

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



Town's Tips

Our gorilla scarecrow welcomes you!

This is Iikura Fire Station Branch, Azabu Fire Station

The Iikura Fire Station Branch, Azabu Fire Station was introduced on page 3 of "The AZABU No. 48." Visitors are surprised when they arrive at the entrance hall, because they are welcomed by a scarecrow in the shape of a 'Gorilla'! He has become fairly popular nearby. This branch is located at 30-5, 1-chome, Higashi-azabu, close to the Nakanohashi Bridge, under the elevated Metropolitan Expressway Inner Circular Route.

Branch Manager Captain Futoshi Hirai and Mr. Tsuyoshi Fujinami, who is responsible for public relations and held the Matoi (an important symbol since the Edo period deployed at fire sites to indicate that a firefight was in progress) in "The AZABU No. 48," told us some interesting stories.



Captain Futoshi Hirai, Branch Manager of Iikura Fire Station Branch, Azabu Fire Station

Since joining the Tokyo Fire Department in 1982, he has worked in various locations. He was sent to the disaster-stricken area after the Great Hanshin Earthquake as a "special rescue team" first responder. He also joined the rescue activity in Kabukicho, Shinjuku in 2001 when a building caught fire. He took up a post in Azabu Fire Station on April 1, 2016, and the following year, he was promoted to captain of a team. Also he worked as the management subsection chief of the General Affairs Division there, then neither our article of The AZABU No.48 nor No.50(page 2) have existed without him. He was further promoted to branch manager of the Iikura Fire Station Branch on April 1, 2020.

Extraordinary rare fire vehicle the branch has also, really?

Yes! the "ST" which is an acronym for Support Truck. There are only 21 of these vehicles in the 292 fire stations, fire station divisions, and fire station branches within the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Fire Department, so they are very valuable! The Iikura Fire Station Branch is an "important base," and uses its ST to support a much wider area than just Minato City through the Metropolitan Expressway, in addition to the activities of its two fire trucks, the Iikura #1 and the Iikura #2.

Containers with important support materials are always at the ready, and containers appropriate for the particular disaster situation are mounted on the vehicle. Every oxygen tank helps a firefighter which it works on the back of for only 20 minutes, and only four tanks can be mounted on each fire truck. However, more than 40 tanks can be mounted on the ST. It is also equipped with a "decontamination tent" with a shower, water tank, and power generator to wash away chemicals or poisonous gas, should firefighters be exposed to any such chemical or gas. Of course, blankets, plastic rugs, and stretchers are also always ready. This ST is an "invaluable helper" in a disaster.

The Iikura ST went into operation on February 10, 1997; when the Chuetsu Earthquakes in Niigata Prefecture occurred on October 23, 2004, it was dispatched on November 9, along with a four-member emergency fire response team. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011, it was sent to Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture that same day, as one of the first dispatched responders. A total of 12 team members were sent up by the fourth dispatch.

"Watching Over the Town with Devotion"

I asked how firefighters can take action so quickly while ensuring people's safety. Mr. Fujinami said, "Each of us watches over the town with devotion." Wherever they are assigned, they memorize the scenery, the layout of the town, every narrow street, fire hydrant, and building as they go to and from work. They even imagine the equipment they'd need in a disaster, and how they would use it, in order to properly carry out their mission. So, we should not be surprised at how quickly and effectively they work.

Then, he said, "Our infection control measures are not only for COVID-19." In response to my question about their activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, he answered, "We pay close attention to basic hygiene and do what we can to follow basic medical instructions, such as washing our hands, gargling, and wearing gloves and facemasks." They act on the assumption that no site is completely safe.

