

The 10th Anniversary!

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



**1 "Dance: Roku Hon Moku Yamaiba Vol. 4" (Bon Festival Dance in the middle of the night).**  
 This Bon Festival Dance is customarily held on Roppongi Art Night with the calm sound of a ukulele accompanying the singing of "Konna Ma - Ah - Yonaka ni Bon Odori... Oookina Oto ha Dasemasen" ("We're doing the Bon Festival Dance in Such a Middle of the Night, So We Can't Be Loud Here"). In the Roppongi Hills Arena venue, an artwork forest which is the main program of "Ether", designed in the shape of trickling liquid, and "White Deer", (both works created by Mr. Nawa), and plants collected from all over the world, catches our enthusiasm warmly and quietly.

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**2 Main Program @ Tokyo Midtown**

Beneath the silver-colored art-work "Ether", there are fleshy plants such as cactuses, dressed with balloons, artfully painted with dots to look like cocoons just before hatching. This expresses the relationship between humans, gravity, time and space.

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**3 Main Program @ National Art Center, Tokyo**

The work "Kaze no Tami" (Peoples of the Wind). Figures pull a "Kumo no Niguruma" ("The Cart Made of Clouds") created by Mr. Nawa. Driftwood is arranged on a hill illuminated in red suggesting traces of flowing lava: these people wander about, and we get a glimpse of their lives on the cart. This work expresses a scene like a part of a mythology.

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**4 "Japanese Radio Calisthenics in Live Classical Music!"**

This started in the early morning at 5:15. As the closing event of the Roppongi Art Night well-known works of classical music are played by a string quartet, then two trumpets are added to the quartet, and gymnastic exercises are performed to their accompaniment.

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## Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 12

# Roppongi

# Art Night 2016

The whole of Roppongi Town was recently the venue for various art events collectively known as "Roppongi Art Night", and this year was its seventh anniversary. The event has been earmarked to promote the cultural side of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. The opening was changed from spring to autumn last year, and the length of the event was extended to 2 1/2 days and 2 nights, from October 21st to 23rd 2016.

The theme is "Roppongi, Art Playground - Let's Run Around and Try Things Out!"

When we hear the word "art", we tend to suppose we would be going to a museum or theater to enjoy paintings, designs, handicrafts, sculptures and traditional performance arts. However, "Roppongi Art Night" does not stick to such fixed ideas, for the venue is the whole town of Roppongi. For these three days, art events were held here and there around the town, including the museum, commercial facilities such as Roppongi Hills, parks, and shrines and on the streets. People enjoyed arts in their everyday lives, in the workshop where participants were involved in the creation of art works - a short play even suddenly started on the street - plus meet-and-greet events where participants could get together and talk with an artist in a café. And for the artists it was a great opportunity for them to get some straight feedback from everyday locals who just happened to be passing by, and without any prior interest in the works of a particular artist. Such wonderful meeting places where artists and audiences can spontaneously interact with each other, is also one of the real pleasures of Roppongi Art Night.



**6 "Stepping on the stones"**

Balloons were attached to the clock tower like a lantern at Roppongi Crossing. Pine trees and stepping-stones were set up to use in this area to resemble the gate of the Art Night.



**5**

**5 "The Sound of Roppongi"**

This is a participative style of artwork in which resin pipes and wood are joined together, and sounds collected from all over the world can be heard and experienced.

© Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee



**7 "Tokyo Caravan in Roppongi" A Culture Circus that was produced by Hideki Noda, famed theater director. Traditional drum show in Tohoku Region Performance featuring Ms. Rie Miyazawa**

(Both pictures shot by Kishin Shinoyama)



**7**



**9**



**8**



**10**

**8 Expanding Me and Connecting You "Let's enjoy PARA-FUKU"**  
 The participants in the workshop, wearing the swelling cloth (PARA-FUKU), enjoy the feeling of freedom.

**9 "SAMURAI IN ROPPONGI!!!"**

A unique collaboration of street performance with violin performance and a sword fight scene.

**10 Compagnie des Quidams, "FierS à Cheval" (Proud Horse)**

Performers in white clothes transform into brilliant horses, dancing and communicating with the spectators, a performance perfectly suited for night-viewing.

© Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee

### A Variety of Exhibitions

The main program was the 'installation' (3-D expression using whole exhibition space) by the Main Program Artist of this year, Mr. Kohei Nawa. "a forest", symbolizing the dawn of culture, was created in three locations: Roppongi Hills, Tokyo Midtown and the National Art Center, Tokyo.

The program "Tokyo Caravan in Roppongi", intertwined with other art events, was staged in the main venue, the Roppongi Hills Arena, and produced by famed theater director Mr. Hideki Noda. The actress Ms. Rie Miyazawa, traditional art performers from the Tohoku Region, a Living National Treasure 'Noh' theatre performer, the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, and dancers from Brazil were all energetic participants.

In recent years, museums and art galleries have opened one after another in Roppongi, transforming the area from a business center to an art town. We would like you to enjoy Roppongi Art Night, where you can indulge in the pleasure of arts, not only during the day, but also from late at night to early morning.



**11 Special Art Talk Event**

A talk event with artists and critics was held in the just opened Modern Art Gallery.

© ShugoArts, Photo by Shigeo MUTO

**12 "First Steps toward Art, Design and Disability"**

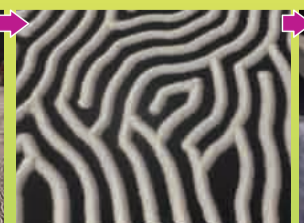
This exhibition introduced various exhibits connecting disabled people with arts and designs, and included a display of stylish sports artificial legs and artwork exhibitions, created by artists with disabilities, together with an experience corner of competition wheel chairs.

**13 "Man of the Wheel"**

This work is an actual performance by the artist herself, who ran continuously inside a wheel. She continued to run for 7 hours without a break on the first day alone. Then, on the second day, she completed running for 17 hours with only one short break. When she finished, she drew warm and enthusiastic applause.

**14 "Labyrinth"; Subsequent Project: "Return to the Sea - Saltworks"**

Banking and hardening of salt - a symbol of purification - were continued for five days to create a salt labyrinth all over the floor. Then, in the early morning of the last day of the Roppongi Art Night, the artist and the audience together destroyed the work. Each of the participants was to take the salt back and return it to the sea. It was a rare occasion in which an artwork could be destroyed. For us, this was like playing in the sand and I, a senior staff writer, felt that just for a moment I had returned to the innocence of childhood.



**14**

# Preserving the atmosphere of the local town with a bookshop for 96 years

Ogawa Shoten (Bookshop Ogawa) is located at the south end of the Azabu District and close to the Furukawabashi Crossing. Its 96-year history is a long one, and has consistently contributed to the community culturally, including the sales of schoolbooks for a long time. I visited the father and son, the second-generation president, Mr. Yuzo Ogawa and the third generation president, Mr. Yoriyuki Ogawa and heard from them about the changes of the district over the Taisho, Showa and Heisei Eras from their point of view as bookshop owners.

