



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



For lectures, the Hungarian National Flag and red, white or green chairs will be arranged to create a gorgeous atmosphere. The lighting on the ceiling has been designed in the motif of Hungarian embroidery.

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu (23)

Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo, Grand Opening in Azabu-Juban!

2019 was the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy. On December 9, 2019 the Embassy of Hungary in Tokyo opened the "Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo" in Azabu-Juban in commemoration. Ms. Anita Nagy, Councillor of the Embassy of Hungary in Tokyo, is the head of this Institute. We spoke to her at the Cultural Institute just after it opened.



The building is located along Zoshiki-Dori Street, and really stands out. The red, white and green colors of the Hungarian National Flag are used to effectively draw attention.

Photo provided by the Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo



Works of Hungarian Artists are exhibited. Photo provided by the Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo

The location of the Institute was selected because it is close to the Embassy and the nearest subway station

The Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo is along the Zoshiki-Dori Street extending from Zempukuji Temple in Azabu-Juban to the Kimi-chan Statue at Patio-Juban. The red, white and green glass wall motif represents the national flag of Hungary. The building itself is designed to look open and inviting.

We asked, "The Embassy is located in Mita 2-chome in Minato City. How did Azabu-Juban come to be selected as the location of the Institute?"

She replied, "When the decision was made to create a Cultural Institute, H.E. Ambassador, Dr. Norbert Palanovics, himself made an enormous effort to find the location. There are many foreign residents in Azabu-Juban and this area is always bustling with life. It only takes three minutes on foot from Azabu-Juban subway station to this location, and from there you can easily walk to the Hungarian Embassy. So, it became clear that Azabu-Juban was a good fit for our needs".

The Hungarian Cultural Institute Opens, Introducing the Fascinating Hungarian Culture!

The position and shape of Hungary has given it the nickname, "The Jewel Box of Europe". It is about 93,000 km², about the size of Hokkaido. The population is about 9.78 million (based on the 2018 National Bureau of Statistics Report). About 1.75 million people live in the capital city, Budapest. Amazingly, Hungary has borders with seven countries: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Hungary is a fascinating country, where a variety of peoples and cultures meet at a crossroads, truly the "Center of Europe".

The culture of Hungary is rooted in its' equestrian past. Their history is one of a constant flow of people from Asia to Europe in search of better grasslands. Hungarian culture can actually be characterized as one that is partly influenced by, and including, Asian cultures. Our purpose is to increase awareness among Japanese people of the historical, artistic and academic values of Hungary.

"By the way, Ms. Nagy, your Japanese is accurate

and fluent. Where did you study Japanese?"

"I went to an elementary school in the suburbs of Budapest, and there we had Japanese classes. At that time, a lot of new classes were being introduced as an experiment, and one of them was a Japanese class".

We were all very surprised to hear that nowadays there are many "Japanophiles" in Hungary; young people who have been influenced by Japanese animation and manga, and are studying Japanese.

A piano is installed for future plans to hold salon music concerts.

On the day we visited the Institute, there was a lecture titled "We want to know Budapest much better". We took the opportunity to listen, and see the "Treasures from Budapest; European and Hungarian Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest and the Hungarian National Gallery" exhibition. This will be held in the National Art Center, Tokyo, until March 29, 2020 (This exhibition was ended on February 29, 2020 because the museum was closed due to the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19).

In addition to the overall design of the Institute, right down to the "tricolor" (red, white and green) chairs arranged in the Cultural Institute multipurpose hall, we can see they have very good sense of artistry!

Usually the works and photos of famous young Hungarian artists are exhibited. Also, the main works (Forest Cultural Center, Village House, Church of St. Michael, and Hagymatikum Thermal Bath) of the famous Hungarian Architect, Imre Makovecz, can be viewed with the latest VR (virtual reality) technology, using a headset.

We asked Ms. Nagy about the future plans for the Institute.

"Hungary is a country where famous musicians familiar to Japanese people, such as Liszt and Bartók, were born. We would like Japanese people to become more familiar with the charms of Hungarian classical music. We will place a piano in the Institute to hold salon concerts".

This sounded like great fun, and as we listened to Ms. Nagy, we gradually felt we were becoming more familiar with Hungary.

Many friendly projects will be planned and realized, which would be a good chance for the friendly relationship between Japan and Hungary to develop even more.

For event announcements at the Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo, a website is being developed now. The Ambassador is providing event information through twitter. Please take a look!



The scene of the lecture "We want to know Budapest much better" was held at the interview date. The event was very successful and all 30 seats were occupied.



Ms. Anita Nagy, the head of Hungarian Cultural Institute Tokyo, has been living in Japan for 12 years.

Address: 1st Floor, Hibiya Azabu-Juban Building,
3-8-1, Azabu-Juban, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Tel: 03-6459-4931 (Rep.)
Opening Hours: 10:00 am to 17:00 pm
(Last Entry Time: 16:45 pm)
Closing Days: Saturday, Sunday and Holidays,
Hungarian National Holidays, Year End's and
New Year's Holidays
Admission: Free
Access: Three minutes on foot from No. 1 Exit of
"Azabu-Juban Station" of Tokyo Metro Nambu Line or Toei Oedo Line
Official Twitter Information of His Excellency,
Hungarian Ambassador to Japan, Dr. Norbert
Palanovics:
<https://twitter.com/HUNBASSADOR>



麻布びと

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

Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe,
Wife of Mr. Ryo Ikebe

I met and married Ryo Ikebe without even knowing he was a famous actor!

Mr. Ryo Ikebe (1918–2010) was a famous film star in the golden age of Japanese motion pictures, and was also a prolific writer. His marriage to his wife, Yoshiko, who was about 20 years younger than him, lasted for almost half a century.

Yoshiko has lived in Azabu from childhood. She says she thinks of her husband and their life together in Azabu everyday. She generously shared with us her memories of their life together.

“Are you asking about my childhood? I was quite a mischievous young girl. I was such a tomboy that I would do things like climbing up on the roof! I was however, very honest, and never told lies. My mother encouraged and praised me for this. We lived in a big Japanese-style house, and we had many housemaids to help us. It took hours, from early morning until noon, just to mop the floor with a wet cloth. Do I remember what happened during the war? Yes, I remember very clearly. I remember that one day, soldiers came to my house and dug a rather impressive air-raid shelter. This was because my grandfather was running a food company and was working with the army in one way or another. At that time, I was not particularly afraid of air raids, but I remember looking up into the sky to see if there were any enemy airplanes. My husband told me that he was sent to a tropical island as a soldier, but on the way the transport ship was attacked and sank. He swam to shore and was able to survive, and was miraculously rescued 24 hours later. He also experienced food shortages and deprivation during that time, and recounts having to grill and eat earthworms! His experiences during the war were very different than mine!”



