



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



Looking for **Verdure** in Azabu
Series: No. 5

Rows of Cherry Blossom Trees in the Roppongi 1-chome Neighborhood Area

Also, if you go earlier in the morning, you can enjoy all of this without the crowds the sights often bring.

When spring comes, breathtakingly magnificent arches of cherry blossom trees emerge around the area from Izumi Garden in Roppongi 1-chome to Ark Hills. Gorgeous rows of cherry blossom trees are one of the most notable seasonal attractions in Azabu. A detailed description follows.



1 The end of Izumi-dori. Turning left leads you to Spain-zaka Slope, and right leads you to Sakura-zaka Slope.

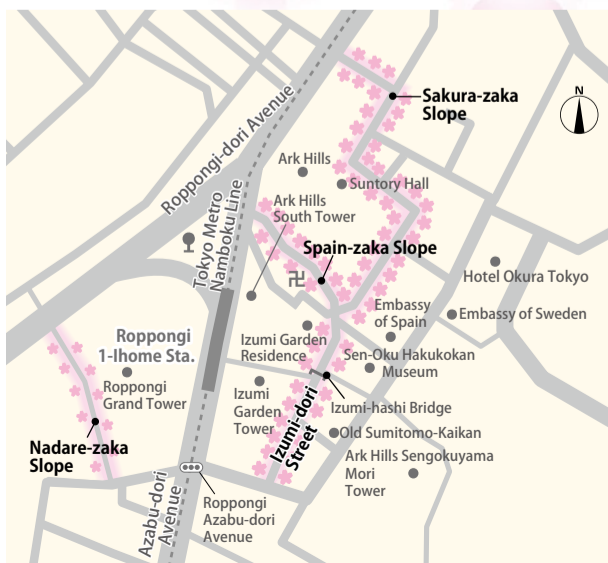
2 Pale Pink Somei Yoshino Cherry Blossom, with their neat and clean aesthetic

3 You can see "Yoko" cherry blossom in front of the Roppongi Residence building when you look down from the "Izumi-hashi Bridge". They bloom earlier than the Somei Yoshino Cherry blossom, and feature larger vivid pink flowers.

● Data Collection Support: Mr. Chihiro Tanaka, Building Manager, Minato Second Office, Building Business Headquarters, Sumitomo Realty & Development Co., Ltd.

○ These photos were taken in March 2018.

○ Illumination Period: Every day from the end of March to around the middle of April 2019, from 5:00pm to 10:00pm (performed according to the flowering conditions)



As you walk along Azabu-dori Ave. toward Tani-machi Junction and turn right at the Roppongi Azabu-dori Ave. traffic signal, you can see the end of Izumi Garden extending along the street from the first corner on the left. This gently curving street is commonly known as "Izumi-dori Ave.", and is the main street of the area.

Two hundred and twenty (220) Somei Yoshino cherry trees line both sides of the street for about 1km, extending over Ark Hills and including Spain-zaka Slope and Sakura-zaka Slope. When these cherry blossom bloom all together, the arches of cherry blossom that appear are truly a sight to behold.

The trees lining the sides of Izumi-dori Ave. were planted 17 years ago during urban renewal in 2002. The trunks are a little thinner than those of the trees planed along Spain-zaka Slope or Sakura-zaka Slope, but the shapes compare favorably with those of the more established trees.

From any vantage point along the street, the cutting edge architecture of the high-rise buildings can be seen over the tops of the trees.

In Azabu, it can be said that a modern urban city and nature exist in harmony, forming a marvelous balance. Everyone who lives there or visits gets the impression of both the established and traditional, and of something new.

We absolutely recommend you don't miss the area's illumination in the evening.

The lights make the flowers look even more fantastic, highlighting them in the darkness with lamps below. The trees appear to be reaching upwards into the sky.

Only at this time every year is this area bustling with many people

who are out for a stroll until late into the night.

There are many more new and interesting cherry blossom viewing spots.

When you go over the "Izumi-hashi Bridge" footbridge midway along Izumi-dori Ave., you can see a square that used to be the site of a large guesthouse owned by a Sumitomo plutocrat. Now, only the garden remains, and there are as many as 6 types of cherry blossom trees at various places around it.

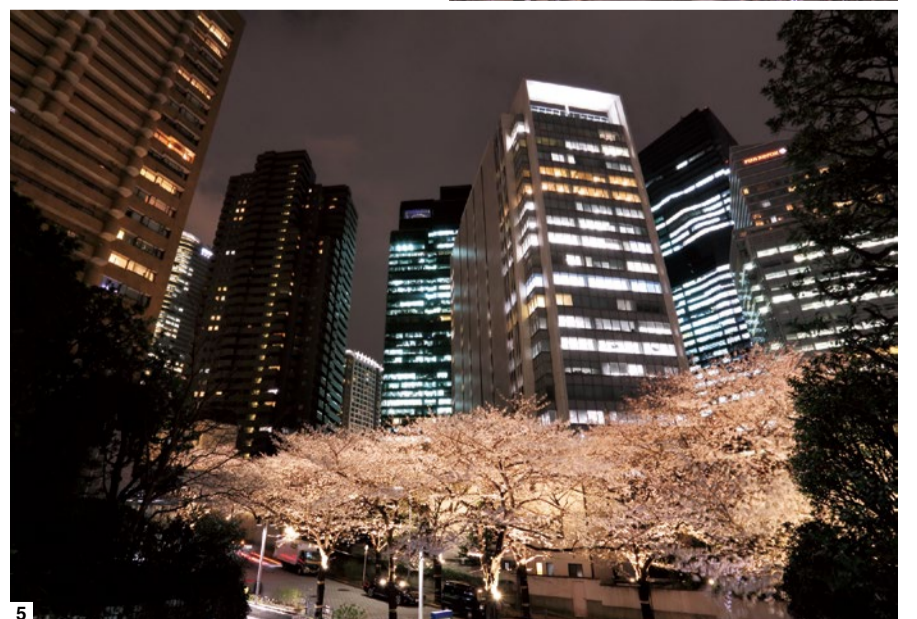
If you then move on to the opposite side of Azabu-dori Ave. (Roppongi 3-chome) toward Roppongi Grand Tower, you can reach the Japan IBM Headquarters Building and can enjoy walking along the street lined with rows of young but brightly colored cherry blossom trees called "Yoko". This is also the recently renewed Nadare-zaka Slope in the area of the former Roppongi Prince Hotel.

We really hope you have a chance to visit all these areas, each with their different aesthetic, and find your favorite!



4 5 The mysterious illuminated night view appears only at this time. Photo No. 5 shows the view from the foot of Spain-zaka Slope toward the Izumi Garden.

6 I am looking forward to watching how a young cherry tree along the Nadare-zaka Slope grows from now on. Photo taken in 2017 and provided by Sumitomo Realty & Development Co., Ltd.



(Data Collected and Written by Aki Tanaka)

As long as I live an honest and sincere life, there is nothing I need to fear.

Ms. Tsuneko Suzuki is a traditional straight talking Tokyoite who was born and raised in Azabu Tanimachi*, and does not like to take too much time reflecting on her past. However, we asked her to look back on her 85 years of life, as a knowledgeable Azabu resident. Ms. Suzuki has experienced a lot of Azabu's history, so we wanted to hear what events had the strongest impact on her life so far, and what message she might want future generations to have. * Present Roppongi 2-chome area.

Natural and Man-made Disasters: Narrow Escapes from Death

Ms. Suzuki has had two traumatic life-threatening experiences. So much so that she can still instantly recall the exact dates of these disasters.

One of them occurred on June 30, 1938. It had been raining consistently for three days due to a large typhoon; torrential rain poured down. At around two in the morning, a 25m cliff suddenly collapsed.

