



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



"Women's Side" Admiring the precision of the cracked tile.

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ⑩ Rediscovering the tile murals of "Azabu Black Beauty Water Hot Spring Take no Yu Public Bathhouse"!

Established 106 years ago, Azabu Black Beauty Water Hot Spring (Take no Yu), has been a certified onsen (hot spring) since 2002. Its beautiful tiled murals and stained glass windows have been attracting numerous visitors ever since. I decided to go to the bathhouse and see the artwork for myself.



"Men's Side" Take no Yu is the only bathhouse available in the Azabu region. As the shop name says, the distinguishing feature is its black hot water.

It is usual for many bathhouses to have paintings of the beautiful Mt. Fuji on its walls, but Take no Yu stands out with the picture of the Nippon Maru with its sails on full mast, its beauty imprinted as a tiled mural on the men's side of the bathhouse. On the women's side, the tiled mural displays the map of Japan, with red dots that indicate the capital of each Prefecture. They both look dynamic and impressive, especially since the mosaic tiles used are not painted on.

Amazing facts what is amazing when you move closer for a better look it is a very so-phisticated design that combined the broken pieces of the tiles. This was produced by the 2nd generation owners Odis when the bathhouse was rebuilt in 1988.

Ordinarily, painted pictures need to be maintained by regularly repainting them. In the olden times, there was usually someone you could hire to accomplish this; however, when the number of bathhouses started to decline, the number of bathhouse painters also decreased, and maintaining the quality of bathhouse paintings became a problem. I suddenly remembered that Antonio Gaudi, a famous Spanish architect best known for the majestic Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona, Spain, also featured artwork using cracked tiles on buildings and a park that he had worked on.

As we delve deeper into the bathhouse artworks, on the women's side, the map of Japan was created with the intention that it would inspire interesting conversations while mother and child bonded, fun quiz games and learning about the different prefectures of Japan, as well as getting guests to talk about their hometown, or swap tales of travel adventures here and abroad. As for the men's bathhouse, the

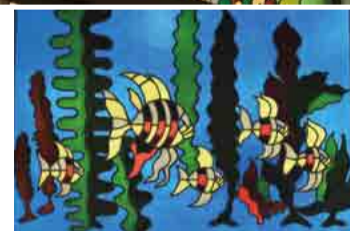
owner had initially wondered what he should put up on the walls, until he decided to use a draft he had made with his daughter during her elementary school days. It was heartwarming to see it as a finished artwork on the tiles.

As time passed into the Heisei era (1989– current), the younger sister of the family who became the third generation owner of the bathhouse, decided to renovate the interior. The concept was to preserve the murals and to create a modern space with a sophisticated feel to it; a space comfortable and enjoyed by everyone. She consulted with her older sister and decided to order custom-made granite plates carved with characters, selecting ground pattern tiles and mosaic tiles made in Italy. The tropical fish that greets you by the doorway, and the image of an European castle on stained glass still remain as before. Everything feels cozy, making you want to visit often even if you have your own bath at home. In fact, the bathhouse actually gets customers from other towns, and attracts many foreign guests, too. On a regular weekday, the bathhouse sees at least 200 visitors, and around 300-400 visitors on weekends or national holidays.

So if you ever get the urge to relax and just feel "zen," why not head over to Take no Yu for a soothing soak in its mineral-rich waters, while admiring its gorgeous masterpieces on tiles?

● Interview Cooperation by:
Azabu Black Beauty Water Hot Spring Take no Yu /
Mr. Hiroshi Higuchi, Miwa
Minami Azabu 1-15-12, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Tel.: 03-3453-1446 <https://takenoyuazabu.wixsite.com/takeno-yu>
Business Hours: 3:30 pm ~ 11:30 pm (Shutters close at 11:30 pm)
Closed on: Mon. & Fri. (Regardless of National Holiday)
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(Data collected by Aki Tanaka and Emi Nakajima/Written by Aki Tanaka and Emi Nakajima)



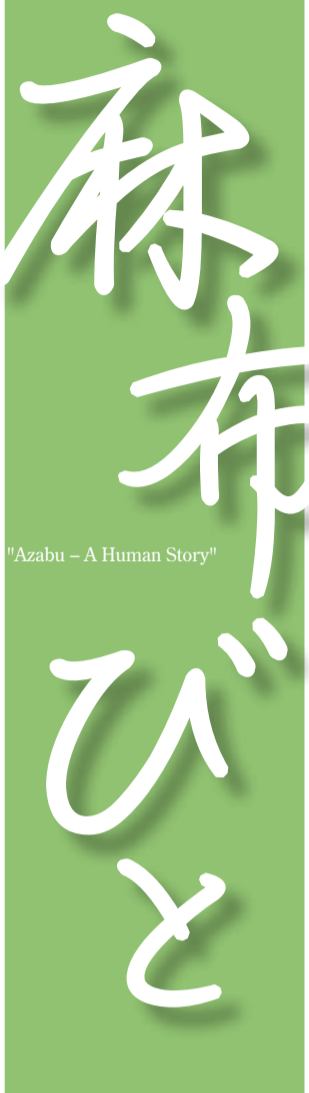
The stained glass that is the partition between the dressing room. Have the patrons of the bathhouse noticed that it was reversed from the men's side when it was renovated in 2011? The castle is now on the women's side.



Don't forget to look at the glass mosaic tile with its sense of transparency and the custom made black granite plates.



The shoe cupboard and lockers by the entrance are shared making it easy for the customers.



