

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



## 100 years have passed since the Great Kanto Earthquake!

### What Actually Happened, The importance of Passing Down from Generation to Generation

The Great Kanto Earthquake suddenly impacted the Kanto Area on Saturday September 1st, 1923, the 12th year of the Taisho Era. Thirty-seven years later, September 1st was designated as the "National Disaster Prevention Day". This year is the centennial memorial year of the Great Kanto Earthquake. So now, we will give an overview of the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. And as for the Great East Japan Earthquake, it will be described together with the stories from three firefighters working at Azabu Fire Station.

#### The Great Kanto Earthquake

The "Taisho Great Kanto Earthquake" occurred at 11:58am on Saturday September 1st, 1923.

The epicenter was Sagami Bay. The magnitude was M7.9, and the maximum seismic intensity was "6" on the seismic intensity scale in use at that time. On the scale we currently use it would be a "7", based on the degree of damage. The meters at the Central Meteorological Observatory Observation Room and the Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, went right off the scale. It felt like they were caught in a sudden hurricane on a small boat.

The number of completely destroyed or seriously damaged houses was about 160,300 in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Shizuoka, Yamanashi and Ibaraki Prefectures. A significant number of government office buildings and famous buildings were totally or partially destroyed immediately by the earthquake, or burnt down as a result of it. In some downtown areas, about 85 to 100% of the buildings burnt down because of chemicals that spilled out from factories, research centers or pharmacies, which had caught fire. This earthquake was also called the "Taisho Great Earthquake Fire" because 95% of the 104,600 victims burnt to death over the subsequent three days in the huge fires that followed.

In an area of 20,430 tsubos (67,537m<sup>2</sup>) on the former site of the Hifukusho-ato in Yokoami-Cho, Honjo-ku

(presently Sumida City), flames spread quickly across about 40,000 refugees' households, killing about 38,000 people. In Azabu-ku, there was almost no fire but 185 casualties. 6.5% of Akasaka-ku burnt down, causing 142 deaths. 25.7% of Shiba-ku burnt down causing 494 deaths.

In Atami and Ito areas in Shizuoka Prefecture, the damage caused by tsunamis and landslides was very significant. The massive landslide in Ooborayama Mountain caused the Nebukawa Railway Station Building as well as a train, the Shiraitogawa Iron Bridge, and a whole village to sink down 100m, and much of it disappeared into the sea. There were many casualties in the area.

On the day, the Japanese Government formed an "Earthquake Cabinet" and the following day created the "Temporary Earthquake Relief Office". The Shiba Park had worked as the relief base and temporary housing was created there, and Shibaura became a large rescue supply depot.

The Japanese Government announced an "Imperial City Reconstruction Project" to the public for a "New Tokyo" in the following 7 years. This also led to the construction of modern "Dojunkai Apartment Buildings".

#### The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

The "1995 South Hyogo Prefecture Earthquake" occurred at 5:46am on Tuesday January 17th, 1995.

Twenty-eight years ago, a severe M7.3 earthquake hit the southern Hyogo area. The epicenter was the Nojima Fault located in the north of Awaji Island, and it caused the maximum seismic intensity of "7". About 333,400 buildings and houses were either totally destroyed or severely damaged, and there were many fires. The total number of dead and injured was about 50,200. About 80% of them were crushed to death in collapsed buildings or by falling furnitures.

Disaster-stricken areas included the "Exotic Port and Fashionable Town of Kobe", in which collapsed highways, train stations, shrines in Sannomiya, the port facility and a lot of other destroyed buildings, and a large artificial island even suffered from liquefaction. In these areas, many volunteers played an important part in the immediate recovery efforts, and this year was named "Japan

Volunteers First Year" while January 17th was designated as "Disaster Prevention and Volunteer Day".

A lot of standards have been updated after this disaster as follows: (1) Standards for furniture: Many people were severely injured by falling furniture. (2) "New Seismic Standards" were created for wooden structures called "Standards for 2000". (3) There have been many Earthquake Resistance Improvement. (4) For more practical reasons, the "DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team)" stands ready for the next disaster, with "Air Ambulance" and "Doctor Car". (5) A team with special skills and techniques was called the "Hyper Rescue Team : HR" was created inside in the Tokyo Fire Department.

#### "Earthquake and Disaster Names"

When a big earthquake occurs, the Japan Meteorological Agency gives it a specific name of the "xxx Earthquake" type, while the Japanese Government names it as the "Great xxx Earthquake (disaster)" in reference to their recovery and reconstruction policies.

#### "Magnitude" and "Earthquake Intensity"

##### "Magnitude" (M, Mj)

This represents the seismic degree of an earthquake at its epicenter. When the figure increases by 1, the degree increases by 32. Less than Class 1: Very Low, 1 - 3: Lower, 3 - 5: Small, 5 - 7: Middle, More than 7: Upper, Class 8: Great, Class 9: Super

##### \* "Moment Magnitude" (Mw)

The degree of bedrock displacement is found by calculating the frequency and amplitude of seismic waves. It takes some time to calculate, but exact figures can be found.

##### "Seismic Intensity"

The intensity of an earthquake shock is measured using seismic intensity meters at 400 locations all over Japan. The figure changes according to the distance from the epicenter or the intensity of the shockwaves. There are ten levels or "degrees": "0 to 4 Very Low", "5 Lower", "5 Higher", "6 Lower", "6 Higher" and "7". "7" is regarded as "catastrophic", and therefore the highest.

#### The Great East Japan Earthquake

The "2011 off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake" occurred at 2:46pm on Friday March 11th, 2011.



Twelve years ago, a massive earthquake ranking 4th largest in the world occurred. The epicenter was just offshore of Sanriku, with a Mw of 9.0\* and caused the maximum seismic intensity of 7. Three minutes after that, a Major Tsunami Warning alerted. This tsunami created an unprecedented crisis with about 107,800 houses completely destroyed. The height of this huge tsunami reached 14.8 meters. There were about 20,900 tsunami victims. The number of casualties in Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures was about 15,550, including 281 fire brigade members and firefighters who died trying to close the floodgates or engaging in evacuation procedures, etc. 92.4% of deaths were caused by drowning in the tsunami.

"A disaster that was the worst of its kind in the world", so that 13-meter tsunami hit the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The "Japanese Origin of Longitude and Latitude" in Azabu-Dai, moved about 27cm to the east. The "Japanese Datum of Levelling" found that Nagata-Cho in Chiyoda City, went down about 24mm. According to NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "the shape of the earth deformed slightly, and it began to rotate slightly faster. The length of a day was shortened by 1.8-millionth of a second".