Collaborators on this article

Azabu Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department
 Mr. Futoshi Hirai, Captain and Branch Manager of Iikura Fire Station Branch
 Mr. Tsuyoshi Fujinami, Fire Lieutenant and Fire Protection Section

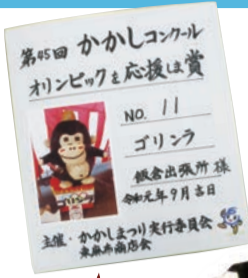
Photos provided by

Azabu Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department

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"Firefighting in Tokyo" issued by the Tokyo Fire Department in March 2021
 Tokyo Fire Department website <https://www.tfd.metro.tokyo.lg.jp>
 Higashi-azabu Shotenkai(Merchants' Association) website <https://www.higashiazabu.com>

(Researched and written by Misaho Kasho)



A long awaited Certificate of Achievement

ゴリンラ (Gorin-lla) at the competition venue of Kakashi Matsuri (Scarecrow Festival).



His name is "Gorin-lla"

Gorin-lla was exhibited at the 45th Kakashi Matsuri (Scarecrow Festival),* held in September 2019 in Higashi-azabu, where the Iikura Fire Station Branch is located. At that time, there was less than a year left before the Olympic Games were scheduled to be held in 2020. The branch staff members focused on the "Gorin" (the Japanese word for the Olympics) with their "Gorilla," and displayed their scarecrow at the festival. Their catchphrase was, "Gorin-lla Ensures The Safety of The Tokyo Olympic Games!" They won, and Gorin-llareceived the 45th Kakashi Competition's Let's Support the Olympic Games Award.

The 21st Kakashi Matsuri was held in 1995, the year the Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred. Every year after that, the branch made scarecrows based on animals such as rhinos or catfish, which are associated with earthquakes. These scarecrows were diligently and wholeheartedly created by the staff of this fire station branch as "one of many activities deeply rooted in the community to protect the area." "Gorin-lla" fitted right in with that, so they won the award and all the staff were overjoyed.

When "Gorin-lla" was placed at the entrance of the branch, passing kindergarten students were thrilled, shouting, "Hey look! A Gorilla"! Gorin-lla soon became very popular. Except for his real fire helmet, Gorin-lla is totally handmade, with a fluffy body created using soft-fleeced cloth. When he was on display at the festival, he was equipped with a fire extinguisher and hose in his right hand. Because the Kakashi Matsuri was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, Gorin-lla is still displayed in the entrance of the fire station branch as the latest scarecrow. However, everyone is also looking forward to seeing new scarecrows in the future.

* The Kakashi Matsuri (Scarecrow Festival) (introduced on page 3 of The AZABU No. 51)

This event is organized and run by the Higashi-azabu Shotenkai (Merchants' Association). It was started to encourage live-in workers who came to Tokyo from the Tohoku area. This community-based Festival is held in the fall every year on "Azabu East Street," and is modelled on the Scarecrow Festival in Yamagata Prefecture.



The Iikura Fire Station Branch under the elevated Metropolitan Expressway

About the Iikura Fire Station Branch

The Iikura Fire Station Branch opened on May 30, 1968, and has 29 staff members: Branch Manager Captain Hirai, the supervisor, and 27 others. It operates on a three-shift basis, with 9 members working each shift. The branch conducts training every morning-no exceptions! When they receive an emergency call, they respond immediately to the command! Depending on the location, even the branch manager will take to the field. During the interview, the branch received a command. Captain Hirai quickly donned all his equipment and headed out the entrance hall door. It took less than 40 seconds from the moment the command was issued to Captain Hirai completely gathering all his equipment! He wore a white helmet with a cherry blossom mark and the character "所" (called "Sho" that means a branch manager) written on both sides. He told us, "Please wait here," and was about to rush to the site, but the command was quickly cancelled and so we were able to restart the interview. It was quite an experience!

The firefighting and ambulance transport services, as well as the rescue activities the fire station staff conduct in disaster-stricken areas, are well known. However, they also carry out proactive fire prevention activities called "Special Precautions for Firefighting." During the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, a few firefighters were dispatched from this branch office.