At the top of the cliff was Mitsui Mansion (presently the US Embassy Apartment House) and below the cliff was Hisakuni Shrine, Ms. Suzuki's birthplace. This huge landslide swamped 28 private residences and about 50 people were buried alive. Ms. Suzuki was only four years old at that time, but still remembers it clearly.

"From here, I clearly remember a man screaming for help. In total, 23 people died, and all members of some families were lost."

Policemen, fire fighters, the Young Men's Association members as well as the 1st Infantry Regiment joined forces in the rescue operation, and worked non-stop to rescue the victims. Fortunately for the shrine, Ms. Suzuki and her family, the landslide stopped just behind the main building. It was a narrow escape.

"The present wall was constructed with generous financial support from the Mitsui family. That was 80 years ago, and became covered in moss. Also fortunately, it was not damaged by the great earthquake" she said, gazing up at the wall.

The second great trauma of her life happened on May 25, 1945 during an air raid. Ms. Suzuki was then a sixth grade student at Azabu Elementary School, and staying in a house in the Tochigi Prefecture mountains.

"I think that most of the people who were born between 1932 and 1938 experienced evacuation. Evacuations were performed in two ways. One was evacuation to a relative's house located in a safe rural place. Children who did not have such relatives were evacuated in groups to more rural areas. This was my case, and I was evacuated to a rural area with a large group of other children as per government instructions. My sister who was four years younger than me stayed with our parents because she was too young to be apart from them. This was quite dangerous, and during an air raid my sister escaped from fires with our parents. Our house and the shrine burned down. From the mountains of Tochigi Prefecture, I could see the sky over Tokyo, and it was bright orange".

It was not until March the following year that Ms. Suzuki was reunited with her family. Unlike many families at the time who were not so fortunate, all her family members survived.

An exciting first encounter for me is happened at the Imperial Palace: I met the man who became my husband at work.

Ms. Suzuki went to Yamawaki Junior & Senior High School in Akasaka for six years. After graduation, as fate would have it, she got a job at the Imperial Palace.

"Although I was an easygoing person and did not study hard, I enjoyed "Tanka"(a Japanese 31-syllable style of poetry) and I had a favorite about Sanetomo Minamoto. I really had a lucky break when this was on the entrance exam for the job! Oh, I remember, it was written by the famous Japanese poet Shiki Masaoka. "Hitomaru no nochi no utayomi wa dareka aran, Sei-taishogun, Minamoto-no-Sanetomo". (Who would be the successor of the great Tanka composer, Kakinomoto-no-Hitomaro (also called Hitomaru) in the seventh century? It has to be Minamoto-no-Sanetomo, the commander-in-chief of the expeditionary force in the 12th century Kamakura Era). I was a very lucky person then, and that continues to this day".

She was employed by the Imperial Household as a staff member of the Recruitment Unit in the Secretary Section. Nine months later, she received an exceptional promotion as a Board of Chamberlains staff member. This section is responsible for the personal care of the Emperor and Empress, young imperial family members: They are as yet unmarried princes and princesses.

"Professor Yukitsugu Torino⁽²⁾ who worked as the Outadokoro no Yoriudo⁽¹⁾ (staff member of Imperial Poetry Bureau) came to our office almost every week. One day Mr. Osanaga Kanroji⁽³⁾ dropped in carrying a tea set, and I whisked some powdered green tea for them. Sometimes, Mr. Saishu Onoe⁽⁴⁾ came in to correct tankas for the annual New Year's poetry reading".

She worked at the Board of Chamberlains for about four years, and married Mr. Yutaka Suzuki, who was also working there. As was a common custom then, she resigned from the office after marrying.

(1) A bureau in the Department of the Imperial Household that existed between 1888 and 1946: The staff members selected wakas (traditional Japanese poetry) by Imperial family members and also wakas submitted by ordinary people for the annual New Year's poetry reading.

(2) He is the second son of Renbo Torino, with the lineage and hereditary title of Fujiwara-Ason, in the domain of Maruoka. He was appointed as an Imperial



The object on the right in the photo is a vase given by the Empress Kojun, and Prince Takamatsu presented the music box. When the cover is opened, the music "Umi Yukaba" is played. This song is from "Manyo-shu" (the oldest "tanka" anthology), compiled by Otomo-no-Yakamochi. Kiyoshi Nobutoki, a cellist, wrote the music for the song. Because this song became very popular all over Japan as a requiem during and after World War II, some people wanted this to be considered a military song.



Calligraphy handwritten by Kaishu Katsu



They have been supporting each other for 60 years. The photo shows Ms. Tsuneko Suzuki sitting together with her husband, Mr. Yutaka Suzuki (87 years old)



(Left) Hisakuni Shrine contributes to the Minato City Tourism Association, as one of the shrines (Hotoison) for Minato City Shichifukujin (Seven Deities of Good Luck). There used to be a Kaguraden (sacred dance stage) in the location that is presently an open space. Izan Murakami, a Japanese-style painter who was born in Kyoto, drew the picture of a pine tree on the background, center stage. (Right) The girl shown in the center of the photo is Ms. Suzuki. The person sitting in the front row, third from the left, is her father, Mr. Chujiro Ishikawa. The calligraphy on the hanging scroll for the alcove was handwritten by Heihachiro Togo. (well known as Admiral Togo)

Poetry Bureau staff member. In 1944, he inaugurated a poetry party called "Okuno Kenkyu-kai" with Her Majesty the Empress.

(3) He accepted the commission to be a chamberlain to the Crown Prince, and later the Deputy Grand Chamberlain, and finally the Chief Priest of Meiji Shrine.

(4) He was a Japanese poet, calligrapher and Japanese literature scholar. He accepted the position as selector for the tankas for the annual New Year's poetry reading in 1949.

Unusually for a woman at the time, Ms. Suzuki became Chief Priest when she was 45 years old

Her father Mr. Chujiro Ishikawa was the chief priest of Hisakuni Shrine, and he became ill when she was 45 years old. As a result she was obligated to go and study very hard at Kokugakuin University to learn how to take over her father's job.

We asked her: "Isn't Chief priest usually a job for men only?"

She replied: "Yes, it is, but I received official appointment as a council member from the Tokyo Jinjacho (Tokyo Association of Shinto Shrines). They held conferences periodically, and I was only woman among them. They looked at me clearly wondering who I was and why I was there. I felt that I had as much right to be there as they did, and that they will never get me to quit!" We thought she really is a strong woman!

She continued: "Are you asking me what is difficult about being Chief Priest? I haven't had any difficulty performing my duties. If your mind is not in the right place, serving the Gods is impossible. The most important thing is sincerity. It's no problem as long as I live an honest and sincere life, and so I am afraid of nothing. I am a woman and the Chief Priest, and I can live like this in part because my husband has always been supporting me since he resigned from the Imperial Household Agency". Her way of life is simple and impressive.

Home is where our hearts are, and where we form our earliest memories

Each day, her husband, Mr. Yutaka Suzuki, starts with cleaning at four o'clock in the morning.

By the time businessmen stop by to worship at the shrine before going to work, there is not a single fallen leaf that has not been raked, and the air throughout is fresh and clean.

They provide a nursery school for children, and there is a small vegetable garden for them to learn about gardening. This was actually at the request of a local firm.

Last year, eggplant, green peppers and turnips were harvested. Next month, potato seedlings are to be planted.

"We have tended this land for hundreds of years. We can live here without any problems if we watch our expenses, even though we are poor. Occasionally, some local people who grew up here like to come by, relax, and feel nostalgic. We don't want to destroy nature by selling this land for the construction of high-rise buildings. Once, a retired banker came here to study the birds and insects, and his report was published in a book. Some people have come by to sketch them and have given us beautiful pictures".