#### Mr. TAMIYA Shinji

Mr. TAMIYA was a member of the Koiwa Fire Station Water Rescue Team, and selected as one of the 292 members of the third detachment team sent to Kesennuma City.

He came for work at 3am on March 12th, 2011, and fought the fires caused by the earthquake all night long from 4pm. From dawn on March 13th to the early morning of March 14th, he was involved in the search and rescue operations in submerged areas.

#### Mr. TANIGAWA Yusuke

Mr. TANIGAWA was a member of the Tsukiji Special Firefighting Company of Kyobashi Fire Station, and was selected as one of the 129 members of the second detachment team sent to Kesennuma City.

He arrived for work at 8:40pm on March 11th, 2011 and started fighting fires at 3am on March 13th. He kept on all night long from the early evening of March 13th to the morning of March 14th.

#### Mr. OMURO Masashi

Mr. OMURO was a member of the No. 6 Firefighting Area Headquarters Fire Rescue Task Force (No. 6 Headquarters Hyper Rescue: 6HR) and was selected as one of the 68 members of the first detachment team sent to the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

He arrived for work at 2am on March 18th, 2011 and was selected as one of the 30 team members who would enter Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.\* He arrived at the Nuclear Power Station on March 19th, and the team poured water into the wrecked building to cool it down until late at night.

● "No buildings could be seen and everything was covered in mud. Up to my waist in water, I called out with a megaphone for anyone still alive. When I found someone, I carried them to the aid station and then quickly returned to the site. This happened over and over again. The fire brigade members in their "happi" coats were extremely helpful directing us to where we needed to go to find victims in need of assistance".

● "To navigate places covered in muddy water, I had to clamber over rubble. The rubble made holes in the bottom of my shoes which made matters worse."

● "Rationed food at this time was just plain bread. I noticed that food storage was a huge issue".



● "Residents who saw our fire trucks clasped their hands together and begged us to help them. I reassured them: "we are doing everything we can to put out fires and save lives". I put fires out one by one over a wide area. The air was thick and foul, the whole area was dangerously muddy and oily, with rubble everywhere".

● "We sucked up river water using a "Super Pump", which is long-distance mass water supply equipment. Because the hose is bigger and heavier than the usual ones and the water pressure is high, it needed to be held by two people. I struggled to manage this, and was worried that I might be thrown over by the hose".



\* "The general manager who took the lead on site, where all the members were prepared to die, told us "I selected members who were especially quick witted".

● "On the way to the site we had the siren on to raise awareness among local residents. When we stopped our vehicle on their request, they asked us "not to use the siren because it makes them feel even more anxious". When we approached the site there was nobody around, just a few helicopters".

● "I fully realized the importance of preparing portable toilets".



#### Message from the New Chief of the Azabu Volunteer Firefighters

Mr. SHIDA joined the Azabu Volunteer Firefighters on January 1st, 1978. 45 years and 3 months later, he was promoted to Chief of them on April 1st, 2023.



Mr. SHIDA Kaneki

I will do my best to ensure the safety of the community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

All 3,243 firefighters of the 514 teams of Tokyo Fire Department were sent to Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Niigata, Chiba and Shizuoka Prefectures. I thank them for their brave work.

Minato City distributes 20 portable toilets for all Minato citizen as one of the "main disaster prevention measure". Based on the true story of "Inemura no Hi", "The Fire of Rice Sheaves", November 5th was chosen to be "World Tsunami Awareness Day". "In this story, a tsunami devastated a village, and one of the leaders set fire to his rice sheaves to lead villagers to a hill to save their lives". However, I would also like people to remember March 11th as "Great Tsunami Day".

#### "Hana-wa-Saku" (Flowers will Bloom)

This was the theme song for the "NHK Great East Japan Earthquake Project" as well as a charity song for restoration.

The songwriter and composer both came from Miyagi Prefecture. This song was performed by 36 people who had a connection with disaster-stricken area as the "Hana-wa-Saku Project". It continues to be sung, and part of the copyright fee and sales proceeds have been donated to the local governments of disaster-stricken areas.

#### Tiny Tips:

In the event of a large-scale disaster, blackouts and communication failures sometimes occur. In such situations, stores' cashiers might not be usable and cashless payments by credit cards etc. become unavailable. Always keep coins on hand for calling via public phones!

#### References

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- 3 Column No. 1 to 3 "You say that you will pass down the stories of Great Kanto Earthquake, but..." written by KATAYAMA Tsuneo, Japan Association for Earthquake Engineering <http://www.jaee.gr.jp>
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morrow" written by Tokyo Fire Department, published by Tokyo Federation of Fire Prevention Associations

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- 10 "All Records of News Photos from 2011.3.11 to 4.11 Great East Japan Earthquake" edited by Asahi Shimbun and Asahi Shimbun Publication Inc., published by Asahi Shimbun Publication Inc.
- 11 "Going Forward" Records of Unknown Brave Persons fighting against the Disaster caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake" written by ASOU Iku, published by Shincho-Sha
- 12 "Modern Firefighting, Volunteer Activities in Disaster-Stricken Areas and Firefighting No. 1 to No. 4" written by MASUDA Takayuki, Meguro Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department

#### Collaborators on this article

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# THE

The Current Voices of the Young People who gather in the Roppongi and Azabu Areas

# VOICE

This corner of our publication is called “The VOICE”, and it introduces the true voices and opinions of the young people who gather in the Roppongi and Azabu areas. This new program follows trends regarding they “live”, “work”, “play” and “learn” in general. We heard the voices of two young women born in Tokyo, worked in Roppongi Hills during their four years of university life, and are still based in Roppongi.



**Ms. SUGAI Mari**

Ms. SUGAI studied Global Economics in the Department of International Business at University. After graduation, she joined a leading real estate company. She made good use of her afternoon tea time\* at the luxurious Baccarat Hotel where she stayed in New York for her apartment interior decoration work. \* Afternoon Tea: Usually serving English Tea, or Time for it (Digital Daijisen Dictionary)



**Ms. KUSUDA Mayu**

While making the round trip between the university campus and her home during her student days, Ms. KUSUDA became interested in companies' town planning projects. At present, she is engaged in the management work of a hotel located in the city center as a member of a leading real estate company. She experienced afternoon tea when she visited England and was fascinated by the custom of authentic afternoon tea and interior design.