"Azabu - A Human Story"



Ms. Keiko Nishio (85 years old)

Chairperson of Association for Japanese-Language Teaching



With her brother, Ikuma Dan (1986)

Raised in Azabu, growing up in an environment with interaction with foreigners, and learning the importance of the Japanese language

The older brother of Ms. Keiko Nishio featured this time is Ikuma Dan, known as the composer of nursery rhyme "Zo san", classical music and opera and also an essayist of "The Smoke of the Pipe". Ino Dan, her father, was an entrepreneur and politician who served as an Associate Professor in the Art History Department of the Faculty of Literature at Tokyo Imperial University, was a Member of the House of Councilors, CEO of Prince Motors, and Chairman of Kyushu Asahi Broadcasting. Her mother, Michiko, came from a noble lineage of Japan and was the fifth child of Suesaburo Ueno, who served as the secretary to the German legation, Consul-General of Sydney and Master of the Palace Table of the Imperial Household Agency. Keiko, under her parents' great grounding attended Gakushuin from kindergarten to university. To add a small digression Yoko Ono is her classmate. We thought she would tell us about her brilliant lifestyle, however, on the contrary, Keiko was a very down to earth person and we were drawn in instantly as she started to talk about the path of her life journey.

Memories of Harajuku and Azabu Zaimokucho

Keiko Nishio was born in the middle of the Showa era as the second daughter to one of Japan's major entrepreneurs, Ino Dan (1892-1973) in Harajuku, Sendagaya Village, Toyotama County, Tokyo Prefecture, which is the current Harajuku. That year, 1932, was a tragic year for the Dan family. Takuma Dan (1858-1932), her grandfather and the Leader of Mitsui Combine, was killed by the Ketsumeji Clan Members. Keiko was cherished by the family as the youngest child, growing up in the household along with her older brother, Ikuma (1924-2001), who was 7 years old, and older sister.

It was during her days in Gakushuin Kindergarten that she lived in a huge mansion in Harajuku. "It was along the path where the soldiers commuted daily to their training at the Yoyogi Parade Ground. "My brother and older sister would climb up on the wall and watch the soldiers singing 'Brave a'll come-win' as they marched. I had to piggy-back on someone to watch them." The dust and sound of the march of the military boots, and the military song. These are Keiko's childhood memories. She laughed and said she still can sing over 10 military songs from memory.

Since Meiji Dori Avenue ran dividing the inside of the Harajuku mansion, it was decided that they would move to Azabu Zaimokucho (currently Roppongi 6 chome) in 1939, the year Keiko entered the Gakushuin Primary School. It was probably due to a vast network of people her father Ino had. The 6-storied house they moved into was actually the Swedish Legation. Soon the wave of war started to surge and her brother, Ikuma, joined the military band of the Toyama Army School and her older sister got married and moved to Kyushu. Once a month, she would walk from Azabu Zaimokucho to Toyama, with her mother carrying a lunch box, to see her brother on visiting day. The large wooden box used for sponge cake was filled with rice balls and food. Yasushi Akutagawa (1925-1989), a fellow classmate at the Tokyo Music Academy (currently Tokyo National Univ. of Fine Arts and Music), was also with him and she reflected and said, "My mother used to cry on the way back after watching the two eat large amounts of food quickly saying she felt so sorry that the young soldiers were so hungry."

Lost everything in the Big Air Raid on May 25, 1945

That day, Keiko and her parents along with several helpers had taken refuge in the air raid shelter built in the garden of the house in Azabu Zaimokucho amidst the roaring sound of the B29. Their house went up in flames and the cylinders of the hexagon shaped incendiary were scattered about the lawn. She still remembers as if it was yesterday when she evacuated with her mother after her father said, "Run to Aoyama Cemetery". "The road leading to the bottom of the cemetery was filled with people, tombstones had been overturned from the air raid, the neighing of the cavalry horses and the crying voices of people could be heard. Burnt galvanized iron was flying overhead, and there were so many dead bodies, it was like a picture of Hell!"

They left the burned down house, and stayed at the villa in Hakone (currently Hakone Highland Hotel) built by her grandfather, Takuma Dan, until the end of war. However, this villa was requisitioned as a Navy officer's house and this time, and carrying her own futon, they moved into their villa in Hayama. After the war, for a while, she was forced to commute to the temporary school building in the precincts of Gokokuji Temple in Bunkyo ward by riding her bicycle to Zushi Station and taking a two and half hour one way train ride. They eventually returned to Tokyo and after moving several times, and finally settled down in Azabu Nishicho (currently Moto Azabu 1 chome) which was close to their house in Azabu Zaimokucho.

Her Start as a Member of Society was International House Japan

Keiko's mother, Michiko was born in San Francisco when her father Suesaburo Ueno served as the Japan consul there. Her father, Ino, had experience studying abroad at Harvard, London and Lyon. The couple had many foreign friends and Keiko was brought up in a cosmopolitan home environment which constantly had visitors.



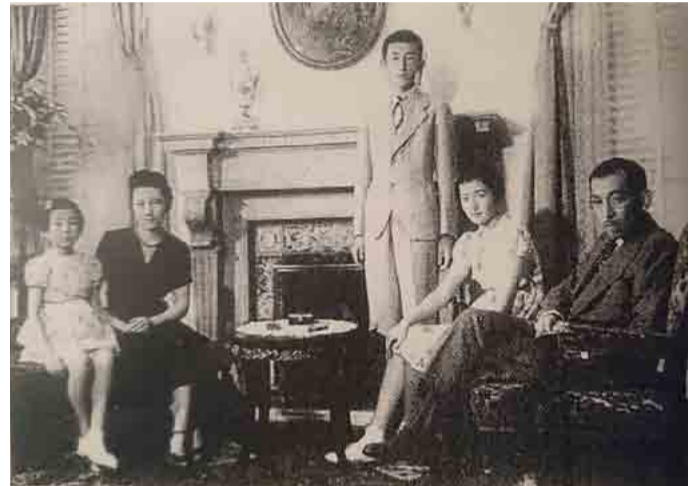
(Right) She loved stuffed animals from when she was small. Her favorite is the baby goat she purchased in Belgium. (Left) "Zouho Minato-ku Kindai Enkaku Zushu" Map of Azabu and Roppongi 1937, p94, Tokyo (the red circled area has been revised)/Issued by Minato-ku Board of Education
1. The house they lived in before the war. 2. Area they lived during post war



Keiko when she was 3 years old, at her house in Harajuku. From left: Keiko, her mother Michiko, her father Ino, her sister Akiko, her brother Ikuma.