## Stories heard from Mr. Yuzo Ogawa, the second-generation president (presently the chairman)

"It was the 9th year of the Taisho Era when my father established this bookshop. He told me that this bookshop once stood alone in the middle of a field! I heard that because it was a single-story building, it survived the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. I was born in 1931. In my childhood, I went a little way further to Aoyama to play baseball, which people were a little hostile to at that time. During our practice, a ball once flew over the barbed-wire fence into "the Azabu 3rd Infantry Regiment" site. A newly recruited soldier threw the ball back to us, frowning as if to say "What do you think you're doing, boys!" He pointed a gun at us for a joke. When I was a second grade student of junior high school, the war came to an end. However, my house burned down to the ground because of an air raid. We ran into the nearby



Mr. Yuzo Ogawa in his twenties. He was a real climber, and when he received an SOS from a mountain cottage, he hurried to the site to save a life many times.



Inside of Ogawa Shoten rebuild immediately after the War.



Around Furukawabashi Crossing before 1965, when streetcars passed; the center house is Ogawa Shoten.

## Story heard from Mr. Yoriyuki Ogawa, the third generation president

"The shop now is the result of many years of our effort. After the collapse of the bubble economy, the number of children has drastically reduced. But, recently, it was recovered somewhat. The population has increased because a lot of condominiums were built. There are many who are enthusiastic for education, so I make a great effort to carry a lineup of books for parents and children. However, considering the current trend of these times, the number of bookshops has been falling. I would have to say that the situation is terrible. Recently, young people do not buy books. I think it will be a problem that they become satisfied with just the fragmented information obtained through the Internet. I hear the news of closing neighboring bookshops frequently. Small bookshops close because of the opening of large bookshops. Then, the large bookshops are also in decline because they find that the business is not profitable. As a result, no bookshop can survive. This is happening all over Japan. Couldn't it be a serious problem?"



Mr. Yoriyuki Ogawa resigned from his job at a leading financial institution and took over the title of the President of Ogawa Shoten. He utilizes the website effectively to dispatch his unique book information.

I would like the current administration to not only to make an effort to fulfill the requests of the library users, but also recognize the present situation. We, as the booksellers in town, our proud that "we want to contribute to culture". Based on market principles, just renting the building would be logical. However, giving up the bookshop is the same as giving up on the spirit of the town. Maintaining such things is part of a complete harmony, in my mind. It is literally too much for me, but I take the lead to carry a portable shrine in the festival held by the neighborhood association (laugh). I could attach a cafe or sell general goods in my bookshop, but I think that it would be the wrong course. I will take the high road to play it straight, and continue offering a great lineup of books. I don't know how long I can continue, but I believe that it depends on the conscience of all the people who read and write Japanese".

What can maintain this valuable bookshop space must be the support of their consistently strong will. In this changing town, Ogawa Shoten will have its 100th anniversary in the year of the next Tokyo Olympic Games.

● Reference ●  
 Page 283 of "Sumiyaki Nikki" (Charcoal Making Diary) written by Kunio Yanagida, published by Shudosha  
 Bookshop Ogawa website: <http://www.ogawashoten.co.jp>

(Interviewed and written by Kumiko Omura)

麻布  
びと

"Azabu - A Human Story"



Mr. Yuzo Ogawa received the Yellow Ribbon Medal in Autumn 2006 for his long contribution to schoolbook sales.

Furukawa River and pulled futons (Japanese quilts) over ourselves. Later we barely survived, and our house was leveled and the remains removed. I still remember watching the fire creeping over the road toward us, strangely frightening and compelling".

"After the War, my whole family started transporting timber with the whole community passing things hand to hand and rebuilt our house with a shop. However, there were no books to be sold at that time, so we ran about frantically to find and collect books. I was a junior high school student, but by bicycle, I went further to Kandabashi where there were some publishing companies, following my father's order. In the course of returning, on the top of an arched bridge, all the books on the bicycle came loose and scattered on the road. People around me immediately helped me a lot at that time".

By the way, Mr. Kunio Yanagida, a famous folklorist, wrote about Mr. Katsuzo Ogawa, father of Mr. Yuzo Ogawa, the first generation president, when he visited Mr. Yanagida's house, in his book "Sumiyaki Nikki" (Charcoal Making Diary). "On Wednesday, on July 28, it was a fine day in the afternoon [...]. I sent Mr. Katsuzo Ogawa, a secondhand bookseller, his shop located close to the Furukawabashi bridge, back with various books. He looked like a very good businessman". It was in July in 1945, just before the end of the War. The strong salesman's spirit of the first generation president, having not lost heart after the great air raid, to restore Ogawa Shoten, could be felt.

"For some years, after I graduated from school, I worked for Gakko Tosho (Schoolbooks) Co., Ltd. After that, I took over my family business. The shop had undertaken the role of selling schoolbooks to the local school since the first generation president started dealing with the government-designated textbooks. For the school textbook sales, the sales margin is lower than other types of book. In addition, they need to always be in stock for about half the year. The booksellers in bustling downtown streets never want to do it. The school textbook sales are, if anything, not a profitable business. However, through the school text sales, I had a lot of fun talking with junior and senior high school students, partly for the joy of it".



Ogawa Shoten (Bookshop Ogawa)  
 Mr. Yuzo Ogawa (85 years old)  
 Mr. Yoriyuki Ogawa (53 years old)



He goes walking with his pet dog, Jiro, every morning and afternoon. Their regular course is in the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park.



**Participants invited!**

# The Slope Karuta (Japanese Card Game) Tournament is held.

The organizer, NPO Aza Roku Plus is introduced!



In 2016, the 70th anniversary of ward administration is celebrated. Minato City broadly invited project proposals associated with it. As a result, "Minato City All Slopes Visit Completion" and "Slope Karuta Production" projects proposed by NPO "Aza Roku Plus" established with the "Azabu Expert Club" as its parent organization, were selected as projects to be achieved.

## In the "Azabu Expert Club", the 8th generation of students is currently studying.

The "Azabu Expert Club" is one of the local projects supported by the Azabu Regional City Office. The lectures given there are planned to foster human resources to play an important role in community activities, as well as studying the culture and the history of the Azabu area. Anybody interested in Azabu can participate in these lectures. There are two courses; one is a classroom lecture where participants learn in a classroom, and the other is a walking lecture where the participants walk to verify local facts. After the end of the lecture, the participants are expected to become people who play an important role in the local community.

The participants have been invited through the "Koho Minato" (Minato Bulletin), and in 2009, the lectures were given to the first generation students. Then, in 2016, the 30 8th generation of students are studying. In total, more than 300 students have already finished the course.

Mostly the first generation students who were motivated by the walking lecture established the corporation, "Aza Roku Plus". They enjoyed the many discoveries anticipated during the walk, and now they wish to share the happiness with as many people as possible. The corporation name "Aza" stands for Azabu, "Roku" for Roppongi and "Plus" stands for "in addition to all the other areas of Minato City and adjacent cities." They provide a navigator for the walking lecture held by the "Azabu Expert Club", as well as hosting the town walk event every month. They also develop activities including seminars (For example, "Do you know Chiune Sugihara?" in 2015), and "Visiting Embassies" (Lithuania Embassy of Japan), etc. This organization also is a member of the Minato City Tourism Association.

## The Minato City Promotion of the 88-Slope Walking Tour will continue until March 2017

As you know, there are many hills in Minato City, as well as Bunkyo City. In the "Town Search Guidebook" (in 2009) issued by Minato City, the 88 slopes are de-

scribed. Now, this project is ongoing, that is, while visiting such slopes, karuta (Japanese game cards) are created. Every month, one area is chosen and the slopes are visited in the area. This project will continue until March 2017. The practice day is Saturday, Sunday or a holiday. The leaflet is placed in the Azabu Regional City Office and the project details can be checked through SNS (refer to the following information).