There will always be people around us who are put at ease with the scenery here, and are stimulated creatively. Doing this "Azabu - A Human History" story this time around made me feel like this as well.



(Top) This calligraphy was written by Shokaku Yamada, and is Ms. Suzuki's favorite. Shokaku Yamada's real name is Minoru Yamada. He was a calligrapher who served as the principal of Azabu Elementary School and established the Kakushin Shodo-kai (Calligraphy Association).

(Bottom) "My father came from Yokohama, and made up his mind to be a Shinto priest when he was 29 years old. He received his 10 years of training at the Nishikubo Hachiman Shrine under Mr. Mitsuunaga Yoshida, who was the President of the Tokyo Association of Shinto Shrines. After that, he was charged with the operation of this shrine.

My ancestor on my mother's side, Hatsu, was a retainer to Dokan Ohta. My mother had the aura of a descendant of samurai, and had a strong sense of her own importance. She spent her youth in Shinjuku and graduated from Toritsu-Kasei Jogakko (Metropolitan household economy girls' school). She worked for the Treasury in the Meiji Shrine from the time of its construction. She married a Shinto priest who was introduced by his friend, a Shinto priest there. My father started out with almost nothing, but fearlessly introduced himself to famous people without appointment or connection, to ask for assistance with the Shrine. Even his family was of secondary importance to him. In this blue notebook, people in various fields such as Yumie Hiraiwa (a novelist) and Fuketsu (the younger brother of Fujii, the Last Emperor of China), as well as Yukio Kawahara, former headman of Minato ward, wrote remarks or drew pictures.



Burnt-out Whole Azabu Tanimachi Area (the copyright held by Kenkichi Sekine)



A scene where streetcars were revived at the end of 1945 (the copyright held by Kenkichi Sekine)

(Interviewed by: Mimi S Koike and Jitsuzo Horiuchi Written by: Mimi S Koike)

麻布
びと

Azabu - A Human Story



The Chief Priest of Hisakuni Shrine
Ms. Tsuneko Suzuki (85)

* History of Hisakuni Shrine *

"While the exact year our shrine began its appeal to the gods is uncertain, it is said that this shrine was originally located in Momiji-yama Hill, in the former Chiyoda Village (on the present Imperial Palace premises). After Dokan Ota constructed Edo Castle in the first year of Choroku (1457), in 1465 this shrine was transferred to Tameike to be the spiritual guardian of the castle. Later, the name was changed to Hisakuni Shrine, in honor of a sword donated to the shrine made by the famous sword-smith Hisakuni. The area was designated for public use in the third year of Eiroku (1560), and so this shrine had to be transferred to this site in the first year of Kanpo (1741). The name "Hisakuni Shrine" came into use from October 25, 1945".

Source: Shrine Directory in Tokyo City



Tote Bags Produced and Consumed Locally gain Popularity

'Street Flags Recycling Story' from the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association

As we walk along Azabu-Juban Shopping Streets, flags affixed to lampposts catch our attention, one after another. These are flags advertising the town's annual events such as festivals, markets and anniversaries.

We heard that "the flags are now being recycled and turned into tote bags" after the events they advertised are over.

So, we interviewed Mr. Mitsutaka Shoji, the Chief Director of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association, and other associated people to tell us about it.

Creating the Best Improvements for the Welfare of Challenged People, Shopping Streets and an ECO-friendly environment

Members of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association thought that simply throwing street advertising flags into the garbage after they were no longer needed was a waste, and certainly did not demonstrate an ECO-friendly spirit.

There are many events held throughout the year, and about 105 a month flags are used to advertise them. This means that over a thousand flags are used and disposed of a year.

The association came up with the idea that these flags could be recycled as tote bags, rather than simply being disposed of.

These advertising flags are eye-catchingly designed and made of very durable materials; perfect to be recycled as attractive tote bags.

In addition, when the recycling work is performed locally through the employment support office, it supports the local community.

Of course, these bags are also then sold and used within Minato City. Another very positive aspect of this idea is that projects like this will work in other shopping districts and local governments, not just the Azabu-Juban Shopping District. Many temporary advertisements are used outdoors around towns all over Japan.

When they proposed this business project to the Minato City Disabled Person's Welfare Section they suggested, "Why don't you start this project in the Azabu-Juban Shopping District?"

So, the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association placed an order for the recycling work with the employment support offices in Minato City through the NPO Minato Welfare Agency for Challenged People. As a result, the order was accepted and support offices immediately got to work on it in early summer, 2017.

At first, the recycled tote bags were sold at event venues in the shopping district and welfare shops in Minato City, where challenged people were working. Not long after that, the bags were offered in seven different shops that are members of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association. *

* Refer to the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Formal Website <http://www.azabujuban.or.jp>, for the details of Flag Bag sales and shops where such bags are sold.



Mr. Mitsutaka Shoji, the Chief Director of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association

Widening the Circle Further

When Mr. Shoji, the Chief Director of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association, saw the bags for the first time, "he wondered if it would actually sell".

However, his wife soon became one of the regular consumers of this product. He also said that when his friends heard about it, even those in living in distant places, they were very glad to receive them as gifts.

Positive feedback has come in from sales venues, as they have asked to stock more of them and to increase the number of shops they are available.

We can now say with conviction that the role of advertising flags is not over after the events they advertise end: Their form can change as part of new promotions.

On the other hand, as is the case with many recycling operations, the scale remains small at the moment. The total number of flags converted to tote bags is only 105 per month so far.

Mr. Shoji, the Chief Director, is redoubling his efforts to expand the operation even beyond the Azabu-Juban Shopping District.



Mr. Shoji when he received the award from Mr. Takei, Headman of Minato Ward on December 1, 2018



Ms. Tomoko Hiraoji, an illustrator

She took charge of the general promotion design of the Azabu shopping district project, and designed the promotional characters: A girl and a cat named "Asako and Toto".

"At first, I felt a bit unsure about it. However, I was very happy because what I drew will for the first time be used on products."

It is an excellent project."

Visiting the Production Site

We visited the Atelier Ledacraft workshop (located in Azabu-Juban 4-chome), which is the actual recycling work site.

This atelier was established for challenged people to learn and master various skills to become craftsmen.

The basic goal of the procedure is clear; to use as much of the flag cloth as possible with the least amount of waste. Naturally, the design of the bags is simple. The straight cut of the flag cloth can be easily folded and sewn with a sewing machine and recycled as a tote bag.

After completing the necessary quality inspection, the bags can be shipped.

Expected Future Developments

Last year on December 1, 2018, a letter of appreciation was given to Mr. Shoji, the Chief Director of the Association. It came from Mr. Masaaki Takei, the Headman of Minato Ward at the Gender Equality Center "Libra" Hall as part of the 37th Week for Persons with Disabilities Commemorative Project "Gathering for Everyone to live Together".

This is in recognition of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District Promotion Association tote bag recycling project contributing to a rise in wages for people with disabilities.

We are quite interested in the future development of this unique project from the point of view of "Welfare for the Challenged", "Shopping District Promotion" and being "ECO-friendly".



Various designs of bags sold in the past

(Data Collected by: Kumiko Omura, Mai Saeki, Yukiko Takayanagi Written by Kumiko Omura)



Originally a Promotion Flag



Cleaning



Removing the flag from the bar



Drawing a line



Cutting



Sewing using a sewing machine



Completion



The finished bags are generally sold on the second Saturday of every month.