## A Familiar Town from an Early Age

**Ms. Mari** My favorite grandfather owned a clinic in Azabu-dai, so I became very familiar with the area around Azabu during my childhood. I was very impressed by the Book Café in Roppongi Hills the first time I visited there in my teens. The concept of the Book Café is for “books to bring people together and coffee to soothe people’s hearts”. I was quite impressed by the fact that such a space existed in my town. For the four years of my university life, I had a part time job at the Book Café and went to Roppongi from Ikebukuro where my university campus was located. Three years ago, a gallery annexed the Book Café, which caused some change. What hasn’t changed for me in this ever-evolving town is how comfortable I feel.

**Ms. Mayu** One of my maternal relatives lived in Motoazabu and worked as a fashion designer. I visited her sometimes, together with my mother when I was a little girl and she gave me clothes. For me, there were always lots of reasons to visit Azabu in my childhood. Like Ms. Mari, I worked as a part timer in a Book Café in Roppongi for my four years of university. After finishing my part-time job, I used to walk back to the university campus in Mita, passing through the Azabujuban Shopping District, the Australian Embassy in Japan, and the Tsunamachi Mitsui Club building. I clearly remember these scenes as I strolled through the fascinating Roppongi and Azabu.



Mercedes me Tokyo UPSTAIRS facade



They receive take-out afternoon tea sets.

## Enjoying Afternoon Tea

**Ms. Mayu** Enjoying afternoon tea is called “Nun-Katsu”. This can be a very special ritual in the afternoon, where we take time to drink tea slowly and peacefully. When I was a first-year university student, I wanted to talk with Ms. Mari, as we were working together part-time in a Book Café. One day, I invited her for a tea and we were able to talk over afternoon tea. I think that this was the starting point for our “Nun-Katsu”.

**Ms. Mari** Taking afternoon tea was a tea habit that started in England. Cakes, scones and sandwiches are delightfully arranged on a three-story stand to be enjoyed with a cup of tea. I took afternoon tea in foreign hotels together with Ms. Mayu before COVID-19. The seasonal menus (mainly fruits) were quite fascinating. Recently, afternoon tea project collaborations with fashion brands have become a hot topic. Afternoon tea has become a theme of new fashion collections to be released soon. I am very excited to see how the designer’s view of the world is expressed.



## The Take-out Afternoon Tea in Roppongi Experience

**Ms. Mari and Ms. Mayu** With a take-out afternoon tea set, we can enjoy “Nun-Katsu” in a way that’s different from that experienced in the limited space of a hotel coffee room. For example, just imagine a group of many people, even boys who like sweets, etc., picnicking in a green spot in the town of Roppongi. It’s easy to imagine such many types of afternoon tea scenes.



Afternoon Tea set with pistachio and matcha cakes and sweets (for 2 persons)



Ms. Mari and Ms. Mayu

● **References** .....  
 “Afternoon Tea no Tanoshimi” (Enjoyment of Afternoon Tea) published by Maruzen in 2000

● **Research Support** .....  
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(Researched by INOKUCHI Marina and OBA Marika, written by OBA Marika)



## DNA of Azabu-Honmura-Cho Inheriting the Tradition in the Middle of Azabu Area

In the Azabu Honmura Town Council, Shishi-Gashira Lion Heads and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls (to be placed on festival cars) that were made in the Edo Period, have been taken over from generation to generation. In the Azabu Hikawa Shrine Annual Festival to be held in September every year, these Shishi-Gashira and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls are shown in the Omikisho (Sacred Sake Place) set up in the Town Council Hall. We listened to Mr. HISAMATSU Hiroshi, the 11th Chairman of the Town Council sharing the sentiment of those who inherited them.



Mr. HISAMATSU Hiroshi, The 11th Chairman, Azabu Honmura Town Council

### Shishi-Gashira Lion Heads and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls are Treasures of our Town Council. \*

Dashi-Ningyo Dolls have paraded within the town in the festival since late Edo Period. They could be seen in several of the Minato City area shrines, including Hikawa Shrine. Many of them were burnt down in the Great Kanto Earthquake and wars. The Dashi-Ningyo Dolls in Azabu Hikawa Shrine and Akasaka Hikawa Shrine escaped from such damages and still exist nowadays. When the Dolls are displayed in the Omikisho in the festival, people come a long way to see them. The Dolls are to be assembled the day before the festival. We enjoy completing the assembling of the Dolls in co-operation with each other, telling where one part should be attached, or is the other. Now, our hearts are filled with joyful expectation, feeling "Come on, the festival is here, etc."



Commemorative photo of Hikawa Shrine Festival in 1919: The Susanoo-no Mikoto doll on the festival car is displayed on the left background of the photo and two Shishi-Gashira heads can be seen in front. Photo provided by Azabu Honmura Town Council.



In 1987, the Shishi-Gashira was paraded within the town. Sourced from "Azabu Honmura Town Council History" written by HISAMATSU Yasushi, published by Honmura Town Council History Editing Committee in 1988. (Not for sale)

### Activities in the Circumstances of COVID-19

Even when the festival event was stopped due to the COVID-19, we set up the Omikisho and asked the chief priest of Azabu Hikawa Shrine, to put the spirit in the Dolls. Even if the portable shrine would not parade the town, we wanted to show the people that the festival still went on. Short festival coats for children were made by the Town Council and the short-coat rental service was provided for the festival. When Honmura Elementary School students walked the area, they sometimes came to this Town Council Hall. When I told these students about the town history, for example that there used to be a shopping street around here, they were very much surprised.

### Meaning of Inheriting the Tradition

Fourteen years have passed since I was appointed as the Chairman of Azabu Honmura Town Council. The reason why we could preserve the Shishi-Gashira and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls, is that senior members left the work they had put their spirit in in our hands. For me, watching my father, who used to be the Chairman of Azabu Honmura Town Council at that time, inspired me. Nowadays, young people work very hard for the festival despite being very busy. There's almost no "traditional" form to the festival anymore and I believe that decorating can be done with the sensibility of today's youth. The most important thing is to keep the festival and the Town Council going forever. Not only for the festival itself, but also for the other events organized by Town Council, which can only be maintained thanks to the availability of Honmura Elementary School or Childcare roomground for which I am very grateful. The Shishi-Gashira and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls are to be



In 2022, assembling the Dashi-Ningyo Doll. Putting the spirit in the Doll.

displayed in the Town Council Hall only for two days during the festival period. We would like as many visitors as possible to come to see them.