## "Slope Karuta", Complete set of Cards collected on Completion of Slope Visits

The project created together with the Slope Visit Completion, is the creation of "Slope Karuta", the complete list of all slopes having been visited. Texts for the Slope Karuta, collected from past participants of the project and members, are being selected right now.

The "Minato City All Slope Karuta Tournament" was held on January 21, 2017 (Sat), in Azabu Citizens Collaboration Space, in cooperation with the Azabu Regional City Office. You can expect a lot from this Karuta Card Game Tournament where from elementary school children to seniors can enjoy. You cannot wait to see which excellent texts are selected! The details are uploaded on the website or Facebook (for people who are not members of Facebook, viewing only is available).

Inquiries: [aza6plus@gmail.com](mailto:aza6plus@gmail.com)

● NPO Aza Roku Plus

Web site: <http://aza6plus.net>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/aza6plus>

Thanks to the huge success of the morning television serial by NHK, the "Hanako and Anne" Town Walk has been performed 8 times and more than 170 people have participated.



More than 100 people participated in the seminar titled "Do you know Chiune Sugihara?" in cooperation with the Lithuania Embassy of Japan and Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The seminar titled "Do you know Chiune Sugihara?" brought an opportunity to hold a seminar in the Lithuania Embassy of Japan.



All slopes visiting tour is performed every month in the chosen area.



(Written by Yukiko Takayanagi)

地域社会のゆくえ

"The Local Community"

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## Alice Iki-iki Plaza

Participation Available for the Person of 50 years or more

### Participating in the "Iki-iki Class" and "Karada Genki Class" (Physically Fit Class)

Various lectures are given in the "Alice Iki-iki Plaza" in Minami-azabu 4-chome, located in front of the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park. Out of those, for "Iki-iki Class", anybody living in Minato City and 50 years or older, can participate in it. I myself continue the training. I will describe my experience and report for readers.

#### People from 50's to 90's perform rather rigorous exercise!

When this facility opened two years ago, I was in my early 50's. A little before that time, I was beginning to be anxious about my health, including muscle strength and nutrition. I had become a member of a sports club before, but the facility was not within walking distance, so it became troublesome for me. Then, I shamefully couldn't continue to go there. However, Alice Iki-iki Plaza is just 5 to 6 minutes from my house on foot. When I went to check it, I could see the green of the trees in the park from the whole window. I felt comfortable in the building. Therefore, I started to go to the "Karada Genki" class, which I can arrange anytime to suite my convenience.

Central Sports Co., Ltd. manages and operates the facility. The instructor, Ms. Sumi Harashima is in charge of the class. In this class, there is a program where muscles are used and trained to achieve good balance. She designed this training program. The age range of the participants is very wide. There is a female participant in her 90's. Most of them are female. The practice starts with stretching to loosen up the upper body. The instructor gave us oral instructions such as "Move your scapu-

la!" "Straighten your spine!" At first, we did aerobic exercise with music, where I felt almost like a dancer. Then, we did training using a mat and balance ball. One hour passed in the blink of an eye. I sweat a lot and felt the blood circulation in my body improve.

When I looked around, all the other participants were moving quickly, but at their own paces. They called out to each other and the atmosphere was friendly. When I interviewed them, one of them told me, "Although the instructor tells me not to overdo it, I can do a lot without realizing it. I can continue the training because it is fun for me", and another told me, "I came here because this Plaza is a fully equipped facility. The instructor takes care of each of us patiently." Also, a lady in her 90's told me "Coming here I had to walk up a long hill, but it is good exercise for me. My old friends also participate in this training, so I feel very comfortable". Their lively expressions and manner of speaking were very impressive to me.

#### Why don't you come to see it, for example, in the course of your walk?

The lectures here are the "Iki-iki Class" for which you can apply directly and "Minna to Genki Juku" for which, you need to inquire at Minato City's Senior Consultation Center. In addition to exercise, there are many culture classes, including English Conversation Class, Indian Ink Painting Class, Karaoke Class, Cooking Class, etc. When it first opened, the number of users was about 3,000 to



Blood pressure measurement and filling in applications before the class are required for the participants.



Class with open and bright atmosphere: The whole body is stretched in the training using a chair.



Sitting on a balance ball and moving your body up, down, left and right, can train the core of your body.

4,000 people per month, including the rental room users. However, the popularity has gradually increased and currently, a total of about 8,000 people visit this facility per month.

Frankly speaking, this is a welfare facility for the aged and each lecture aims at future care prevention, general life improvement, good communication for the aged, etc. However, because the facility is in a good location and the contents are excellent, I feel we could expect much more from this project. I also take part in the "Iki-iki Class: Yoga for Health" the other day and enjoyed the practice time.

#### ● Data collection support

Mr. Kazushi Minoshima, Director, Alice Iki-iki Plaza  
Ms. Sumi Harashima, Chief Instructor, Alice Iki-iki Plaza

Alice Iki-iki Plaza  
4-6-7, Minami-azabu, Minato City, Tokyo  
Tel: 03-3444-3656  
<http://www.central.co.jp/plaza/alice/>



Care Prevention Instructor, Health Fitness Programmer

#### Comment from Ms. Sumi Harashima

The "Karada Genki Class" literally started with just a hope for the citizens to have a healthy body and mind. The same training is performed every time. Therefore, I believe that the participants can remember it and practice at home. Exercise habits everyday are important. Loosening muscles can prevent pain. I hope as many people as possible come to this plaza.



From the spacious lounge, you can have the fresh and beautiful green view in the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park to yourself.



This stylish appearance of red brick tile walls has become something of a landmark in Minami-azabu.

(Interviewed and written by Aki Tanaka)



His Excellency Dr. Ihor KHARCHENKO  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan

**UKRAINE**

Area: 603,700km<sup>2</sup> (About 1.6 times more of the area of Japan)  
Population: 42,500,000 (in 2015, World Bank)  
Capital City: Kiev  
Head of State: President Petro Poroshenko  
Registature: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament)  
(450 seats, five-year term)



Ukraine

Reference: Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/ukraine/data.html>

Interview Support: Ukraine Embassy of Japan

Visiting Embassies 37  
**From the "World" of Azabu**

# UKRAINE



A Ukrainian girl looks perfect with a pretty native costume. (Photo provided by Ms. Miori Inata, photographer)

**Ukraine has been a crossroads of races and civilization since ancient times, and people of mixed races producing beautiful women have gathered together.**

Ukraine became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991. This country is located as far as 9,000km away from Japan. The language and customs are totally different from those of Japan. However, these two countries surprisingly have something in common with each other. His Excellency Dr. Ihor Kharchenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan (hereinafter called "Ambassador"), told us about it in detail. This year is his third year from when he was first assigned as the Ambassador to Japan.



Summer in Ukraine is the season of fruits. Strawberries are arranged in the market. Cherries are priced very reasonably and are very sweet. (Photo provided by Ms. Miori Inata, photographer)



St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery in Kiev (Photo provided by Ms. Miori Inata, photographer)

**Scenery with Nostalgic Wooden Buildings resembling those in Japan**

"There are many old wooden buildings in the countryside in Ukraine. The structure amazingly resembles Japanese ones. I suppose that we have had the same spirit about wooden buildings as that of Japanese people".