Taken in Kurashiki, accompanying her husband to a lecture he was giving. Photo provided by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe

Mr. Hanzaburo Matsuzaki, her grandfather, was the owner of the mansion she was brought up in. It was quite large at 800 ‘Tsubos’, or 2,640 m². The area at the time was called Azabu Honmura Cho. He partnered with Mr. Taichiro Morinaga, the first president of Morinaga & Co., Ltd., right from the founding of the company. He was in charge of management and practical operations. The business grew dramatically, in large part due to his efforts.

“Because my grandfather was also the chairman of the board of directors of the Rikkyo Educational Corporation, I went to Rikkyo Jogakuin (St. Margaret’s School in Mitakadai). A housemaid would accompany me there, as well as on the way home to my house in Azabu. I once got into an argument with a rather nasty teacher and shocked my mother when I told her I never ever want to go back to that school again!”

Did you know that the tennis court in Rikkyo Jogakuin was used as a location for the film “Aoi Sanmyaku” (Blue Mountains), where Mr. Ryo Ikebe played tennis in his role as “Rokusuke” in the film?

While Yoshiko came from a family of entrepreneurs, Mr. Ryo Ikebe came from a family of artists. His father, Mr. Hitoshi Ikebe, was a painter in the Western style, and his mother was the sister of Ippei Okamoto, a well-known cartoonist. Perhaps you know the famous painter, Taro Okamoto? Taro was his cousin!

“I met Ikebe at a dinner party held by the chief editor of a certain magazine. We were “introduced” to each other, so in a way you could say it was an arranged marriage. Neither my mother nor I had any idea that he was a famous actor, and I boldly asked him “Which company do you work for?”, etc. At that time, I was



Mr. Ryo Ikebe relaxing with his pet cat (Himalayan) at home. Photo provided by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe



Mr. Ryo Ikebe's drawing of his pet cat. Provided by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe



Mrs. Yoshiko with her husband on an Azabu Shopping Street. Photo provided by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe

telling everybody around me that, “I will never ever get married to anyone!” My mother would also say, “I pity my daughter’s future husband, marrying a girl raised in such a privileged environment”. However, Ikebe generously said, “It would be no problem for me”. My husband was a very gentle and humble person. He had many good friends, including Mr. Naoya Shiga and Mr. Yasunari Kawabata, who wrote original stories of several films at the time. Mr. Naoya Shiga even accepted one of his works called “Anyu Koro” (A Dark Night’s Passing) to be made into a film (directed by Shiro Toyota), provided that he play the role of “Kensaku”, the main character. I would like to watch this film if I have the chance”.

“For some years after we married, we lived in a house in Setagaya City. However, I tired of it and sold it during one of his long absences shooting a film. We decided to go back to the Azabu area. Although I had grown up in Azabu I was actually unfamiliar with the shopping streets and local schools etc. However, I often took walks with him in the neighborhood after our marriage. At the festivals in Azabu-Juban, people working at the food stalls would recognize him, and say things like, “Why don’t you have a beer here?!” or “Please take this with you!” handing him a free glass of beer or giving him a cabbage! My husband told me, “Yoshiko, they give such things to us out of kindness. Even though they are quite heavy, I would never refuse them or ever throw them away because everybody watch us”. As we went home, we would haul our gifts back on a cart up the Sendai-zaka Slope”.

“I almost never watched my husband’s films, and rarely talked about what he did, and this seemed to work for us. However, only once, I got angry with him when he appeared in a Yakuza (Japanese gangsters) film. At that time, I told him “I will never walk with you along the streets of Azabu again!”

“He was also a writer. He left so many books, newspapers and manuscripts behind; I was totally at a loss when he passed away. When Waseda University told me that they would accept almost all of it, I wept with joy. I kept some of them, because I would really miss it if everything was gone”.

The books donated by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe are in a collection called the “Mr. Ryo Ikebe Book Shelf” in the Azabu Library. In addition to his books, there is a wide range of books on films.

“I am so grateful to Minato City for holding a public reading of my husband’s essays and a film screening party some years ago. They allowed me to enter the hall discretely, so as not to make a fuss”.

“The Olympic Games are going to be held in Tokyo, and it’s going to be too crowded for me. So, I will go to stay in a hotel owned by a relative in Tateshina. What do I think of Tokyo Tower? I didn’t see it during its construction, and I’ve never been inside. However, to look at, I like Tokyo Tower better than Sky Tree”.

Her serene and warm-hearted nature really comes across in “Mrs. Yoshiko in Azabu – A Human Story”. Specifically, the essay “Yoshiko-san living earnestly” from her husband’s book “Kaze ga Fuitara” (When winds blow), describes her character. If you are interested, please go to Azabu Library and have a read!

● Research Support
Minato City Library in Azabu

(Interviewed by Kumiko Omura and Jitsuzo Horiuchi, Written by Kumiko Omura)



(Upper) The “Mr. Ryo Ikebe Book Shelf” corner in the Azabu Library
(Lower) The “Patient Narrative” corner, also donated by Mrs. Yoshiko Ikebe

Do you know that a Goddess exists in the Azabu Regional City Office?

"The Local Community"

地域社会
の
ゆくえ

25



Exhibited in front of "Musashino-Zu" Wall Painting



Her name is "Jomon no Megami" (Goddess of Jomon). From the front entrance of the Azabu Regional City Office and across the courtyard on the far wall, you'll see the painting "Musashino-Zu" (introduced in "Fascinated by Artistic Azabu" in "The AZABU No. 46"). In front of that there is a statue made of pale red clay: A beautifully well-proportioned woman with a small head, but so unique, different and unexpected. This enigmatic figure stands perfectly still, beyond space and time. This statue is here for people to see something important from the culture of the middle Jomon period, 4,500 years ago in Japan. This statue is a replica of a "Dogu" clay figure that has been designated as a National Treasure. It was donated by Funagata Town, Mogami District, Yamagata Prefecture, and dedicated to the friendship between Azabu and Funagata.