**The festival in 2023 will be performed on Saturday September 16 and Sunday 17. The Shishi-Gashira and Dashi-Ningyo Dolls are shown only once a year. Don't miss it!**



In September 2022 Scene in front of Omikisho

\* One of the Dashi-Ningyo Dolls, "Takenouchi-no-Sukune-no-Mikoto" (on the right back of the main photo) was made in 1822 with the petitioner living in Yato, Uenomachi, Honmura-cho. The other one is "Susanoo-no-Mikoto" (On the left back of the main photo) and was made in Shinmachi, Honmura-cho. These dolls have been preserved together by the Town Council. Moreover, a set of Shishi-Gashira manufactured by Sanshiro Tachibana Tsunetoshi GOTO in September 1862, still exists.

### Town Council Data

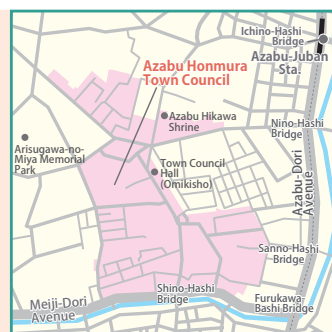
No. of member households: 760 households

### Annual Events

- |          |   |           |  |
|----------|---|-----------|--|
| January  | New Year Night Watch  | July      | Radio Gymnastics   |
| February | Rice Cake Pounding Event  | August    | Children Summer Evening Festival                               |
| March    | One-Day Bus Tour  | September | Collaboration in Local Festival Autumn Traffic Safety Campaign |
| April    | Spring Traffic Safety Campaign  | October   | Flea Market Emergency Drill organized by Town Council          |
| May      | General Meeting General Meeting of Honmura Elementary School Area Disaster Prevention Council | November  | Comprehensive Emergency Drill in Azabu Area                    |
| June     | Security Light Check Honmura Elementary School Area Emergency Drill                           | December  | Security Light Check, Year End Night Watch                     |

### Origin of Azabu Honmura Town

This area goes from the plateau facing Furukawa valley on the south to the sloping area. This area has been selected as a suitable place to live since a long time ago as the existence of a shell mound attests. It is believed that the name Azabu used to refer to this place originally. "Honmura", just like "Motomura" means the center of Azabu. Minato City Website Based on "Origins of the former towns' names in the Azabu area"



- Research Support
  - Minato City Local History Museum
- References:
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- Inquiries
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Mr. Vitor Paulo da Costa SERENO,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of Portugal to Japan

The Republic of Portugal  
 Area: 92,225 Km<sup>2</sup> (1/4 the size of Japan)  
 Population: About 10,290,000 (in 2021, based on IMF data)  
 Capital City: Lisbon  
 Language: Portuguese  
 Head of State: President Marcelo Nuno Duarte REBELO DE SOUSA  
 (Appointed in March 2016, Second Term. 5 Year term limits)  
 Legislature: Unicameral System, 230 Seats, 4 Year term limits

The Republic of Portugal



From the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/portugal/data.html>

Interview Support: Embassy of Portugal in Japan

Visiting Ambassadors  
 From the “World”  
 of Azabu

# PORTUGAL

My wish is to continue to deepen the friendship between our countries based on our 480 years of Diplomatic Relations

Friendly relations between Portugal and Japan began in 1543 when Portuguese first arrived on Tanegashima Island. Since then, 480 years have passed, and that is quite a long-shared history. There are many Japanese words including “Kasutera”, “Konpeito”, “Kappa”, “Tent” etc. derived from Portuguese words.

Last Spring (April 2023), the Embassy of Portugal moved from Chiyoda City to Nishi-Azabu, Minato City. We soon introduced ourselves to Mr. Vitor Paulo da Costa SERENO, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Portugal to Japan (hereinafter called “the Ambassador”).

### His First Impression of Japan: Wonderful Traditions and Public Order

The Ambassador is an expert diplomat, who has represented his country in four continents: Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia from 1997. Before coming to Japan, he was Ambassador in Senegal and 8 other Western African countries, and before that he was stationed in Macao for 5 years from 2013 as the Consul-General of Portugal in Hong Kong and Macao. Japan for the first time in 2017 and visited Tokyo, Nara, Kyoto and Osaka. He described his first impressions of Japan with praise: “I was very impressed by the wonderful technologies and traditions of Japan as well as public order”. In addition, he told us “I was very surprised and happy to hear that many Japanese people have an affinity for Portugal”. Even after he took his position, his favorable impression of Japan did not change.

In Tokyo, he is living together with his wife Andrea. His son is a university student living in Portugal. He told us “My parents and my wife’s parents are taking care of him, so we don’t need to worry”.

### Going to Favorite Spots on his DUCATI motorcycle

A year has passed since he started living in Japan. We asked him if he had found any favorite spots.

After moving, he made courtesy visits first to the Police Station and then the Fire Station. He would like to make more friends with local people as a resident of Azabu town.

In addition to walking, he loves exercising and never fails to go jogging every day. Basically, he jogs three times around the Imperial Palace for a total of 15km, as one lap is 5km. He is familiar with playing paddle tennis, and loves football and swimming.

His hobby is motorcycle touring on a large Italian DUCATI motorcycle! Recently on a whim, he went motorcycle-touring to Kamakura.

He is really active!

### My Mission is to Expand Trade

Then, the Ambassador told us about trade between Portugal and Japan.

“A large proportion of both imports and exports from Portugal is automobile parts. The expansion of exports is my most important mission”.

Portugal does not make cars of its own. However, there are Automobile Innovation Centers for technological innovation for Mercedes Benz and BMW. Portugal also boasts the largest Volkswagen factory in Europe outside of Germany, which has a great reputation worldwide. A lot of electric buses and hydrogen fuel cell buses are also exported, and trade with Japan is increasing steadily. Recently there has been a lot more attention given to renewable energy.

Portuguese wines continue to grow in popularity all over the world, with more and more exported every year. In Japan, Portuguese wines have been exhibited at Wine Fairs and at the FOODEX Trade Show for Food & Beverages, with good sales results. They will continue with these sales promotions.

“Portuguese wines can be purchased at more reasonable prices than French or Italian wines. Port Wines might come to mind when you think of Portugal. However, we export much more of our Rose’ wines”, the Ambassador said.

They have confidence in the quality of their olive oil, and it has received two awards in Japan. Portuguese olive oil is becoming increasingly popular.

### Food Culture in Portugal: Bacalhau and Egg Tarts are excellent!

We asked him what we should eat when we visit Portugal. He answered, “Portuguese people eat more rice than any other



country in Europe. I feel that our eating habits are very similar to those of Japan.”