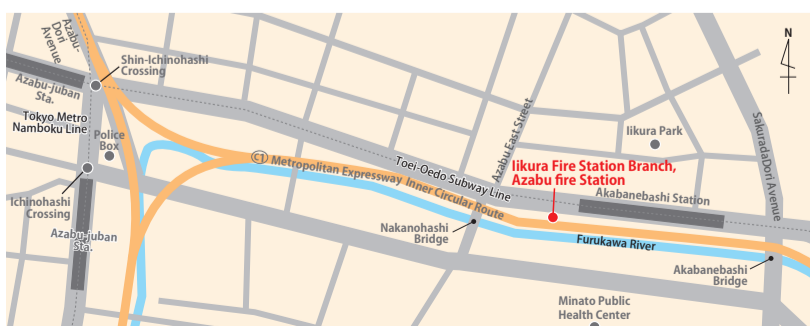


The Iikura ST (Support Truck)



The container is being attached.

It is filled with blankets, plastic rugs, stretchers, and many oxygen tanks!



Iikura Fire Station Branch, Azabu Fire Station
 1-30-5, Higashi-azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044
 Tel: 03-3584-0119

The Tokyo Fire Department's official app

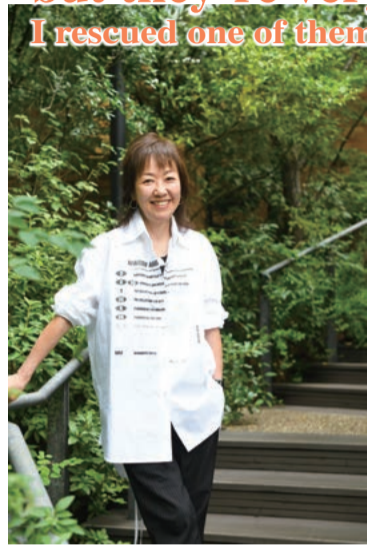




Hundred Views on Work

They may only be cats and dogs, but they're very important to me!

I rescued one of them by hand myself.



Ms. Miyoko Asada

Ms. Asada sang, "Someday, happiness surely comes to everybody," in her song "Shiawase no Ichiban Boshi" [The First Star of Evening Happiness] in 1974. Now, she is fighting for animals so that they can live happily.



Support for the Photo Shoot:
In the "Wind" and "Green" in Akasaka Intercity AIR

Ms. Asada has worked in the entertainment industry for 48 years. She was born and raised in AZABU, and is still based in the same area (Azabu and Roppongi). She graduated from Minato City's Nanzan Elementary School. When she was 17 years old, she made her acting debut in "Jikan desuyo" [It is time!], a nationally popular TV drama. She made her singing debut with the song "Akai Fusen" [red balloon], which was also used in the drama as the theme song. With this, she won the New Artist Award in the Japan Record Awards. When she was 21 years old, she retired from the industry temporarily. After her return, she played several important roles in TV dramas, movies, variety shows, and in the theater. During that time, she became very popular with viewers. However, there is a lot more to her than her public persona! This time, we explore her personal bravery.

Please note that some people may find the photos used here to be distressing. However, they are presented in the interests of animal protection and welfare, with the hope that conditions will improve.

Unless we change the law, there are things we cannot do.

Meeting her pet dog "Avi" 🐾

Ms. Asada gives her heart and soul to her activities at the forefront of the movement to amend the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals. This law comes up for review every five years. I asked her, "How did you become involved with this in the first place?"

"I was living with my mother when she passed away. It was a difficult time, and our dogs were of great support and consolation to me. In time, the dogs themselves also passed away. For companionship, I adopted a rescue dog I called Avi. He had been rescued as a stray. This experience opened up a whole new world to me. In the beginning, I began participating in activities working toward solving the problem of culling, and I found that what really needed to happen was a change in the law. In May this year Avi also passed at the age of 17 or 18, I think. Now, I am living with three other rescued dogs."

Ms. Asada herself visits crumbling breeding sites for dogs and cats being raised by dishonest traders, breeders, and animal hoarders. As she is a genuine dog lover, I imagine that her heart would break when she sees this. Where does her courage and strength come from?

"It's the nasty, awful smell, and the desperate cries of the animals. I cannot get them out of my mind. They are filthy and covered with feces, needing so desperately to be cleaned and washed. However, badly wounded hearts and bodies cannot recover easily. You can see the hopelessness in their eyes. But when we snuggle up to them carefully, taking our time, without doing anything special, their eyes begin to shine with hope. That's why I can continue with this work."