National Treasure "Jomon no Megami"

Dogu "Jomon no Megami", designated as a National Treasure

I suddenly realized how fascinated I had become with the well-proportioned, beautiful physique of this statue, totally different from that of other Dogus. The mysterious shape of her head is very remarkable, and no one knows if we are looking at a hairstyle or some sort of headgear. The original statue was excavated in August 1992, from the "Nishino Mae Remains" in Funagata Town, Mogami District, Yamagata Prefecture. It appears to have been made in the middle Jomon period, and was discovered in five pieces within 6 meters from each other over a three-day period. It is regarded as the largest Dogu ever found in Japan. From an academic review: "It is an excellent piece that shows us the best and ultimate shape finally reached, which is the representative material of the Middle Jomon Period, and therefore extremely valuable, culturally and academically", it was designated as a National Treasure on September 6, 2012. At that time, four other Dogus including the "Jomon no Venus" (Venus of Jomon), excavated from the "Tanabatake Remains", and "Kamen no Megami" (Masked Goddess), excavated from the "Nakappara Remains" in Chino City, Nagano Prefecture, were also designated as National Treasures. Their unique physiques and facial expressions really kindle our imagination.

The replica of the "Jomon no Megami" statue is on permanent exhibition at the Local History Museum in Funagata. The other replica statue is quite big, 2.25 meters tall, which is five times bigger than the original. This replica was erected on the "Megami no Sato" site at the Nishinomae Remains, which has a powerful effect on the people who see it. The original Dogu is in the collection at the Yamagata Prefectural Museum.

What is the Jomon Period, and what is a Dogu?

The Jomon period lasted a very long time; about 13,200 years from about 16,000 years ago around the end of the paleolithic period, to about 2,800 years ago based on AMS (accelerator mass spectrometry) (*1). Archeological evidence has been discovered all over Japan. The Jomon people are thought to be the direct ancestors of the Japanese people, both culturally and ethnically. The most representative artifacts generally unearthed are "Jomon-shiki Doki" straw-roped pottery and Dogu. The Jomon Period continued until farming methods arrived from the Asian continent, and then the Yayoi Period began.

The Jomon Period marks a huge change in Japan, where people went from a nomadic existence to permanent agricultural settlements. "Pit dwelling" became common, and people gathered together in what they called a "mura", or village. Around each "mura", there was a "hara", a field enclosure for edible plants and animals, used as their food storage. They worked obsidian to make arrowheads, and hunted animals using hunting dogs. They also collected and stored an abundance of nuts and shellfish, and caught fish in the rivers and the sea. The Nishikubo Hachiman Shell Mound and the Isarago Shell Mound are close to the Azabu area, which tells us a lot about the lives of the people and the terrain at that time. They crossed the sea with log boats and reached island peoples, creating a network of bartering. There is no evidence of any natural disasters around that time, so we imagine that the people lived in harmony and peace. Perhaps they had an orderly society based on mutual aid and coexistence, in which they valued and helped each other.

They made the unglazed statues of human and animal figures, which are called "Dogu". The exact purpose of Dogu is unknown.

Even more amazingly, they developed a system of writing called "Oshite", which consists of 48 characters, and is regarded as unique to Japan. Long and comprehensive documentary records have been found. The unique culture of the Jomon period and their enigmatic Dogu statues are recognized internationally. The words "Jomon" and "Dogu" are regarded as international special terms.

Funagata Town : Hometown of "Jomon no Megami" and "Waka Ayu" (young sweetfish)

Funagata Town is located at the south end of Mogami District, in the north east of Yamagata Prefecture. This town with an area of about 119.04 km², is almost completely surrounded by mountains. The town emblem design is based on a boat and their local color is pale blue.



Shoulder width: about 17 cm
Abdominal depth: about 7 cm
Inside leg length: about 15 cm
Weight: about 3.155 kg



On the 1st page of "Minato Kara" (From Minato City) Minato City Nationwide Collaboration Information Magazine No. 2 (*2)

On the 2nd page of "Minato Kara" (From Minato City) Minato City Nationwide Collaboration Information Magazine No. 2

This project was introduced in the "Koho Minato" (Newsletters from Minato City) issued on September 21, 2019

Leaflet for "Yamagata Prefecture Funagata Town Attractions PR Event" handmade by Funagata Junior High School students

It takes about 4 hours from Tokyo Station to Funagata Station via Shinjyo Station, using Yamagata Shinkansen (bullet train) and JR Yamagata Line.

Their most special product is "Matsubara Ayu, the Queen of Sweetfish", caught from the magnificent Mogami Ogunigawa River. In addition, their mountain grapes and jumbo mushrooms 10 times bigger than what you would find in a supermarket are famous. Funagata Town is a wonderland in winter, covered with deep snow and surrounded by nature. The "Funagata Wakaayu Onsen" hot spring there is famous as "Bihada no yu", getting smooth skin, and the 6 meter-tall "Arasawa no Taki" (Arasawa waterfall) is quite a sight with its two distinct levels. The "Teguramori Shitsugen" (Teguramori marshland) has, among its abundance of wildlife, an endangered species called "Haccho Tombo" (Haccho dragonfly). In this marshland, the huge "Oyasugi" cedar tree lives, with its trunk more than 7 meters wide. At more than 800 years old, it has been designated as one of the natural monuments of the prefecture. There are even more amazing things to see there, like the place called "Hamaguri Numa" (clam swamp), where clam fossils can be excavated. This is because once upon a time many thousands of years ago, this area used to be part of the sea. In the Edo period, Basho Matsuo, a famous haiku poet, visited this place, and when he saw the area from the Sabaneyama Toge mountain pass, he composed the haiku "Kaze no Ka mo Minami ni Chikashi Mogamigawa" (A gentle south wind blows. It is cool and I am very comfortable. This cool breeze has come over the Mogami River). The scenery here is breathtaking without question, especially in view of the Mogami River. A stone tablet inscribed with this haiku poem was erected here.

We can enjoy many fascinating attractions such as the National Treasure "Jomon no Megami" and it's mysterious and magnificent nature—things we don't have in Azabu.

Azabu and Funagata Thanks to the fruitful efforts of the Higashi Azabu Shotenkai (Merchants' Association) and the people of Funagata Town

A person living in Higashi Azabu had a wish that "it would be great that other people know what a wonderful place my hometown Funagata Town is". His wish came true and this notion had come to share with the Minato City Board of Education and the local government of Funagata Town. The friendship exchange between the two towns began when children from Iigura Elementary School and Funagata Town school children visited each other in 1973. That summer, Iigura Elementary School students went to Funagata Town, and that winter, the children of Funagata Town went to Iigura Elementary School. They continued to do homestays with each other for two nights and three days every year until 2003, the year before Iigura Elementary School closed down.