Keiko's birthplace, her mansion in Harajuku. The white-fenced building in the center was a house for the children. On the right you see the building which contained art work.



There was a fireplace at their home in Azabu Zaimokucho. It completely burned down in the air raid several months after this picture was taken.



Her mother, Michiko, had a reputation for being elegant and beautiful.

Due to this influence, both parents encouraged her strongly to study abroad when she was 18. Keiko, who was fascinated with the Japanese language, decided to major in the Faculty of Letters, Department of Japanese Language and Literature of Gakushuin University. She was motivated to work in society, as she had seen her elder sister get married before 20 years old.

Her course to commute to school from home was going down Kurayamizaka-Slope, up Toriizaka Slope and to use the streetcar. The International Japan House alongside Toriizaka Slope was under construction when she was a senior in university. She saw the recruitment ad and decided to apply without hesitation. It was because she thought it was an interesting institution that would bridge the international world and Japan.

Going on to graduate school to pursue research crossed her mind in 1955, however, she decided that she wanted to work and joined International House Japan at the same time it opened. "My job was to assist in interaction between the foreign scholars and Japanese scholars. Every day was hectic as I had to catch up and be one step ahead of the exchange that was going on, but those were fulfilling days."

Lifework: Establishing the Association for Japanese Language Teaching

During her tenure, she began to immerse herself in the study of Japanese language education as she came in contact with the Japanese language through the research of the visiting scholars. She resigned from International House Japan when she got married and established the Japanese Language Education Research Association Nishio Group in 1970. Her time had come to display her real ability as she majored in Japanese literature and she started to build her foothold towards her lifework. She continued research and activities of the Japanese education while she raised her two children. She focused her efforts in teaching the Japanese language to the exchange students as a part-time teacher at Tokai University, and that's how the current Association for Japanese-Language Teaching was formed. Even during that time, she travelled around the world cooperating in solving the world's refugee problems, training Japanese teachers to implement Japanese language education, and continued to promote Japanese education to the arriving foreign employees who would be expats, and to the technical trainees, refugees and workers of Japanese descent.

Her achievement was recognized and she was awarded the Merit for Social Education from the Mayor of Minato City in 2002. In the same year, she received the Third Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure. To this day she continues her lecture activities as the Chairperson of the Association for Japanese-Language Teaching.

Thinking on her own and taking initiative. There was a lot I learned through the interview about Keiko's life. She talked in detail about her life from her childhood until now. Her memory was incredible and for me it was genuinely a time full of admiration and inspiration.



Keiko during her days at the International House Japan.

Association for Japanese-Language Teaching
http://www.ajalt.org

(Data collected and written by Yukiko Takayanagi)



A Delicious Library Where You Eat and Learn!?

—Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library “Arisugawa Cafeteria” “Arisugawa Café”—

What does one imagine when they hear “Library Cafeteria”?

Narrow, crowded and not many choices on the menu?

There are probably many people who say “meals are secondary because the library is a place to go to read, search data and study”. I went immediately when I heard that there was a cafeteria inside the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library at Arisugawa no Miya Memorial Park at Minami Azabu which defied that conventional image.



A good view from the window, tables and seats can be arranged to use for studying

The cafeteria located on the 5th floor re-opened on Oct. 2017 as “Arisugawa Cafeteria”.

There is a large window that overlooks the view of Minato City such as Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Tower in the spacious setting with a capacity of 135 seats which is very open and bright. The trees of the park also add color to every season.

So many delicious choices! Enjoy the meal and get to know it!

There are set menus, which fill your stomach to light menus such as noodles for those who are in a rush. The cafeteria’s special is “Usa Deep Fried Chicken Set”. Deep fried chicken is the specialty of Usa and the birthplace of deep fried chicken, which is located in the north of Oita prefecture. It’s seasoned well, piping hot and rich in flavor! It’s one of the popular menus of the library staff and very hearty. The soup stock made in the kitchen for “Arisugawa Chicken Ramen” uses chicken breast and legs and the clear soup gently warms your whole body. “Arisugawa Japanese Set Meal” and the “Arisugawa Western Set Meal” using the name of the cafeteria is made by steaming seasonal ingredients with sake or confit (preserving meat by slow cooking it in fat) and each dish is carefully prepared.

What catches your attention is the monthly special which is a choice of “local Japanese cuisine” or “international cuisine”. With the hopes of wanting the guests to get familiar with the food culture of Japan, Mongolian mutton barbecue of Hokkaido and sautéed beef from Aomori have been served as a menu of the “local Japanese cuisine”. As for the “international cuisine” menu, since there are so many embassies located in Azabu, the chef has introduced a variety of local cuisines from all over the world to create a connection with the various countries. The first exchange of library books to take place in Japan with the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan took place in Nov. 2017 and their local country dish, Kuyrdak (stewed tomato) appeared on the menu together with the exhibits. Although at first glance it looks like stew, however, liver and giblets with beef are stewed until it’s tender. The sour taste of tomato is exquisite and it goes well with rice. Local cuisine from Austria and Finland has also been introduced. The attraction is the unusual experience of eating international cuisine, which on top is served at a library!

Breathe a sigh of relief at the authentic café surrounded by nature

The “Arisugawa Café” opened by the 1st floor entrance in Dec. 2017. Each cup using the espresso system is carefully brewed with coffee beans, especially charcoal roasted for the café which is a slightly strong Viennese type of coffee.



The sun-drenched café on a sunny day.



Fresh green leaves in spring and red leaves in autumn spread out.