The Ambassador’s highest recommendation was Bacalhau, which is dried cod. It is first rehydrated with water and then used in various dishes such as croquette and gratin. This is one of the treasured soul foods for Portuguese people. In addition, many festivals for Christian saints are held in June, and all the eat salt-grilled sardines. Portuguese people love seafood, which of course is also true for Japanese.

For sweets, pastel de nata Portuguese egg tarts are excellent. This tart originated in Portugal, where plenty of custard cream is added to a pie crust. “I strongly recommend you to go to a traditional egg tart shop called a “Pastéis de Belém”, when you visit Lisbon”.

### Recommended Spots Full of Charm in Portugal

The Ambassador recommended us to visit Coimbra, an ancient city in the central part of Portugal in addition to Lisbon. The Ambassador was born and raised in this city, graduated from Coimbra university which was established in 1290. The University is very proud of its history, which is astonishingly long, even for Europe. “Some of the buildings in my university are registered as a World Heritage Site, don’t hesitate to come visit”.

There are plenty of other spots to see. For example, a historical site in Guimaraes in the northwestern area of Portugal and Cape Roca at the westernmost point. “When I stay in Lisbon and want to see the sea, I always go a little further to Cape Roca. Cape Roca at the westernmost point in Europe, is very popular with Japanese people. I was very pleased when I learned that” “I will do my best to deepen the bond between Portugal and Japan”, he told us earnestly.

The Ambassador said that he was not good at sitting still. He moved about briskly during our interview session, which brightened it up. He added that he would like to develop more friendships with local residents in the future, and have open days at the Embassy. I felt that the relationship between Portugal and Japan will become much closer when I leave the Embassy.



The Ambassador Mr. Sereno is like a character in the movie Easy Rider, dashing about on his DUCATI motorcycle



Cozido Portuguesa  
 “Cozido” is traditional dish in Portugal, much like a slow simmered stew or pot-au-feu. Various cuts of pork and chorizo are simmered together with plenty of cabbage and carrots. It is also the Ambassador favorite dish. ©pingodoce



“Bacalhau com broa, linguica bacon” is cod and corn bread with sausage and bacon. For a dish with Bacalhau, “broa” corn bread is often added. It is a feast where crushed broa is put on boiled potatoes, caramelized onion, processed Bacalhau, sausages and bacon, etc. and baked in an oven. ©pingodoce



The Evora Historical Area, a World Heritage Site  
 This castle-walled city is located on a 300-meter-high hill in the south east area of Portugal, close to the border with Spain. The Temple of Diana, built in the late 2nd century in the Roman Period, and a cathedral built around the 12th or 13th century, can still be seen there. ©CMGPPacheco



A group of buildings registered as a World Heritage Site in Coimbra University  
 A group of buildings at the prestigious Coimbra University embodying some of the greatest traditions in Europe, such as Joanina Library in Coimbra University where the Ambassador used to go, that was registered as a World Heritage Site. ©PauloMendes



Port is a town where port wine is traditional. This town is the second largest after Lisbon. The Douro River flows through port town, and it is crowded with tourists all year round. ©PauloMendes



# Walking the Periphery of the Azabu Area ⑤

Last Installment



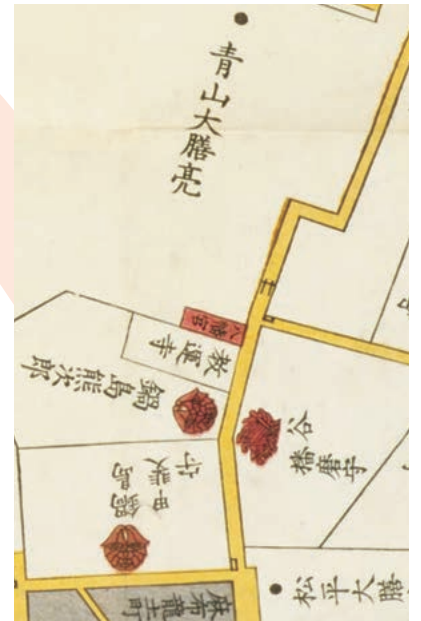
This is the last installment of our project to explore the perimeter of the Azabu area on foot, paying close attention to the border lines and how they were chosen over time. This time, we walked from Tokyo Midtown to Nisseki Dori Avenue, the starting point of this project as featured in the Azabu No. 58. (About 3km)

## The Periphery of a former Military Land and a Cemetery

Tokyo Midtown and Aoyama Cemetery are located in the Akasaka Area with Azabu Area in the south. In both areas, Daimyo Residences came to be used by the military or became a cemetery from the Meiji Era. Even after the War there were no big changes in borders, the periphery line of the samurai residences in the late Edo Period was left as it is, as the present border.

Kyoun-ji Temple ① located close to the Chiyoda Line Nogizaka Station and along the Gaien Higashi-Dori Avenue, is a temple connected to the border. The name "Aoyama" came from AOYAMA Tadanari, a retainer for TOKUGAWA Ieyasu, who received a large estate for his samurai mansion. When he gave this land to him Ieyasu said, "I will give you this estate as your property, large enough so you can ride around on horseback". It is said that Komadome Hachiman Shrine was established on the spot a great horse became so exhausted he fell down. Looking at the Edo map on the right, the Komadome Hachiman Shrine can be found "in the southeast corner of the Aoyama Family Mansion estate and next to Kyoun-ji Temple". This became the border between the Aoyama (Akasaka Area) and Azabu Areas. After that, Kyoun-ji Temple was located at the northern end of Azabu Ryudo-Cho. However, in 1967 when the Act on Indication of Residential Address came into effect, the border was redrawn and the temple was incorporated into the Akasaka Area.

The land on the Azabu side between Tokyo Midtown and Aoyama Cemetery was a large area used by the military, and the 3rd infantry regiment was based there. Nowadays, the National Art Center Tokyo and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies are in this area. Moreover, the Public Dormitory for members of the House of Representatives ②, the Science Council of Japan building ③, Metropolitan Aoyama Park ④ and a US Military Facility ⑤ are located along the border.