- A booth for Funagata Town products has been set up at the "Kakashi Matsuri" Festival along the Higashi Azabu Shopping Street (Azabu East Street) every year since 1986.
- In 2005, some local people in Higashi Azabu restarted the children's friendship exchange that was discontinued due to Iigura Elementary School closing down. They call it the "Higashi Azabu Summer School in Funagata".
- In 2007, some local people from Higashi Azabu and other volunteers established the "Higashi Azabu Community Development Council" and they agreed on the "Earthquake Evacuation Agreement" with Funagata Town.
- In 2008, Minato City created the "Basic Agreement for the Friendship Exchange between the Store Association and a Sister Town" with Funagata Town, for the mutual assistance for local areas and the promotion of shopping districts as part of a Nationwide Collaboration Project in Japan.
- In 2015, the "Azabu Area Summer School in Funagata" was inaugurated. This event has been held every year for a few days between the end of July and the beginning of August. Students in elementary school or junior high school living in the Azabu area and their guardians are eligible for this. 40 people stay at the Funagata Waka Ayu Onsen (hot spring) (Ayukko Mura Cottage) for two nights and three days to experience nature in Funagata Town.
- On December 10, 2017, Mr. Takei, the Mayor of Minato City, visited Funagata Town to share some ideas regarding friendship exchange and mutual cooperation, with Mr. Tomihiro Mori, Mayor of Funagata Town.
- On January 23, 2019, Mr. Mori, Mayor of Funagata Town came to the Azabu Regional City Office to offer thanks for the presents and donations from Azabu when they twice had disasters due to heavy rain in August 2018. He, in return, donated to the people of Azabu a replica of "Jomon no Megami". This was to say "thank you" and also to strengthen the mutual bond between the two places. At the presentation ceremony the replica was presented to Mr. Ariga, Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office. The showcase for the replica Dogu was completed in July and the replica was erected where it resides today.
- On November 6, 2019, 48 second-year students from the Funagata Junior High School held the "Yamagata Prefecture Funagata Town Attractions PR Event" in the 1st floor lobby of the Azabu Regional City Office as part of their school trip activities. They promoted and sold agricultural products, with their farming experience on display. It was very successful, and all the

products sold out within 30 minutes. In the restaurant "Sasara" on the second floor, lunch was offered using special new rice and mushrooms donated by farmers in Funagata Town.

To truly know each other is not only about friendship, but also mutual support and cooperation at the time of disaster. We wish their friendship exchange and partnership bonds to become even stronger in time.

*1 AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) Method (Radiocarbon Dating)
Using this dating method, the carbon-14 included in the biosphere is measured using the year of 1950 as the starting point, when no nuclear experiment was performed.

*2 "Minato Kara" (From Minato City) Minato City Nationwide Collaboration Information Magazine
This magazine informs us about attractions in places in sister towns of Minato City all over Japan, as well as projects related to Minato City's "Nationwide Collaboration" inside and outside of Minato City.

● **Research Support**

Mr. Takahiro Mizoguchi, Nationwide Collaboration Promotion Subsection, Planning Section, Planning and Management Department, Minato City

Mr. Takayoshi Tashiro, Chief of General Administration Subsection, General Administration Section, Minato City Azabu Regional City Office

Mr. Natsuki Komine, General Administration Subsection, General Administration Section, Minato City Azabu Regional City Office

● **References:**

"Retto no Kokogaku Jomon Jidai" (Archeology of Japanese Archipelago in the Jomon Period) written by Takeshi Noto, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha

"Yamagata-ken Funagata-machi. Kanko Annai Funatabi travel - Jomon no Megami to Waka Ayu no Sato" (Tourist Information of Funagata Town Yamagata Prefecture: Boat Trip to the Hometown of Jomon no Megami and Waka Ayu)

"Yamagata-ken Funagata-machi. Waka Ayu to Kodai Roman no Sato - Funagata" (Funagata Town, Yamagata Prefecture; Hometown of Waka Ayu and Ancient Romance - Funagata) published by Funagata Town Office

"Jomon no Megami to Waka Ayu no Sato: Funagata-machi tte Konna Machi" (Hometown of Jomon no Megami and Waka Ayu: Funagata is such a Town)

"Koho Funagata" (Public Relations Funagata) issued in Dec. 2017 and Nov. 2018

"Minato Kara" (From Minato City) Minato City Nationwide Collaboration Information Magazine issued by Minato City Office

DVD
"The History of Friendship and Bridge to the Future - Minato City, Tokyo and Funagata Town, Yamagata -"

Our Field Trip

3

Adults and Children
Looking and Learning Together!Our report on a talk we attended, a Lecture Series titled
“An Architect, W.M. Vories and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin girls’ school”

Lecturer: Mr. Tomoyuki Serino Advisor to W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha Venue: The Graduate School of Toyo Eiwa University



Mr. Serino's lecture was for me like reading a beautiful and colorful storybook, and in fact he presented around 100 images to us on slides. He also told the audience that articles on Vories had featured several times in past issues of "The AZABU".



● Mr. Tomoyuki Serino

After working for W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha, he is now an advisor to this company. He is also a part-time researcher for OMI Brotherhood, Ltd. He continues to espouse the charms of Mr. Vories on NHK Culture, the YMCA and other YMCA universities and various organizations.

Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin was established in 1884 by a woman who was a missionary from the Methodist Church of Canada. It is understood that the reproduced tasteful exterior design of the school building based on that of the old school building built in 1933, standing on the Toriizaka Slope, is another example of the architect William Merrell Vories' work. There are some other buildings designed by Vories in places around Azabu, and we have been continuing to do research on them.

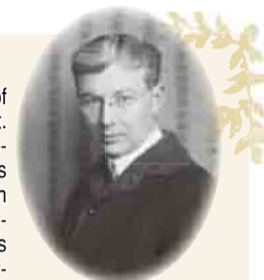
The Muraoka Hanako Memorial Lectures were held commemorating the 135th anniversary of Toyo Eiwa and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the University. Mr. Tomoyuki Serino delivered the third lecture, and told us not only about the relationship between Vories and Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin, but also about how Vories' business developed. His great success here in Japan was largely because of the personal relationships he developed as a missionary roughly between 1888 and 1898 after he came to Japan. Part of that is described here.



The Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Headquarters and University Building where the lecture was held: This building was completed based on reproductions of Vories' design in 2003.

What kind of person was Mr. Vories?

