

# MINATO MONTHLY

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## Happy New Year



The Mayor and the members of the “Hatachi no Tsudoi” Executive Committee

Happy New Year.

As the Mayor of Minato City, I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

It has been about half a year since I assumed office as mayor last June, and this marks my first New Year in this role. As I reflect on the weighty responsibility of managing the city's administration, I am reaffirming my commitment to listening sincerely to the diverse thoughts and voices of our residents and dedicating myself wholeheartedly to meeting your expectations.

I have put forward the vision of “Minato City: A City Resounding with Kindness, Connecting to the World” as our ideal. To realize this vision, I have been listening to your voices through various opportunities. To better reflect residents' perspectives in city administration, I will collaborate with you to develop new ideas and work closely with our staff to steadily advance key initiatives.

Minato City is a place where the strengths of people from around the world come together. As a vibrant city center where many people come and go and

diverse communities thrive, we aspire to build a bright future filled with kindness and smiles—a future where people understand one another and forge new connections.

The population of Minato City is approaching 270,000 and is expected to grow across all generations. This year, we will continue to dedicate our utmost efforts to responding effectively to the diversifying administrative needs and to building a city where residents' aspirations can be realized, where people are motivated to embrace new challenges, where children's futures shine brightly, and where everyone can live with peace of mind throughout their lives.

We hope this year will be full of happiness and cheer for all of you.



SEIKE Ai,  
Mayor of Minato City

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**Minato Monthly home-delivery service:** For free delivery of Minato Monthly to foreign resident's homes in Minato City, contact Minato Call or Minato Monthly by e-mail at [kuminkoho@city.minato.tokyo.jp](mailto:kuminkoho@city.minato.tokyo.jp). Please write “Minato Monthly” in the subject line.

**Minato Call**

CITY INFORMATION SERVICE

03-5472-3710

### Multilingual Interpreter Call Service

A person who needs translating service, the operator who will interpret and Minato city staff can talk in group of three.

Our system allows people to choose their preferred language in advance on their smartphone, and have an entire conversation on the phone with the staff in the various departments of City Hall, through an interpreter. This service is available in 13 languages.



A Conversation  
with the Mayor



# What We Can Do Together with Minato City as We Turn 20



**KONAGAYA Takane**  
Minato City's "Hatachi no Tsudoi"  
Chairperson of the Executive  
Committee

**SEIKE Ai**  
Mayor of Minato City

**KONDO Chise**  
Minato City's "Hatachi no Tsudoi"  
Vice Chairperson of the Executive  
Committee

**KURASHINA Serena**  
Minato City's "Hatachi no Tsudoi"  
Executive Committee Planning  
Officer

In Japan, the second Monday in January is designated as “Coming of Age Day,” and ceremonies to celebrate new adults are held throughout the country.

In Minato City, the FY2024 “Hatachi no Tsudoi” will be held on Monday, 1/13. Minato City’s “Hatachi no Tsudoi” is a ceremony produced by residents who are turning 20 that year, who form the Executive Committee and decide on the theme.

Those who are turning 20 this fiscal year are part of the generation who spent three years from the latter half of their last year of junior high through senior high school under various restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What kind of future will they forge in Minato City? Three members of the “Hatachi no Tsudoi” Executive Committee participated in this conversation with Mayor SEIKE, and shared their thoughts as 20-year-old Minato City residents.

Here’s a glimpse of the interview.



The “Hatachi no Tsudoi” Executive Committee decides on a theme every year. Please talk to us about the sentiments behind this year’s theme, “Where there’s a will, there’s a way.”



**KONAGAYA, Chairperson of the Minato City’s “Hatachi no Tsudoi” Executive Committee**

Our generation has been going through the COVID-19 pandemic since the third term of our last year of junior high school through senior high school. We had to wear masks, follow movement restrictions, and there were many problems that we could not do anything about on our own, such as having our school festivals

and school trips cancelled. Today, there are wars and various issues happening around the world that are difficult to resolve alone. The theme for this event is “Where there’s a will, there’s a way,” meaning that we can find a way as long as we have the will to do so. This is our message for 20-year-olds.



Mayor SEIKE, what is your message to those turning 20 this year?