When we asked the Ambassador about the common points, he started with the above words. In Ukraine, many wooden buildings are scattered all over the land, including churches in the Carpathian Region on the west side of the country. For example, when I see a wooden bridge in a country town on a picture, I feel like seeing a picture of a bridge somewhere in Japan. The names of the bridge and place are in Ukrainian, but I feel something nostalgic in such scenes.

"Ukrainian people are an agricultural tribe, the same as Japanese people. We have developed a love of nature and a spirit of coexistence with nature since our childhood".

He added that he felt that the spirit of Japanese people to challenge anything would be the same as those of Ukraine. The difference is that Japanese people tend to challenge alone without uttering a word, but mostly Ukrainian people like challenging something, keeping communication with the people around them, speaking about it or making noise. Also, he further told us that for both Japanese and Ukrainian people, there were many "stubborn" persons, with a big smile. All the persons including us, who attended, nodded in agreement.

**Charm of Tokyo, clearly understandable by walking**

At the beginning when he came to Japan for the new post, his family members had not come to Tokyo yet. At around the time, he often went walking here and there in the city of Tokyo.



The embassy building is located in a residential area just some meters inside from the Gaien Nishi Dori Avenue.

"Because I am not able to feel the city when I use a car or train, I walked as much as possible at that time. Japanese people were very friendly. I was able to communicate with them even if I did not speak Japanese. What I found while walking was that Tokyo was a little strange city". The well-arranged avenues were clean and futuristic. However, whenever he stepped into an alley, he found there was a row of old residential houses. "I felt something mysterious, and at the same time, I was attracted by them, a charm only Tokyo has".

He was assigned as the Ambassador in Romania, Poland and then England, and he had an experience of living in New York. He has traveled all over the world, but he was very much fascinated by something special that only Tokyo has. We were very glad to hear that.



**Ukrainian Beauty and Athletes**

Ukraine is a famous country for producing the most beautiful women in the world. How does he feel about it?

"In Ukraine, various races have been living since ancient times. Descendant of many races producing beautiful women gather together and mix to make present Ukrainian people. This is one of the reasons". After his introductory remark, he continued as follows.

"Of course, there is some personal sense of value, and there is also personal preference. Certainly, there are many beautiful ladies in Ukraine. However, in any country, including Japan, there are

many beautiful ladies. Father of the 48th Yokozuna (Sumo wrestler of the highest rank), Taiho (1940 to 2013), was Ukrainian. However, he chose a Japanese woman to be his wife. My wife was not Ukrainian. She came from Kazakhstan. Oh, yes, there are many beautiful Japanese ladies".

How gentle his words were! Thank you very much, Ambassador!



Father of Taiho, who was good friend of the former Ambassador, was Ukrainian. His mother was Japanese. He visited the Ukraine Embassy of Japan several times.

On the other hand, when we see the country of Ukraine, there are some athletes that represent their home country, Ukraine, and led the heyday in the world of sports. They are Andriy Shevchenko, football player, and Sergey Bubka, pole-vaulter. Currently, Shevchenko is active for the Ukrainian national football team to qualify for the Russia World Cup in 2018, as their manager. Bubka makes his best effort as the director of the International Olympic Committee. We might see his gallant figure in the future at the Tokyo Olympic Games four years from now. We are looking forward to seeing him.

**Ukrainian Mom's Home Cooking is "Borsch"**

Ukrainian cooking is not familiar to us, but you might hear about "Chicken Kiev", where the name of the capital of Ukraine, "Kiev" is included. But-

ter or butter with herbs is applied on chicken meat and spread thin. Then, it is rolled and coated with flour, beaten egg and bread crumbs. After that, it is baked or fried. Chicken Kiev is not traditional cooking in Ukraine, but they say that it was created by a French chef in a hotel named "Continental" in Kiev.

"When we are asked what is the traditional cooking in Ukraine, most of us surely answer "borsch". Basically, about 7 to 10 ingredients including red beets, are used, and totally about 20 ingredients are used for borsch. However, such ingredients slightly vary depending on each home".

It corresponds to Misoshiru (Miso soup) in Japan. They always use red beets for borsch and it is their mom's home cooking. This "borsch" is the traditional cooking originated in Ukraine. He told us that it was not too much to say that they eat it for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. The Ambassador found red beets by chance in a supermarket in Japan and made borsch. I would like to know how to make it from him.



The national flag of Ukraine is colored blue and yellow. The colors of a perfect blue sky and wheat fields as far as the eye can reach. We understand that Ukraine used to be called a grain-producing region in Europe. At present, they produce not only grains, but their land is also blessed with natural sources including iron ore and coal. Moreover, they have Kiev Pechersk Lavra which was designated a World Heritage Site, and other churches, where beautiful icons are decorated. If there is any project where we could introduce such icons in Japan, it is sure to be an excellent art exhibition comparable to the "Raphaello" Exhibition or "Caravaggio" Exhibition.



Folk handicrafts imitating Easter eggs; they are made of wood and traditional flower patterns are drawn on them.



In 1975: "From the top of the Ochiai-zaka slope"



In 2013



In 1984: Around the "Ochiai-zaka" slope signpost



In 2013

# The Azabu Future Photo Studio

## Ochiai-zaka Slope

—The Slope where people and their spirits come and go—

In fact, last year I visited the slopes all around the Azabu area with the theme of "Redevelopment". The "Ochiai-zaka" slope is one of them. What kind of adventure awaits us in the quiet back regions of Azabu?

### A Search based on the Slope Name

According to the formal website of Minato City or the signboard at the site, "This downhill road goes down to the Gazenbo-dani valley and is located in a place where people coming and going to Akasaka meet together, so it is called the "Ochiai-zaka" slope. However, there is another view from the location of this slope".

Also, from the summit section (upper part) of this road, there is a downhill road called the "Yukiai-zaka" slope.

These slopes might have had the same name a long time ago.

The sign says, "There is another view for the location of this slope". This might provide evidence of this. As I thought, opinions might be divided on the name of this slope. However, what attracted my eye was the name of the "Gazenbo-dani" valley. Anyway, I might be getting off track (from Ochiai-zaka), but I suddenly became distracted about the derivation of the place name.

### A Search based on the Old Town Name "Azabu Gazenbo-cho"

According to the "Meiji Tokyo Zenzu (Map of Meiji Tokyo)" (published in 1876), certainly, "Gazenbo-cho" was written on it. Moreover, when I see "Edo Kirie-Zu" (Guide Drawings of Edo), this area is located in "Osakite Gumi Yoriki Doshin Oonawa-chi". "Osakite Gumi Yoriki Doshin" now corresponds to "policemen" and "Oonawachi" now corresponds to "land for the group", which can be the "official residence of policemen".

That makes sense! This place of the valley might be appropriate for the land of a group.

In addition, according to "Gofunai Biko", it says "Ganzenbo-dani: Ganzenbo-dani ha, dosho nari, Uesugi-ke no Yashiki no nochino ho nari, Sunago iwaku, Sugenin-dono Gosorei arishi toki, Ganzendo tachishi tokoro narito, Kanei-ki iwaku, San-nen Ju-gatsu, Juhachi-nichi Omidaidokoro Sugenin-dono no onkotonari, Gosorei Zojoji ni oite shikko seraru, Gososo no basho ha Azabuno wo motte sadameraru, Zojoji yori Gososo basho made ha, koutei sengen arito ieri, sunawachi konotokoro narubeshi, kotoni konotokoro ha genya no chi nite jinka marenaru koto omoishirubeshi. Kaisen Edoshi".