Vories was born in 1880 in the state of Kansas in the US, and grew up in Flagstaff in Arizona, a place of great natural beauty. Later, he went on to study in Colorado College, aiming at becoming an architect. However, he was so impressed by a lecture given by a woman missionary at that time, he decided to devote himself to missionary work in foreign countries. He came to Japan in 1905, and began his life here as an English teacher at Shiga Prefectural Commercial High School (presently Shiga Prefectural Hachiman Commercial High School), and began his own bible class as well. However, Vories was destined for greater things, and founded an architectural design company close to present day Omi Hachiman. The business was successful, and he used some of the profits to support his missionary work. His wife was Makiko Hitotsuyanagi, a daughter of Viscount Hitotsuyanagi. Vories became a naturalized citizen in Japan in 1941 and changed his name to Mereru Hitotsuyanagi. He passed away in 1964.



A portrait of Vories perhaps in his late 30's. Image provided by W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha

Seed planted in Azabu by the Methodist mission from Canada

Vories became well known for his work as an architect, but he was also an active evangelist for the Christian Church. (*) Mr. Serino amended the lecture title to "W.M. Vories, an Evangelist, and Methodist mission from Canada" (**) and started his lecture.

First of all, he went back to the time just before Vories was born. When the persecution of Evangelization in Japan ended in 1873, many missionaries started coming here (***). The Meiji Government began programs requiring Japanese students to learn English from native English speakers to negotiate with people in foreign countries, and to promote the modernization of Japan. Many missionaries worked as English teachers all over Japan to supplement their missionary work and volunteer activities.

George Cochran and Davidson MacDonald were sent here by the protestant Methodist Church of Canada, and arrived in Yokohama in 1873. MacDonald was assigned to an English school in Shizuoka, and devoted himself to establishing a Shizuoka Church. Three years later, Charles Samuel Eby came to Japan and established the Kofu Church in Yamanashi Prefecture and the Hongo Chuo Kaido Church in Tokyo.

As you can guess by now, there is a connection between these men and the people of Azabu. In 1882, Martha Julia Cartmell was sent here by the Woman's Missionary Society of Canada. Two years later, she established Toyo Eiwa Jogakko (present Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin). She was appointed as the first Principal, and also worked as a teacher. Hanako Muraoka was the famous translator in Japan of the "Anne of Green Gables" series, and she graduated from Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin. Hanako was born in Kofu in Yamanashi Prefecture, in 1893 and was baptized in her early childhood. As a young girl, she became deeply absorbed reading books in the Kofu Church library. Also, George Cochran and the other men already mentioned, established the Toyo Eiwa Boys School in Torii-zaka in the same place as Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Girls School. Later, this school changed its name to Azabu Jinjo Chugakko Junior High School, without religious

affiliation. The name changed once again to the present day Azabu Gakuen in Moto-Azabu.

To summarize his lecture so far, we learned that missionaries were deeply involved in the modernization of Japan, and the seeds planted by the Methodist Mission from Canada influenced many people. Our interest in this has really increased.

Vories and Karuizawa A Dynamic Human Networking and Business Development

Finally, the subject of Vories was addressed in his lecture. He was sent to Japan in 1905 by the YMCA (****), and began working as an English teacher at Shiga Prefectural Hachiman Commercial High School in Omi Hachiman. He added his own bible class to his activities on an individual basis. Vories was blessed with a warm and friendly disposition, and soon had many students in his class. However, because the people in the Omi Hachiman area were very conservative at that time, the Board of Education requested him to voluntarily refrain from holding his bible class, so he resigned as a teacher. In 1907, he became involved with a construction job for the Kyoto YMCA Hall as a proxy construction supervisor. He realized he was being given a chance to realize his dream to become an architect, so he established an architectural design supervision office.

Daniel Norman was a missionary sent by the Methodist Mission from Canada, and he was introduced to Vories by G. S. Phelps who was an Honorary Manager of the Hall. Norman played a central role in the establishment of the Karuizawa Union Church and the Karuizawa Summer Residents' Association (*****). For Vories, this encounter with Daniel Norman was extremely important, because Karuizawa was at that time a summer resort where missionaries and their families gathered for two months a year from all over Japan. Everybody was accepted by the Karuizawa Union Church and the Karuizawa Summer Residents' Association, regardless of denomination. Vories' friendships with many missionaries and their associates had only deepened with time, and he found many clients through his personal network. He opened his office along the present day Kyukaruizawa

Ginza Dori Street. They say that from morning and throughout the day, a steady stream of clients kept coming to his office. He put an ad for his architectural design office in the August 1907 issue of "The Japan Evangelist", an information magazine for missionaries. We can see that he was a very motivated businessperson.

As he developed his architecture business, he worked on churches, mission school buildings, dormitories and houses all over Japan, and was continuously busy. He and his staff members designed for 1,487 buildings before the World War II, and the number grew to more than 2,200 after that. The Toyo Eiwa Jogakko school building was one of them and constructed in 1933. Interestingly, Vories was not just an engineer. When he met with clients he would immediately make a sketch of the building, and then draw up a plan based on the most recent information and drawings obtained from the US provided for by his very capable staff. So to be precise, the buildings we now call "Vories Architecture" are buildings created by the group of capable people Vories brought together.

Such details regarding Vories' career development and his excellent business skills are not widely known. Now, a much clearer image of the man and his remarkable life has emerged before us.

The story continues into the future.

Mr. Serino then went on to detail Mr. Vories' story regarding his marriage, his friendship with Ms. Asako Hirooka, a famous businesswoman, and stories from after the Second World War. He also told us the story of the discovery of the Karuizawa cottage owned by Ms. Hamilton, a former Principal of Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, and the renovation work the building is recently undergoing. We found out that even now, every year students from Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Primary School visit Omi Hachiman as a part of a school trip.

Mr. Serino's passionate lecture lasted for two hours, and ended with his beautiful words "Let's together put a bookmark between the pages of today's 135 anniversary". It is Mr. Serino's profound wish that the stories about Vories are not confined to the past, but continue into the future.

By the end of Mr. Serino's lecture, I had developed quite an interest in all of this, and before I headed home I visited the Nishimachi International School building and the Azabu Nanbuzaka Church he designed. I am very familiar with these buildings, but now I can see them much more clearly and I feel somehow a bit closer to Vories himself. I hope with my article that what he has left us will remain in the hearts of as many people as possible.

(Lecture Date: December 14, 2019)

*1 Evangelist: A Christian who voluntarily does missionary work without belonging to any organization, and with the purpose of doing missionary work in foreign countries.

*2 Mission: Christian missionary work and its organization

*3 Missionary: Person who is qualified and dispatched by organizations for the purpose of missionary work from Europe, the US and Canada, etc.

*4 YMCA: Abbreviation for the Young Men's Christian Association

*5 The Karuizawa Summer Residents' Association: Missionaries including D. Norman established this Association. This organization did friendship exchanges, event planning, medical treatment and life management in summer in Karuizawa and contributed to missionaries' personal affairs, their comings and goings, and maintained various information exchange networks. Today, "Karuizawa Kai" has taken over this organization.

