

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



Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 25

Statue of a Newspaper Boy

An Image of a Working Class Hero

The "Statue of a Newspaper Boy" by Kyoko Asakura is located on the high ground of an open square in Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park.

The muscular young boy has an intense expression and a clenched fist, showing his determination. He holds a bunch of newspapers in his arm, and looks very impressive indeed.

This bronze statue is the first one made by the "Association for the Protection and Training of Boys who Deliver Newspapers" (*1). More than 60 years have passed since it was erected. The boy emanates an aura of proud independence.

On the back of the statue, there is an engraving describing the purpose behind the creation of this statue.

Day in and day out there is an army of dedicated young men who deliver the newspapers we rely on.

Undeterred by rain, wind or any kind of inclement weather, they continue to display boundless energy.

The figures expressed by Ms. Kyoko Asakura's statues capture their pure and innocent forms.

This statue calls out to young men that have responsibility and pride for their jobs, and the grown-ups around them who love and cherish them for it.

By the "Association for the Protection and Training of Boys who Deliver Newspapers" on May 30, 1958

Speaking of 1958, Tokyo Tower (the Japan Radio Tower) was also completed then. At the time, only 10.4% of households in Japan owned a television set! (*2). However, the number of newspaper boys around then was about 20,000 (*3) in Tokyo alone. Setsuko Takasaki, Chief of the Women's and Minors' Bureau, of the Ministry of Labor of Japan at that time, made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Association and the creation of the statue. She said, "It would be far better that we create a society where all boys and girls have compulsory education, and do not have to work. This is more important than erecting statues" (the April 30th, 1958 issue of the Yomiuri evening paper).

Kyoko Asakura (1925-2016) was the sculptor who created the prototype of the statue. She was the second daughter of Fumio Asakura (1883-1964), a prominent figure in the modern sculpture world of Japan. According to her father's conception of a proper education, she did not receive a formal school education, but a special education as an artist (*4).

Before the prototype of the sculpture was created, she talked about her enthusiasm



The statue of a newspaper boy is on the left at the front, and Equestrian Statue of Prince Arisugawa-no-Miya Taruhito is on the right at the back.



for it. She said, "I want to contrast their boyish enthusiasm and cheerfulness with their dedication. I want the sculpture to encourage working boys when they see it. There are many bronze sculptures of "great men", but there are few sculptures of ordinary working people erected on the street. Also, in that sense, I want to create something new" (the May 27th, 1957 issue of the Asahi morning paper). Around the same time, the public was invited to write something praising these young delivery boys. Out of 553 submissions, the grand prize was awarded, based on the judgment by Japanese famous poets, Yaso Saijo and Hachiro Sato, and the words were engraved on the front side of the base:



You can see the statue of a newspaper boy when you use the Hiroo Side Entrance and ascend to the top of the slope to the Takadai Hiroba (high ground square). If you want to avoid stairs, you should use the entrance close to the Management Office or Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library.

I am a newspaper boy
 I am fast and nimble, always
 with a newspaper in my hand
 You can smell the fresh ink
 I run holding a fresh bunch of
 newspapers
 I am like a marathon runner,
 an always-energetic newspaper
 boy

Song lyrics with three verses, were composed by Isao Tomita, and a record was released.

In the same square, there is another statue called the "Equestrian Statue of Prince Arisugawa-no-Miya Taruhito", which is the symbol of the park. This statue was originally set up on the premises of the old General Staff Office in Miyake-zaka, Chiyoda-ku in 1903. The statue was moved to this park which had deep connection with the Prince Arisugawa-no-Miya Taruhito, because of a road expansion operation in 1962. The equestrian statue was created before the statue of the newspaper boy. However, the newspaper boy statue now has even greater notoriety as a symbol of a working class hero.

The newspaper boys who were teenagers when the statue was set up in 1958, are now in their seventies. I hope the many former newspaper boys and girls are still active and energetic!

(Titles omitted)

- *1 Later, replicas of the same statue were set up in Okayama City, Kyoto City, Hiroshima City and Kobe City.
- *2 This is based on the Consumer Confidence Survey Statistical Table issued by the Cabinet Office. <https://www.esri.cao.go.jp/en/stat/shouhi/shouhi-e.html>
- *3 Based on the most recent data (as of 2019), the number of employees under 18 in newspaper sales offices all over Japan is 939. (Based on Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association Investigation Data) <https://www.pressnet.or.jp/english/data/employment/employment04.php>
- *4 Based on the biography displayed in the Exhibition of "Kyoko Asakura" (Gallery Universe, 1973)

● Research Support:
 Mr. Toshimi Watanabe, Secretary-General, Japan Newspaper Delivery Association

(Researched and written by Kumiko Omura)





Ten years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and five years since the Kumamoto Earthquake:

Do you prepare for a disaster? Do you have any neighbor relationship?