● Data Collection Support
The Azabu Shopping District Promotion Association and the General Incorporated Association Ledacraft



Republic of Austria

Area: About 84,000 km² (about the same size as Hokkaido)
 Population: About 8.80 million people
 Capital City: Vienna
 Language: German
 Head of State: President Alexander Van der Bellen
 Assembly: Bicameral System (National Assembly: 183 seats, Bundesrat: 61 seats)
 The National Assembly has the greater legislative authority.

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

Republic of Austria

His Excellency Dr. Hubert Heiss
 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
 Republic of Austria to Japan

Interview Support:
 Embassy of the Republic of Austria to Japan



AUSTRIA

When we think of Austria, we think about classical music, fine art, great moments in history and cafe, etc. Many people might have a high-class image for Austria.

However, the history of their friendship with Japan is quite long, and 2019 is the 150th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Japan and Austria.

We heard little known facts and stories about the friendship history between Japan and Austria from His Excellency Dr. Hubert Heiss, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Japan (hereinafter called the "Ambassador").

The Embassy building of the Republic of Austria and ambassador's residence are located along the Kurayami-zaka Slope in Moto-azabu. Even though the slope is steep, the building, as designed by the famous Japanese architect Mr. Fumihiko Maki, makes it hardly noticeable.

We were able to interview the Ambassador in the salon where music is performed like it is in Vienna, the city of music. We were the welcome recipients of warm Vienna style hospitality.

This is his first time coming to Japan, and living in Tokyo and Azabu

The Ambassador arrived at his new post in September 2016, after various diplomatic postings in Europe. He wished to work somewhere in Asia this time to broaden his perspective and learn about new cultures.

When he came to Japan for the first time, he was very surprised by how many people there were in Tokyo, and that it is so much larger than Vienna. In particular, the hustle and bustle of rush hour in Tokyo is nothing like anywhere in Europe, yet everyone behaves in a surprisingly orderly manner despite the crush of people.

In reply to our question about Azabu, he told us that he had the impression that there are a surprising number of restaurants in Azabu, in particular, along the Azabu-Juban shopping street close to the Embassy.



Beautiful Japanese Garden in the Ambassador's residence site

"In Austria, most restaurants are located just on the ground floor of buildings along the street. In Japan however, there are many restaurants on upper floors of buildings as well, making the area feel somehow more multi-dimensional. In addition, the size of restaurants is smaller and their menus are quite specialized. Therefore, we need to think about what we want to have before going out.

One difference in Austria, for example, are the wine pubs called "Heuriger". People in Austria wake up in early morning and go to work in summer, and then finish work early to drink wine from large wine mugs on open terraces for hours in the evening".

The Ambassador's Home Town is like the "World of Heidi"

His hobby is being a vintage car enthusiast, he said without hesitation.

He never misses a chance to visit car museums in the countries he stays. The cars he owns in Austria are of course vintage cars, and he takes them out for a drive at every opportunity, as you might expect.

When we asked him if he had a favorite famous racecar driver, and he told us, "Karl Jochen Rindt", (1942-1970), the first Austrian Formula One driver to become world champion in 1970. However, in Japan, he leaves the driving to his driver and on holidays he enjoys bicycling around Azabu. You might bump into him somewhere in Azabu!

He added that although he can enjoy casually bicycling around Azabu, he is a little bit afraid at times because the rules for cycling are much less comprehensive in Japan than in Austria.

He spends his time on holidays going a little further out of Tokyo to suburban areas to deepen his knowledge about Japan.

When he has long holidays, he spends time with his son and his wife, who also serves as the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Indonesia. He said this with a big warm smile.



Tyrol's Local food, Speck Knaidel
 (the copyright held by Tirol Werbung/Nolf)



Graz: A World Heritage city where the different architecture of each era exists in harmony side by side (the copyright held by Osterreich Werbung/Popp-Hackner)



The Capital City, Vienna, where the atmosphere of a former imperial capital can still be experienced (the copyright held by Osterreich Werbung/Popp-Hackner)



Salzkammergut: This is in a lake district located at the foot of the Alps Mountains. (the copyright held by Osterreich Werbung/Popp-Hackner)

His hometown, Faggen, is a small rural village deep in the mountains, in the Austrian state of Tyrol. He grinned, telling us that it is just like the "World of Heidi".

In this town, tourism used to be a very important industry because people were able to enjoy skiing throughout the year. However, because of climate change, they no longer have snow all year round. He sounded rather regretful as he explained this.

He has great nostalgia for things he became accustomed to when he was very young. One food in particular is called "knaidel". It is a kind of dumpling, cooked using bacon and day-old stale bread. He can cook it for himself and looked as if he was having fond memories.

He said that Japanese food often tastes different from what he expected from the appearance. However, so far he has enjoyed both the flavor and presentation of what he has tried.

Basically, he can eat any Japanese food except tempura. He found that in tempura restaurants there is basically too much tempura! He also related this to us with his characteristic good humor, which we found very impressive.



The 150th Anniversary of Japanese and Austrian Diplomatic Relations

In reply to our question about what similarities he thinks there are between Austria and Japan, he pointed out that both of us have more than a 1,000-year history and have long been interested in each other's culture. When Japan participated for the first time in the international exposition held in Vienna in 1873, "Japonism" created a great sensation, and this began an unprecedented mania for Japanese culture in Vienna.

We heard that Gustav Klimt, a representative artist in Vienna at the end of the 19th century, collected Japanese art objects. Now, Japanese anime and manga are very popular in Vienna.

You might be surprised to learn that the most common products imported to Japan from Austria are industrial products.

When the Tokaido Shinkansen was first constructed, the machines and related technologies used for the construction of the railroad tracks and tunnels were imported from Austria. Even now, many imported Austrian-made track maintenance vehicles play an active part in many of Japan's railways.

Austria has many mountains, and this is, in part, why they developed this kind of technology so long ago, the Ambassador from Tyrol explained earnestly.

Another interesting point he offered was that an Austrian named Mr. Theodor Edler von Lerch, introduced the techniques of Alpine skiing to Japan for the first time. He was a Major in the Imperial Army of Austria-Hungary at that time, and in Japan he is still referred to as 'Major Lerch'.

He strongly recommended their capital city Vienna as the place we should visit in Austria. Vienna is well known as a historical city, and it was selected as the No. 1 livable city in the world in 2018.

When asked why, he answered that "The city is compact, but provides high quality services. The ancient atmosphere of this old city still remains, and it is always safe and very clean. Direct flights from Japan began in February 2019".

He also recommended Graz, the second largest city in Austria, which is a world heritage site, and the railway trip in and around Salzkammergut, with a beautiful view of Alpine mountains and lakes.

2019 is the 150th anniversary of the friendship between Austria and Japan.

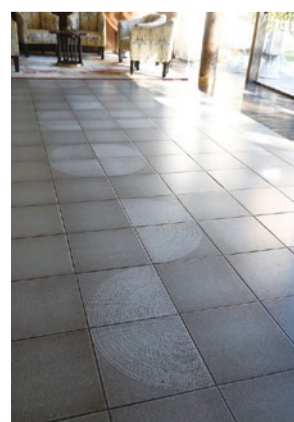
This year is packed with lots of events, such as concerts by the Vienna Boys Choir and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. There is an exhibition at the National Art Center (Tokyo) and the National Museum of Western Art.

The details can be accessed through the Embassy's SNS, etc. We encourage you to check it out and experience Austrian culture.

When we interviewed the Ambassador, we saw Japanese lanterns hanging in the garden, and they can be seen from the salon in the Ambassador's residence.

"These really appeal to me, because the red and white color are the same as our national flag," he said with a cheerful smile.

We were able to feel the strong bond between Japan and Austria due to his warm responses.



(Left) The pattern on the salon floor uses waltz steps as its motif.