● Research Support
Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Archives
W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha



OUR KARUIZAWA SUMMER OFFICE

His Architectural Design Supervision Office in Karuizawa was located on the present Mikado Coffee site along the Kyukaruizawa Ginza Dori Street. (Image provided by W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha)



The Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin building was completed in 1933. The scenery is beautiful, featuring the old Toriizaka Slope. (Image provided by Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin)

(Researched by Yukiko Takayanagi and Aki Tanaka: Written by Aki Tanaka)

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

Going up the slopes of Azabu

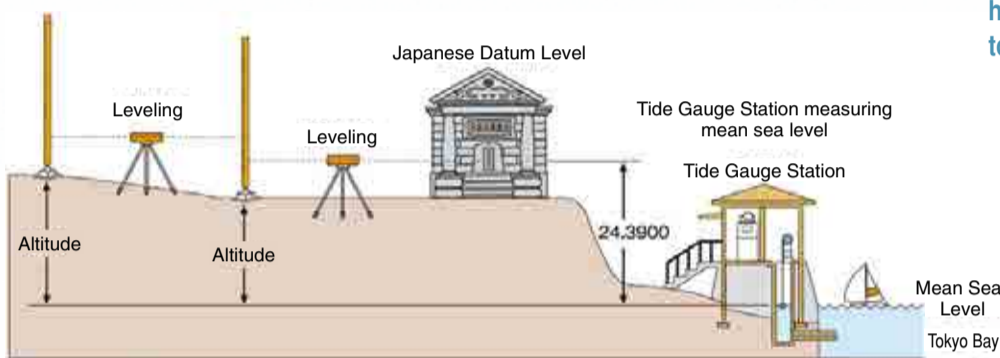
As you may have noticed already, we decided to start indicating the “Hyoko” (altitude) of each slope from the last issue. Many of the editorial staff expressed an interest in this particular bit of information (such as the height of the place we are living), so we decided to start including it.

We also concluded that it might be useful for understanding the slopes in Azabu in relation to each other. We found that this led to a few more questions! Is there any difference between “Hyoko” (altitude) and “Kaibatsu Kodo” (height above sea level)? Where is the highest ground in Azabu, or in Minato City? This might seem off topic, but we would like to pursue this here.

The difference between “Hyoko” (altitude) and “Kaibatsu Kodo” (height above sea level)

The conclusion is that the above two terms are almost the same. They both show the height of the land based on the mean sea level (0m). The word “Hyoko” is used to generally describe the height of a mountain or a point on land in relation to the surrounding terrain. “Kaibatsu” is used in areas close to the sea, often to calculate measures to be taken in times of natural disasters such as tsunamis, etc. For slopes, the word “Hyoko” that shows the terrain, would be used. How is mean sea level measured? It's a bit complicated. We'll skip over the details here, but basically vertical data measurements are taken in relation to tide measurements at the Aburatsubo Tide Gauge Station by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, in Miura City, Kanagawa Prefecture. The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan regularly updates this information, which is not surprising given geological conditions in Japan. The data for actual vertical height from sea level is then calculated at a facility located in Nagatacho 1-Chome, Chiyoda City. The mean sea level is measured at neighboring bodies of water. For example, in Tokyo it is the Mean Sea-Level of Tokyo Bay (Tokyo Peil:T.P.). “Peil” is a Dutch term, which refers to water level data. In plain words, “Hyoko” or “Kaibatsu” is measured regularly and the values are always changing.

Datum of Leveling



Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website <https://www.gsi.go.jp/KIDS/KIDS06.html>

The Highest Place in Azabu

As many of you are aware, a “Hazard Map” shows estimated damage to areas affected by a natural disaster. One of the items of information provided by the Minato City website is quite interesting: (https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/bousai/hazard_map/documents/backside.pdf) That is list of facilities with sea level indicated. On this map the highest ground in Azabu is the “Azabu Sports Field”, at 30.2m above sea level. However, it is not actually the highest ground in Azabu. There are many variables to consider regarding where the highest ground is, so we will take this up later. However, also to be described later, finding such places has become surprisingly easy. For example, exactly how high is a place with a height of 30.2m? It seems to correspond to the 10th floor of a residential apartment. However, it depends. This is because recent construction circumstances have changed. That aside, the Azabu Sports Field is surely located on high ground, because its height is the same as that of a 10th floor residential apartment. By the way, based on what was mentioned above, the highest ground in Minato City would be the Aoyama Nursery School site (35.2m). This is just for your reference because we only have altitude data for ward-owned facilities with an attitude sign, but it gives a rough indication. So, in our quest to understand the lay of the land locally, we can now see why there are many slopes in Azabu.

It is quite easy now!

Recently, altitude can be checked easily using an application on a smartphone. If you are interested, please give it a try. You might be surprised at how many similar types of applications there are. It would be interesting to walk around Azabu searching for the highest place. You might find something new.



Which point is the highest ground?

Height above sea level in the Azabu Area

Name of Building, etc.	Address	Height above sea level (m)
Iigura Nursery School	1-21, Higashi-Azabu	5.1
Higashimachi Elementary School (Back Gate)	1-8 Minami-Azabu	5.1
Higashimachi Elementary School (Front Gate)	1-8 Minami-Azabu	5.2
Minami-Azabu Iki-iki Plaza	1-5, Minami-Azabu	5.8
Iigura Iki-iki Plaza	2-16, Higashi-Azabu	6.1
Minami-Azabu Nursery School	4-2, Minami-Azabu	10.1
Higashi-Azabu Provisional Nursing Facility (Close to the Gate or Wall)	2-1, Higashi-Azabu	11.7
Azabu Iki-iki Plaza	3-9, Moto-Azabu	12.3
Higashi-Azabu Provisional Nursing Facility (In the site or Pillar)	2-1, Higashi-Azabu	15.7
Roppongi Junior High School (Front Gate)	6-8, Roppongi	16.7
Nishi-Azabu Iki-iki Plaza	2-13, Nishi-Azabu	17.0
Kogai Elementary School (West Gate)	3-11, Nishi-Azabu	17.3
Nanzan Elementary School	3-8, Moto-Azabu	18.0