This is translated as "the funeral ceremony of Sugenin-dono (regal wife of the second Shogun, Hidetada and mother of the third Shogun, lemitsu = Ogo from Azai family) was performed in Zojoji temple. However, cremations were performed in Azabuno. It was said that the distance from Zojoji temple to Azabuno would be about 1,800m. The body was cremated in the valley. At that time, this area was an uncultivated field with almost no houses". We can imagine that this place might have had its name changed to "Ganzendo" (Ganzen hall). Of course, I cannot absolutely verify this because there are many competing theories. However, it would be proof of one theory about it.

In addition, when I saw the above mentioned "Meiji Tokyo Zenzu", there was something that attracted my attention. It was a person's name.

### Kazunomiya Chikako Naishinno (Chikako, Princess Kazu)

Can you see the description of the "Azabu Ichibeicho Juichiban, Seikanin-no-miya" on the upper right of Gazenbo-cho? This means Chikako, Princess Kazu (Princess Kazuno-miya), the regal wife of the 14th Shogun, Iemochi Tokugawa. I feel that it is a strange coincidence that the place where the regal wife of the 2nd Shogun of the Tokugawa family was cremated is adjacent to the house of the regal wife of the 14th Shogun after she cut her hair to enter a monastery. I cannot help but feel there was a curious turn of fate here.

I suspect that perhaps during the long history of the Ochiai-zaka slope, there might be a lot of unbelievable hidden episodes...

Such a gentle slope is quite rare (in the valley) in Minato City. Here, significant historical coincidences or stories might have occurred. This quiet slope doesn't tell its stories, but it is difficult for me to reign in my consistent curiosity for this slope.

\* Edo's Geographical Description edited by the Edo Shogunate: The royal palace burnt down in 1872. The document collection was adjusted in the remarks for the compilation, which was left as "Gofunai Biko".

● Reference ●  
 "Edo Tokyo Sakamichi Jiten" (Edo and Tokyo Slope Dictionary) written by Teizo Ishikawa, published by Shinjin Orai-sha  
 "Zoho Minato-ku Kindai Enkakuzo-shu, Azabu and Roppongi" (Azabu and Roppongi Section, Minato City History Chart Revised and Enlarged Issue)



In 2016, a view uphill of the road from the foot of the hill: You can see that it is a very gentle slope. On the right side of the photo, the "Gazenbo Parking Lot" signboard can be seen.

\* For the Ochiai-zaka in 1975 and 1984, these photos are shot by Mr. Masanori Taguchi and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi.



"Osakite Yoriki Doshin Oonawa-chi" shows the "Gazenbo-dani" valley and the Ochiai-zaka slope must be passing through the very center of the site, but... At that time, it might have not been recognized as a "slope". "Uesugi Danjo Daihitsu" (the Yonezawa clan's spare residence) is located at the place of the present Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Azabu Post Office. (Based on "Minato-ku Kindai Enkakuzo-shu, Azabu and Roppongi")



"Meiji Tokyo Zenzu (Map of Meiji Tokyo)" issued in 1876



Around Present Ochiai-zaka Slope

### About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

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

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

### The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

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

**Inquire: Tel: 03-5114-8812**

# 麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena of Azabu

## Sending my heart out to the ancient times of Azabu In the distant past, Azabu was adjacent to the sea.

One of the features of Minato City is that it's an area with many hills, that is, there are great differences in land levels. It has been proven that more than 5,000 years ago people were living in this hilly area developed at the east of the Musashino Highland. In Minato City, about 186 ancient sites including Shiba Maruyama Kofun (ancient burial mound) in Shiba Park, and Isarago Kaizuka ("shell midden": seafood waste disposal site) site in Mita 4-chome (as of March 2016) have been identified. Actually, in the whole of the Azabu district area where we are living, such traces can be found. Based on the discovery of Honmura-cho Shell Midden in Minami-azabu 3-chome, amazingly, it was found that the sea would have been visible from there. With fond reflection on the prehistoric age of the Azabu area (an era with no written history), I search for clues based on the antiquities and sites.

### The Jomon Period, and the discoveries of Mr. Morse

The oldest traces in Minato City are antiquities found in a site in Tokyo Midtown, which could go back to the latter half of the Paleolithic Era, about 20,000 years ago. This was before the creation of earthenware, so it's also called the "pre-ceramic" period. For the Paleolithic Era, the Iwajuku site (in Gumma Prefecture) is famous and was discovered in 1946 by the archaeologist Mr. Tadahiro Aizawa (1926 to 1989). What we can prove based on the earthenware found in the red clay of the loamy layer of the Kanto Region, is that humans were living around there in the period when volcanoes nearby were still active.

From the Jomon Period, 2,300 to 16,000 years ago, various ruins have been discovered in Minato City. At first, what made the Jomon Period widely known to the Japanese people, started with the discovery of the Oomori Shell Midden in Shinagawa City in 1877 by an American zoologist, Mr. Edward Sylvester Morse. "Kaizuka" (shell midden) is a place where fish bones, seafood shells, etc., were thrown away after processing for food. This provides very valuable evidence of what people in that period were eating and how they were living.

### Azabu became an area suitable for habitation due to the Jomon Transgression (sea level rise of the Jomon Period)

The phenomena where the sea levels rise, and the coastline moves closer into the land, is called "marine transgression". In the former half of the Jomon Period 5,500 to 7,000 years ago, a marine transgression called the Jomon Transgression occurred. As the sea moves inland, carrying a lot of deposits, the sea level becomes higher. At that time, it is presumed that the sea level was 2m or 3m higher than the present level. After the Last Glacial Period, the weather warmed, and areas like that of Azabu became suitable for habitation. Because of this, many shell middens are found along the coastline area from that time. The Honmura-cho Shell Midden was one of them.

### What we can learn from the Honmura-cho Shell Midden

In the Azabu area, the Honmura-cho Shell Midden is famous, and it was reported by a scientific society based on the investigation of Mr. Iwao Ooba (1899 to 1975), who was an archeologist and Kokugakuin University professor. By a curious coincidence, Mr. Ooba was born in Azabu Kogai-cho. The Honmura-cho Shell Midden is widely known as the oldest and largest site in the district found since the end of the War. In addition, there are four sites in Moto-azabu 1-chome, Moto-azabu 2-chome, Moto-azabu 3-chome and Azabu-dai 2-chome. The actual conditions of these sites are unknown because they were discovered such a long time ago.

The Honmura-cho Shell Midden is located in a place 5 minutes on foot from Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line Hiroo Station, and along Yagen-bori, down the alley behind the Iranian Embassy of Japan. It is geographically located on the upper level of a moderate incline, on the south of the left bank of the Furukawa River, which flows east to west almost in the center of Minato City. Long ago, people were also living on high ground above the sun-drenched inclined plane. Clearly, this place has long been known as a great place to live. The old town name is Honmura-cho, which is located in the present Minami-azabu 3-chome, and you can see a signboard for the Honmura-cho Shell Midden.

From Honmura-cho Shell Midden, various shells have been discovered including clams, Chinese *Dosinia*, asari clams, thin-shelled surf clams, bloody clams, *Dosinia japonica*, long-neck clams, ivory shells, bladder moon shells, Pacific oysters, veined rapa whelks, densely lamellated oysters, etc. Horns and bones of wild boar and deer have been also found. Perhaps, from the middle of spring to the end of autumn, people at that time found hunting wild boar and deer more of a challenge than collecting shellfish and fishing in general. Also, they were collecting grass, leaves from spring to summer, and collecting nuts in autumn. Based on the artifacts, it is well understood that the people who used to live around Honmura-cho Shell Midden had quite a varied and healthy diet.

