



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



Building No. 2 and building No. 1 are designed with a courtyard between them, which can be seen at the back in this photo.



Building No. 4 was listed as a registered tangible cultural property by the Agency for Cultural Affairs on March 29, 2019.

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 22

Looks the same as in “The Good Old Days!”

Waro Flats, now as it was then

The Azabu-Dai area townscape has changed drastically over the years. However, Waro Flat, popular apartment buildings even now, (address: Former Iikura-Katamachi 6-Chome), has not been swallowed up by the waves of redevelopment, and still looks as it used to in the good old days of the Showa Era. We visited this living space to understand its charm, and why it's still loved by so many people.

In Azabu-Dai 3-Chome, around the area at the foot of a slope south of Gaien Higashi Dori Avenue, there are many comparatively low-rise condominium and apartment buildings. Deep in the heart of this area, the Waro Flat buildings stand out because of their elegant appearance: Gorgeous wooden apartment buildings for rent. Originally, seven buildings were built over 13 years starting from 1935. Although that is more than 80 years ago, there are three buildings still available.

They look quite exotic even now; surrounded by big old trees, with Spanish style white walls, slate roofs, arched coving and wooden windows. Still now, inquiries from potential new tenants come in continuously.

The architect was a man called Mr. Bunzaburo Ueda, who was a white-collar worker, but working in a different field. He dressed fashionably, and appeared to be somewhat wealthy. He once joined a tour and went sightseeing in America, and when he came back, he began designing buildings that captured the essence of the colonial styles * he likely saw there. It must have been a splendid sight to see all of the seven buildings as they were completed. It was called the Spanish Village, and it was known as one of the more beautiful streetscapes in Azabu.

I was lucky enough to have some of the residents of Waro Flat kindly allow me to visit and take pictures. A man in his 30's told us, “When I saw pictures of this flat in a book of architecture I became quite fascinated by it. I immediately applied for a contract and moved in soon after”. Most furniture is actually built-in, in this style, but he also brought an antique table and chairs to reproduce the original atmosphere. There is a general store, a gallery and a homemade confectionary shop on the first floor along the street. Owners said, respectively, “It was my great pleasure to have such shop here 15 years ago. The view from the windows has not changed. I would like it to remain the same forever”. “These buildings have been carefully preserved and loved for a long time. With this in mind, I decided to open my gallery here. The concept is overlapped with my concept to select the works to display in my gallery”. “I finally got the chance to move into this building in the 1980's. When you are walking down a neighboring back alley, a western-style house suddenly and unexpectedly appears, and this is very interesting for me”.

It was the sincere wish of Mr. Ueda that “all residents live there peacefully and cheerfully”, and thought this notion was reflected in the name he chose for the place. This is surely a sentiment the present residents share.

* This was the architectural and handcraft style in the Colonial Era. In the US, colonization began in the latter half of the 16th century by European countries and British, French and Spanish architectural styles were introduced. The European styles the colonial buildings were based on, were adapted to the local climate and materials available in the area.



- 1 The tasteful bow-window design is indeed attractive, and greatly appreciated by western-style house lovers.
- 2 There is a sight glass on the blue door at the inner part of alcove.
- 3 The finishing of the stucco wall is different on each surface.
- 4 This arrow design is traditionally Japanese, and a symbol of good luck. (All four items are on the wall of building No. 4).



5 A beautiful scene by the windowsill in building No. 4



6 7 In the No. 2 building, the room is filled with classical and beautiful built-in furniture. The irregularly arranged windows show the playfulness of the amateur's design. The stone-like mantelpiece is also attractive.

● We heard that somebody intruded into the premises and took pictures of the room through the window, which is quite a breach of manners! Other than the three shops in building No. 4, all of these buildings are now private houses. We are sincerely grateful for your consideration.

● Research Support
Building No. 2: Mr. U, resident
Building No. 4: UGUISU the little shoppe, Ms. Hikaru Komura
Gallery SU, Ms. Ayako Yamauchi
Hinagiku Kitsune, Mr. Mamoru Mori

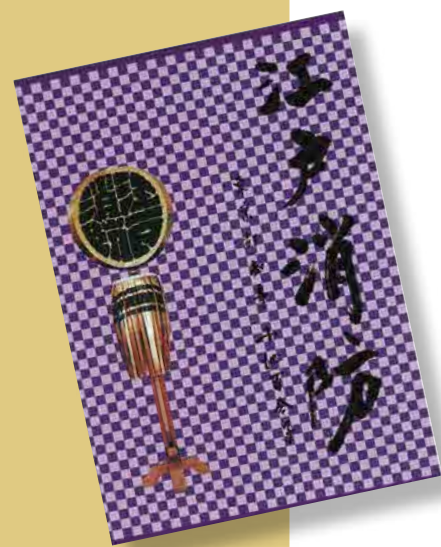


7

麻布ひと

Azabu – A Human Story
Preserving Voices of Azabu
for the Future

Mr. Kiyooki Shibazaki (83 years old), is the 12th Chairman of the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc., and a steeplejack



The company brochure prepared to commemorate the 300th founding anniversary of the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc. The title is "Edo Shobo" (Edo Firefighting), and it is written and autographed by Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo.



The short coat with the red shoulder section is for regular members. The two lines show the unit leader. The two white stripes on the hem of the short coat represent the "Second Zone", and "No. 6" is printed on the back. The person wearing this coat is instantly recognizable as the "Unit leader of Unit No. 6, Second Zone".