"Aoyama Shibuya Map" made in 1853 (National Diet Library Collection)



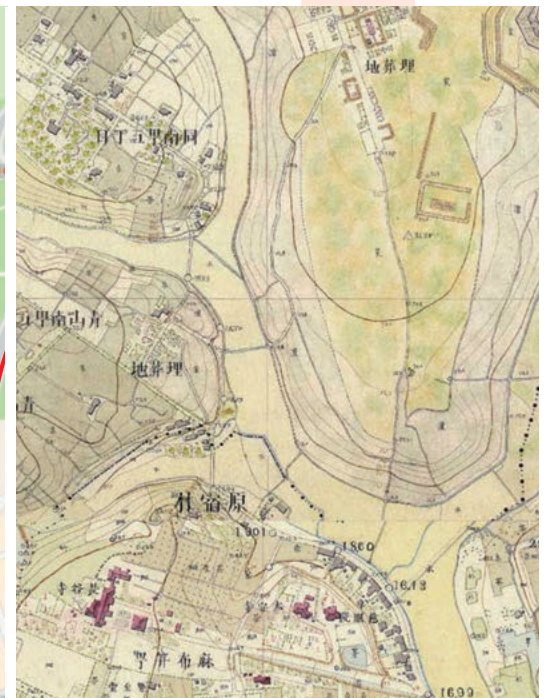
Kyoun-ji Temple is now in a large concrete building.



Large open sky above the US Military Base Helipoint



Map on the left shows the present. The map on the right, shows areas at present, and on the right, shows the areas around 1876 to 1886. ("The Border line was added to the "Tokyo Jiso Map" by the Japan Map Center")



## Road on the Former River Line

Between Aoyama Cemetery and Aoyama Cemetery Tateyama Graveyard (both are located in the Akasaka Area), an elongated piece of land at Nishi-Azabu 2-Chome extends to the north. Here, there used to be a paddy field in the watershed area of Kogaigawa River. The paddy field extended from the upper left to the lower right, shaped like the letter "Y". You can see this on the map made between 1876 and 1886 on the right side. At that time, the whole paddy field was included in Aoyama Harajuku Village. However, in 1891 when urbanization was promoted, the northern area was incorporated into the Akasaka-ku area and the southern area was incorporated into the Azabu-ku area. When you go north on Gaien Nishi-Dori Avenue along the present border and make a U-turn after passing the Kogai Children's Amusement Park ⑥ to head south, you can see that the road follows the ancient line of the river because it is a bit lower than the surrounding area.

The border from the south end of Tateyama Graveyard where Koshin Pagoda is located, up to under Nezu Museum follows the edge of a cliff. The height of the cliff can be seen from Nishi-Azabu 2-Chome Children's Playground ⑦. From there, the long white wall of Nezu Museum can immediately be seen (in the Akasaka Area). The adjacent single-family house is Cunningham Memorial House\* ⑧ designed by Antonin Raymond, a famous architect who had his home office in Nishi-Azabu.

## Route from Chokoku-ji Temple to Nisseki Dori Avenue

The border goes between Chokoku-ji Temple ⑨ and Nezu Museum but no street goes straight through there. If you have a chance to visit the graveyard in Chokoku-ji Temple or enter the Nezu Museum garden, you will be able to see a deep valley following the border.

We crossed at the Takagicho traffic lights with Chokoku-ji Temple in our back, and went along Nisseki Dori Avenue. "The area neatly separates the west side of the Avenue which is in the Akasaka Area, and the east side of the Avenue which is in the Azabu Area". In part of the Akasaka Area, you can find some land that used to be in the Azabu Area before the Act on Indication of Residential Address came into effect. This can be confirmed by checking the Minato City bulletin board ⑩.



## Looking Back at the Periphery of the Azabu Area

Many of the border lines forming the periphery of the Azabu Area were initially chosen in the early modern period or before. Rivers disappeared, terrain was altered, and roads and buildings were refurbished during urban development in modern times. Even now, the border lines show the meandering of former rivers and the shape of the land, which reveal the stories of landlords and land improvers, which we discovered a lot about. The border lines chosen around the samurai estates and rivers or cliffs, reveal an Azabu that used to have "many samurai estates" and a "complicated topography of plateaus and valleys".

### References

- "Additional Minato Modern History Map Akasaka and Aoyama" issued by the Minato City Local History Museum in 2006
- "Jisha Shojo" (Book of temples and shrines) (Vol. 19), Azabu Jisha Shojo Vol. 3, copied (National Diet Library Digital Collection)
- Tokyo City Azabu Ku Edition "Azabu-ku History" in 1941

\* For Antonin Raymond, refer to the Azabu No. 22, and for Cunningham Memorial House, refer to the Azabu No. 15.

# 麻布の軌跡

The Historical Footsteps of Azabu

## Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple



Inside the Main Hall (Private Section)

Azabu is an international town with a lot of embassies from various countries. A lot of foreign people come and go through here. So, how did Azabu become like this? Zempuku-ji Temple is definitely a key to understanding the history of this town and it can even be said that the US-Japan Friendship began in this temple. Which is why we will focus on the people related to this temple and their story.

### ● History

It is believed that this temple was founded by “Kukai” (Koubou Dai-shi (774 – 835), the founder of the Shingon Sect of Buddhism). This was initially a Shingon Sect temple until the Kamakura Period when Shinran (1173-1263) the founder of Pure Land Buddhism (Jodo Shinshu) visited this temple after returning from his exile in Echigo Province. They say that this temple was fully converted from the Shingon Sect to a Pure Land Buddhism temple by Ryokai (1218-1312). \* There are various theories about the years of his birth and death. He is believed to have been a senior disciple of Shinran. What is certain is that his temple then continued to grow in size and prestige with the support of Emperors and Shoguns in subsequent eras.

In 1858, the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Commerce was concluded. In the following year, this temple was chosen as the dormitory for Townsend Harris (1804-1878) and his party, the first U.S. Legation. In 1861, Harris’ interpreter Heusken (1832-1861) was attacked as he returned to the Legation. He was carried to Zempuku-ji Temple but did not survive his wounds.

TOKUGAWA Ieyasu built the main hall of this branch temple of the Higashi Honganji Temple in 1607. The building was relocated and reconstructed in 1961 as the main hall of Zenpuku-ji Temple. There are gorgeous Ranma (transom) Engravings in the front section of the main hall sanctuary. Parishioners’ family crests can also be seen on the ceiling. This temple was designated as a tangible cultural property by Minato City and one of the best representative buildings in Tokyo of a large Pure Land Buddhist temple main hall of the Edo Period.

In 1928, Azabuyama Kindergarten was established on the premises of the temple. This year marks their 96th anniversary.

Today, Zenpuku-ji Temple is one of the seven big Pure Land Buddhism temples in the Kanto Region.