**Mayor SEIKE**

Congratulations to everyone who is turning 20 this year. The theme of this year’s “Hatachi no Tsudoi” is “Where there’s a will, there’s a way.” This is the message that both the Executive Committee, who are from the same generation, as well as Minato City, would like to convey to everyone. As these words say, I hope that each of you will pave your

way to the future with hope. I sincerely hope that you will continue to take on new challenges and help shape the future of Minato City.

\* For detailed interview, please visit the Minato City website.





MULTI-LINGUAL SUPPORT

# We are Expanding our Multi-lingual Interpretation Telephone Service

多言語対応三者通話サービス (平日8:30~17:15)

Multilingual Interpreter Call Service

(Available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on weekdays)

※希望の言語をタップしてください。発信ができます。

\*Please tap on your desired language to make a call.

|                             |                     |                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| English<br>英語               | 中文<br>中国語           | 한국어<br>韓国語/朝鮮語       |
| Português<br>ポルトガル語         | Español<br>スペイン語    | ภาษาไทย<br>タイ語       |
| Tagalog<br>タガログ語            | Tiếng Việt<br>ベトナム語 | नेपाली भाषा<br>ネパール語 |
| Bahasa Indonesia<br>インドネシア語 | हिंदी<br>ヒンディー語     | Français<br>フランス語    |
| Русский язык<br>ロシア語        |                     |                      |

Call button icon

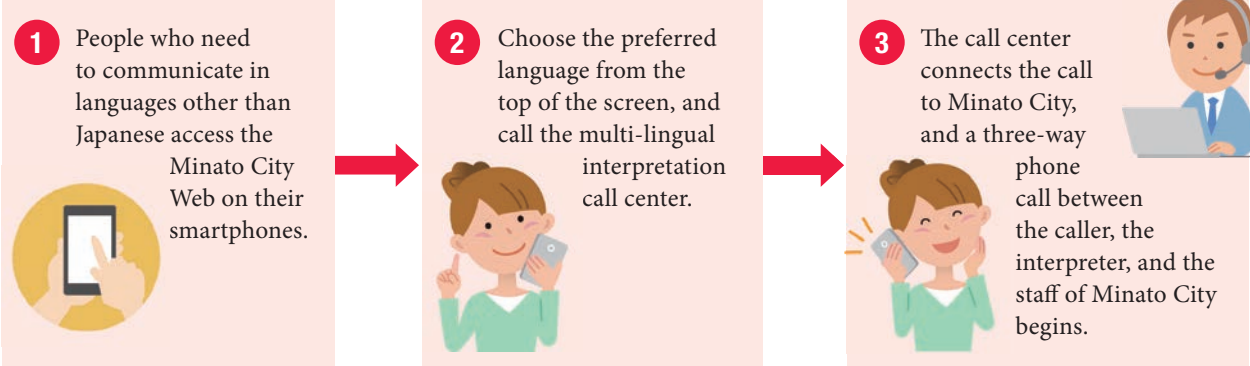
Foreign residents can phone the City Hall without facing language barriers. Our system allows people to choose their preferred language in advance on their smartphone, and have an entire conversation on the phone with the staff in the various departments of City Hall, through an interpreter. This service is available in 13 languages. Please feel free to use it.

Multi-lingual Interpretation Telephone Service

Who can use this service: Those who need to communicate in languages other than Japanese. Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (may vary depending on the open hours of City Hall)



How the Multi-lingual Interpretation Telephone Service works



Inquires: Global Community Planning Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2308/2046

INFORMATION

## Minato International Information Board and Minato Information Board

These are the social media accounts of the Global Community Planning Subsection. They are aimed at foreign residents of Minato City and the Japanese people who live with them, and share information necessary for everyday life and information about events in multiple languages.

- X “Minato International Information Board”

This account is aimed at foreign residents of Minato City and Japan, and the Japanese people who live with them. It shares event information needed for everyday life, generally in Easy Japanese and English.



- Facebook “Minato Information Board”

This account provides government information, event information, and more approximately once a week, in Easy Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean.