He is an "Azabu-kko", which means a person born and raised in the town of Azabu. He is responsible for preserving the more than 300-year history and traditions of Edo-style firefighting.



Chairman Kiyooki Shibazaki presides over the three-hundred year history of the "EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc.", and manages the organization with his gentle and friendly personality.

It is our pleasure to introduce you to Mr. Kiyooki Shibazaki, the owner of the "Matoi (decorated portable "sign") for Unit No. 6, Second Zone", displayed in Azabu Fire Station, as described in "Town's Tips" in The AZABU No. 48. He is also a 3rd generation "Azabu-jin" (Azabu people) and took over "Jiba" (local territory) as the leader of steeplejacks in Azabu as a young man, following in his grandfather's footsteps. Since then, 65 years have passed, and he is still actively promoting the traditional culture of the Edo Machibikeshi (local fire brigade) for posterity locally and to the world.

"Azabu-kko", born and raised in Azabu

Kiyooki's grandfather was the son of a farmer in Chiba Prefecture in 1867 (the 3rd year of the Keio era), and made his dream of becoming a steeplejack come true by moving to Tokyo with the help of a distant relative man. He chose Azabu Ipponmatsu-Cho (Present day Azabu Juban) for permanent residence, and the family history as "Azabu-kko" began. Kiyooki's father was born here in 1906 (the 39th year of the Meiji era) and he was born in August 1936 (the 11th year of the Showa era).

At that time Azabu Juban Dori and Zoshiki Dori Streets, and the numerous back streets and alleys around them, were full of lively and exciting places for them to play.

Kiyooki's education began at Tokyo City Nanzan Kokumin Gakko (an elementary school, 1941-1947, present day Nanzan Elementary School), but he was evacuated in the third grade along with all of the children in the school to Tochigi Prefecture in 1945 because of the War. Thankfully, he was therefore able to avoid the devastating air raids that followed. However, even from Tochigi, he was able to see the sky over Tokyo turn red during what would subsequently be called the Great Tokyo Air Raid. When the War was over he returned to his parents, who had remained in Azabu. After he graduated from Minato City Municipal Jonan Junior High School (Present day Minato City Municipal Roppongi Junior High School), he entered Tokyo Metropolitan Kudan Senior High School. Soon after he became a 3rd grader, his father passed away at the young age of 49.

The Shibazaki Family was responsible for the business and local territory as the leader of the steeplejacks, the management of which fell to Kiyooki's mother after his father's death. Kiyooki left school and took over the responsibility when he was only 18 years old. In fact, he initially didn't intend to become a steeplejack, because his father had chosen his younger brother for that. However, when his father died, his brother was only 13 years old, too young to take over the family business. For Kiyooki, it was a drastic and unexpected change of direction for his life. He said "I was only able to handle it with a lot of help from some friendly steeplejacks, neighbors in the town and my mother".

He became a member of the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc. when he was 44 years old. He was promoted to "Representative of the Second Zone", and entered a world with very strict traditional rules. He went on to become the Vice-Chairman and then, when he was 80 years old he was selected as the 12th Chairman because of his "experience and good character". He is still very active and highly regarded even now.

His brother was 5 years younger, and was also a steeplejack skilled at "Hashigo Nori" (acrobatic performances on a ladder). Unfortunately, his brother passed away some time ago. "If my brother had taken over our family business, I would have selected a totally different path for my life. I never thought I would become a steeplejack and then, the Chairman", he added in a quiet manner.

His hobby was bowling when he was young. Bowling had a huge surge in popularity in Japan between 1955 and 1974 (30's to 40's in the Showa Era). Since then, however, the popularity of bowling has steadily declined, and his neighboring bowling centers such as the Mita Bowl and the Tamachi High Lane etc., closed one after another. So, he started playing golf instead, and says it's easier, "with smaller balls than that of bowling"! These days however, he refrains from playing golf as well.

"Steeplejacks" are "Flowers on the Site"

Steeplejacks are called "Flowers on the Site" because they stand out as brave figures, specializing in working at high places in the construction industry, jumping deftly from beam to beam. They were divided into categories called "Machiba Tobi" and "Nochoba Tobi". Machiba Tobi are artisans, who are mainly involved in local wooden housing construction, and Nochoba Tobi are mainly involved in the construction of large buildings, apartment blocks and tower construction such as Tokyo Tower.

The Shibazaki Family did construction as "Machiba Tobi" and his father worked with local builders to put up three cinemas located in Azabu Juban, (Azabu Eiga Gekijou, Azabu Chuo Gekijo and Azabu Meigaza mentioned in the "Azabu A Human Story" page in the AZABU No. 48). Also interestingly, his father set up a large circus tent in vacant lots with his business friends when the circus was in town.

In addition to local wooden house construction, Kiyooki received many requests to do construction in many of the other sections in and out of Tokyo. When he accepts such requests, he takes great pride in greeting his clients to impress upon them "his high sense of duty and morality". Still now, he remains very active in the community of steeplejacks in Kanagawa and Saitama Prefectures.

Also, his father opened a rake shop in the Tori-no-Ichi open markets and straw-work (Sacred Straw Ropes, etc.) shop for New Year's decora-



In front of the "Matoi for Unit No. 6, Second Zone", Mr. Shibazaki, Chairman, and Mr. Kougo Sezaki, Chief of the Azabu Fire Station, are standing in the Headquarters of the Azabu Fire Station. They welcomed us warmly. (Mr. Sezaki was a bit nervous).

tions. This was around the time when the Suehiro Shrine was located in the southeast corner of the Azabu Juban Avenue and Shichimen-zaka Slope, before its deity was enshrined together with the Juban Inari Shrine.