In a recent investigation in 1985, ash deposits, as would have been left after a fireplace, and artificially flat areas as in floor surfaces were also detected. Also, at parts of the north and east, surfaces suggesting walls were discovered, which is hard evidence of the existence of ruins of an old settlement.

### What we can understand from the discovery of Jomon era artifacts

They say that the making of unglazed earthenware started at the beginning of the Jomon Era, about 16,000 years ago. This technique involves kneading clay into long rope-like shapes, then stacking them on top of each other in a circular fashion to form a vessel. Then, the inside and outside surfaces of the vessel are smoothed over by hand. Rolling a straw rope over the outer surface makes a pattern on the outside surface. Using shells created other patterns, or rolling a piece of wood wrapped in straw rope, on the surface. It is dried out of direct sunlight for two weeks, and then fired for 5 to 6 hours to complete the earthenware process.

Earthenware has been found also in the Honmura-cho Shell Midden. They are called the "Moroso Type" and the "Kurohama Type" Jomon earthenware. They are the

same types as those found in the shell middens along the Arakawa Valley, in Iruma-gun, and Kita-Adachi-gun, Saitama Prefecture, and some areas in Kanagawa Prefecture.

The "Moroso Type" earthenware is a general term for the earthenware distributed from the Kanto Region to the Chubu Region in the latter half of the early Jomon Period, based on the earthenware found in the Moroso Shell Midden in Miura City in Kanagawa Prefecture. In addition to deep pots with flat bottoms, there are shallow pots that have been identified as a Jomon earthen pot type for the first time. Red colored or lacquered earthen vessels were also common. One of the features of this type of earthenware is that the content of sand in "Taido" (the soil used as the material for earthenware) is high, and most of the Taido do not contain organic fibers. Also, the insides of the earthen vessels are polished. The thickness is about 7mm. Mainly their shape is of a deep pot style. The shape of the pots (round and deep body with a large mouth) without pattern or simple bucket is representative. They have a flat bottom.

The "Kurohama Type" earthenware is the name of an earthenware style distributed in the Kanto Region from the beginning of the Jomon Era, about 6,000 years ago, based on the earthenware found in the Kurohama Shell Midden in Hasuda City, Saitama Prefecture. Artifacts of the first part of the era are called the "Hasuda Type", and this style of earthenware was identified by the archeologist Mr. Isamu Kono (1901 to 1967). In 1935, those created in the latter half of the era were named the "Kurohama Type". They are mainly a deep pot style. Those with patterns have waved rims and narrow necks. Most of the deep pots without patterns, have an enclosed bay shape (curving inside) and a bucket shape. The thickness is about 9mm and the bottom sections are flat with slightly raised bottoms.

For the earthen vessels in Honmura-cho Shell Midden, as above, there are many "Moroso Type" and "Kurohama Type" earthenware from the beginning of the Jomon Era. However, a few "Atama-Dai Type", "Katsusaka Type" in the middle Jomon Era and "Kasori B Type" in the latter Jomon Era earthen vessels were found. The features of each type are as follows.

The "Atama-Dai Type" earthenware were classified as earthenware distributed from the East Kanto Region as the center, in the beginning of the middle Jomon Period, based on the earthenware found in the Atama-Dai Shell Midden in Katori City, Chiba Prefecture. Fine sands are added to the clay material as a cohesive agent, to adjust the viscosity. Depending on the style, the selection of different cohesive materials is one of their features. The "Taido" contains a large amount of mica and their most notable feature is the glittering surface of the vessels.

"Katsusaka Type" earthenware is classified as earthenware distributed in the Kanto Region and the Chubu Region at the beginning of the middle Jomon Period, based on the earthenware found in the Katsusaka site in Isobe, Minami-ku, Sagami-hara City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Its greatest feature is that the whole vessel is a magnificent and majestic shape. There are some earthen vessels with faces of animals or people, and handles shaped like snakes. The thickness is about 1mm. The "Taido" contains feldspar and sometimes mica.

"Kasori B Type" earthenware are classified as earthenware distributed in Kanto Region, in the latter half of the late Jomon Period (about 3,500 years ago), based on the earthenware found in the Kasori Shell Midden, in Sakuragi, Wakaba-ku, Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture. They are slight, fine and thin, with hard surfaces. On the roughly made earthen vessels, rough straw-rope patterns and Jokon-mon marks (a type of earthenware pattern created by scratching on the surface using the back of shell or bundled plant stems) and done rather roughly. On the other hand, on refined earthenware vessels, minute straw-rope patterns are made, and the vessels are completed with a Chinsen Mon Pattern (line patterns created using a spatula, etc.). Another feature is that vessel surfaces are carefully polished.

### Discovery of Stone Tools has been reported.

In addition, in the Honmura-cho Shell Midden, more than 2,000 earthenware fragments and 15 stone tools and flakes were found. For stone tools, rectangular chipped stone axes and stone spoons were discovered. Both items were finely made. At the same time, a cutter for woodworking was discovered. It was eventually discovered that three different processes were required to create this tool.

In an investigation in 1987, a place looking like a dwelling site was discovered in Minato City. A dwelling site shaped like a mirror with a handle from the latter Jomon Period, was found around the Isarago Shell Midden site. The dwelling site found in Honmura-cho Shell Midden was of a different shape and period from that found in the Isarago Shell Midden site. However, it is very important because it would indicate the possibility of finding new dwelling sites in Minato City in the future.

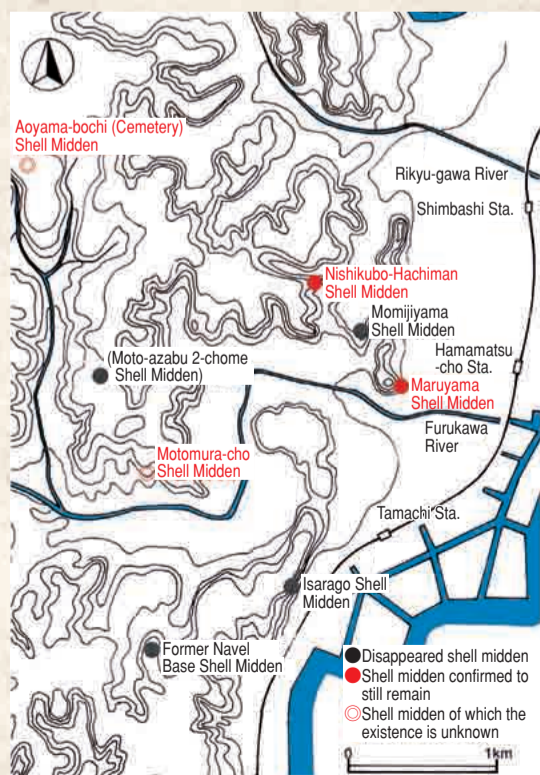
The Honmura-cho Shell Midden is a very valuable archeological site from the Jomon Period, right in the heart of Tokyo. In the Azabu district, there are 36 ancient remains (19 locations for the Jomon Period, 11 locations for the Yayoi Period, and 6 locations for the Tumulus Period). However, most of them have disappeared. Unfortunately, for the Honmura-cho Shell Midden, only a signboard standing on the gentle slope is left.