COLUMN

## Introducing Japanese Culture

### Kagami Mochi, Mirror Rice Cake

Kagami Mochi, Mirror Rice Cake, is a traditional Japanese New Year decoration consisting of round, flat rice cakes stacked in 2-3 layers, typically topped with tangerine, and others. It represents good fortune. The stacking of two Kagami Mochi is particularly meaningful, symbolizing the moon and the sun, and is believed to bring luck by “accumulating good fortune.” Shogatsu, or the New Year, is a significant cultural celebration marking the beginning of the year. The first three days, from 1/1 to 3, known as Sanganichi, are a special time when families come together to celebrate.

On January 11th, a ceremonial ritual called Kagami Biraki takes place, where the Kagami Mochi is broken apart using a traditional mallet. The fragmented pieces are transformed into dishes like Oshiruko—a sweet dessert created by simmering azuki beans into a liquid, sweetening it with sugar, and adding soft, chewy mochi.



DISASTER PREVENTION

## Subsidy for Flood Barrier Panel Purchases

Minato City aims to strengthen disaster preparedness for each household by providing a subsidy for water damage prevention equipment, specifically flood barrier panels designed to prevent flooding during heavy rainfall.

**Eligibility:** Residents registered in Minato City who are implementing flood prevention measures. Limited to one set per household, one-time.

**Eligible Items:** Flood barrier panels listed in the “Disaster Prevention Supplies Arrangement”

**Subsidy Amount:** Out of the flood barrier panel’s price of 60,500 yen, the city will subsidize 30,500 yen.

**Application:** Download the application form from the Minato City website and submit by mail or in person to the Disaster Prevention Community Support Subsection. Applications can also be submitted at the Collaboration Project Section counter of Regional City Office.



Disaster Prevention Supplies Arrangement

Inquires: Disaster Prevention Community Support Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2516





CULTURE

# Art Exhibition of People with Disabilities Children with Disabilities Living in the Society

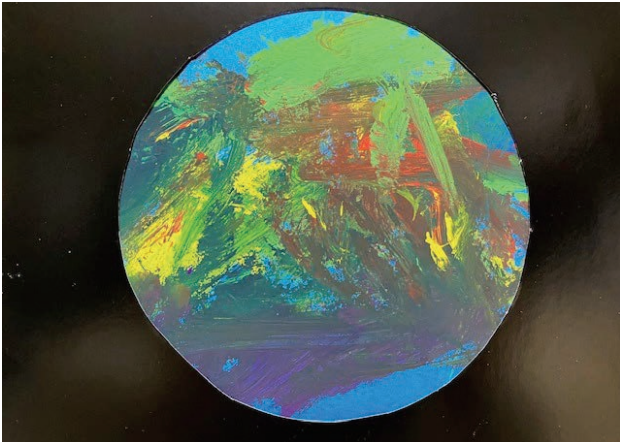
Art created in the facilities for people with disabilities in Minato City, from the project for children with severe disabilities, and others.

Free admission

**Date & time:** 2/7 to 3/4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** Toraya Akasaka Gallery, 4-9-22 Akasaka

**Inquiries:** Disabled Persons' Welfare Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2670, Fax: 03-3578-2678



“Planet” from Minato Support Home Minamiazabu  
for People with Disabilities



“Composition” from The Temporary Day  
Support Service



“Sunflower” from Tairaka

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

# Exhibition of Calligraphies and Paintings from Chaoyang District, Beijing and Minato City

The Calligraphy and Painting Exchange Exhibition, which began as a friendship exchange project with Beijing's Chaoyang District, China will be held once again. The artwork by elderly citizens and children, which receives high praise every year, is once again impressive this year. It features powerful and dynamic calligraphy, paintings created with rich color sensibilities, and many other captivating works.

Since last year, works by artists with disabilities have also been included in the exhibition. Please see these wonderful pieces.

**Date & time:** 2/1 to 2/27, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Place:** Minato Park Shibaura

**Inquires:** Global Community Planning Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2565



EXHIBITION

# Human Rights Awareness Panel Exhibition

Panels aimed at raising human rights awareness will be displayed, including panels explaining the Meat Market Shibaura, panels about North Korean abduction victims, panels about specific missing persons cases, and other human rights-related topics.

**Date & time:** 1/9 to 1/22, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Place:** Minato Park Shibaura, 1F and 2F park-side atrium



NOTICE

# Schedule of Municipal Libraries

Library events

For the Library events conducted in January, visit the Minato City Library Website.