"Matoi for Unit No. 6, Second Zone"

In the Edo Period it was common practice to pull down the neighboring structures around a fire to prevent it spreading.

The steeplejacks called "Machibikeshi" were tasked with this dramatic and dangerous job. The Matoi was a kind of sign carried to sites of fires clearly marking the area for a specific group of Machibikeshi. The Matoi was also there to maintain and boost the members' morale. The Meiji Government merged and changed the name of Unit No. 3 "A" and No. 5 "E" of the Machibikeshi to "Unit No. 6 in the Second Zone" of "Shibu Shobogumi" (city fire brigades in pre-war Japan). They covered most of the Azabu area, not including some parts of present day Azabu-Juban. Nishi-Azabu, Moto-Azabu and Minami-Azabu, was their "Jiba" and their symbol was this Matoi.

This Matoi was displayed during firefights until 1939 (the 14th year of the Showa era) when the organization was designated as "Keibo-dan" (volunteer guard). Mr. Shibazaki commented, "My mother told me that soon after she got married she saw the Matoi displayed on a roof somewhere in Azabu Juban, but it was the last time she saw it, so I guess the Matoi was used until the beginning of the Showa Era". It was decided that



The Fire Museum is also located in the same building as the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc. On the 5th floor, as many as 87 Matois are displayed, one for each Unit.

these Matois were to be cared for by the Shibazaki Family. Presently, one is on display in the Azabu Fire Station and the other is in Roppongi Tenso Shrine (Refer to page 3).

In 1948 (the 23th year of the Showa era) the "Keibo-dan" changed again to become the present day "Volunteer Fire Corps" and people other than steeplejacks could then become the members of Corps. The way of fighting fires changed greatly, and steeplejacks were gradually phased out, as their particular talents were no longer needed.

The 12th Chairman of the "EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc."

This association was organized by volunteers and descendants of steeplejacks, Machibikeshi and Shibu Shobogumi and there are about 600 members: 87 groups from the 1st Zone to 11th Zone. Their principle is "duty, humanity and Yase Gaman (to appear stoic)", and this is considered to be the proper character for firefighters. They have observed their strict rules and conventions for about 300 years. "The 300th Edo Machibikeshi Founding Memorial Ceremony" was a grand affair held at The Prince Park Tower Tokyo on November 25, 2018. There, celebrities from various fields including Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, were invited to the anniversary celebration.

Mr. Kiyooki Shibazaki is still very active, beginning each New Year with the Tokyo Fire Brigades Parade held in January, and at 15 other regular events. In addition, he takes an active role introducing the culture and history of Edo Bikeshi (fire-fighters) to the world and at various events.

The construction of Tokyo Tower started in June 1957 (the 32nd year of the Showa era), with the expert techniques of the Tekkotsu Tobi (a kind of Nochoba Tobi), and Mr. Shibazaki could see this from his house in Ipponmatsu-Cho. He looked forward to watching the construction work progress, right up to its completion. He told us warmly, "Tokyo Tower is great!" We realized that he can still see Tokyo Tower every day from his house in Azabu-Juban, and this provides him with a lot of inspiration.

Research Support

Mr. Kougo Sezaki, The 45th Chief of Azabu Fire Station and Assistant Chief
Mr. Koji Suto, Secretary General, EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc.

References:

"Edo Shobo" (Edo Firefighting), published by the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc.
"Azabu Chimei Ima Mukashi" (Azabu Place Names Past and Present) written by Hidekatsu Hirata (document material for the Azabu Library History Lecture on June 24, 2017)
"Disaster Prevention Map for Azabu, Minato City" issued by the Minato City Azabu Regional City Office



A Well in Roppongi: A Local Deity Awakes from a Long Sleep!

The Copper Board tells a story of 79-years old.



A Warehouse: when passing through the 'Torii' gate of the shrine, take a look to the right. Inside, there is a glittering 'Miya Mikoshi' (portable shrine) and the 'Matoi for Unit No. 6, Second Zone'. Do you remember this? This Matoi is related to the Matoi described on Page 2 of the 'Azabu; A Human Story' (it also appeared in 'Town Tips' in The Azabu No. 48).

This Matoi was lent to Nishikubo Hachiman Shrine by Mr. Kiyooki Shibasaki, Chairman of the EDO Firemanship Preservation Association Inc. This was because of the renovation work being done to the Nishikubo Hachiman Shrine, and it was temporarily placed in the Tenso Shrine in June 2019. This is a wonderful connection (What a wonderful connection it is!).

✓ Going along the left side of the Main Building, you can see 'Shingan Jojo no Ryu Toro' (the Dragon Lantern for the realization of one's earnest wishes).



↑ On the upper section of the Giboshi (Onion-shaped Ornament), you can clearly see the nail marks of a dragon. They say that when you touch the Hoju inside the lantern, your wishes will come true. This is very popular with young people.



On each side of the hexagonal lantern, a square, a moon, a circle (the sun), a heart and spade shapes are cut out. It is romantic and pretty, designed in both Japanese and Western styles.

The relief on the support shows 'Koi No Takinobori' (carp climbing up a waterfall) and 'Hiryu' (a flying dragon) on the sides. These images represent the transformation of the carp ascending the waterfall and becoming a flying dragon.