Rare Austrian produced grape juice as well as elder-flower with soda is served. Home-made bread from Germany lines the showcase. The strange shaped Zucker pretzels are topped with plenty of cinnamon sugar. Krapfen is a soft and fluffy donut filled with lemon jam and the sour taste and fragrance spreading in your mouth is delicious. It’s fun to enjoy the different taste of jam as it changes accordingly. There’s a terrace at the café which can be used without entering the library. Take out is possible and coffee beans are also sold. Please drop by when you want to take a breather during your walk.

Possible to do because it’s a “cafeteria” inside the library

Where did the idea come from to have this kind of cafeteria, which is extremely unusual to have in a library? We asked Mr. Akitoshi Yoshida, who runs the cafeteria. “I heard about the ‘cafeteria in the library’ when I was looking for a place to open and I thought it was very interesting. 800 to 1,000 people visit the library daily and it’s a place to obtain knowledge and information. I wanted to transmit information about food as well. It’s provided me with an opportunity as a chef to research various local cuisines and recipes so I can propose interesting dishes and to increase my wealth of knowledge as well. I’d like to introduce more food culture by leveraging the network unique to the library. I’d also like to conduct joint plans at library events and also cooking classes. There are many coffee shops in the Azabu and Hiroo area where you can enjoy different types of coffee, as well. I’d like to spread the café culture from “Arisugawa Café” as a place you can casually drop by and relax.”

Mr. Yoshida continued to say with a smile, “I want to utilize my experience I built working at a German restaurant and, for example, offer toast made from natural yeast and take on the challenge of creating a local Azabu cuisine menu.”

Why not drop by and enjoy your time at this “delicious library” which will continue to transmit food culture?



Mr. Yoshida, who is full of the challenging spirit of food.

● “Arisugawa Cafeteria”(5F) “Arisugawa Café”(1F)
 Inside the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library at Minami Azabu 5-7-13, Minato-ku, Tokyo
 Tel.: 03-3441-8770
 Business Hours: Arisugawa Cafeteria 11:00-17:00
 Arisugawa Café 10:00-19:00 (Weekends, Nat'l Holidays: 10:00-17:00)
 Closed on the same day as the library

Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library



The Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library has approximately 2.02 million books. It boasts the largest number of books as a public library and has inherited rare books from Edo & Tokyo from its predecessor the Tokyo Municipal Hibiya Library. The National Diet Library and this library are the only libraries that provide book repair service. Queries (reference services) regarding books are also accepted sometimes, which is recommended to use when searching for data and for research. Various exhibitions and lectures are also held and a popular backyard tour is offered regularly taking you to the archive area which is normally not accessible.

Please refer to the below for events:

Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library HP <http://www.library.metro.tokyo.jp>



The extent of the data in the basement archive is surprising. Restoration is done using Washi paper on a book from the Edo period.



Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Palau in Japan
His Excellency Francis Mariur MATSUTARO

The Republic of Palau

Area: 488 Square Kilometers
(approximately the same size as Yakushima)
Population: 21,291 (as of 2015, based on World Bank)
Capital City: Ngerulmud, Melekeok State (Transferred the capital from Koror in Oct. 2006)
Head of State: President of The Republic of Palau
His Excellency Mr. Tommy E. REMENGESAU, Jr.
(Inaugurated Jan. 2017; 4 year term)
Legislature: Bicameral system (Senate 13 seats, House of Delegates 16 seats)
4-year term

Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/palau/index.html>

Interview Support: Embassy of the Republic of Palau in Japan

Visiting Ambassadors ④
From the "World" of Azabu



PALAU

A new face, which relocated to Higashi Azabu last year. Close ties with Japan have continued from 100 years ago.

His Excellency Mr. Francis Mariur MATSUTARO (hereafter "the Ambassador") appeared wearing a necklace made from corals and shells from Palau. The interview began with his first words of "The AZABU' was the newsletter my wife and I first read when we moved to Azabu. It's very helpful as it has so many regional information."



① The exterior of the embassy.



② Legend of Palau (Exhibited at Expo 2005 Aichi Japan)



③ Meeting house called Bai.



④ People gathering at the meeting house.

The Impression of the New Embassy and Japan

The new embassy moved to Higashi Azabu in Aug. 2017. We were told that the reason for choosing this location was because there are many embassies and shops in Azabu and also because it is the center of Tokyo politically and rich internationally.

We first asked about the Ambassador impression of Japan to which he answered by referring to the difference in the concept of time saying, "I was initially puzzled with the punctuality of the Japanese. In Palau, even if we decide on the time of departure of a vessel based by the height of the sun, the tide rises and falls slowly, and so we wait for people who are late and we are not in a rush to sail. On the contrary, in Japan, the train schedules are managed down to the minute."

Palauan and Japanese Food

Palau was placed under Japanese administration for 30 years from 1915 to 1945, therefore Japanese culture and ingredients are familiar and accepted by the people of Palau that even households cook Udon noodles and stewed fish and vegetables. The country is rich in marine products and sashimi is also eaten. The Ambassador squeezed lemon on sashimi when he was eating it in Palau how-

ever, since living in Japan, he has gotten used to eating it with wasabi.

Palau cuisine can be eaten in Japan at "Dragon Tei" located in Makuhari Hongo, Chiba Prefecture. It is the sister store of the one in Palau and their most recommended dish is clam chowder simmered in coconut milk. The Ambassador explained that each household in Palau has their own unique taste for clam chowder and said, "By all means, try to relish the taste of Dragon Tei."

Palauan Japanese

Although it is well-known that the Japanese language has been incorporated into Palauan, there are words which have been adapted into Palauan and we were told that the word "Kanpai" (toast) was a good example. At the time of toast, people raise their glasses saying "Otsukare Naosu" and clink their glasses by saying "Shototz". We were told that this was a Palauan version of the Japanese word "Otsukare Sama" and "(the clinking of glasses) Shototsu."