Hellish breeding site conditions. Recently, the number of puppies born with congenital diseases has been increasing. The resulting anxiety and stress, as well as medical expenses for responsible owners, have become huge. Nevertheless, the business cycle of mass production, mass consumption, and mass disposal continues. (Photos provided by Ms. Miyoko Asada)

Three Important Points in the Amended Act of 2019

- 1 Regulation of the trade of cats and dogs less than 8 weeks old (prohibition of the trade of cats and dogs less than 56 days old)**
However, six native Japanese dog breeds (Shiba, Akita, Hokkaido, Kai, Kishu, and Shikoku) are excluded from this: puppies of these breeds can be traded from 49 days old. Puppies are cute and fun to watch as they toddle about, and therefore can be sold for a high price. However, when they are separated from their parents at such a young age the possibility of disease or behavioral problems increases!
- 2 Regulation of numbers (tightening of rearing management standards)**
Concrete values have been specified for the size of rearing cages, space to move about, play or exercise times, the number of bred or traded dogs per manager, the number of births per dog in a lifetime, mating age limits for female dogs, etc. The rules or guidelines for this were previously quite ambiguous.
- 3 Toughening the penalties for abuse**
Animal cruelty is a sign that the perpetrator may be capable of vicious crimes in the future. This should be prevented before it occurs.

Working to change Japan to be more like other developed countries 🐾

The International Animal Protection Ranking branded Japan as an "E" rank¹ country in 2020. Are you optimistic about amendments to the law this time?

"I am not convinced. A transitional period of three years was specified to improve foul breeding conditions. Three years is a very long time for a dog to be locked in a hellish place. However, the 'regulatory criteria' that was previously ambiguous has now been clarified. This is a step forward for us. Unfortunately, reputable business operators and breeders tell me that it is not nearly enough, and that the regulations should be tightened."

¹ Based on ©Animal Protection Index (<https://api.worldanimalprotection.org>)

What issues do you think should be addressed for the next law amendment?

"The main problem is that when a neglected or abused animal needs to be rescued, we cannot intervene unless the owner agrees to relinquish possession of it. Such problematic owners tend to stick to their right of possession. If we had the right to rescue animals in distress according to the regulations, then the system would function correctly. It would be great if the law changes in this way."

"In addition, it would be good if we could amend breeders' licensing systems, etc. In Tokushima Prefecture, we proposed an excellent breeder's certification system to the administration. I think that a certification system for reputable animal protection groups is also required."



There is something each of us can do!

Teaching empathy 🐾

Before COVID-19, Ms. Asada often visited private and public elementary schools to speak as part of the recognized "School of Life" lectures. How do children react when they learn about this?

"After I read from a picture book to the children I'm with, I then discuss the culling problem with them. Some quickly raise their hands and say with indignation, 'When animals are adopted, the new owners should promise to keep them for their lifetime!' We—my friends and I—began speaking about all of this with the idea that we could reach children before moving on to adults. I'm convinced that the children who have attended my lectures will never go on to abuse or abandon their pets."



Working toward a mature pet culture, rather than healing support or cute accessories 🐾

The number of pet owners has been increasing because so many people have had to stay at home due to COVID-19. The boom in cat ownership in Japan has been accelerating like never before. The overall number of cats has increased exponentially, and the number of cats that need to be put down each year is twice that of dogs...

"A while ago, there was a boom in Husky and Chihuahua ownership. Then, almost any rare dog became fashionable, and what happened next? A boom in rare cats has come—for example, the Scottish Fold cat, which are popular because of their 'folded ears' and their propensity to sit in a 'Buddha-like pose.' These cats often develop hereditary diseases, such as osteochondrodysplasia, etc. When these conditions develop, they suffer from severe pain. This is not the story of a healing support animal or a cute accessory."

"The success of the 'Looking for Foster Homes' and 'Adoption Fair' programs has normalized the ownership of rescued dogs and cats. This is now common in Japan. Having a rescued dog or cat is now considered trendy or even stylish. Just as there are still some bad pet shops and breeders (as well as good ones), there are some bad animal protection groups that exist only for money. Wherever you accept an animal from, it is important to get a proper traceability² check."