(Center) "Boesendorfer", one of three great piano makers of the world

(Right) This tea set is made by the Viennese Porcelain Manufactory Augarten, a traditional crafts company.

● Access for event information
<http://austrianculture.jp/>
<https://twitter.com/ACFTokio>

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

—A Simple Slope without any Guideposts—

Ako-zaka Slope

In the Azabu area, there are actually many unmarked slopes without guideposts, and sometimes without names. This time, we've chosen the unmarked Ako-zaka Slope. There is no specific mention of this particular slope on any of the old maps. However, the name of this slope is documented in old records. This in and of itself makes it somewhat remarkable; a history that is somewhat different from other slopes. I was taken in by this aspect of it, and visited the slope thinking it would be fun to have a look at a lesser-known part of the local scenery.

Origin of the Slope Name

"Ako" is an official title and another name for "Sessho or Kanpaku", meaning "Regent" or "Senior Regent". The origin of this slope's name indicates the person given this title "Ako" served with outstanding ability and efficiency as an assistant to the Tokugawa Shogun for two generations (two Shoguns). He played an active role in the domestic administration exactly as a Regent. For example, Mitsukuni Tokugawa was famously known as "Mito Komon". "Komon" is also an official title, and this is the name that commonly shows Mitsukuni Tokugawa himself. It is surprisingly rare that a slope was named after such a position.

According to records, the name of the person whom the slope name came from was Masayuki Hoshina. He was the younger paternal half-brother of the third Shogun Iemitsu Tokugawa. Later, Masayuki Hoshina was highly praised as one of the three good lords of the early Edo period.

The Great Fire of Meireki

Masayuki led a rather checkered life because of his origin, but Iemitsu appointed him to a position of responsibility due to his honest personality and excellent domestic administration ability. Masayuki was so important to Iemitsu, he wrote in his will on his deathbed in 1657, "I beg you to take care of the Tokugawa head family". After the Great Fire of Meireki of 1657, the most devastating fire of the Edo period, he fully demonstrated his administrative ability as he guided the recovery from the disaster. He proposed that the relief of common people who lost houses should be prioritized over the reconstruction of the Edo Castle Tower, which was also lost in the fire. He was widely recognized as having made an outstanding effort regarding the recovery of the Edo castle town.

In fact, the Edo Castle Tower was not rebuilt at all. Masayuki took the message Iemitsu left in his will very seriously and established the "Aizu Family 15 Mottos" in 1668. Katamori Matsudaira, the feudal lord of the Aizu domain, became the leading "Sabakuha" figure (Shogun supporter) in the



On the top of Ako-zaka Slope in 2019: Honmura Elementary School is seen on the right

last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. He strictly adhered to these 15 Mottos and mounted a do-or-die resistance against the Satsuma and Choshu Joint Army (government forces). Following that, Katamori Matsudaira became the founder of the Aizu-Matsudaira family. Tokugawa allowed Masayuki to use the family name "Matsudaira" (Parent family of Tokugawa). However, he continued to use the name "Hoshina" all his life because he never forgot the favor given to him by the Hoshina Family who fostered him. His "honesty and sincerity" was taken as a leading example until the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

A Tranquil Slope Now

This slope has a sincere, silent presence as if still representing the character of Masayuki. When you go down the slope between the Hensho-ji Temple (next to Honmura Park) and the Shonen-ji Temple, you can find a slope going up towards the west, located at the present Minami-Azabu 3-chome; Ako-zaka Slope. When you stand at the foot of the slope and look up, you can see "Arisugawa Shimizu" (the former Azabu Prince Hotel) and the "Embassy of Finland" on the right. On the left side, you can see "Honmura Kindergarten" and "Honmura Elementary School". The Azama Shirogane Goten (Azabu Platinum Palace) and the suburban residence of Masayuki Hoshina (Higonokami: Governor of Higo Province) used to be in this area. This slope was named "Ako-zaka Slope", not "Aizu-zaka Slope" or "Hoshina-zaka Slope". This is proof that he was greatly adored by the common people at that time. Currently, kindergarten children and elementary school students mostly use the slope as they go to and from school. However, the spirit of the good old lord still seems to inhabit the area. In the peaceful quiet of this place in Azabu, the sincerity and honesty of that past time in history is easy to imagine.



Halfway up the Ako-zaka Slope in 2019: Honmura Kindergarten's Gate is seen on the right



The area around the Ako-zaka Slope is halfway up Minami-Azabu Hill, so there is a network of slopes in this area. At present, the tranquil atmosphere remains.



A slope going down to the west along the side of Azabu Honmura Garden in 1975 Photo shot by: Mr. Masanori Taguchi, Photo provided by: Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi



At the foot of Ako-zaka Slope in 2019: This area has a lot of "unnamed slopes" around the Ako-zaka Slope. A moderately inclined slope that is completely different from the steep slope on this side. Photo shot by: Marika Oba

- **References:**
- "Zoku Edo no Saka, Tokyo no Saka" (Slopes in Edo and Slopes in Tokyo, Continued) written by Eiichi Yokoseki, published by Chuko Bunko in 1982
- "Zoho Minato-ku Kindai Enkakuzo-shu, Azabu Roppongi" (Minato-ku Modern History View Book -Azabu and Roppongi - Augmented Edition" (Minato City Local History Museum)

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio

The Azabu Regional City Office conducts activities that endeavor to capture the changes to the cityscape of Azabu, preserving and passing down its history, in order to contribute to strengthening the affection of the town among residents.

The Azabu Regional City Office has been organizing activities, working together with local residents and businesses to collect old photographs of the Azabu region, as well as taking photographs at fixed-point locations with the Azabu Future Photo Studio Association. At the same time, the project aims to make the history and culture of the town known to even more people, contributing to strengthening their affection for the town. The photographs collected are introduced as panels in the Minato City homepage and through exhibitions.

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.

Inquiries: Tel: 03-5114-8812



Photo shot by Taji Arita

麻布の軌跡

Historical Footsteps
of Azabu

An Afterimage of Shuji Terayama, a Man of the Theater

Last year, 2018, was the 35th anniversary of Shuji Terayama's (1935 - 1983) death. Terayama passed away at the age of 47 on May 4, 1983. He was the founder of the theatrical performance experimental troupe Tenjo Sajiki formed in 1967; he opened the Shibuya Tenjo Sajiki Theater in 1976, and subsequently opened the new Tenjo Sajiki Theater in Moto-azabu. When you go along Azabujuban-dori Avenue toward Roppongi and pass Kurayamizaka-shita, you will pass the original location. The address was Moto-azabu 3-12-42. He spent a lot of time there, and was deeply immersed in his work for the last 7 years of his life.

i Too Avant-Garde for His Time

Do you know any writers who have written works that number in the hundreds? Shuji Terayama is truly one of them. He was born on December 10, 1935 in Aomori Prefecture and started composing haiku poetry (Japanese seventeen syllable poems) when he was a junior high school student. He published the tanka (Japanese thirty-one syllable poems) magazine *Seiga* in 1951 when he was just a student of Aomori Senior High School. He formally made his debut as a poet in 1954 when he was 18 years old, and won a special prize for his tankas in the 2nd Tanka Kenkyu 50 Tanka's Reading competition held by Tanka Kenkyu-sha publishing company. When he was a freshman in the Department of Japanese Language and Literature, School of Education, at Waseda University, he developed a kidney disorder called nephrotic syndrome. Because of this, he had to be repeatedly hospitalized for some years. During this period, his anthology *Ware ni Gogatsu wo* was published in 1957. Around this time, he met Shuntaro Tanigawa, a famous Japanese poet, and started writing scripts for radio dramas. In 1960, he dropped out of university. He published a play called *Chi ha tatta mama nemutte iru* in *Bungaku-kai* magazine, and it was performed by the Shiki Theatre Company. The theatrical plays written by Terayama were performed in cooperation with Tatsumi Hijikata and Toshiro Mayuzumi, forming (6 Person Circle of Avant-Garde) and he became active in the world of the theatre.