Here in Ryudo-Cho there is a story that "A dragon came from offshore to Shinagawa every single night to offer a Gotomyo (light) to the local deity". The "Ryudo Shinmeigu Shrine" was built in 1384 in the period of the Northern and Southern Courts, 635 years ago. This shrine is also called "Roppongi Tenso Shrine" and is popular because it enshrines a local Roppongi deity. Unexpectedly, the chief priest once received an inquiry from a TV station for a special program. They asked him "If you want us to dig a well". He knew of a copper engraving preserved at the Shrine describing a well on the property, but one that had long since been covered over. A dig was performed on the Shrine site using this copper engraving as a guide, and amazingly they were able to find it. We were able to hear about this and more of the history of this Shrine filled with mysterious charm from Mr. Hiroaki Aoki, Chief Priest. It is located in a quiet space in the city center, and it has an area of about 877m².

A Local Deity "Roppongi Tenso Shrine, Ryudo Shinmeigu Shrine"

There is a quiet spot in Roppongi that seems far from the usual hustle and bustle of the area. This spot is located close to Tokyo Midtown and the National Art Center (Tokyo), and along Ryudo-cho Bijutsukan Dori Street. The head office of this Shrine is Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Prefecture. The Shrine was founded in Roppongi so that people could worship locally without going all the way to "Oise-san" (Ise Grand Shrine).

The Deities the shrine is dedicated to are Amaterasu Omikami (Sun Goddess), Izanagi-no-Mitoko and Izanami-no-Mikoto. In addition to these, one of Seven Deities of Good Luck called Fukurokuju has been enshrined.

On the front right side of the main gate (Torii), a well was dug and a new pump was attached on it. This well is the main topic of this page.

A dream has come true! "A well anybody can use"

The Tenso Shrine has been certified as one of the recommended businesses in the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" project, and is actively working on crime prevention and disaster preparedness. Mr. Aoki realized the importance of water when disasters occur, when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck. "I really wanted to do something useful for people" for times like this.

Actually, there was a well on the site dug a long time ago, but had long since been covered over. However, Mr. Aoki found a record of its existence on a copper engraving carefully stored in the shrine. On it says, "Water suddenly sprung from the shrine site in 1940

(15th year of Showa) when a water shortage occurred in Tokyo, and it saved the local people". Based on this record, he tried to find and restore the well four years ago with the help of a specialist. However, the specialist said, "even if a lot of money is spent, it is uncertain if water can be found". Based on this assessment, he felt he had to give up.

Then, when Mr. Aoki received an unexpected inquiry about a well from a TV station, he was happy to join the project.

In December 2018, a TV station started the project to rediscover this well, but Japan's leading well-digging specialist expressed disapproval "I have never been tasked with such a difficult job". Regardless, the work went ahead from June of last year, and after 10 attempts, they finally found water. July 16, 2019 was chosen as the "Announcement Day" and the TV program went on air from 13:10 pm on July 27, 2019.

The name of a hand pump used by Machibikeshi (local fire brigades), was called "Ryudo-sui" and finally, in Ryudo-Cho, Mr. Aoki's dream came true. Three tons of water was eventually able to be stored, which is enough for 1,500 people. The water stays cool underground at 15°C. The water stored here is not potable, but this is what is initially required or expected in times of disaster, so this project is considered a great success.

"Minato City Tour of the Seven Deities of Good Luck" Held Every Year!

Going up the stone stairs, you can see "Manpuku (full-stomach) Inari Shrine" on your right hand side. Whenever locals hear this name, they smile involuntarily. It was once called "Magotaro Inari Shrine", and when the neighboring Inari shrine was merged with it



In this zone, the Tenso Shrine and 'TRI-SEVEN ROPPONGI' have been integrated, which won the "Minato City Green Town Planning Award 2017". The new arrangement of the shrine precincts, in step with the construction of the 'TRI-SEVEN ROPPONGI' project was so well done that it received an award, because "The green areas are well maintained with great concern for the environment and an excellent green space plan".



From the front of the Torii gate, Goshaden (the main shrine building) can be seen. It was built in the Shinmei-zukuri style (based on the Ise Great Shrine), in 1957. In the front at the right, a Stone "Shagohi" (the denomination of a Shinto Shrine) monument sits, on which "Ryudo Shinmeigu Shrine, Tenso Shrine" is engraved. This was dedicated by a neighboring TV station in 1987 as "Miyamokoshi Shincho Kinenhi" (commemorative monument for the renewal of a portable shrine).



On the right front side of the Torii gate, a new hand pump was installed to the restored well.



Each time Mr. Aoki vigorously pumps the handle, shining cold water flows from the well that woke up after 79 years sleep. Cupping the water with both hands, children look on curiously and aged people look on nostalgically.



The information plaque on the stone wall behind the well



The copper engraving used as a basis for the information plaque describes how water suddenly sprung from the well in 1940 when a water shortage occurred, and saved the local people. Indeed, this story would never have happened if this copper engraving had not been preserved.

It was certainly of great inspiration for Mr. Aoki.