² This checks whether documentation regarding the origin of the dog or cat is available (point of origin and distribution channel).

What more would you like to tell us about the activities you've been involved in for over 12 years?

"I may not be able to solve the big issues, but at least I can tell people, 'You may think they are only simple cats or dogs, but they are very important to me.' The difference between an abandoned pet and a rescued one is huge. Never abandon your pet."

"Be Kind to Animals Week" was held from September 20 to 26, 2021, organized by the Ministry of the Environment

The Act on Welfare and Management of Animals sets out instructions about the protection of wild animals, environmental preservation, the treatment of animals in animal experiments or in zoos, and rearing and management rules in the meat and dairy industries for livestock used for meat and dairy products, etc. This is all directly linked to everyone's lives. Let's continue to watch over them!



(Researched and written by Mimi S Koike)

● **References**
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"Dorei" ni natta Inu, soshite Neko [Dogs and Cats that Fell into "Slavery"], written by Masahiko Ohta, issued by Asahi Shimbun Publications Inc., in 2019

● **Supported by**
Theatre de Poche <https://www.t-poche.jp/>
Akasaka Intercity AIR <https://www.intercity-air.com/>



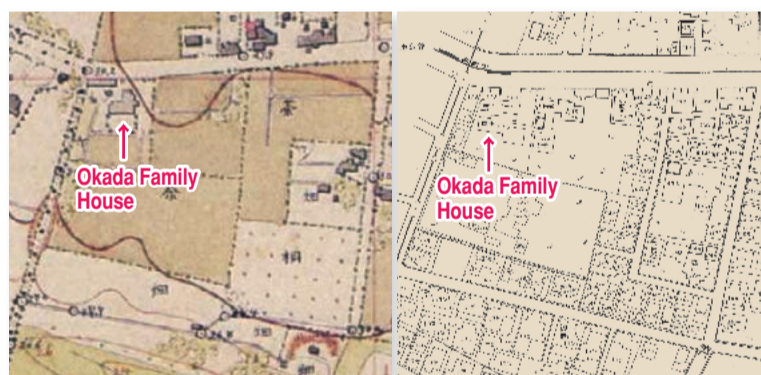
This Western-style building was transferred from Azabu to Gotokuji, Setagaya City in 1933, where its beautiful façade still remains. Last year it was slated to be demolished, but due to the extraordinary efforts of a local preservation group, it was saved. After the building escaped demolition, work on its preservation began, and there were many new findings. Actually, there have been many unsolved mysteries about it for quite some time. The history of this Western-style building and its history in Azabu can be traced back through the lives of four people who are deeply connected to this building.

Tetsuzo Okada (1869 to 1945)

Mr. Okada was a scholar of English literature and is well known as a translator of the “Manyoshu,” Japan’s oldest anthology of poems. He purchased this remarkable building.

In December 1875, six-year-old Tetsuzo moved to 173, Azabu-kogai-cho (currently 4-17, Nishi-azabu, a corner plot where Roppongi-Dori Avenue intersects with Nisseki-Dori Shopping Street). At that time, their house stood alone, and was surrounded by a vast tea plantation (1). Later, another Western-style house designed by Georg de Lalonde was built for Masatake Terauchi, the 18th Prime Minister of Japan, in lot 172 in Azabu-kogai-cho on the east side of their house. The Mitsui Family House was constructed in lot 174 in Azabu-kogai-cho to their immediate south, and this then became a magnificent high-end residential area (2). Tetsuzo worked at Aoyama Gakuin University, about 15 minutes on foot from his house in Kogai-cho.

In 1933, 64-year-old Tetsuzo purchased this Western-style house his family had been living in for himself. As had long been his wish, he had the entire building dismantled, carried using a large hand-drawn cart, and reassembled as his retirement home in Gotokuji. Tetsuzo’s children’s family continued to live at the original location in Azabu (173 Kogai-cho), but after the War, his grandchild inherited the house in Gotokuji.



