raymond**, a masterpiece of modern architecture, was located nearby. (Now the “Park House Nishi-Azabu Residence” site)

- * He was well known by his nickname “Baron Nishi”, and he won the equestrian competition in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1932.
- ** It was Mr. Antonin Raymond’s own residence and office. He was an architect who designed the Seishin Joshi Gakuin building, etc., which was introduced in the Azabu No. 22.

The Mitsui Family Residence Building in Kogai-Cho

This new Mitsui Family Main Building was built using parts of old buildings and materials left to the Mitsui Family. Materials used in the drawing room of the old Mitsui Residence in Kyoto Abura Koji, built in 1897, were used for two rooms on the first floor. On the second floor, the dragon painting on the ceiling was drawn by Mr. MITSUI Takaaki, Takakimi’s grandfather. The phoenix painting on the sliding doors was drawn by Mr. MITSUI Takamine, Takakimi’s father. Also, at the upper side of the corridor, a chandelier taken from Mitsui Bank’s old main building is on display. The Japanese-style room called “Bokaisho” on the south-east side of the residence was relocated from “Oiso Jozan-So” where Takamine spent the last years of his life. The storehouse with its thick earthen walls used to be Mitsui Echigo-Ya’s silk warehouse in Nihonbashi Suruga-Cho. It was built by Mr. SHIMIZU Kisuke, the second head of the Shimzu-gumi family (now the Shimizu Corporation), in 1874. These buildings preserved the history of the Mitsui Family with great care.

After the death of Takakimi, this Main Building faced the risk of being demolished. However, people involved thought it would be a shame. Through their extraordinary efforts, the building was relocated to the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum (in Koganei City, Tokyo) 4. The building is located opposite the House of Mr. Georg de Lalande 5 in the museum, who designed the Mitsui Meeting Hall in Kogai-Cho (former residence of the TERAUCHI Family). This might be linked by fate.



5 House of Mr. Georg de Lalande

On the highland of the Roppongi Area, there were many residences of the royal family and peerage families before the War. I realized that for Mitsui Family in particular, this place was very important because they had

deep local connections to this place, their “base in life”. I would like to continue to pursue the answer to the question, “Why did the Mitsui Family select the land of Azabu?”, which was not made clear in the research this time.

Through the research, I found traces of many historically famous people related to the Azabu Area, such as Mr. TERAUCHI Masatake and his son, Hisaichi, Mr. NISHI Tokujiro, a diplomat, and his son Takeichi. I would like to have an opportunity to introduce their stories in the future.

- Main References ●
“Mitsui Hachiro Uemon Takamine Den” (Biography of MITSUI Hachiro Uemon Takamine) issued by Mitsui Bunko in 1988
“Mitsui no Shukaijou, Yurakucho kara Sapporo made” (Mitsui Meeting Halls from Yurakucho to Sapporo) issued by Architectures, Constructions & Engineering News (Daily), in 1993
“40 Years History of Mitsui Fudosan” issued in 1985
“Edo-Tokyo Tatemono-En, Mitsuitei Ichiku Koji Hokokusho (Kaitai-Hen)” (Mitsui Family Mansion Relocation Work Report (Demolition Edition) in the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum) issued by the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments in 1994
- Photos provided by: ●
Photos 1 and 2 by Mitsui Bunko,
Photos 3 and 5 by the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

(Researched and text by YAMAKI Ayako)



3 Mitsui Family Main Residence before relocation



4 Mitsui Family Main Residence after relocation
(The gatepost was moved to the present place through Imai-Cho and Kogai-Cho)



Information Items in July

Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for houses that have been rebuilt or renovated for earthquake resistance are exempted (only in cases that certain conditions are met) (Within Tokyo's 23 Wards).

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

● **Rebuilding:**

Three (3) fiscal years' worth will be fully exempted (limited to residential part) from the newly taxed fiscal year after new construction. However, the number of units for which the tax is to be exempted will depend on the house before rebuilding.

● **Renovation:**

Complete reduction for the floor area equivalent to 120m² of the residential part per household for a certain period of time from the fiscal year after the renovation completion date (*Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax amounts after the seismic reduction has been applied will be fully exempted).

Application is required for tax exemptions.

For more information, visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the following:

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City: Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

Notification about the Current Owner Self-Declaration System for the Fixed Asset Tax and the City Planning Tax (Within Tokyo's 23 Wards)

The Current Owner Self-Declaration System provides the procedure for new owners of inherited houses or land (the current owners) to declare themselves or otherwise prove without question that they are the new owner, within three months. For details of the system, contact the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation or the following office.

When the owner of a property or land has died, it is recommended to register the inheritance as soon as possible.

Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City: Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

If the “e-tax procedure is performed by a tax accountant” or “tax payment procedure is performed by the company”, useful information will be provided.

Even if Corporate Municipal Taxes and Corporate Business Taxes are declared with the electronic tax declaration system eLTAX (Local Tax Portal System) by a consulting tax accountant, by sharing the user ID and password, the company can easily pay taxes electronically such as with direct payments.

For details, refer to the eLTAX electronic tax leaflet.

https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/documents/d/tax/about_eltax

Notification about the Continuation of Relief Measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax in FY2025 (Within Tokyo's 23 Wards)

The following measures will be extended for FY2025: ① Measures to reduce the upper limit charge level of the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc. ② Relief measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for small-scale non-residential land ③ Relief measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for small-scale residential land ④ Relief measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for residential land, etc., in which the tax amount is 1.1 times higher than the previous fiscal year ⑤ Exemption measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for houses that have been rebuilt or renovated for earthquake resistance.