Mr. Aoki's true wishes were realized.

the name was changed. At the Hokora (small shrine), "Fukurokuju" (God of happiness) was worshipped. His figure is only available to visit during the first three days of every New Year, when it is worshipped in the main building and opened to the public. There is a unique stamp made specifically by the shrine called the "Red Seal of Fukurokuju" available for visitors at this time. These are original stamps visitors can collect in books provided by each shrine, and they will all be available at each shrine during the "Minato City Tour of the Seven Deities of Good Luck." This is held between the first day of the New Year and Coming-of-Age Day every year. In 2020, it was offered from January 1 to 13, in 2020. The "Red Seal of the Tenso Shrine" is also provided during the Day of the Dragon every month. Please remember!



In various places around the precincts, the letter "7" is engraved. It is connected to the address of the Shrine (7-7, 7-chome.), and as the popular lucky number "Three Sevens". Three Sevens appear on the manhole covers.

Roppongi Tenso Shrine; Ryudo Shinmeigu Shrine
Address: 7-7-7, Roppongi, Minato-ku
Tel: 03-3408-5898

- **Research Support**
Roppongi Tenso Shrine; Ryudo Shinmeigu Shrine
Chief Priest: Mr. Hiroaki Aoki Shusshi (Apprentice priest): Mr. Hironori Ono
- **References:**
"Minato City Green Town Planning Award; 2017 - Award Winning Facilities" issued by Environmental Section, Environment and Recycling Support Department, Minato City

(Researched by Takehide Kasho and Misaho Kasho; Written by Misaho Kasho)

Typhoons No. 15 and 19 hit a large area of Japan and caused severe flood damage as reported on TV and in newspapers. Fortunately, Minato City escaped the danger. We recommend that you learn about the "Emergency Municipal Radio Communication System" and the "Levels" of danger described on TV. The "Warning Levels" showing evacuation timing for floods, heavy rain, landslide disasters, or high tides are described in detail as follows.

Disaster Preparedness Hints

Level 5	Officially announced by Minato City	A disaster occurred, take the best action to save your life.
Level 4	Officially announced by Minato City	Everybody needs to evacuate to the designated shelter. If going there is dangerous, go to a safe place near your house or in your house.
Level 3	Officially announced by Minato City	For aged people, handicapped people, babies and guardians, evacuate quickly. For others, prepare to evacuate or begin evacuating.
Level 2	Announced by the Japan Meteorological Agency	Check how to evacuate if it becomes necessary in advance/detail.
Level 1	Announced by the Japan Meteorological Agency	Prepare yourself for a disaster in case of emergency and check the latest information.

You need to check the "Minato City Flood Hazard Map" distributed to every house in October last year.



This "Temizuya" (water ablation pavilion) is located on the front right side of Goshaden (the main shrine building). In the water basin, a bronze dragon spouts water. This dragon is quite a dynamic figure, and looks just like the dragon drawn on the ceiling you see going down there. This bronze dragon was offered by the son of a carpenter who was involved in the construction of the shrine in 1957. It was made in Kyoto by special order for this shrine.





The courageous dragon was drawn on the ceiling. This excellent stone basin was made in 1846 (the 3rd year of the Koka era) and survived the Great Kanto Earthquake and The Great Tokyo Air Raid. It still plays its role perfectly even now.

Together with You..

ザ・AZABU has reached issue No. 50!

Playing Sugoroku is easy.

-  When you reach this box, advance 2 boxes.
 -  When you reach this box however, you'll miss your next turn.
- Read each comment and enjoy the "Past and Present" of "The AZABU".

Collector's Edition Every front page of "The AZABU" can be enjoyed!



Special Issue Page for The AZABU No. 50



The Inaugural Preliminary Issue (Vol.00)



The First Issue (Vol.1)



Vol.2



Vol.3



The origin of the present logo is in Vol. 3.

Vol.4



Vol.5



Vol.6



Why AZABU is English edition also published?

"The AZABU" Vol.6 had been every issue of translated from Japanese into English. Since then, every issue of "The AZABU" has been published in both Japanese and English.

The rate of foreigners to the total population of Minato City is about 8%. The rate only for Azabu area is around 13%. We greatly expect that more foreign habitants and workers in Azabu could get the community information easily.

Vol.7



Vol.8



Vol.9



Vol.10



start!

Reduced to 4 pages

Vol.19



Vol.18



Internet Only Limited Version (Only in Japanese) When "The AZABU" information paper could not be printed!

The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011; just before Vol. 17 "The AZABU" was to be issued on March 22nd. Unfortunately, printing operations had to be temporarily suspended.

The release of Vol. 17 of course went ahead as planned, but only on the Minato City website as an "Internet Only Limited Version".

In another change that followed, Vol. 18 and Vol. 19 were reduced to only four pages.

Vol.17



Vol.16



Vol.15



Vol.14



The main section of "From the World of Azabu", "Visiting Embassies" was added.

Vol.13



Feature Article "Historical Footsteps of Azabu"

This article series "Historical Footsteps of Azabu" has continued from the first issue, with only a minor change in Vol. 12.

The title is "Historical Footsteps of Azabu, "for the Future". We introduce Azabu town planning, and focus on its history.

The Chairperson's favorite front-page layout

Vol.12



Vol.11



Vol.20



Vol.21



Vol.22



Vol.23



A "small change" to the logo

The Familiar AZABU Logo. The Logo in Vol. 24 is comparable to that in Vol. 25. The color changes in each volume, and there are some font changes. You can see this in the shape of the "●".