(1) Kogai-cho, the area in which the Okada Family House stood, 1883
Modified version of the “1/5000 Tokyo Map Original Survey Drawing” issued by the Japan Map Center

(2) Kogai-cho, the area in which the Okada Family House stood (in 1942)
Modified version of the “Fire Insurance Special Map”

Yukio Ozaki (1858 to 1954)

Mr. Ozaki was a politician sometimes referred to as the “God of the Constitution,” and was likely the previous owner.

A Modern Architecture Exhaustive Survey, organized by the Setagaya City Board of Education, was carried out in 1987, and “The Architecture in a Rural setting” (Den-en to Sumai Ten) was held by the Setagaya Art Museum in 1989. Around this time, Tetsuzo Okada’s grandchild owned the building and he participated in an interview survey. He said that according to tradition, “Yukio Ozaki originally constructed this building in Azabu-kogai-cho for his second wife Yei Theodora Ozaki.” “Tetsuzo Okada purchased it for 8,000 yen from Yukio Ozaki.” The map of the surrounding area labels the building as the “Old Yukio Ozaki House,” and it has been called this for a very long time.

However, we cannot find any reference to a “Western-style building in Kogai-cho” in the record of the lives of Yukio Ozaki and Yei Theodora Ozaki. There is no information about the place where the Western-style building was originally constructed, or how Mr. and Mrs. Ozaki used it.

Yei Theodora Ozaki (1870 to 1932)

It is said that this western-style Building was built for her, Yukio Ozaki’s wife.

The story goes that they first met when “Yukio brought over something from the post that had been delivered to him by mistake, due to the fact that they had the same family name.” It was commonly accepted that the place was Akasaka-fukuyoshi-cho. However, their daughter Yukika heard that it was at the Ozaki House in Azabu. This gives us a clue as to where Yei might have lived before they married.

Yei’s father, Baron Saburo Ozaki, married the daughter of a professor while he was studying in England and living in the professor’s house. Their first daughter was Yei. Saburo came back to Japan, leaving his wife and children in England. He subsequently divorced his wife. In May 1887, 16-year-old Yei came to Japan by herself. However,

she did not live with her father’s family; she spent her youth in the house of a missionary in Shoei Jogakko (Shoei Women’s School) in Shirokane-saru-machi, the rectory of St. Andrews Cathedral in Shiba-sakae-cho, and at St. Hilda’s School boarding house (Koran Jogakko, at that time in Azabu-nagasaka-cho). She then lived at the British Diplomatic Mission in Koji-machi from 1891 as the personal live-in secretary of the wife of Hugh Fraser, the British Minister to Japan at the time. She went to Italy with Mrs. Frasers from February 1895. After that, she moved to London and lived with her mother until finally returning to Japan in January 1899. At this time, she became an English teacher at Keio Yochisha Elementary School, then in Mita. She moved on to become a teacher at Shoei Jogakko in September 1902. While she worked for this school, she stayed in the house of Gen Yamawaki, founder of Yamawaki Gakuen, located in Akasaka-hinoki-cho. In 1903, she published *The Japanese Fairy Book*, a translation of Japanese fairy tales in English, and was greatly admired as a writer.

No record of exactly where she lived at this time can be found, but she spent most of her time in Azabu and the surrounding area while she was living in Japan before her marriage. In October 1905, she was married at St. Andrews Cathedral where she spent her youth, and coincidentally, where her husband Yukio had been baptized.



The wedding of Yukio Ozaki and Yei Theodora Ozaki: reprinted from *Shoei Women’s School 100-Year History*



Saburo Ozaki in 1907

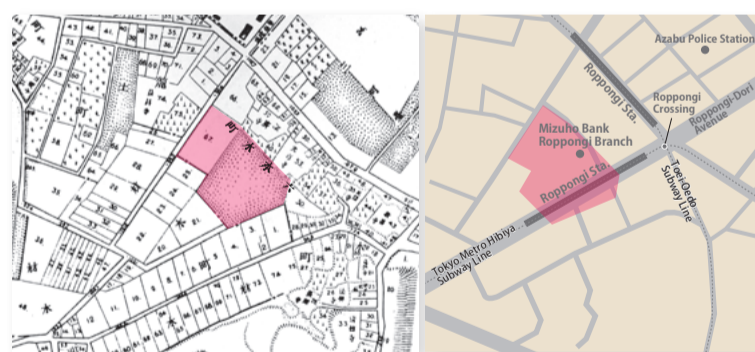
Saburo Ozaki (1842 to 1918)

He held the rank of Baron, was a member of the House of Peers, the father of Yei Theodora Ozaki, and likely the original owner of the building.