Environmental Protection Activities

Palau's main industries are fishery and tourism. In order to sustain these industries, approaches towards reinforcing environmental protection are taking place. As a part of the "Legacy Campaign", a campaign to preserve the environment to the future generations which started from Dec. 2017, the country decided to implement "Palau Pledge", a tourism protection pledge. Visitors to Palau are asked to sign an oath that they will act in a responsible way committed to protecting Palau's natural environment. It is the world-first initiative in regards to changing the immigration process to protect the future. There is a video which explains the concept and the contents of the pledge. The Ambassador said enthusiastically, "It can be viewed on the in-

ternet. (Note). We would like as many people to sign the pledge if they agree."

Japan's Economic Cooperation

Japan contributes to Palau through official development assistance such as in the country's infrastructure development, strengthening maritime security capabilities and in the promotion of environmentally-friendly tourism. The Nippon Foundation funded a grant of a 40 meter patrol boat in which the launching and naming ceremony took place in Kure, Hiroshima in Sept. 2017 that His Excellency President REMENGESAU and the First Lady, the Ambassador and the cadets of the patrol boat crew training in Japan participated. The patrol boat was named "Kedam" meaning the Great Frigate Bird of Palau, with the hopes to protect the exclusive economic zone.

To Visit Peleliu Island if in Palau

The Ambassador's recommended sightseeing spot is Peleliu Island, where he was born. The island is surrounded with rich diving spots and it's possible to stay and go out to the various spots on a day to day basis. There are many vivid traces left from World War II such as tanks and artillery. The Emperor and Empress visited Palau's Peleliu Island on Apr. 9, 2015 to pay tribute to those who died in the war and in commemoration of their visit, Apr. 9th was enacted by law as a holiday of Peleliu. The Ambassador in closing the interview said, "I would like the young generation especially to visit Peleliu as the memories of the war are fading away and it's only four and half hours away from Japan."

All the members who were present at the interview agreed on preserving the beautiful natural heritage and signed the tourism protection pledge. The Ambassador in ending said, "It is a wonderful thing that 'The Aza-

bu' is created by the cooperation of volunteers." We felt honored as we could feel that he truly liked this newsletter.

(Note) <https://palaupledge.com/>

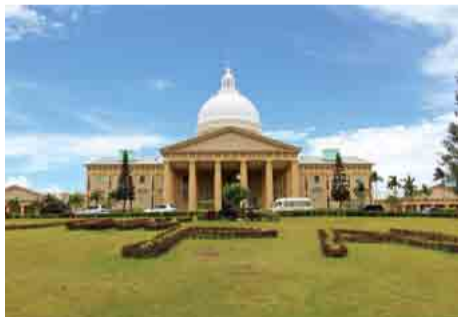
Embassy HP <https://palauembassy.or.jp/>



⑤ The "Palau Pledge" stamped on the passports at time of entering the country.



⑥ Seafood used lavishly in Palauan cuisine.



⑦ Palau National Congress in the capital Ngerulmud, Melekeok State.



⑧ Palau coral reef, with the most biodiversity in the world. Over 385 species of coral have been identified in Palau.



⑨ Rock Islands, Palau's Southern Lagoon (UNESCO World Heritage Site).



⑩ Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge connects Koror and Babeldaob



⑪ Ngardmau Falls, Palau's largest waterfall located deep in the jungle.



1975: Yakuen-zaka Slope from on top of the slope.
 Photographed taken by Masanori Taguchi and provided by Shigehisa Taguchi

The Southernmost Tip of Azabu

Currently a quiet residential area, Furukawa River is located at the bottom of the slope and the Meiji Dori Avenue and the Metropolitan Expressway (Route 2, Meguro Line) run across horizontally. Furukawa River is currently located at the southern tip (boundary) of the Azabu region. Meiji Dori Avenue is between Shinohashi Bridge and then it leads into the Takanawa region which is adjacent.



2017: The width of the street seems to be very narrow, perhaps because condominiums have been built on both sides and the sidewalk has been built.

Origin of the Slope

According to the guidepost, "A herb garden, On-Yaku-en (for raising medicinal herbs; forerunner of the Koishikawa Botanical Garden) of the Shogunate was located on the western side of the top of the slope during the early Edo period. In a corrupted form is called Yakunin-zaka." It was probably determined as an ideal location for an herb garden because of the rugged plateau facing south at the southernmost tip of Azabudai Land. As a relic, the Yakuen-zaka green tract of land (Minami Azabu 3-11) still remains. This herb garden, according to my research was originally a flower garden in the Edo Castle, which was relocated, where various herbs were grown and became the On-Yaku-en. The early Edo period is said to be the Enpo-era from 1673 to 1681. Later, it was relocated to the ruins of the Hakusan Goten Villa of Koishikawa in the Jokyo-era of 1684. This is the forerunner of the current Koishikawa Botanical Gardens (the official name is the Botanical Gardens, Graduate School of Science, the University of Tokyo located at Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo.)

Azabu Goten Villa

This is the name of the villa built for Tsunayoshi Tokugawa, the fifth shogun after the On-Yaku-en relocated. There are other names it's called, such as "Shirokane Goten" reflecting the geographical name or "Fujimi Goten" because there was a good view of Mt. Fuji. Expansion work of Furukawa River had to be conducted in order to build this villa in 1697 of the Genroku-era 10 and tradesmen were assigned starting from the 1st Group (Ichiban Gumi) when it was constructed. There is a reference to this in "The Azabu Vol. 27" article "Ichino-Hashi Bridge, Nino-Hashi Bridge" and the group number of the tradesmen is a remnant in the name of "Azabu Juban". It's not important, but in this same 27th Volume article "Azabu — A Human Story," there is mention of the guidepost stating that the "Rokuban Gumi" stayed near the On-Yaku-en. Although the Azabu Goten Villa was a large scaled construction, it was completed the following year in Genroku-era 11 (1698). It burned down by a fire in Yotsuya (then Shinjuku, Naitojuku) in Hoen-era 5 (1708). It is proof that the scale of fires in those days was very big. (* There are different theories as to when it burned down).