Vol.24

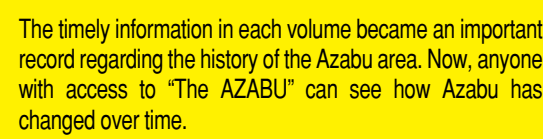


Vol.25



Information from the Azabu Regional City Office

Information about the publisher, the Azabu Regional City Office, is always included in every volume of "The AZABU". In Vol. 26, the page for "Information from the Azabu Regional City Office" was redesigned, and the basic design used today was established.



How to create "The AZABU" is specially described.

Vol.26



Vol.27



No.41



No.40



No.39



No.38



The color of horizontal band was also changed!

No.37



No.36



Up to Vol. 35, "Vol." is used, and from 36, "No." is used.

Vol.35



Vol.34



Vol.33



Vol.32



Vol.31



Vol.30



Vol.29



Vol.28



No.42



No.43



No.44



"Visiting Ambassadors" does not appear in this issue.

No.45



No.46



No.47



No.48



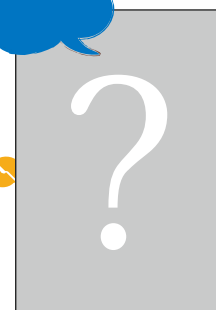
No.49



No.50



Goal!



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Thanks to both the editors and our readers, "The AZABU" has now published 50 volumes. Again, thank you all very much! I believe that we have helped increase community awareness and communication, and we can do more in the future.

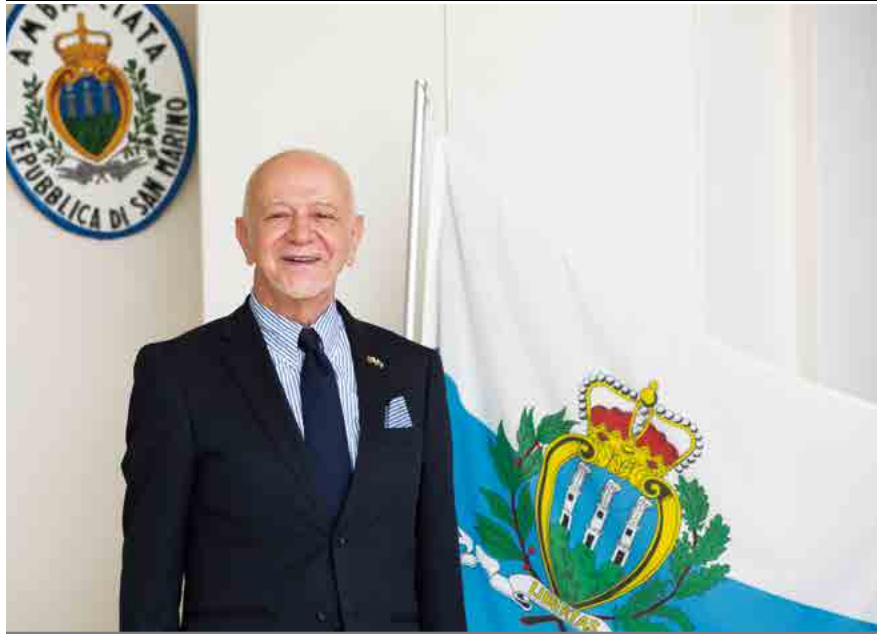


Kenji Ariga Director General of Azabu Regional City Office



I will walk together with readers in the future.

Takehide Kasho Chairperson of Subcommittee for the Community Information Spread in the City People Participation Type Organization "Azabu wo Kataru Kai"



Republic of San Marino

Area: 61.2 km² (about the same size as Setagaya Ward)
 Population: 33,121 people (as of August 2016)
 Capital City: San Marino City
 Language: Italian
 Head of State: Two Administrators (mutual election by council members every six months)
 Assembly: Unicameral system with only Grand Council: 60 seats



The Embassy building located in Moto-azabu 3-chome is a beautiful freestanding house with blue window frames and white walls. In the national flag of San Marino, white stands for purity and blue for freedom, so this is why the house has been painted with these colors.

Adding to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/sanmarino/index.html>
 His Excellency Mr. Manlio Cadelo
 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino in Japan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Japan

Interview support and photo provided by the Embassy of the Republic of San Marino

Visiting Ambassadors
From the World of Azabu



San Marino

His Excellency Mr. Manlio Cadelo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino in Japan (hereinafter Ambassador), wearing a smart and stylish navy blue suit, was born in Siena Italy and studied at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He speaks perfect French and also speaks seven languages including Japanese. During the busy days after he was appointed as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Japan, he kindly accepted our interview request. He warmly welcomed us with a big smile.

Ambassador majored in specialized etymology at Sorbonne University in Paris, (Étymologie in French) which is the study of the origin of words, and this led him into the world of journalism. He gave us an example of etymology, and said there are several theories for the etymology of the word OK. He said that there is an old English military term, Zero killed. This refers to when soldiers return from battle and the officers report OK to their superiors, meaning, nobody was killed and they have all returned safely. We think this is a rather convincing theory.

He is quite active as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino in Japan and also as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Japan, acting as the leader of 155 Ambassadors to Japan.

Ambassador Manlio Cadelo came to Japan for the first time in 1975 as a busy journalist in Tokyo. He willingly told us about the circumstances surrounding how he got a job as a diplomat in San Marino, the country located in the center of Italy.

“One of my paternal relatives in San Marino suddenly asked me, ‘Oh Manlio, would you like to take up an appointment as San Marino’s Honorary Consul General to Japan?’ (laughs). At the time, there was no San Marino Embassy, or even a Consulate-General in Japan until diplomatic relations between San Marino and Japan were formally established in 1996. I was just a journalist then, and my job was to send information about Japan to foreign countries including Italy.