The largest keyhole-shaped style tumulus in Tokyo, "Shiba Maruyama Kofun", (created in the middle of the 5th century) is located in Shiba Park. It proves that the Minato City area has been a place people have lived since ancient times. I believe that the ancient people gathered in Honmura-cho, and the people who were later living in the Shiba Maruyama Kofun also used the Shell Midden. There are such important ruins left in Azabu, which are evidence of the origin of our history.

- Reference .....
- Minato-ku no Senshi Jidai I (Isarago Kaizuka to Minato-ku no Kaizuka) (Prehistoric Age I in Minato City (Isarago Shell Midden and other shell middens in Minato City))
- Minato-ku no Senshi Jidai II (Minato-ku no Yayoi Jidai) (Prehistoric Age II in Minato City (Yayoi Period in Minato City)) issued by Minato City Board of Education
- Data Collection Support .....
- Minato City Local History Museum



There is a standing signboard for "Honmura-cho Shell Midden". There are also some other middens found in Minato City.



Minato City Shell Midden Distribution Map  
Source: Minato-ku no Senshi Jidai I (Isarago Kaizuka to Minato-ku no Kaizuka)

## Notification about “Temporary Welfare Benefit” (Economic Measure)

“Temporary Welfare Benefit” (Economic Measure) is to be awarded to ease the burden of the rise in the consumption tax rate.

**Eligibility** Individuals who have Minato City residence certificates as of January 1, 2016 and on whom the municipal inhabitant tax (per capita rate) is not imposed for FY2016, are eligible.

\* Dependents of persons on whom the municipal inhabitant tax is imposed, or livelihood protection recipients in the social security system, are not eligible.

**Allowance** Fifteen Thousand Yen (¥15,000) per Eligible Person

**Application Period** From March 14 (Tue.) to July 14 (Fri.), 2017

\* To those who are eligible, the application forms were sent on March 13 (Mon), 2017.

**Application Procedure** Fill in the necessary items on the application and send it together with the required document using the enclosed return envelope.

● When you come to the office, go to the following temporary reception counter.

**Shiba Regional City Office**

Reception Period: From March 14 (Tue.) to July 14 (Fri.), 2017

\* The application will be accepted on March 18 (Sat.), 2017 only in the Shiba Regional City Office.

**Azabu, Akasaka, Takanawa and Shibaura-konan Regional City Offices**

From March 14 (Tue.) to May 19 (Fri.), 2017

**Daiba Branch Office**

From March 14 (Tue.) to March 31 (Fri.), 2017

**Reception Time** Weekdays (excluding Saturday, Sunday and Holidays) from 8:30am to 5:00pm (On Wednesdays only, until 7:00pm, except for the Daiba Annex)

**Inquiries: Temporary Welfare Benefit Subsection, Health and Welfare Section, Public Health and Welfare Support Department Tel: 03-3578-2846**

**Be careful not to fall victim to bank transfer scams, having your benefits being taken advantage of, or being fished for your personal information.**

### Information about Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance

The Time Limit for Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance Applications for FY 2017 is March 31 (Fri.), 2017  
(Financial institution applications are March 21 (Tue.), 2017).

Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance is an insurance scheme where you can take out this insurance with a small insurance premium, and if you are injured in a traffic accident, you could receive the insurance benefits. Benefits are calculated according to hospital inpatient and outpatient days, or the length of time as an outpatient. The “Bicycle Third Party Liability Insurance” course combined with Minato City Traffic Casualty Insurance is also available. If a policyholder of this course causes injury or property damage to another person and bears some legal liability, arising from any cause related to the policyholder’s ownership, use or management of a bicycle or wheelchair for the physically handicapped, the insurance covers the amount.

\* You cannot take out “Bicycle Third Party Liability Insurance” only.

This information guide only describes the insurance generally. Refer to the description in the pamphlet distributed at each Regional City Office or Minato City website for details.

#### Eligibility

Persons whose address is in Minato City as of 0:00am on April 1, 2017

#### Insurance Period

One year from 0:00am on April 1, 2017 to 12:00pm on March 31, 2018

#### Entry Procedure

##### ● Individual Entry

Fill the insurance entry application form distributed in the Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, in each Regional City Office, or a financial institute in Minato City (bank, credit association, credit union or Japan Post Bank/Post Office) and apply with a premium.

##### ● Group Entry (more than 10 persons)

Fill the group entry application form in the Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, in each Regional City Office, and apply with the premium for all the persons to be entered.

#### Entry Application Time Limit

##### ● Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section in each Regional City Office

March 31 (Fri.), 2017

##### ● Financial Institute in Minato City

March 21 (Tue.), 2017

\* Applications after the time limit will not be accepted.

#### Insurance Company

Sales Development Div., Public Institutions Marketing Dept., Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.

1-26-1, Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku City, Tokyo

Tel: 03-3349-9666 (From 9:00am to 5:00pm on weekday)

**Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802 (From 8:30am to 5:00pm on weekday)**

SJNK16-15526 created on January 17, 2017

### Message from the Metropolitan Taxation Office

#### Have you completed procedures of ownership transfer or scrapped cars?

The motor vehicle tax is imposed on the owners (users in the case of vehicles being sold in installments) described in the automobile inspection certificate, as of April 1 each year. When an automobile is transferred, you need to proceed a transfer of registration. You need to deregister when scrapping your own car. In order to do these, please go to the relevant District Transport Bureau or the Automobile Inspection and Registration Office.

\* You need to complete these procedures by March 31 (Fri), 2017.

**Inquiries: Tokyo Metropolitan Motor Vehicle Tax Call Center: 03-3525-4066**

#### Land/House prices that are the basis of the fixed assets tax, can be inspected from April 1 (in the 23 wards).

**Eligible applicants** Taxpayers owning land/houses in the 23 wards as of January 1, 2017

**Records to be inspected** Land/house prices taxable in the wards where taxpayers own property (Record Books for public inspection)

**Period** From April 3 (Mon.) to June 30 (Fri.), 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)

**Time** From 9:00am to 5:00pm

**Location** Metropolitan Taxation Office in the wards where taxpayers own property.

The tax notice will be sent on June 1 (Thu.), 2017. For more information, please visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or the following office.

**Inquiries for properties in Minato City: Fixed Assets Tax Subsection, Minato Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-2800 (Rep).**

### Message from Azabu Fire Station

#### Carefully Clean Range Hoods and Ducts! Fires occurring in Restaurant Kitchens have increased!

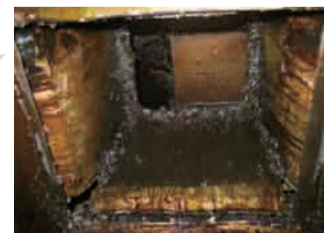
There are many cases of **fires** occurring in **restaurant kitchens**.

The reasons are as follows:

- The cook leaves the kitchen, forgetting that something is still being heated on the stove.
- Excessive stain oil collects on range hoods and inside ducts and catches fire.
- Gas cartridges placed too close to a heat source explode and cause fires.

And so on.

The oil that collects on range hoods and inside ducts is more flammable than you think. Clean them regularly to avoid a fire!



Range Hood burned in a fire

Even in your own home kitchen, such dangers exist.  
Be careful with fire and clean your range hood and ducts carefully to prevent fire with a routine inspection.

**Inquiries: Fire Protection Management Bra., Fire Prevention Sec., Azabu Fire Station Tel: 03-3470-0119**

# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Certified and Recommended Business Offices supporting the Minato City "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" in FY2016, have been chosen.