Tsunayoshi visited the villa only twice and the Ako incident (commonly referred to as the Forty-seven Ronin) took place a little before his 2nd visit.

Kitsune (Fox) Shiruko

Allow me to digress from On-Yaku-en, because Shino-Hashi Bridge is important when exploring the boundary of Azabu. It is mentioned on the guidepost of the bridge, that the bridge was built even before the Edo era because there is a folklore that an old road existed. The name of the bridge derives from the aforementioned Azabu Goten Villa, however, the Azabu Seven Wonders exist about Shino-Hashi Bridge.

As the legend goes, "Once upon a time, there was a man named Owari-ya Toubei who owned a shiruko shop (sweet red-bean



"Kitsune Unagi" is noted on the right hand side of "Shino-Hashi Bridge" (red circle is revised).
 "Owari-ya plate pattern drawing Illustration of Shirokane" Illustrated by Masanori Tomatsu/Owari-ya Seishichi (Kin urokodo Publishing) 1854

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

— Located on the southernmost tip of Azabudai Land —

The Yakuen-zaka Slope

This is a slope which also acts as the boundary line and is important when in search for the boundary of Azabu.

What kind of history lies in this quiet residential area? Maybe there is an unexpected [boundary] in a place you pass everyday with a hidden surprising history.

soup shop) near Shino-Hashi Bridge. It became acclaimed that a fox disguised as a human would come sometimes to buy this sweet red-bean soup and that the owner prospered greatly." Meaning it was so delicious that even a fox came to buy it. The shop name is stated on the ancient map.

Owari-ya later relocated to Kyobashi Sanjukkenbori (currently around Ginza 2 and 3 Chome). The relocation was probably because he was very profitable. There is no evidence in this legend as to when this took place, however, it is related in fact to the name of a well-established store in Azabu.

Kitsune Unagi

Please look at the picture. It is a signboard in Higashi Azabu/Iikura that says, "Fifth Generation Nodaiwa". "Kitsune Unagi" is written on the right hand side. Kitsune Unagi refers to the fine mouthed high quality natural eel which inhabits upstream of Tonegawa River around Ibaragi and Chiba, but it also has another meaning. "Kitsune Shiruko" which was located in Shino-Hashi Bridge later became "Kitsune Unagi" and the story is depicted in Hiroshige Utagawa's "Picture Book, Souvenirs of Edo 'Azabu Furukawa, Sagami Donobashi, Hiroo no Hara'."



Signboard of Fifth Generation Nodaiwa.
 "Kitsune Unagi" written on right hand side.



"Picture Book, Souvenirs of Edo 7th Edition"
 'Azabu Furukawa, Sagami Donobashi, Hiroo no Hara'
 Brush by Shotai Kinsui, Hiroshige Utagawa/Kozaburo Kikuya 1851
 The building on the left side of the illustration is "Kitsune Unagi".
 It seems to have been quite a big store for those days.

Although I got side tracked, there seems to have been numerous historic testimonies buried in the southernmost tip of Azabu. Maybe there are many unimaginable affairs buried deep in this currently quiet residential area.



2017: The current picture at almost the same angle as Hiroshige's illustration. The Metropolitan Expressway hangs over and the scenery across the river is hardly visible.

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

地域社会
の
ゆくえ

"The Local
Community"

23

Project Collaboration Between Minato City
and Toyo Eiwa University

Report on "Hearing the Latest Situation of the
Country from the Embassy"! —Thailand Version—

Minato City and Toyo Eiwa University (hereafter Toyo Eiwa) agreed to hold collaborative projects in the field of lifelong learning and international exchange in order to contribute to the development of society and academic research, and for that purpose have concluded a Partnership Agreement. As part of this effort and to commemorate Toyo Eiwa University Center for Continuing Education, which marked its 20th anniversary in 2017, an event entitled "Hearing the Latest Situation of the Country from the Embassy" was held. The event aims to allow mutual exchange between the local community and embassies, and to provide opportunities to learn different cultures and their local cuisine, by holding lectures by the embassies in Japan followed by receptions for interactive communication among participants.

The first event was held at Toyo Eiwa from 6 p.m. on Dec. 15, 2017. Professor Yuko Takeshita of Toyo Eiwa and the Azabu Regional City Office invited the Royal Thai Embassy to lecture as the year 2017 marked the 130th anniversary of Japan-Thailand Diplomatic Relations.

Minister Cherdchai Chaivaivid (he was Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the time of the event) gave a lecture explaining that Japan and Thailand's exchange started as far back as the 15th century, and that there was a Japan Town in the 17th century during which Ayutthaya, the capital of Siam, flourished. He pointed out that the Ryukyu then was also a major player in trading. Minister Chaivaivid enlightened the audience by explaining that *awamori* (Okinawa's distilled spirits) is even to this day produced by using Thai rice and that the remnants of trade with Thailand still exist. He also talked about a long cordial relationship of the two countries based upon the intimacy between the Imperial Family of Japan and the Royal Family of Thailand.

In closing Minister Chaivaivid explained that he would like for the two countries to be able to contribute to resolving global issues, building on the solid bilateral friendship. He added that Thailand has been an important country in global supply chain while being an important partner for



Minister Cherdchai Chaivaivid

Japan's economic activities. There were comments from the participants, among others, requesting more introduction of the amazing Buddhist art of Thailand.



Exchange students from Chulalongkorn University with Professor Yuko Takeshita

The reception with delicious Thai cuisine followed the lecture. *Tom kha gai* (chicken coconut soup) was served warm with an explanation of how to prepare—by mixing the ingredients of *som tum* (Thai papaya salad) prior to serving so that it wouldn't get watery.

A newly published Thai travel guide was distributed as a souvenir which stirred more interest in Thailand.

This exchange program with the embassies will continue so please participate if you are interested.



Tom-kha-kai



Som tam, etc.