Terayama established an experimental theatrical troupe called Tenjo Sajiki in 1967, together with Tadanori Yokoo, Higashi, Seazer, Kotake, etc. joined, and the troupe gave its first performance. They performed *Aomori-ken no Semushi Otoko* at that time. He advocated *Misemono no Fukken* (Note 1) to the public with *Ohyama Debuko no Hanzai* and *Kegawa no Mary* etc. In 1968, he went to the US to research the true state of avant-garde in the US. In 1969, he visited Israel and was invited to Germany with Mr. Akira Uno (illustrator and graphic designer), who was in charge of the artistic aspects and stage direction of *Kegawa no Mary*. The German invitation was from the Essen Municipal Theater. He edited and issued the first book on the theory of theatrical plays called *Chika Engeki*. He also introduced his theories on theatrical plays to foreign countries.

In the 1970s, while he was developing street plays in Japan, he gave the first performances overseas of such plays, which was earlier than any other theatrical company. In 1971, he was inaugurated as a member of the Nancy Festival Executive Committee in France. There he presented *Jashumon* and the street play *Jinnriki Hikoki Solomon*. In 1972, He was invited to an Art Festival sponsored by the Munich Olympic Organizing Committee in Germany, and held an outdoor play called *Hashire Melos*. The play was presented in other cities in Denmark and Holland, and gradually he gained notoriety overseas.

On the other hand, in Japan, the street plays started in the 1970s were causing a scandal. In 1975, he gave 30-hour street play called *Knock* in Suginami Ward, but police interfered with it and caused some trouble. His creative activities started with haiku, tanka and modern poems, and extended to all sorts of genres. Needless to say, he considered his most significant work to be his theatrical plays. The theatrical plays *Misemono no Fukken* represent the very revolution of the theatrical play form itself. With this new form of play: street play including letter play and personal visit play, the players and the audience are released from their traditional roles. All kinds of space could be changed to be theaters. In retrospect we can understand that these were somewhat too avant-garde for the time, but were developed toward outside of his world. Nevertheless, over time, his theatrical plays became highly regarded in the world, and came to fruition in Azabu.

ii His Azabu Era from 1976 to 1983

His work with the Azabu Tenjo Sajiki Theater started in 1976. In the previous year, the play *Ekibyō Ryūko-ki* was presented in some cities in Holland and West Germany, etc. A revised version of the play was performed in Tokyo. Subsequently, a play *Ahobune* was performed in Tokyo and Iran (Terayama had previously been invited to the Persepolis Arts Festival in Iran, the first time from Asia). The same year, he published *Meiro to Shikai* from the Hakuuisha publishing company, and this became a standard text on the theory of theatrical plays. In this book he advocated, "all the elements such as the audience, the actors, actresses, theater and theatrical plays, should be remade". Theatrical plays should be presented such that, "what is real or unreal is uncertain", removing the border between reality and fiction.

It means that his originality was released in front of the people using street play including personal visit plays and letter plays that he created by himself. *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants) was first performed in 1978 and ran for four years in many cities in Europe, starting from Amsterdam in Holland, until the final performance in Paris in 1982. For the performance in Riverside Studio in London, *The Times* praised it highly saying "A wonderful encounter with the most admirable foreign theatrical company since our discovery of Jerzy Grotowski."

In 1979, he participated in the Spoleto Festival in Italy. The troupe had been on the road in several other cities in Italy, such as Florence, Asti etc. The Italian *L'Unita* commented, "They did not appear on the stage directly under the spotlight (they did not respond to a curtain call)."

Subsequently, he performed *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants) in South Carolina in the US in 1980, accepting an invitation to the US Spoleto Festival. One of his greatest accomplishments was performing this play at the La Mama Theater in New York. He received the most excellent foreign theatrical play award in 1980 from *The Villager*, a renowned downtown community newspaper in New York, for *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants).

In 1982, his last stage activity was as the director for *Lemming: Kabenuke Otoko* at Kinokuniya Hall. His last overseas work was *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants) given

● References:

Shuji Terayama's Works

Terayama Shuji Gikyoku-shu Shoki Ichimaku-geki Hen (Shuji Terayama Drama Collection No. 1 Volume of One-act Play in His Early Days) published by Gekishobou in 1982

Terayama Shuji Gikyoku-shu Gensou-geki Hen (Shuji Terayama Drama Collection No. 2 Volume of Non-realistic Drama) published by Gekishobou in 1983

Terayama Shuji Engeki-ron shu (Shuji Terayama Theory of Dramas Collections) published by Kokubun-sha in 1983

Chikuma Nihon Bungaku Zenshu (Chikuma's Collections of Japanese Literature) published by Chikuma Shobo in 1991

Terayama Shuji Collection No. 1 through No. 3 published by Shiso-sha from 1992 to 1993

Shin-Bungei Dokuhon: Terayama Shuji (New Literary Art Reading Book: Shuji Terayama) published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha in 1993

Teratana Shuji Chosaku-shu 1 - 5 (Shuji Terayama Collected Works No. 2 to No. 5) published by Quintessence Publishing in 2009

Terayama Shuji Tanka-ron Shu (Shuji Terayama Theory of Tanka Collections) published by Kokubun-sha in 2009

Kaettekita Terayama Shuji Zuroku (Returned Shuji Terayama Catalogue) published by Setagaya Bungakukan (Setagaya Literary Museum) in 2013

Akitachinu, Terayama Shuji Mihappyou Shishu (Shuji Terayama Collections of Unpublished Poems) published by Iwanami Shoten in 2014

Terayama Shuji: Kagami no Naka no Kotoba (Shuji Terayama: Words in a Mirror) written by Masashi Miura, published by Shinsho-kan in 1987

Terayama Shuji no Uchu (Shuji Terayama's Outer Space) written by Hiroshi Ichikawa, etc., published by Shinsho-kan in 1992

Shincho Nihon Bungaku Album 56 (Shincho Japanese Literature Album No. 56) edited by Yoshiki Kuritsubo, etc., published by Shincho-sha in 1993

Lacan de yomu Terayama Shuji no Sekai (World of Shuji Terayama,



The appearance of Tenjo Sajiki Theater at Moto-azabu, as well as that in Shibuya: It had a tearoom on the first floor, and training room in the inner most section.

at the Gemini Small Theater in Chaillot Palace National Theater in France. His plays won popularity because of his great talent as director, even getting high praise at the top of the culture section of the *Le Monde* newspaper, the largest newspaper in France.

In summary, most of his work in the later 1970s was performed overseas; in particular, theatrical plays, as a touring theatrical company. Therefore, we can say that because he completed theatrical work such as *Ekibyō Ryūko-ki*, *Ahobune*, *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants), he and his plays are highly regarded all over the world.

iii His Azabu Era – An Aberrant Image –

Among his stage works that surprised the world in the late 1970s, the most highly regarded in Europe was *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants).

This work was based on the incomplete manuscript *Directions to Servants*, written by Jonathan Swift (Note 2), that Terayama successfully adapted for his play. This stage is a locked room developed according to his theory of drama. He asserted that his street plays released people from the typical theatrical space. However, this play has characters literally locked in a room.