**六本木  
安全安心  
憲章**  
賑わい綺麗なまち  
六本木を目指して

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

As part of efforts to spread the charter to shops and businesses (hereinafter called "Businesses, etc.") Minato City has established the Minato City Certification System for Recommended

Businesses Supporting the Minato City "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind". In this system, businesses, etc., that agree with the Charter are being recruited. Of those, the "Businesses etc." that approach local projects positively and independently, are certified as Recommended Businesses, etc. Minato City supports the projects of each business and their activities are widely reported. In FY2016, it was decided that out of 211 businesses, etc. (as of recruiting time), which agreed to the charter, 2 new businesses would be certified and the certification of 17 businesses, etc., would be renewed (refer to the following table). A Certification Sticker (as shown in the following figure) will be sent to each of the chosen Recommended Businesses, etc., and a certificate of commendation will be issued in a certification ceremony.



Certification Sticker

The contents of the Charter can be viewed in full on the Minato City Official Website or obtained from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

For further information on the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind, please see below.

Minato City Official Website  
<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>



Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

Search

## List of Recommended Businesses, etc., for FY2016 (In Japanese alphabetical order)

### Two New Businesses

Shop or Business Name	Project (in general)
Takushin Co., Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in the enlightenment activities organized by Minato City, called "Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project".</li> <li>The information about local activities is shared using the bulletin, etc.</li> <li>Self-check for the articles of the Charter is performed.</li> </ul>
Makoto Co., Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in the enlightenment activities organized by Minato City, called "Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project".</li> <li>Self-check for the articles of the Charter is performed for the employees and their understanding level is confirmed.</li> <li>Inviting the employees, they participate the "Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind" project actively.</li> </ul>

### Seventeen Certification Renewed Businesses

Shop or Business Name	Shop or Business Name
Amagi Co., Ltd.	Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin
Executive Protection Co., Ltd.	Photo Shop "Ginrei"
Otei Shoji Co., Ltd.	Mizuho Bank Roppongi Branch
Genji Shokai Co., Ltd.	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Roppongi Branch
Restaurant "Takeyan"	Tokyo Midtown Office, Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
Shimojo Building Co., Ltd.	MAY USHIYAMA Academy
Tachihara Shoten Co., Ltd.	Mori Building Co., Ltd.
Taniguchi Inc.	Roi Roppongi Kyodo Building Co., Ltd.
Tokyo Midtown Management Co., Ltd.	

## We Are Continually Looking for Shops and Businesses that are in Agreement With the Spirit of the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind!!

As part of efforts to make the charter as widely known as possible, the Minato City Certification System for Recommended Businesses Supporting the Minato City Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind has been established, and shops and businesses that are in agreement with the spirit of the Charter are being recruited as follows.

### Recruitment Details

#### Eligibility

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

#### How to apply

- Step 1:** Check that you understand the purport and contents of the Charter by looking at the Minato City Official Website.
- Step 2:** Obtain a Letter of Agreement from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, or from the Minato City Official Website.
- Step 3:** Fill in the required information on the Letter of Agreement and either send it by post or submit it in person to the counter at the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

The names of shops/business enterprises that support the charter will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as "Businesses that are in Agreement with the Spirit of the Charter"

\*: An application form for certification as a "Supporting/Recommended Business" will be sent to "Businesses that are in Agreement with the Spirit of the Charter". The application is screened, and shops/businesses that are granted certification are presented with a certificate and certification sticker. In addition, their name and details of their activities will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters.

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

## To be enforce from April 1, 2017 Minato City Ordinance about "Prevention of Street Solicitation" will be enforced from April 1, 2017.

In order to prevent touts soliciting customers on the street, etc., which has become a source of anxiety for Minato citizens and city visitors, an ordinance to prevent obvious solicitation activities in any public space such as streets or public squares, will be enforced from April 1, 2017.

### Prohibition Rules

#### For Individuals

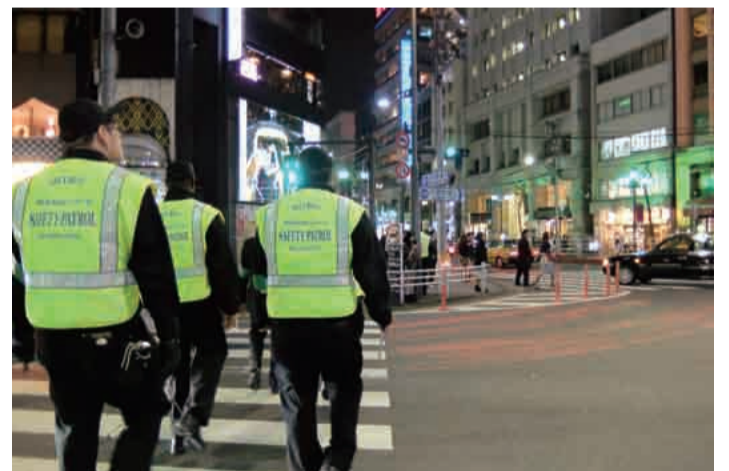
- Prohibition of Street Solicitation (All businesses including restaurants)
- Prohibition of Obvious Waiting for Customers (Activity of waiting for customers for the purpose of the above (1) (Street Solicitation))
- Prohibition of Scouting Activity (in specified businesses such as bar hostess, etc.)
- Prohibition of Waiting Activity for Scouting (Waiting activity for the purpose of above (3) (scouting))

#### For Shops

- Prohibition of Businesses using customer solicitation or scouting

### Corrective Action for Violators

Violators of the ordinance are given guidance, advice, or orders. If the activity is not corrected, a "penalty fee" of up to 50,000 yen will be imposed and "disclosure" (name, address, shop name, etc. will be announced on the Minato City website) will be applied.



Minato City Safety Patrol (M. C. S. P)  
Minato City has established the "Minato City Safety Patrol" to prevent solicitation activities, etc. Once this ordinance starts being enforced, the activity of this patrol will be stepped up, including giving guidance based on the provision.

Going shopping?  
Visit our local shopping streets.

Please send us your comments or requests regarding

The Azabu



Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).

Tel: 03-5114-8812 Fax: 03-3583-3782

We are looking for Editorial Staff

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



## AZABU

●Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane-bashi subway stations, The Chi 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.  
●Usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

- |           |                   |                    |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
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| Sub Chief | Yukiko Takayanagi |                    |
| Staff     | Kyoko Ideishi     | Makoto Sekiguchi   |
|           | Miki Ishikawa     | Yasuhiro Tanaka    |
|           | Yoshie Osawa      | Shusuke Terao      |
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|           | Takehide Kasho    | Minako Hatanaka    |
|           | Misaho Kasho      | Ryozo Yamashita    |
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|           | Mayuko Shimoji    |                    |

### Editor's Note

I have worked helping to edit "The AZABU" for a whole year now. It was sometimes difficult for me to find spare time for this because I have my own full time job. However, this was an opportunity to have several valuable experiences, including learning the history of the Azabu area where my company and house are located. Also, meeting Ambassadors in the Azabu area where there are many embassies. Without this job, I wouldn't have had the chance to meet them. I still don't really have much confidence in writing articles, but I would like to continue helping the staff members as much as I can when I have the time.

(Miki Ishikawa)

The original article is written in Japanese.

### "Minato Call" information service.

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

\* English speakers are also available.

#### Minato Call :

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752  
E-mail: [info@minato.call-center.jp](mailto:info@minato.call-center.jp)