Ten years have just passed since the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 and five years have just passed since the Kumamoto Earthquakes of April 14, and April 16, 2016. With a seismic intensity of seven, these were serious natural disasters! Ten years ago, after the ground of Azabu shook under our feet for almost three very long minutes, what did you discover you needed?

Emergency Supplies? Safe towns you can go back to and regain your peace of mind?
Enough money you keep surviving? Or people around you to count on?

On the night of February 13, 2021, the ground of Azabu shook again for about one minute.
This was actually an aftershock of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

During the course of recovery, the local people and local administrative bodies faced many challenges and difficulties. Rikuzentakata City in Iwate Prefecture was hit very hard by the great tsunami, and even now, 10 years later, most of the area remains empty. We can still see the "Kiseki no Ippon-matsu"[Miracle Lone Pine Tree] from a distance. There is the film "Arigato", based on a true story about the road to reconstruction of Kobe City. It was released all over Japan in 2006, more than 10 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, which was supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and recommended by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. It helped me understand the importance of making earthquake preparation a matter of routine, and also how important it is to have a bond with the local community around me.

Large earthquakes are inevitable in Japan, so local people need to cooperate with their local administration to be prepared in advance. Also, strong bonds with neighbors should be actively encouraged, especially considering the community role in reconstruction. With this in mind, a project titled "Workshop for Community Development for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction" has begun in Azabu.

What is the "Workshop for Community Development for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction"?

In this workshop, participants can simulate the experience of the recovery process from a disastrous earthquake. There is an opportunity to review what needs to be done by discussing various issues among local people, Minato City staff members and specialists. The theme is "How day-to-day living and town life can be restored after major earthquake damage". Twenty participants living, working and/or studying in the Azabu Area gathered together and Prof. Taro Ichiko was invited to speak. He is a lecturer at Tokyo Metropolitan University, and he specializes in Theories for Recovery from Disasters and Urban Disaster Prevention Plans. He advocates for "Community Development for Advanced Reconstruction". The schedule was comprehensive, as follows.

- 1st Session: Guidance: Main Points to Consider Regarding Disaster Recovery
- 2nd Session: Considering Difficulties regarding Disaster and Recovery
- 3rd Session: Considering Important Projects in Town after a Disaster
- 4th Session: Reviewing the Reconstruction Process and Preparation for Recovery

During the 2nd session, Mr. Jiro Mitoya, the Tokyo Minato-ku Branch Manager of Nihon Bosaishikai[the Japan association of



Views of the "Workshop for Community Development for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction"

disaster prevention experts], introduced the "Disaster Emergency Message Service" to participants to communicate with their own family members as supporting to return home after a large-scale earthquake, by showing the leaflet of "Chotto Matte, Issei Kitaku!" [Wait a minute! Do not return home by everyone] (*1)

Each participant came up with issues that are important to the community in a disaster, they realized. These issues were shared and marked on a large map. For example, locations where stone or concrete walls might collapse, where glass might fall from buildings, areas where public order might deteriorate, large spaces such as shrines or temples, where well water is available in Azabu, etc. (*2) Many voiced their concerns, such as "Is there enough space for temporary housing in Azabu?" "If many people leave the area, the neighbor relationship will weaken", etc. The general interaction

Professor Ichiko says:
"During disasters, the daily relationship between people will be very helpful. For example, store staffs will need to cooperate, work together and support the neighborhood association and the residents' association".



(*2) A water well and square useful at the time of disaster (7-7-7, Roppongi): referred from page 3, The AZABU No.50

participants experienced with this workshop itself deepened the bonds between them.

In January 2021 the workshop was suspended, as a "State of Emergency" was announced. Now, as we struggle to coexist with the COVID-19 virus, we realize it would be very difficult that re-starting it again by teleconference using a monitor in place of the workshop where participants can mark something they found out on a spread large map of Azabu.

"Preparation" in the Era of "Coexisting with COVID-19"

Immediately after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the exposure to dust and asbestos caused by collapsed buildings was a serious problem. Now, in the era of "Coexisting with COVID-19", we need to think about how we will deal with this problem as well as prevent COVID-19 infections. According to the results of the experiments conducted by the Virus Center Clinical Research Department at the Sendai Medical Center of the National Hospital Organization, mask effectiveness depends on the material they are made of. A reduction in transmission rates was 90% for non-woven fabric masks, 20 to 30% for cloth masks, and 1% for



Present day Rikuzentakata City in Iwate Prefecture: The "Miracle Lone Pine Tree" survived in the great tsunami, can be seen from all directions.

polyurethane masks. Based on these results, non-woven fabric masks are the best protection. This research also clarifies that mouth guards or face shields are not functionally comparable to masks. However, even non-woven fabric masks need to fit properly to be effective, and completely cover your mouth and nose. (This conclusion was also announced by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) in the US).