### ● Places of Interest

#### Grave of FUKUZAWA Yukichi

FUKUZAWA Yukichi (1835-1901) was the founder of Keio University. February 3rd is the anniversary of FUKUZAWA’s passing (called Yukichi Ki). On this day, many people connected to Keio University visit his grave at Zenpuku-ji Temple. The grave of FUKUZAWA was moved to this temple in 1977. Before that, it was located in Jokuji Temple in Kami-Osaki in Shinagawa City.

#### KOSHIJI Fubuki Monument

There is a monument dedicated to KOSHIJI Fubuki (1924-1980), a famous singer of the Showa Era, on the premises of this Temple.



Harris Monument



Guide Plate in the Temple Premises

People involved in show business sometimes visit this monument as is reported in the press. The lyrics of “Aino Sanka” (Hymne a L’amour), KOSHIJI’s theme song, have been engraved on the monument. The actual grave of KOSHIJI Fubuki is not in the premises of this temple, but in Kawasaki.

#### The Upside-Down Ginkgo Tree

There is a Ginkgo tree that appears to be upside down, given the arrangement of its branches. It’s estimated to be at least 750 years old. Folklore tells that Shinran himself planted it when he pushed a seedling into the ground with his cane. The branches appear to be growing downwards rather than in the usual direction, which gives it its special name. This Ginkgo tree is still the largest in Tokyo, despite being damaged and reduced in size because of an air raid during the war. It has been designated as one of Japan’s National Natural Treasures.

#### Townsend Harris Monument

The Townsend Harris Monument was built to honor his achievements and inform the public.

#### Willow Well

The Willow Well is located on the approach to Zenpuku-ji Temple. It is said that when Kukai pushed his walking stick into the ground under the willow tree, a natural spring was created. Today, a small amount of water still comes up from this spring. The water was used as drinking water by many people after the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Tokyo Air Raid.

### ● Small Talk

On August 27th, 2000, funeral for the Swiss fighter Andy Hug (1964-2000) was held at this temple. He became famous here as a K-1 fighter and died of leukemia.

I myself graduated from Azabuyama Kindergarten and still live close by. However, it had been a long time since I had visited Zenpuku-ji Temple. While listening to the chief priest of the Temple and the principal of the kindergarten, long forgotten memories suddenly came back. When I was a kindergarten student, I always used to carry a yellow bag over my shoulder. I have vague memories of how the main hall and the Upside-Down Looking Ginkgo Tree looked back then. Several decades have passed since that time, and the scenery has changed but the Temple trees I looked up to when I was a kindergarten student are still gently swaying in the breeze, watching over the town just like before.

● References and Photos: .....  
 \*Past and Present Famous Places in Azabu Part 2” written by MURAOKA Jun, published by Nagasaki Sarashina in 1974  
 \*Minato City Cultural Properties General Catalog” published by the Minato Local History Museum Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple https://azabu-san.or.jp/index2.html



The main hall has been designated as a tangible cultural property by Minato City.



Gorgeous Ranma (transom) Engravings in the main hall sanctuary



Upside-Down Ginkgo Tree



Statue of Shinran-Shonin



“Willow Well” is located in the approach of the temple. Water still comes up from the spring.

## The 2023 Kumano Shrine Festival and the Local Festival organized jointly by four Town Councils (Higashi-azabu Hatsune, Azabu Morimoto-cho, Iikura 3 & 4-Chome, and Higashi-azabu 1-Chome Iigo Town Councils) have taken place.

—A new project to foster “Future Innovators” has begun in Azabu.—



The Kumano Shrine Festival and the Local Festival organized jointly by four Town Councils (Higashi-azabu Hatsune, Azabu Morimoto-cho, Iikura 3 & 4-Chome, and Higashi-azabu 1-Chome Iigo Town Councils) were held in and around Kumano Shrine in Azabudai from Friday June 2 to Sunday June 4 in 2023. The event was planned and organized by young members of the above Town Councils, who gathered together and exchanged various ideas to revitalize the local community. They also wished to show their feelings of appreciation for all the support they receive from local residents.

During the festival period, there was a monkey trainer and a puppet show. There was also a corner specially set up for children to enjoy games such as bouncy ball scooping and water balloon fishing. The festival area was crowded with a lot of parents and their children, who shouted with joy as they pulled a festival car.

There was also a new project planned and managed by “MINAYOKU Kids.” “MINAYOKU Kids” is organized by local children and ex-members of “MINAYOKU,” a local Azabu Regional City Office project. The new project saw the creation of new sweets using the original ideas of local children to foster creativity and strengthen community ties. The finished sweets were unveiled at the festival.



Mr. Izawa, who was responsible for planning and management, explained the background of the “MINAYOKU Kids” project launch as follows: “With the spread of education about technology all over the world, we would like to create various opportunities to foster future innovators in the Azabu area through local activities. “We hope that their activities as innovators will promote economic growth in Japan from the Azabu area, leading to future prosperity. “In the future, we will support such activities with practical education for children in cooperation with AI education projects.” With these goals in mind, he told us that they participated in the festival organized by the above Town Councils through the sweet-making challenge using the local children’s original ideas.

Ms. Tokinaga was in charge of the sweet-making challenge, and she told us, “We made sweets using sweet and sour mikan (mandarin oranges) and oranges, inspired by the children’s drawings in which they used a lot of orange and yellow paint on white paper. “We also put an orange or yellow label on the container, based on the children’s ideas. In addition to all this, we promoted “sustainability by using single-use items as little as possible.” We hope that this project will help resolve social issues, with adults and children working together in the community as a whole. We actively promote environmentally friendly projects.”



### What is “MINAYOKU Kids”?

“MINAYOKU” is a project where members engage in activities in harmony with the Azabu local community to build a new community network. The volunteer members of this project started up “MINAYOKU Kids” with local children. In this project, adults and children work together on these local activities and projects to foster the children who will become the next generation of innovators, and more.

## Information Items in November

### City taxes can be paid through a smartphone payment app.

We recommend that you pay city taxes using the smartphone payment app. Use this app to read the barcode on the payment slip, and you can easily pay city taxes anywhere, anytime.

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



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

### Procedures can be followed without visiting the office.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation has a system that enables taxpayers to carry out procedures easily using mail or the Internet, etc., without visiting the Metropolitan Taxation Office.

Reports, applications, and notifications can be accepted electronically or by mail. A cashless system for paying tax is also available.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

### Your Tax Statement can be used to apply for real estate registration.

When you apply for real estate registration, the value of your fixed assets must be written down on the form. This is for calculating the amount of registration license tax.

The value can also be confirmed in the Tax Statement sent to you in June along with the “Fixed Asset Tax & City Planning Tax Payment Notice,” so in principle you don’t need the Valuation of Fixed Assets paid certificate.