(Upper) Toyo Eiwa University Graduate School Tower.
(Middle) The members who planned this event.
(Lower) Thai Travel Guide.

● Data collection support: Toyo Eiwa University, Royal Thai Embassy

Interviewed and written by Emi Yonehara



The gently curved design of the flower pots is titled "smiley, smiley".



Handwritten plates by the children.

Kids' Flower Roppongi
Beautiful Flowers Are Going To Bloom



Town's Tips

Ten o'clock on a sunny Saturday morning of Dec 16th 2017, 42 children from Azabu Primary School participated in the "Kids' Flower Roppongi" (hosted by the Roppongi Shopping Street Association).

Twenty one flower pots are replanted with flowers of the season by children once a year and the entire Roppongi Crossing becomes bright and refreshed. This activity has been taking place since 2012. This is one of the community volunteer studies at Azabu Primary School in which the children prepare for it by drawing a blueprint of the flower bed in advance and think about the design and slogan to post on the plate.

On the designated day, the children set out to challenge group planting. The flowers picked were daisies, stalks,

conifer, Erica white, and snapdragon etc. There were some tearful scenes (?) of having to make modifications when they found out that it wasn't easy to design, however, through cooperation with the town folks looking on, the children concentrated their attention and completed the task 30 minutes earlier than scheduled.

A message to the passersby: Please enjoy and appreciate the flowers. And please keep this area clean. The gently curved designed flower pots are titled "smiley, smiley". Comments and opinions will be reported to the organizers later about the handwritten plates by the children.

A great job done!
Group photo with everyone.

I wonder if I can do it as the same as the blueprint?



Comments and opinions will be reported to the organizers later.

(Data collected and written by Kumiko Ohmura)



Let's spread the circle to improve manners among businesses together! Recruiting Members To Join The "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance"!

Minato City is aiming at creating a town "for people to follow smoking rules regardless if you are a smoker or not so everyone can live comfortably". The "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance Project" was newly enacted in April, 2017 to especially ask for the many smokers who work in Minato City and those who visit to follow the "Minato City Smoking Rule".

"We (name of the establishment) understand and will obey the "Minato City Smoking Rule"!"

Businesses which are in agreement with the above can simply apply and register through the Minato City website. Please search "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance" for details.

A registration certificate along with internal enlightenment activity posters, stickers, and goods to promote the activity will be provided when you register. Furthermore, information regarding registered businesses will be posted publicly on the Minato City website.

Sample of Enlightenment Goods



喫煙場所マップ



宣言事業者ワッペン



宣言登録証

We ask for understanding and cooperation to build the momentum in order to promote "People who work in Minato City are those who follow the city rules" through the support of many businesses for the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance".

**Inquiries: Environmental Policy Subsection, Environmental Section
03-3578-2487
Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu
Regional City Office 03-5114-8802**

Information from the Metropolitan Tax Office

1. The due date for the payment of Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax in the first quarter comes in June (within the 23 Wards).

Please pay your taxes by July 2, 2018 (Monday) at any of the financial institutions or convenience stores listed on the reverse side of your payment statements. Payment by credit card is also acceptable. Payment by account transfer, Pay-easy service ATM in financial institutions or post offices, internet banking or mobile banking is also available.

For more information, access our website or contact the office as follows:

**Inquiries: <Payment by account transfer> Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division Tel: 03-3252-0955 (09:00-17:00 on weekdays)
<Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax> For properties located in Minato City, Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)**

2. Certification regarding Real Estate Tax will change from May 1, 2018! (within the 23 wards)

Certificate of valuation of fixed assets, related dues certificate, and certification of properties will change from May 1st (Tues.), 2018 as follows:

① Handling Charge Revision

When applying for 2 or more of the same certificate at one time, the handling charge for the 2nd certificate will be reduced. After the revision, the 1st certificate will cost ¥400, however, the 2nd certificate onwards will be ¥100 (only in the case certain conditions are met).

② Method of Indication for Certificates will Change (certification in accordance with land and buildings only).

Inquiries: Real Estate Tax Section, Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office 03 (5549) 3800 (rep.)

3. Notification about the Relief Measures for Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax in FY2018 (within the 23 Wards).

① Measures to reduce the upper limit charge level of FY2018 Real Estate Tax/Urban Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc. ② Relief measures for FY2018 Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax for small non-residential land ③ Relief measures for FY2018 Urban Planning Tax for small residential land ④ Relief measures for FY2018 Real Estate Tax for residential land etc. in which the tax amount is 1.1 times higher than the previous fiscal year ⑤ Exemption measures for Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax will continue in FY2018 for houses which have been rebuilt and renovated for earthquake resistance (④ will be extended until FY2020, ⑤ will be extended until year end of FY2019)

For more information, access our website or contact the office as follows:

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

4. Exemption measures for Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax for houses which have been rebuilt and renovated for earthquake resistance (only in the case certain conditions are met) (within the 23 wards)

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

• Rebuilding: Three (3) fiscal years will be fully exempted (limited to residential part) from the newly taxed year after the new construction. However, the number of units to be exempted will depend on the house before rebuilding took place.

• Renovation: Full exemption after the seismic reduction will be applied to the floor area equivalent to 120 of the residential part per household for a certain period of time until the next fiscal year from renovation completion date.

Applications are required for tax exemption. Please refer to the website or contact the following:

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

5. Exemption measures for Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax for houses which has been rebuilt to be non-flammable within the Incombustible Special Zones (only in the case certain conditions are met) (within the 23 wards)

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

Exemption Period: Five (5) fiscal years from the newly taxed year the new construction.

Exemption Amount: Fully exempt (limited to residential part). However, the number of units to be exempted will depend on the house before rebuilding took place.

Requirements differ for owners of houses demolished and newly constructed houses.