Moreover, in this era where we must coexist with COVID-19, a whole new way of living has become necessary. Things like making sure there is always efficient ventilation in shelters for local inhabitants or temporary stay facilities for stranded commuters due to an earthquake. Social distancing needs to be considered as well. For this purpose, the number of people to be accepted in shelters might be decreased. In Minato City, the number of areas designated for "At-home Evacuation" have increased, wherein residents will not need to go to shelters, but can stay home. In case of emergency for now, it's important to be aware of the evacuation places where you can avoid the three Cs: closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places, and closed-contact settings such as close-range conversations.



Based on "Your Guide to Masks" announced in January this year by the CDC in the U.S., improper ways of wearing masks are explained using illustrations.

● Research Support:
Community Development Section, Azabu Regional City Office

Download from here [written in Japanese]



(*1) "Chotto Matte, Issei Kitaku!" How to use the "Disaster Emergency Message Service" provided by individual telephone carriers, prepared in the Top-Level Meetings of the 9 Prefectures and Cities. A download is also available.

Thank you very much

for your participation!

Hashtag Campaign!

AZABU飯

AZABU meshi



👉 You can post from here!

* The campaign period ended on March 15, 2021.

Information from Azabu Regional City Office

“Home Evacuation Guidebook for Use in an Emergency” has been prepared.

Evacuation shelters are no longer the only option in an emergency.

Minato City is currently doing a review of the evacuation spaces for natural disasters. This is one of the measures being taken to designate evacuation shelters appropriate for COVID-19 infection control. Crowded shelters could cause COVID-19 infections to spread, and this issue needs to be addressed.

“Home Evacuation Guidebook for Use in an Emergency” was prepared by the Azabu Regional City Office to prevent overcrowding at evacuation shelters. The guidebook provides a brief summary of exactly what at-home evacuation entails, such as what should be prepared, etc.

A copy of the guidebook is provided to each household of the

Azabu Area. Print copies are also available at the Collaboration Project Section counter of the Azabu Regional City Office and on the Minato City website.

If you are interested in this guidebook, you can read it on Minato City website.

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

“Home Evacuation Guidebook for Use in an Emergency” can be accessed from here.



PIAZZA

街のみんなで情報交換



There is Plenty of Neighborhood Information here: The Regional Information SNS Application “PIAZZA”

The ‘Great Fun for Your Life in Azabu! Network is under development for the Azabu and Roppongi Area! (*)

Local information useful for your daily life in the Azabu Area is provided to answer a variety of questions residents ask. Such as: “When is the next Azabu-Juban festival?” “I’m thinking of giving my electric fan away”, “Please recommend a dentist for children in or around the Roppongi and Higashi-Azabu Area”, etc. These concerns are collected from application users.

Information from the government such as crime or disaster prevention information, local government news, event news, etc. will be posted as appropriate.

Everything such as general interesting information about the area (without having to go out and search yourself!) to specific items like addressing concerns about taking care of children locally can be found on our app called “PIAZZA”.

* In July 2018, in the “PIAZZA” application network about the “Azabu Roppongi Area” was established through the cooperation of three Minato City organizations including the Minato City Azabu Neighborhood.

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

- STEP ①** Download the PIAZZA application.
- STEP ②** Register your name through your mail address or Facebook account.
- STEP ③** Input your name and birthplace and select “Azabu and Roppongi Area”.



Your information will help somebody! If you want to enjoy living in Azabu more, please join in!

Download the application from here.



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

Rules are important, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our aim 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, businesses and concerned administrative organizations, centered on the main themes of “Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities” and “Patrol for Prevention of Street Solicitation.”

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

Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project Eat at home (Stay Home Project)

Take-out and food delivery information of businesses or shops that are recommending or supporting the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind is provided.



Access here for the List of Businesses and Shops

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

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

- Eligibility** Businesses, etc., that are located in, or are active mainly in, the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome, 7)
- How to apply** Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post or bring it directly to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office. Or apply via the Minato City website below.

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

Access here for Letter of Agreement Form

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

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind Search



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

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, Igura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.
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Editor’s Note

My father experienced the Great Kanto Earthquake when he was 2 years old, and my son and I experienced the great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, lots of people prevented from returning home so-called the “Kitaku-konnan” we had never encountered before. After the earthquake, I became a qualified disaster prevention expert through a public service of Minato City. As I review the serious issues created by disasters, I feel strongly that the bonds with the people in our everyday life – especially the general collaboration between the various administrative bodies and the local people – are very important.

(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 8:00am to 8:00pm everyday.
* English speakers are also available.
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