The characters in this play are slaves that indulge themselves in the master's mansion, taking turns pretending to be the master when he is absent. The main action takes place in a locked room, where the characters begin to understand that none of them can really decide who the master is. Before long, they come to the realization that the abstract notion of the master's power controls them, even when he is absent. Terayama suggests that "The absence of the master is not a tragedy, but the fact that they need the master is a tragedy", and understands that this antinomy reveals the anxiety of modern society.

Mr. Masashi Miura, a still active literary critic (drama critic) (Note 3) who worked with Terayama, has high praise for *Nuhikun* (Directions to Servants) as a "work that is keenly aware of the power of formed space". Mr. Miura had more to say on the aspect of stage art: "It can be said that while Terayama watched the decline of the performing arts movement in the US in 1960s, he effectively created the same dramatic impression (uncertainty of human existence) that he saw in Maurice Bejart and Pina Basch, who reversed skillfully the unfavorable atmosphere towards stage performances at the time."

More specifically, on the stage he created fragmented sounds rather than predictable dialogue. The sound and the story develop like Butoh Japanese expressive dance; a play without words, and thus avoid the limitations of a script.

Although his 16-year experimental stage amazed a lot of people overseas, they passed by and barely noticed his contemporaries at home. They were not highly regarded in Japan because they were perhaps too avant-garde for the time.

iv An Afterimage of Shuji Terayama

I will bear the following words in mind, like a whistling arrow in flight, of his genre-bending originality and rich body of work.

Originality is nothing but judicious imitation.

Famous Quotes from Voltaire (Note 4)

The people of our generation, who did not know Shuji Terayama in his time, are still touched by his words. We cannot actually see his plays. However, he left a lot genre bending writing that forms an alternative way of understanding.

(Acknowledgements) In autumn 2018, last year, a special exhibition commemorating the 35th anniversary of Shuji Terayama's passing, titled *Terayama Shuji: Hitoribocchi no Anatani*, was held at the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature. We would like to show our gratitude to Mr. Masashi Miura, who worked as an editorial committee member of the above exhibition, for accepting our exclusive interview request. In addition, for me it was a fortunate reunion with him, as he is my former teacher. I was motivated by his words, "Read vast numbers of books for your own parole and tell me all that you have learned". Lead by his words, I was able to summarize the life of Shuji Terayama in his Azabu era. I was very impressed by the book based on cultural research and psychoanalytic theory by Ms. Naoko Nojima, who wrote *Lacan de yomu Terayama Shuji no Sekai*. The book is very well researched, using a great deal of scientific knowledge.

Note 1: *Misemono no Fukken*: The Freak Show Tent for the General Public was the genesis of Shingeki (Western-style drama newly developed in modern Japan) in 1924 at Tsukiji Small Theater. Later, Terayama advocated turning against Shingeki, saying that it had gone down the wrong path towards modern dramatic art.

Note 2: Jonathan Swift (1667 - 1745): Swift is famous as the writer of *Gulliver's Travels*, and other satires. *Directions to Servants* is one of his satirical works that he aimed at completing in 1738 for publishing, but he never finished. However, in 1745, this book was finally printed

Note 3: Masashi Miura came from Aomori Prefecture and served as the chief editor for *Eureka* and then *Gendai Shiso* magazines. In 1984, he published a book of his reviews *Melancholy no Suimiyaku*, which won the Suntory Liberal Arts Award. He served as the chief editor for *Dance Magazine* after becoming a visiting researcher at Columbia University in New York. In 2002, he published *Seishun no Shuen*, for which he received the Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts and the Ito Sei Literature Award. In 2010, he received the Purple Ribbon Medal. In 2012, he received the Japan Art Academy Award and the Imperial Award. He wrote books related to Terayama and his works called, *Watashi to iu Gensho*, published by Fuyuki-sha in 1981, and *Terayama Shuji: Kagami no naka no kotoba* published by Shinshokan in 1987.

Note 4: Voltaire: A French philosopher in the 18th century; He wrote a lot of books including a *Dictionary of Philosophy, Letters of Philosophy and Candide, ou L'Optimisme*, a picaresque novel.

*: The referenced texts are based on the following books.

understood based on J. Lacan's interpretation) written by Naoko Nojima, published by Transview in 2007

Terayama Shuji Ten Hitoribocchi no Anatani (Exhibition of Shuji Terayama, To Lonely You) edited by Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature in 2018

Minato-ku page 29 edited by Nihon Jutaku Chizu Shuppan in 1978

The Prose Works of Jonathan Swift written by Davis, Herbert John, Ehrenpreis, Irvin & Landa, Louis A, published by Oxford: Basil Blackwell in 1964

Directions to Servants on The Times page 11 written by Irving Wardle on Apr. 12, 1978

Un inferno domestico on l'Unita page 9 written by Aggeo Savioli on July 8, 1979

La question du maître on Le Monde pages 1 and 20 written by Colette Godard on Oct 26, 1982

Let's widen the circle of people to improve manners among businesses together:
Recruiting Members to Join the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance"!

Minato City wants to create a town where "people follow smoking rules regardless if they are a smoker or not, so everyone can live comfortably". Minato City is making a great effort to promote the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance Project", so that all the smokers who work in or visit Minato City voluntarily follow the "Minato City Smoking Rules".

"We (name of the company) understand and agree with the purpose of the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance Project" and will actively follow the Minato City Smoking Rules"!

Businesses that 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 in-house enlightenment activity posters, stickers, and goods appropriate for your action plan to promote the activity will be provided when you register. Also, information regarding registered businesses will be posted publicly on the Minato City website.

Sample of Enlightenment Goods



We would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation to build momentum promoting the notion, "People who work in Minato City are those who follow the city rules and have good manners" through the cooperation of the many businesses that support the "Minato City Smoking Rules Ordinance".



**Inquiries: Environmental Policy Subsection, Environmental Section, Environment and Recycling Support Department, Minato City Office, Tel: 03-3578-2487
 Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, Tel: 03-5114-8802**

Information about Metropolitan Taxes (June)

The due date for payment of fixed assets taxes and city-planning taxes in the first quarter comes in June (within the 23 Wards).

Please pay your taxes by July 1, 2019 (Monday) at a financial institution or convenience store etc. These are listed on the reverse side of your payment statement. Payment by credit card is also accepted.

Account transfer, Pay-easy service ATMs in financial institutions or post offices, Internet banking or mobile banking can be used to make payments. 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 (9:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays)
<Fixed Asset Tax and City Planning Tax> For properties located in Minato City:
Minato City Metropolitan Tax Office, Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

The payment of metropolitan taxes by account transfer is safe and convenient.

Using the account transfer service, taxes can be paid automatically on the last day of the payment period (deadline for tax payment) from your bank account. The "Web Application for Account Transaction Service" starts on April 1, 2019 to facilitate account transfer applications. For more details, access the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

<Metropolitan Taxes payable by Account Transfer>

Individual enterprise taxes, fixed assets taxes and city-planning taxes (for land and buildings)* and fixed assets taxes (for depreciable assets)*

* Properties located in the 23 Wards are eligible.

Account transfers for the payment of taxes imposed irregularly is not available.

For details, access the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the following office.

Inquiries: Tax Payment Promotion Section, Tax Collection Division, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation. Tel: 03-3252-0955

For requests to have the Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Certificate etc. sent by post, contact the "Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Certificate Mailing Center".

In Tokyo the issuance operations of Metropolitan Tax Certificates etc. by post, are all processed by the "Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Certificate Mailing Center". If you send an application for a Metropolitan Tax certificate etc. by post, send it to the following address.