For more information, refer to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website

### It’s very convenient to use eLTAX for electronic tax payment!

It’s very convenient to pay your tax electronically using eLTAX, through the Local Tax Common Payment System. Payment by credit card is accepted, as are direct tax payments and Internet banking payments, etc.

For more information, access the eLTAX website.



eLTAX website

### The Fixed Asset Tax is reduced for new houses that have been certified as Long-Life Quality Housing in cases where specific conditions have been met. — Apply by January 31, 2024. —

- **Period:** The Fixed Asset Tax reduction period is five (5) fiscal years from the new tax year. For fire-resistant or semi-fire-resistant housing of three stories or more, the period is seven (7) fiscal years.
- **Reduced rate:** 1/2 of the Fixed Asset Tax amount will be reduced, limited to floor areas equivalent to 120 m<sup>2</sup> per unit, for the residential part.

Applications for reduction must be made by January 31 of the year following that of initial construction. However, if a new house is completed on January 1, the due date is January 31 of the same year.

For more information, access the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website or contact the office as follows:

**Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City:**  
Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

### Real Estate Acquisition Tax is reduced for newly built Tokyo Zero-Emission Housing (within the 23 Wards).

The eligibility and rate for the tax reduction are as follows:

- **Eligibility for tax reduction:** Newly built Tokyo Zero-Emission Housing that meets certain requirements, such as the installation of solar power systems, etc.
- **Tax reduction:** Applications need to be made for tax reduction. You can apply for a maximum 100% reduction for Real Estate Acquisition Tax for housing. Other tax reductions, such as for Earthquake Resistance Promotion Tax, etc. can be applied for when you build a new house.

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

**Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City:**  
Minato City Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website



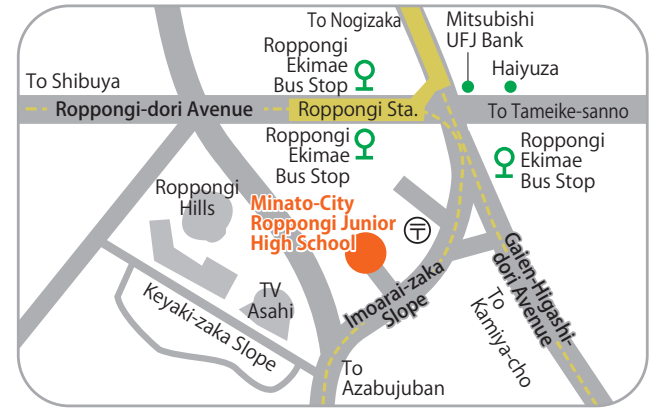
# Information from the Azabu Regional City Office



## The FY2023 Minato City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills will be conducted on-site in Azabu! — Consider preparing for home evacuation! —

We must prepare for future disasters, including earthquakes directly beneath the capital. Based on the lessons learned from our past experiences with disasters, Minato City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills will be conducted on-site in Azabu. Through these drills, participants will learn about the importance of home evacuation, what is required for food stockpiling etc., and experience various emergency drills. Training to prepare food for evacuees, which could not take place due to COVID-19, will also be conducted for the first time in four years. New projects include advanced realistic drills, such as a demonstration of the functions of a diaper portable toilet, AR fire & smoke evacuation drills, and VR earthquake simulation drills.

In addition, this year is a milestone: it is the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake. A Great Kanto Earthquake Corner will be provided for us to look back on the past and reflect on the enormous damage caused by great earthquakes. There will also be some events children can enjoy. Please come and join us!



**Date and time** 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday November 12, 2023 (planned)

**Location** Minato City Roppongi Junior High School (6-8-16 Roppongi, Minato City)

### Drill details

\* The content of some drills might be changed.



### School Ground

- Azabu Police Station Public Relations Section
- Working Disaster Prevention and Crime Prevention Vehicles Display
- Demonstration of the Functions of a Diaper Portable Toilet
- Training to Operate an Out-of-Order Elevator
- Earthquake Simulation Vehicle Experience
- D-class Pump Operation Training
- Initial Fire Fighting Training (Machikado Disaster Prevention Training Car, mock fire extinguisher for training)
- Food Preparation Training for Evacuees
- Smoke Experience Drill



### Multi-purpose Room

- Great Kanto Earthquake Corner



### Gymnasium

- Disaster Prevention Information Section ("Days of Learning about Disaster Prevention" Stamp Rally Counter)
- First Aid Training Using a Triangular Cloth
- Business Operators' Disaster Prevention Exhibition (Tokyo Katsushika Welfare Factory; Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd.; TEPCO Power Grid, Incorporated; EPISTA Corporation/Pleete Co., Ltd.; Tokyo Gas Network Co., Ltd.; and NTT East Corporation)
- Disaster Prevention Officer Booth
- AR Fire & Smoke Evacuation Drill/VR Earthquake Simulation Drill
- Introduction of Goods Useful for Home Evacuation



## "BOSAI Quest" Let's Have Fun Learning About Disaster Prevention As You Carry Out the Drills as Above!

In addition to the drills conducted on-site, try the quests and quizzes!  
If you succeed on the quests and quizzes, you can win a commemorative item based on the number of stickers you earned!  
Learn about home evacuation (remaining at home to shelter in an emergency) while enjoying the quests and quizzes games!



**Going shopping?  
Visit our local shopping streets.**

Please send us your comments or requests regarding

**The Azabu**



Please write your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, comment and/or request (in Japanese or English, no word/character limit or specific format required), and deliver it directly, or mail or fax it to the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo (106-8515).

● Tel: 03-5114-8812 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

You can also access this community information paper from the Minato City website.



### AZABU

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabanebashi subway stations, The Crib 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

A little more than a year has passed since I became an editorial committee member. I'm in the habit of going walking every day, and sometimes I choose a street that I think I have not been on before. I used to hesitate to walk into unknown roads and alleys, but now as an editorial committee member I do so with enthusiasm. Not being able to travel or go far away during COVID-19, I had more opportunities to look at my hometown. At last, the COVID-19 situation seems to be passing. I am very excited to go explore places with this new-found curiosity.

(HIGUCHI Masanori)

The original article is written in Japanese.

"Minato Call" information service answers your questions about everyday life! Feel free to ask about services provided by City Hall, facility guides, event information, and more. Available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm every day.

\* This service is also available in English.

### Minato Call

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752

Inquiry submission form: <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou/kuse/kocho/ken/form-inquiry.html>