During the process of preserving the building, a photo of the building before it was moved was found. Text on the photo describes it as the “Baron Ozaki House” in “Roppongi.” Finally, as the result of a researcher’s investigation, a record showing that Baron Saburo Ozaki originally built his house in Roppongi was found.

Based on a diary written by Saburo himself and on his autobiography, we now know that in 1886 he purchased an area of land of around 2,260 tsubo (about 7,458 m²) at lot 31 Azabu-roppongi-cho (presently 7-15 Roppongi, in the area around the Mizuho Bank Roppongi Branch). He built a more traditional Japanese-style building and a Western-style building on the same lot in 1888. This is a big space, large enough that around 200 guests were invited to seasonal cherry blossom garden parties. He later constructed new buildings and extended and renovated them many times. Saburo proactively purchased other land and buildings in the Azabu area as well. He possessed lots 2 to 4 in Azabu-zaimoku-cho (now 6-2 Roppongi, around the Old Azabu Police Station), an area of about 630 tsubo (about 2,079 m²); the lot at Aoyama-minami-machi 1-Chome (now 1-24 Minami-aoyama, around the TOTO Nogizaka Building), an area of about 445 tsubo (about 1,468.5 m²); and lot 67 in Azabu-ryudo-cho (now in the area of 7-12 Roppongi), an area of about 600 tsubo (1,980 m²). He also leased land and houses. In March 1904, immediately after the start of the Russo-Japanese War, he provided “some new buildings for rent, that have not been leased yet” for the 42 soldiers of the Third Regiment of the First Division. The house of Nobumori, the first son of Saburo, and the house of Masamori, the fourth son, were both located in Azabu-ryudo-cho.

One of the many houses owned by the Baron Ozaki family around the Roppongi area was likely passed on to Tetsuzo Okada through Mr. Yukio Ozaki and Mrs. Yei Ozaki, the daughter of Baron Saburo Ozaki. The documents we have verified up to now are not conclusive, but when this Western-style house becomes better known and more comprehensively researched in the future, we hope that more stories revealing the history of this place during its time in Azabu will come to light.



Estimated size of Saburo Ozaki’s house and premises, around 1887
Reprinted from the “Additional Minato City Modern History Map: Azabu and Roppongi” and modified

Current map: Saburo Ozaki’s house and premises were located around here

There used to be many fascinating Western-style buildings in Azabu, but there are only a few left now. The Western-style building in Gotokuji is also an important treasure for the people in Azabu. Meanwhile, the “Former Ozaki House Preservation Project” is privately funded. Project members work tirelessly to preserve the building. There is a lot of work ahead, and such things as maintenance fees, etc. are daunting. If there are people who are interested in this Western-style building and would consider supporting its preservation, we would be very happy to hear from them.

● **Main References**

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- “Report addressed to the Mayor of Setagaya City, dated August 7, 1990,” written by Sumiko Ebara / *Became the Owner of the Oldest House in Setagaya City*, 2021, written by Kazumi Yamashita
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- *Ozaki Saburo Jijo Ryakuden* [Brief Autobiography of Saburo Ozaki], 1977, both written by Saburo Ozaki
- *Tokyo Shi Oyobi Setsuzoku Gunbu Chiseki Daicho* [Cadastral of Tokyo City and Adjacent Counties], 1912, issued by Tokyo Shi-Ku Chosakai [Tokyo City Investigating Committee]

● This article was written with the cooperation of Former Ozaki House Preservation Project (<https://www.facebook.com/ozakiyukiohouse>)

(Researched and written by Ayako Yamaki)

麻布の軌跡

The Historical Footsteps of Azabu

The Old Ozaki House

Information from the Azabu Regional City Office

あざぶ達人ラボ Azabu Experts LABO

A book about exploring the charms of Azabu has been published!