(④ Will be extended until FY2026. ⑤ will be extended until April 1, 2027)

For more information, visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the office as follows.

Inquiries:

For properties located in Minato City: Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

Energy Saving Promotion Tax System for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Owners — Tax Reduction for Corporate Business Tax and Individual Business Tax

Tokyo Metropolitan Government reduces the Corporate Business Tax and Individual Business Tax to support small and medium-sized enterprise owners obtaining energy-saving equipment, etc.

For details, refer to “About the Metropolitan Tax Mitigation System for Environment” on the Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

Inquiries:

- ▶ **For the Energy-Saving Promotion Tax System for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Owners, contact the following.**
Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office (rep.) 03-5549-3800
Taxation Department, Bureau of Taxation (For Corporations): 03-5388-2963
Taxation Department, Bureau of Taxation (For Individuals): 03-5388-2969
- ▶ **For the Tokyo Carbon Reduction Reporting Program and Recommended Equipment**
Cool Net Tokyo For Tokyo Carbon Reduction Reporting Program: 0570-03-3517
For Recommended Equipment: 03-5990-5087

City taxes can be paid through smartphone payment apps.

Please consider using smartphone payment apps to pay city taxes.

By reading the eL-QR (Unified Local Tax QR Code) code on the payment slip using a smartphone payment app., the tax can be paid easily any time, any place.

For details, visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

<https://www.tax1.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/cashless-nouzei/>

*QR code is a registered trademark of DENSO-WAVE INCORPORATED.

Why don't you join us? Come and join the Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project Campaign!



Campaign activity



Once a month, local residents, staff members of shops and companies, and government bodies come together to carry out cleaning activities around Roppongi Crossing. Coffee packs with an original design are handed out to pedestrians as a PR activity for the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind. Cleaning with everyone and promoting “good manners” can help you see the town from a different perspective. Sometimes, you can exchange smiles with the people walking down the road, and they might say, “Keep it up!” or “Thank you!” How about spending a fulfilling time with us? If you are interested in our activities, don't hesitate to contact us!



Information from the Azabu Regional City Office

The FY2025 Minato City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills will be conducted in Azabu!

The Minato City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills will be conducted at a site in Azabu to share the lessons learned from past disasters and prepare for future ones, such as a large earthquake that could directly hit the Tokyo area.

Date and Time

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday October 19, 2025 (planned)

Location

Minato City Roppongi Junior High School (6-8-16 Roppongi, Minato City)

Drills

Drills will be carried out on the school ground and in the gymnasium.



For details, see the X (formerly known as Twitter) account of the Azabu Regional City Office Collaboration Project Section.

Full of neighborhood information not found in any guidebook! The community social media app “PIAZZA”



Connect with other Azabu lovers!

This app gathers local information useful for daily life in the Azabu area from users, such as: “We are holding a festival in Azabu-juban.” “I’m thinking of giving my electric fan away to someone in the area.” “Please recommend a dentist for children in or around the Roppongi/Higashi-azabu area.” etc.

New information from the government such as crime or disaster prevention information, local government news, and event news will be posted when relevant.

You’ll be able to find anything and everything on the PIAZZA app, from general and interesting information about the area (without having to go out and search yourself!) to specific topics like how to address concerns about taking care of children locally.

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



Three-step registration procedure

- STEP 1

Download the PIAZZA application.
- STEP 2

Register your name through your email address or Facebook account.
- STEP 3

Input your name and birthplace and select “Azabu/Roppongi Area”.

Your information will help somebody!
Get involved to enjoy living in Azabu even more!



The “Home Evacuation Guidebook For When an Earthquake Strikes” is being distributed!



If your house is not damaged in an earthquake etc., do not go to a shelter: consider “Home Evacuation,” or “sheltering in place,” and continue living at home.

Shelters are temporary living spaces for people who cannot live at home, because their homes were seriously damaged, collapsed or burnt down, etc.

Living space in a shelter is limited. Because of this, we need to be careful about privacy, health management and hygiene management (such as for toilets, etc.) Therefore, each of us needs to realize the importance of home evacuation.

For this reason, the Azabu Regional City Office has created the “Home Evacuation Guidebook For When an Earthquake Strikes,” recommending home evacuation in the Azabu area following an earthquake. This guidebook outlines important details regarding safely living at home during a disaster, telling us exactly what home evacuation means, what we should prepare, etc.

This guidebook is being distributed at the Collaboration Project Section counter at the Azabu Regional City Office.

More details about the guidebook can be found on the Minato City website.

Evacuation shelters can become overcrowded.



Aza-Buu

Access our website using this QR code to read the “Home Evacuation Guidebook For When an Earthquake Strikes”.



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

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabanebashi subway stations, The Chii Bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi- azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.

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Editor’s Note

The first text that I wrote for “The Azabu” and that I got really excited about was this Editor’s Note. It was eight years ago, and “The Azabu” continues to inform us about the charms of Azabu with the same passion even now. When I turn the page, I can feel closer to distant countries, or discover some local information that is easy to miss. I can also learn about how Azabu was in the past, and things that can no longer be seen. In “The Azabu”, there are always many surprises and things to learn in every issue, both as an editor and a reader. I would like to continue sharing my excitement with the readers of “The Azabu” in the future.

(HORIUCHI Akiko)

The original article is written in Japanese.

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“Minato Call” information service answers your questions about everyday life! Feel free to ask about services provided by City Hall, facility guides, event information, and more. Available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm every day.

* This service is also available in English.

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Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752
Inquiry submission form: <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou/kusei/kocho/iken/form-inquiry.html>