Name of Building, etc.	Address	Height above sea level (m)
Nanzan Kindergarten	3-8, Moto-Azabu	19.4
Kogai Elementary School (Cleaning Equipment Building)	3-11, Nishi-Azabu	20.1
Roppongi Junior High School (Back Gate)	6-8, Roppongi	20.6
Hommura Kindergarten	3-9, Minami-Azabu	23.8
Hommura Elementary School	3-9, Minami-Azabu	24.0
Azabu Regional City Office / Azabu Civic Center	5-16, Roppongi	27.0
Azabu Kindergarten	1-5, Azabu-Dai	27.0
Azabu Nursery School	5-16, Roppongi	27.4
Azabu Elementary School	1-5, Azabu-Dai	27.9
Koryo Junior High School (Front Gate)	4-14, Nishi-Azabu	28.1
Arisu Iki-iki Plaza	4-6, Minami-Azabu	29.1
Koryo Junior High School (Back Gate)	4-14, Nishi-Azabu	29.1
Azabu Sports Field	5-6, Minami-Azabu	30.2

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



5

Embassy Gourmet Booths

During the final spring of the Heisei Era, local embassies entered the Spring Festival held at Roppongi Hills with booths featuring their countries' gourmet food. I visited each booth so I wouldn't miss the chance to experience the "authentic taste" of Spain, Sweden and Argentina, all of which have embassies in the Azabu Area.

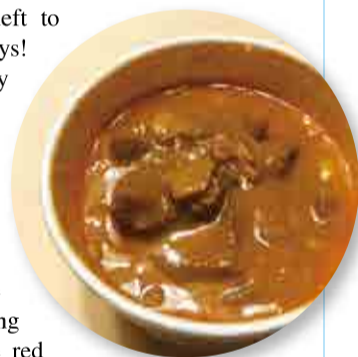


Spain

It is said that in the near future, the Spanish will have the longest average life span in the world, taking away the No. 1 spot from Japan. They say that the secret is that they use an abundance of olive oil, vegetables, fruit and beans. Some Spanish foods were registered in the 2010 UNESCO intangible cultural property list, along with other food found on the Mediterranean coast, including Italian, Greek and Moroccan Food. At this booth, warm dishes selected by Mr. Carlos Berrocal were offered. He is a chef operating a kitchen studio for Spanish cooking in Bunkyo City, and was chosen as an evangelist for authentic Spanish food by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce. There was also gazpacho (cold vegetable soup), uncured ham, olives and a selection of wines to be tried.

Callos con Garbanzos (Stew with chickpeas and beef rumen)

We have become familiar with organ meat represented by Italian tripe. However, this Madrid style stew is an excellent dish that is clearly different from tomato-flavored tripe. Pig's feet, ears, tongues and boneless pork rib are stewed and then, beef rumen and chickpeas are added to it. After that, it is flavored with paprika and left to stew well for five more days! This dish has a remarkably rich taste and a chunky texture. The manager of the Spanish booth, Carlos, explained why this dish was first created, a very long time ago: "In the past when animals were slaughtered for food, the king and the royals got all the red meat. What was left over for the ordinary people were the feet and the organs."



Champiñones al Ajillo

Ajillo (a dish fried in oil and garlic) will likely become popular in Japan. The ingredients are shrimp, chicken and vegetables. They are fried in olive oil with chopped garlic and dried red peppers. This is not like seafood ajillo that has recently begun to appear in Japanese home cooking with some ingredients combined. Generally, they cook "ajillo" with a single ingredient like mushrooms or shrimp. The mushrooms we tried that were flavored with lots of garlic were surprisingly sweet, like fruit compote. A Spanish food importer there tried this ajillo and said lovably, "Spanish food is surely the secret to long life, but taking time to relax often is almost as important!"



Sweden

Sweden is the driving force of the recent Scandinavian boom in Japan. There are many magazines introducing Swedish lifestyle, such as Scandinavian designed furniture, accessories and interior shops. However, the food they eat regularly is not so well known. At the Swedish booth, the Embassy of Sweden Commerce Department entrusted a trading company to introduce the pride of Swedish cuisine. They made two examples of home cooked dishes and cinnamon rolls. They also provided the royal-approved tea, etc., which was served at a Nobel Prize banquet.

Meatballs

Making meatballs is typical of home cooking in Sweden. Ground beef and pork seasoned with allspice (a berry from a West Indian tree that tastes like a blend of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves), is stir-fried with a generous amount of sweet and sour lingonberry jam poured in. Licking the jam off her lips, a lady with her child in a buggy told me, "I have not been able to forget this taste after trying it once in a Scandinavian restaurant". It was quite a heart-warming scene.



Fried Herring

Herring caught in the Baltic Sea or North Sea is an essential ingredient in Swedish cuisine. Raw herring is often pickled in vinegar, or vegetables such as onions are added to fried herring, and marinated as preserves to help the Swedes through the long winter. They provided freshly fried herring with lingonberry sauce on top. Lingonberry is not only good for meat, but also fish and is rich in vitamins, minerals and polyphenols, which is a great antioxidant. These berries grow wild there, and can easily withstand the bitter Scandinavian winters. This super food has really got our attention!



Cinnamon Rolls

Cinnamon rolls actually originated in Sweden. However, they are totally different in appearance and taste from the sugar-encrusted ones, we are familiar with, in Japan. Ms. Keiko Fukukita, a staff member of a Scandinavian food trading company, explained to us how they developed abroad. "A long time ago," she said "immigrants from Scandinavia to the new world made cinnamon rolls to remind them of their hometowns, and they eventually evolved into the American style, that is frosted cinnamon rolls of today. Later, Americans brought them to Japan. Today, this is a great chance for people here in Japan to try the original cinnamon roll". When I tried one, I thought the difference was clear: This is a snack for adults, rather than just a sweet.



Argentina

Argentina is a country in South America, and they really like their meat: Imagine a steak dinner with a glass of Malbec wine, and you get the picture. However, Argentinian restaurants in Tokyo are few and far between. The Embassy of Argentina entrusted Mr. Diego Maehama, who ran an Argentina restaurant in Tokyo, with introducing the meat dishes they are so proud of to the Japanese people. He provided an exciting selection of charcoal-grilled meat, chorizo and beef pie at this booth.

Empanada

The famous "empanada" is to Argentinians what onigiri (rice balls) are to Japanese. It is a fried pie generously stuffed with finely sliced beef. The reason why we say it is their, "onigiri" is because each home has its own style and taste. This easy and simple food can be eaten for lunch or brought to a picnic.