In San Marino, imported goods from Japan were very popular and people really wanted to establish a diplomatic relationship with Japan.”

In 1989, he was appointed as the Consul General of the Republic of San Marino in Japan, and had been a journalist for 10 years before the Consulate-General opened. In 2002 the Embassy of the Republic of San Marino was established, and he became the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino. In 2011, he was inaugurated as the Dean (the diplomatic leader) of 155 countries in Japan.

“The title of Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Japan is given to the person who presents their credentials to the Emperor first. I didn’t know that at the time. One day, the staff of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan called me and said, ‘Con-

gratulations! You have been appointed as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.’ I was very surprised, and soon discovered that there was no textbook or anything else to find out what I needed to do! So, the only thing I could do is look at the history of previous Deans, and try to do as they did. There is actually a great amount of difficult but honorable work to do. For example, making celebration speeches for the Emperor’s Gotanshin (birthday), attending send-offs and meetings at Haneda Airport when the Emperor and Empress visit foreign countries, newly appointed ambassadors must come to meet me, etc. Also, I lecture at various places around Japan.”

He recounted episodes with His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus in his book *Why Japan is admired from the world* (in Japanese) (Shogakukan 2014). His activities as the Dean are too numerous to mention.

The Friendship between San Marino and Japan

In his book *The Surprise of Japanese Common Sense* (in Japanese) (Shogakukan 2018), he describes amazing aspects of Japanese culture and the spiritual nature of the Japanese people. So, what kind of country is his mother country, San Marino?

“San Marino is great; it is the world’s oldest republic, it has not had any armed forces for 1718 years, and reveres the notions of peace and freedom. Actually, my father in particular was very proud of this. Our people are generally cheerful and generous, and we have no professional politicians. Those who are elected and serve as such all keep their day jobs. Their term in office is only for six months anyway, and then two more Administrators are selected to take their turn from among the council members. The reason why the term



The San Marino Shrine built in the Republic of San Marino

was decided to be only six months is to give the opportunity to as many other members as possible. Also, six months is too short to do anything wrong (laughing)”

The historical area of the capital city, San Marino, and Mount Titano were registered as World Cultural Heritage Site in 2008. The Ambassador’s heart was full of joy when on June 22, 2014, the San Marino Shrine was built in San Marino City due to his own comprehensive efforts and the San Marino-Japan Friendship Association.

“There were almost as many victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake as there are people in our country, and this shrine is also a memorial to them. The local Nippon Matsuri is held at the end of June every year at the San Marino Shrine, and Japanese food and sake are served. The festival as well as the presence of the Japanese Shrine has gradually deepened the understanding and appreciation of Japan among the people of San Marino. I also understand that the number of chief priests who visit this Shrine has been increasing.”

The government-managed wine industry is famous in San Marino and many high quality wines are exported to the world. There is even a high quality San Marino-Jinja wine. San Marino-Jinja wine is made from grapes harvested in the field next to the Shrine.

When we asked the Ambassador how he usually

These San Marino-Jinja Wines can be bought at import shops in Minato Ward.



spends his time in the town of Azabu, he answered, “I swim in the 25m pool in the public facility whenever I have time. I love swimming and I am good at skin diving to a depth of 10m. I only have two meals a day, breakfast and dinner. However, my job is about meeting people, so I mostly eat out.”

We heard that he often goes to his favorite restaurant FIGO in Roppongi, close to the Embassy. Of course, he always carries a bottle of San Marino wine with him!

We would like to express our gratitude and profound respect to the Ambassador, who is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Japan. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to hear his very interesting stories, and to be including him in this milestone issue Volume 50. We are very happy to tell you that the Ambassador is a great person who, through time, effort and study has been able to impart his knowledge of Wa no Kokoro (Japanese Spirit of Harmony) to the world.



The Historical Area of the Capital City, San Marino

● **References:**
Nihon Kokugo Dai Jiten 2 (Complete Japanese language dictionary No. 2) (Shogakukan 2006) edited by the Japanese Language Dictionary Editorial Department, Shogakukan
Shinto ga Sekai wo Sukuu (Shinto saves the world) (Bensei Publishing, 2018) written by Manlio Cadelo and Hideaki Kase
 (Researched by Marika Oba and Yukiko Takayanagi; Written by Marika Oba)

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

“The AZABU” information paper was first published in 2007, and this is now the 50th issue!

“AZABU Slopes” is a popular topic that was introduced in volume 24, and 20 slopes and 3 places have so far been described.

This time, we would like to review this history, and remind ourselves of how impressive these slopes are.

Slopes in Azabu Area

Visiting Slopes in Azabu

According to the Minato City website, there are 42 slopes with specific names. If slopes that so far have not been named were included, there would be well over 50. This year is the 6th year we have been developing this story, and we are only half-way there! We would like to visit all the “Slopes of Azabu” and discover the many hidden wonders. The charm of Azabu is endless!

Threads of Fate

We started this column in 2013, and around that time there was a big announcement: Tokyo was chosen to host for the Olympic Games in 2020! We heard about it while we were doing research on our stories about the Embassy of Spain and the Sendai-zaka Slope. Also at that time, we noticed a number of coincidences. Please take a look at the following table. I won't go into it in detail, but it seems that some type of very remarkable event comes around once every 400 years. From the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, to Tokyo being selected to host the Olympic Games, I see a connection, and something I like to call “Threads of Fate.” Six years have passed since Tokyo was chosen to host the Olympic Games. There have been many obstacles that needed to be overcome, but now the Olympic Games will indeed be held in Tokyo this year!