Address: Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Certificate Mailing Center
 1-16-21, Kasuga, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8787
 Tokyo Metropolitan Tax Certificate Mailing Center

For Fixed Assets (Land and Buildings located in the 23 Wards)
 Certification of Valuation of Fixed Assets, tax related certificates, Property Certificates, Land or House Tax Register books classified by Owners and Taxation ledgers

For related Tax Payment Certificates
 Tax Payment Certificates and Automobile Tax Payment Certificates (for regular vehicle inspections, etc.)

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

Azabu Future Photo Studio welcomes people who are interested in its activities.

The Azabu Regional City Office has been collecting old photographs of the Azabu region as well as taking photographs of recent cityscapes in participation with the residents of Minato City.

We have been conducting walks around the town to take these pictures in the hope that they will deepen locals' affection for the area. The images are collected and displayed in the form of panels to spread information about the old and new Azabu region.

We always welcome photo lovers and people interested in the history of Azabu, and want to deepen their affection for the region. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

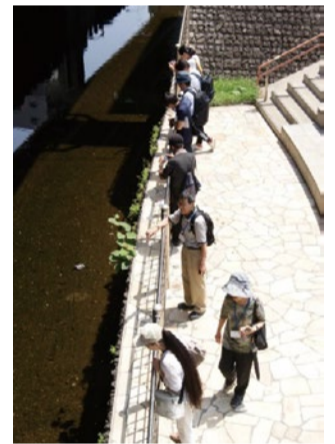


Photo showing people walking around the town



Minato City website

Inquiries: Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8812

Notification about the Mitigation Measures for the Fixed Asset Tax and the City Planning Tax in FY2019 (within the 23 Wards)

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

For more information, access our website or contact the office as follows:
Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City Real Estate Team, Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

Information from Azabu Regional City Office

Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills (Azabu Site) will be conducted. Let's Learn about Disaster Prevention of Japan

In the Minato Disaster Preparedness Drills, in addition to the basic-type drills such as initial fire extinguishing drills, etc., the experience-type drills such as balcony evacuation drills (balcony partition breaking drill and escaping ladder descending drill), are mainly provided.

At the Azabu Site, there is a toy exchange event for children, and a disaster preparedness drill tour with English interpreters provided.

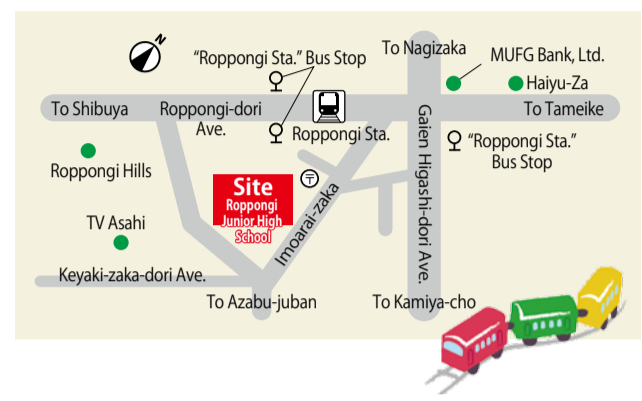
Date and Time 9:30am – 11:30am on Sunday, November 10, 2019 (the first year of Reiwa) (planned)

Site Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Grounds and Gymnasium (6-8-16, Roppongi)



Toy Exchange Bazaar Collect points corresponding to the level of drill difficulty achieved, and exchange them for your favorite toys! Have fun experiencing our disaster preparedness drills.

Disaster Preparedness Drill Tour with English Interpreters Practice the drills with English interpreters to gain disaster prevention knowledge and skills in Japan. You can participate in this event individually or in a group.



Anyone from children to adults living or working in this area can gain the knowledge and skills for disaster prevention while enjoying the event. Come to the site and join us on the day of the event! For more information, refer to the next issue of The Azabu: No. 49, to be issued in September.

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

Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations! Our Slogan is "ZERO ROPPONGI" — Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind —



Rules are important, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our goal is for everybody to 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, brought together to promote "Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities" and "Patrols for Prevention of Street Solicitation".

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

The business offices etc., that were awarded the perfect participation prize for the FY 2018 Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind activities are introduced as follows.

The five businesses awarded are Takushin Fudosan Co. Ltd., Tokyo Midtown Management Co. Ltd., Makoto Co. Ltd., Tachihara Shoten Co. Ltd., and Shintei Co. Ltd.

More shops and businesses that support the Charter are being recruited.

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.

- 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 deliver it by hand to the Collaboration Project Section counter of the Azabu Regional City Office. This can also be done online at the Minato City website listed 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."

To obtain the application form for the "Letter of Agreement" access the following URL:

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

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind Search



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

Daily life information guidance utilizing AI chat

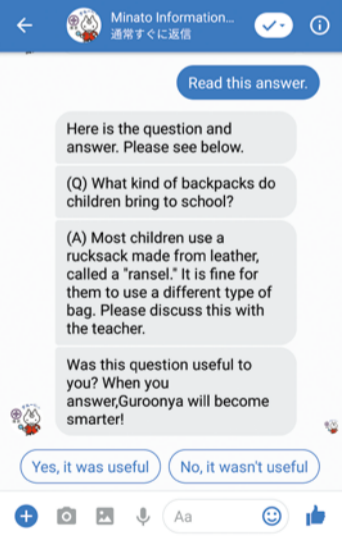
In Minato City, the service was started utilizes AI (artificial intelligence) to automatically reply in a chat style with the pre-registered FAQ to inquiries on administrative information regarding daily life. AI chooses the appropriate response from within the pre-registered FAQ and replies.

The contents available for inquiries are "Disaster preparedness," "Waste disposal rules," "Public schools," "Childrearing," "International/culture events," "Health/Medical institutions," "Pension/Insurance/Tax," "Tourism," and "Neighborhood associations."

The more questions users ask AI, the smarter AI gets. AI will be able to answer the questions it could not answer in the past. Please ask AI as many questions as you can.

- Language** English and easy Japanese
- How to use** Users will be able to access any information they want by directly entering the keyword of the information they want to know through Facebook Messenger, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Facebook Messenger is free of charge. Access "Minato Information Board" which is the Facebook page on internationalization, culture and art. Inquiries can be made by "send message". The question is asked to the "Guroonya" icon. AI will select the appropriate answer from the FAQ's which have been registered in advance and respond in the form of a chat. The user will then select whether the information was useful or not.
- How to access "Minato Information Board" Facebook page** Access will be possible by the following 3 methods:
 - Enter URL (<https://facebook.com/city.minato.mib/>)
 - Search "Minato Information Board" on Facebook
 - Scan the QR code

Inquiries: Global Community Planning Subsection, Community Promotion Section, Minato City



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.

Chief	Aki Tanaka
Sub Chief	Yukiko Takayanagi
Staff	Kyoko Ideishi
	Emi Taoka
	Marika Oba
	Takehide Kasho
	Misaho Kasho
	Mimi S Koike
	Mai Saeki
	Masahiro Someya
	Yasuhiro Tanaka
	Mizuho Nishimori
	Minako Hatanaka
	Akiko Horiuchi
	Jitsuzo Horiuchi

Editor's Note
I joined the staff members for the first time to interview Ms. Tsuneko Suzuki, the Chief Priest of Hisakuni Shrine for the article "Azabu - A Human History".
Ms. Suzuki met us in an elegant modern kimono, and as she told us frankly and honestly about her life and hardships, we got a clear impression of a strong but gentle woman born and raised in the Showa Era. Her story as a woman becoming chief priest in an era almost completely dominated by men was incredibly powerful and touching. Also, the heart-warming story of how she met her husband in the Imperial Household Agency and worked closely with him was fascinating. As the interview finished, I was struck by the feeling that it had been a great privilege to meet such a wonderful woman like her.
(Jitsuzo Horiuchi)
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
Inquiry submission form: <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou/kuse/kocho/iken/form-inquiry.html>