Charcoal-Grilled Bola de Lomo (Rare Cut) and Costilla (Ribs on the Bone)

Unlike Japanese wagyu beef which is heavily marbled, the Argentinians revere cuts of pure red meat. The region of Bola de Lomo is different from that of Costilla, but both like to grill chunks of meat seasoned with salt on a barbecue over charcoal or firewood. According to Mr. Diego, the secret of the taste is "Andes salt and company-secret peppers only." At the Cherry Blossom Festival in April 2019, they could not use Argentinian beef (the import ban was removed in 2018). The beef they used at that time was from an American beef producer that raises cattle in the same manner as in Argentina. The red meat they provided was indeed juicy and very tasty. An office worker near us, who had just finished his day and was busily devouring his barbecue with a glass of wine in one hand, posted on social media, "Even though it is lean red beef, it is very soft!" The boom in eating meat we are seeing nowadays was evident here, as the longest line was in front of this booth.



The Roppongi Hills Spring Festival was supposed to be held from Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 5 in 2020. Four Embassies (Argentina, Ukraine, Cuba and Germany) registered to participate in the Embassy Gourmet Booth event. Considering the outbreak of COVID-19, the event might be cancelled or modified somehow. Please confirm the recent information through the following website (<http://www.roppongihills.com>).

Also at the Autumn Minato City Citizens' Festival, they will have the "World Spirits and Gourmet Promenade" corner. Without going abroad, you can casually enjoy foreign food cultures and authentic tastes provided by famous restaurants, etc., even with your children. Why don't you take this opportunity offered by Minato City, where many embassies are located?

● Research Support
Mori Building Co., Ltd.
Mr. Carlos Berrocal, La Taperia Kitchen Studio ✉ carlos@la-taperia.com
Ms. Keiko Fukukita, Aquavit Japan www.aquavitjapan.com
Mr. Diego Maehama, Costa Latina www.costa-latina.com

(Researched and Written by Kyoko Ideishi)

Information from Azabu Fire Station

Take care not to get heatstroke!

Immediately after the rainy season is over, the hot summer will begin. Heatstroke can occur not only outdoors, but also indoors. Even when you are indoors, pay attention to the room temperature and drink water frequently.



● Take care in your activities!

- Choose to walk in the shade. • Choose to be in cool places. • Take a rest as necessary.
- Decide to go out or not by referring to the weather forecast.

● Choose your clothes carefully.

- Use sweat absorbing and quick-drying clothes. • Loosen your collar for ventilation.
- Use a parasol or wear a cap.

● Manage your living environment.

- Insulate against outside heat (with window shades, reed screens or shading film, etc.).
- Well ventilate your space (with screen doors, wellhole, etc.).
- Use air-conditioners (turn on the AC without hesitation).
- Drink water before you feel thirsty or go out to a hot place.

Inquiries: Fire Protection Management Branch, Fire Prevention Section, Azabu Fire Station, Tel: 03-3470-0119 (ex. 520)

Support in Cleaning Graffiti!

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

Targeted Graffiti:

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

How to provide support:

1. Lending and providing stain erasers and rags
2. Seeking the help of professionals to erase graffiti when it is not possible through the above actions

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

Expense: Free of Charge

Application Procedure:

Contact the Collaboration Project Section of each regional city office or the Disaster Prevention Subsection, Community Safety Promotion Section

* Please contact the Living Safety Subsection in advance

Inquiries: Living Safety Subsection, Disaster Prevention Section, Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Tel: 03-3578-2272
Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office. Tel: 03-5114-8802



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



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

Rules 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.

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

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



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



Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Full of Neighborhood Information! Community SNS App "PIAZZA"
PIAZZA has started! Let's develop "connection" which is useful for your daily life.

* Japanese only

PIAZZA
街のみんで情報交換

地域の情報が集まる
街の中心地

住民、在勤者、お店、行政、街のみんながここに

教えて！お譲りします！など、心温まるご近所付き合い

有事の時も頼れる地域のコミュニティ



Make Your Life Rich Through Connections in the Town

PIAZZA is an Italian word meaning "square" and it's an app which promotes communication of community rooted information informing you about events taking place nearby or exchange of information relevant to your daily life without any special devices necessary.

It has been deployed centering in Chuo ward and Koto ward where there has been an influx of population and is being used especially by families in their 30's to 40's.



It is now being deployed in the Azabu and Roppongi area!

Minato City, Azabu Town Council and local government associations have concluded an alignment agreement with PIAZZA Co. Ltd. which operates PIAZZA under aim of community activation of the Azabu region. "Azabu/Roppongi Area" has become available within PIAZZA from July of this year.

dents and those relevant to the community.

Information useful to daily life such as "a festival will be held", "does anybody need a baby stroller" or "there's a pet café" is currently being sent into PIAZZA. Timely information will be posted from the local administration on crime prevention, disaster prevention and child rearing so for those of you who "just moved and want to know about the community" and "want friends to bring up your children together with", please access PIAZZA once.

Going forward we will aim at further providing community information which can be obtained by anyone through alignment with PIAZZA so that the region and local administration can easily be connected and to be able to create a new approach to communication between resi-



PIAZZA Will Make Your Life in Azabu Much Easier

For example interacting about information regarding life in the town, asking for advice on some problems you might have or even offering things to someone that you're not using anymore Your life in Azabu will become more enjoyable by getting to know more about the town and by connecting with each other. Let us introduce you to some neighborhood postings. Why not try to post something as well?

Events and Lessons

Information on events and lessons are very popular! There's a lot of word of mouth flying about such as "I found something like this!" or "I went and participated!"

A Festival Will be Held!



Reusing Things in the Neighborhood

Reusing big things such as items you used when you were bringing up your children to furniture and electrical appliances. If it's your neighbors, they can come easily to pick it up!

Does anybody want electric appliances?



I'm Looking for Information!

About restaurants that you can go with your children, a delicious cake shop or playground you recommend. Information you want to know is easily available!

Teach me about ways I can enjoy my time with my children.



Information you have will be useful for others! Please register if you want to enjoy Azabu.

Registration Method



- It will be uploaded to the Welcome! posting.
- The town folks will welcome you when you register!
- It's easier to make friends when you enter your birthplace or interest because a connection is born there.

Download the app from here.



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

Going shopping?
Visit our local shopping streets.

Please send us your comments or requests regarding
The Azabu



Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following:
Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).
● Tel: 03-5114-8812 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We are looking for
Editorial Staff

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



AZABU
● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane-bashi subway stations, The Chii 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

Through the "Jomon no Megami" (Goddess of Jomon) research, I was able to learn much more about the Jomon Period I had long been interested in. The Azabu area has many remains, samurai house sites, shrines, temples and embassies, and is truly a "treasure house of history and culture". I would like to make this information magazine, "The AZABU," much more interesting for the people in Azabu, for all their diverse ages and nationalities.

(Misaho Kasho)

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>