Please take the time to revisit our story “Visiting Embassies” on page 4 of the AZABU Vol. 25, and “Historical Footsteps of Azabu” on page 6 of the AZABU Vol. 26. I would like us all to be reminded of what it means to overcome difficulties at this time.

1611	Mutsu Keicho Earthquake (Magnitude 8.1)	2011	Great East Japan Earthquake (M. 9.0)
1613	“The Japanese Envoy to Europe in the Keicho Era” set sail from Ishinomaki Bay	2013	Tokyo was chosen to host the Olympic Games
1620	“The Japanese Envoy to Europe in the Kencho Era” returned to Japan (The leader, Tsunenaga Hasekura died in disappointment two years later).	2020	The Tokyo Olympic Games will be held.



“Saka Karuta” (Slope Card Game)

There is a card game based on the slopes of Minato City, Tokyo! They consist of 92 picture cards and 92 corresponding poem cards about the slopes, including ones that are not yet named or officially recognized. It would be very interesting for you to search the slopes based on their names and to compare them as described on old maps, with the same slopes in the present map.

Saka Karuta is produced and sold by “Aza Roku Plus,” a member of the Tokyo Minato City Travel & Tourism Association and an Incorporated Nonprofit Organization. <https://www.aza6plus.net/>



Nambu-zaka Slope (No. 46)

Height above sea level (Top) 27.2m, (Foot) 13.5m

Today, the area around this slope is very diverse and multicultural. However, stories from there about the “Nanbu Family,” the “Gamou Family” and the “Azano Family” were discovered, which connects us with our particular Japanese Samurai history. We can really feel and understand how much has changed through our local history.



Tamba-dani-zaka Slope (No. 36)

Height above sea level (Top) 29.8m, (Foot) 16.1m

When we searched for the origin of this slopes name, we unexpectedly found the story of a very interesting person. From this we were able to catch a glimpse of our route through history, from the Age of Civil Wars, the Meiji Era, and right up to the present day.



Ipponmatsu-zaka Slope (No. 40)

Height above sea level (Top) 26.8m, (Foot) 23m

This slope certainly has a long history, because its name comes from an episode of Minamoto Tsunemotos' life story. As you may remember, he was the founder of the Minamoto Family in the 10th century. I'm sure there are many more stories to be uncovered around this slope.



The height above sea level of each slope is measured using the “Hyouko Hyouji” (Elevation Display) application. Details of their height above sea level will be described in the next “Azabu Future Photo Studio” page. The photos of the Nambu-zaka Slope and the Tamba-dani-zaka Slope from the Showa Era were shot by Mr. Masanori Taguchi, and provided by Mr. Shigehisa Taguchi. The photos of Ipponmatsu-zaka Slope are provided by the Minato City Local History Museum.

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio

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

The Azabu Future Photo Studio Association consists of local residents, workers and students in the Azabu area, and has been actively organizing activities such as taking photographs at fixed-point locations and collecting old photographs of the Azabu area. The photographs collected are shown as panes in the Minato City website and at local exhibitions. The Azabu Future Photo Studio Association hopes to broaden knowledge of the history and culture of the town to as many people as possible.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu area from the Meiji to the Showa eras, such as buildings, scenery or festivals, 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

Information from Azabu Regional City Office

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 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.

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



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

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



Smoking Areas Map



Registered Business Emblem



Registration Certificate



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

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.



Minato City website



Photo showing people walking around the town

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

* Japanese only

Introduction of the Framework of Community Development using the Minato City Community Development Ordinance

Minato City supports community development activities mainly by the people living in the community, so that local issues are solved within the community. Community development is promoted based on community initiative and agreement. At present, there are four community development organizations registered in the Azabu region as shown in the figure on the right (as at March 1, 2020). If you are interested in such activities, contact the Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section of each Regional Office.

Community Development System Procedure



Inquiries: Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8815 * Japanese only



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.

- Staff
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Kyoko Ideishi | Aki Tanaka |
| Marika Oba | Yasuhiro Tanaka |
| Kumiko Omura | Mizuho Nishimori |
| Takehide Kasho | Minako Hatanaka |
| Misaho Kasho | Akiko Horiuchi |
| Mimi S Koike | Jitsuzo Horiuchi |
| Mai S. | Michiko Horikiri |
| Masahiro Someya | Ayako Yamaki |
| Emi Taoka | Harumi Yamada |
| Yukiko Takayanagi | Emi Yonezawa |

Editor's Note

“No. 50 is just a passing point, isn't it?” I had felt it would not be so important. However, during the time leading up to publishing this paper, I read many other editors' passionate writings as I edited, and became quite inspired. Just before the final proofreading, I visited about 10 “A-bomb survivor trees” in Hiroshima. While I was in charge of the front page of the AZABU No. 32 I did some research about the ginkgo tree at Zempukuji Temple, which is also a survivor of the Yamanote area bombing. In this way I came to know about the ginkgo trees that survived the A-bomb near ground zero in Hiroshima. They have fascinated me for a long time. This is the sort of knowledge and understanding that has deepened my appreciation of Azabu, and brought me great pleasure during my travels.

(Kumiko Omura)

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>