There's a new book titled Azabu Town is full of charms. In this book, you can read all about the activities of the regional operations team "Azabu Experts LABO" (originally called the "Azabu Experts Club"). They began their mission to explore and spread the word about the charms of Azabu in 2008, and their efforts have been compiled in five amazing chapters. This book is being distributed by the Azabu Regional City Office, and is available at the Collaboration Project Section counter.

- Chapter 1: Architects and Buildings Associated with Azabu
- Chapter 2: The Charms of Azabu, from a Topographical Point of View
- Chapter 3: The Town of Azabu as Described on a Map
- Chapter 4: Regional Cooperation with Azabu KARUTA (Game Cards)
- Chapter 5: An Invitation to Walk Around The Town

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



"The Guidebook for Home Evacuation in an Emergency" is here!

There are more choices than just evacuation shelters!

Minato City has reduced the number of evacuees that can be accepted at evacuation shelters in order to control infections.

So, we all need to recognize the importance of "home evacuation," or sheltering at home during an emergency. For this reason, the Azabu Regional City Office has prepared the "Guidebook for Home Evacuation in an Emergency" as a way of recommending home evacuation in emergencies in order to control infections. This guidebook outlines important details regarding safety at home during a disaster, telling us exactly what home evacuation means, what we should prepare, etc.

The guidebook is being distributed to each household in the Azabu area, and you can also pick one up at the Collaboration Project Section counter at the Azabu Regional City Office.

More details about the guidebook can be accessed through the Minato City website.



Evacuation shelters can become overcrowded.

You can read the guidebook by accessing our website using this QR code.
 Minato City website <http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>



Guidebook for Home Evacuation in an Emergency



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



Information from the Metropolitan Tax Office

There is a system for the reduction, exemption, or postponement of city tax payments for victims who have suffered extensive damage due to disasters.

There is a system for tax mitigation (a tax reduction or exemption) for anyone who has had property, etc. damaged significantly due to a disaster. It applies to the amount the person has been taxed, before the due date for payment. There is also a system through which tax offices can offer a grace period for tax payments under certain conditions. This is applicable to real estate tax, city planning tax (23 wards), real estate acquisition tax, personal business tax, etc. As a general rule, taxpayers need to apply by the due date for payment (excluding real estate acquisition tax). Please apply at the Metropolitan Tax Office with any documents proving specific disaster damage.

Inquiries: Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office
Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

City taxes can be paid through a smartphone payment app

Life has become more convenient because the number of mobile payment apps that can be used to pay taxes from your smartphone have increased. The barcode on the payment slip can be read by the app, and your city tax can be paid anywhere, anytime. For more details, access the website for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation.

https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/common/tozei_nouzei.html#L16



Be wary of criminals posing as Metropolitan Tax Office staff!

There have been cases where criminals posing as Metropolitan Tax Office staff have attempted to obtain personal information and/or cheated people out of their money. If you receive a telephone call from a suspicious number or a person claiming to be from the city office, you should hang up the phone immediately. Then, contact the team below. If you ever fall victim to something like this, immediately contact the police.

Inquiries: Consultation and Public Relations Team, General Affairs Section, General Affairs Department
Tel: 03-5388-2925

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 Akabanebashi 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
- | | |
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Editor's Note

I was in a taxi, and suddenly the driver turned and said, "Congratulations!" At that moment, from the window, I saw the Olympic flag, with its five rings neatly arranged. "Ah, they chose Tokyo," I thought. I was in Istanbul at the time, another candidate city for the 2020 Summer Olympics. Watching the five rings swaying in the breeze, I thought to myself, "In Tokyo, I'll be able to watch the Games!" I remember looking forward to it with great optimism, which seems a long time ago now. When the Olympics are held in LA in 2028, I hope that we will be able to reminisce with a smile about the 2020 Tokyo Olympics we finally had this summer. I truly hope so.

(Mai S.)

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.

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>