Applications are required for tax exemption. Please refer to the website of Bureau of Taxation or contact the following:

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

6. Exemption measures for Real Estate Tax and Urban Planning Tax for vacant lots created because of old houses being removed due to the danger it creates from a disaster prevention perspective within the Incombustible Special Zones (only in the case certain conditions are met) (within the 23 wards)

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

Exemption Period: Maximum 5 fiscal years from the next fiscal year the old house has been removed.

Exemption Amount: 80% exemption equivalent to the site of the house

Requirements differ for owners of houses demolished and land after the house has been demolished.

Applications need to be made by the first due date (June 30) of every fiscal year to be eligible for exemption. Please refer to the website of Bureau of Taxation or contact the following:

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

7. Please utilize the convenient electronic declaration and electronic tax payment, etc. system.

Electronic declaration using eLTAX (local tax portal system) can be used for enterprise tax on corporations, special local corporation tax, corporation inhabitants tax, business office tax within the 23 wards and fixed asset tax (depreciable assets) within the 23 wards. Furthermore, electronic tax payment is also accepted using eLTAX for enterprise tax on corporations, special local corporation tax, corporation inhabitants tax and business office tax within the 23 wards.

Inquiries: Each tax section in-charge for electronic declaration, electronic application and notification. Electronic tax payment: Collection Management Section Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

8. Have you already paid your automobile tax?

Automobile tax is paid by the owner (user in the case of installment sales) indicated on the vehicle inspection certificate (shakensho) as of Apr. 1st, every year. Automobile tax needs to be paid by May 31st (Thurs.). Please pay your tax if you have not done so yet.

Please refer to the website or contact the following:

Inquiries: Metropolitan Automobile Tax Call Center 03-3525-4066

Support Cleaning Graffiti!

Graffiti not only is discerning to the city's aesthetics, but causes uneasiness among residents and passers-by and also leads to the onset of crime. We will be taking action to stop graffiti to protect the city so everyone can live comfortably and with peace of mind.

Targeted graffiti Written without the management's permission on buildings in the city where it is visible to the public.

Who can apply ① Owners or management, etc., of buildings with graffiti
② Organizations involved in community safety and environmental beautification activities of the town council and residents' association, etc.

How to support ① Lending and providing stain erasers and rags
② Entrust the help of professionals to erase graffiti when it is not possible by the above actions

Expense Free of Charge

Application procedure Contact the Collaboration Project Section of each regional city office or the Disaster Prevention Subsection, Community Safety Promotion Section
* Please contact the Living Safety Subsection in advance.

**Inquiries: Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Section Living Safety Subsection
Tel: 03-3578-2272**



Information from Azabu Regional City Office

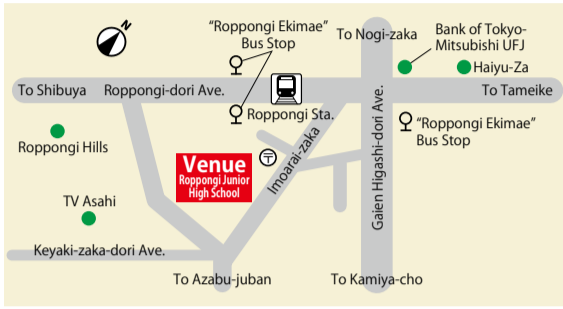
FY2018 Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site) will be conducted. —Let's Learn About Disaster Prevention of Japan—

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons are more likely to occur in Japan compared to other countries in the world, and Japan is often still hit badly with disasters. The larger the scale of the resulting disaster is, the more the function of public support decreases. It becomes important in this situation for each and every resident to have correct knowledge on disaster prevention and to take appropriate action.

Adults and children can grow wiser and learn skills on disaster prevention at the Disaster Preparedness Drills, and by using the points accumulated by the training from last year children can exchange them for toys, etc.

In addition, although an advanced reservation is necessary, please come and join us. English interpreters will be available as well as hands-on drill tours taking place at the site.

*Details will be available in the next edition (No. 44).



Date and Time 9:30am – 11:30am on Sunday, November 4, 2018 (planned)
* English speaking tour starts at 10:00 a.m.

Location Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Grounds and Gymnasium
6-8-16 Roppongi, Minato City

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

Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations. Our Slogan is “ZERO ROPPONGI” —Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind



ルール違反 ゼロの六本木へ。
合い言葉は、ZERO ROPPONGI
Toward a Roppongi with ZERO violations.
Our slogan is ZERO ROPPONGI

Rules exist, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our aim is to have everybody enjoy their freedom and their time as comfortably as possible in Roppongi, where many people from a variety of cultures gather.

We conduct a number of campaigns and activities with neighborhood associations, residents' associations, store associations, businesses and concerned administrative organizations, centered on the main themes of “Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities” and “Patrol for Prevention of Street Solicitation.”

If you are interested in our activities, don't hesitate to contact us.

We are recruiting shops and businesses which want to support the Charter.

Minato City is developing the “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” Certification System for Recommended Businesses as part of its efforts to raise awareness about the Charter. Shops and businesses that support the Charter are constantly being recruited.

Furthermore, since fiscal 2018 is the 5th anniversary of the enactment of charter, we would like to utilize this opportunity to aim at further creating awareness and penetration of the town rules.

Eligibility Businesses, etc., that are located in, or are active mainly in, the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)

How to apply Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post or bring it directly to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office. Or apply via the Minato City website below.

*The names of the certified businesses, etc., will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as “Recommended Businesses, etc.”

Access the “Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind”, through the following URL: ➡

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

Search



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

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 Chili 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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Megumi Nakajima

Editor's Note

Azabu has no end for topics to talk about. “We have nothing to talk about!” never happens. I'm so astonished each time of things I didn't know about in my position as an editing staff. At the same time, “new discoveries” are also impressive. There are episodes hidden in places we casually visit. At times, there are discoveries which I think are fate! You may not believe this, but it's true. Azabu is an incredibly large town where there is no end for topics to talk about!

(Yasuhiro Tanaka)

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