



The articles which were written in Japanese are directly translated into English.

Nishimachi International School is a secular private school which has approximately 460 students from over 30 countries enrolled in class levels from kindergarten to the 9th grade. Each class is small and all students study in both English and Japanese. The school's philosophical purpose is to provide an education that promotes the well-rounded development of individuals through the cultivation of their intellectual creative personal social and physical abilities. The school is committed to educating both Japanese and foreign students to be international and independent thinkers. The ultimate goal is that every Nishimachi student learns to live harmoniously and contribute to world society. The school has an "at home" atmosphere which hasn't changed from since it was founded. The graduates love their school and a well-attended re-union takes place in June every year.

Founder of the school, Tané Matsukata (1917 – 1989) was the 3rd daughter of businessman Shokuma and Miyo Matsukata, Tane's grandfather, Masayoshi Matsukata was a general in the Meiji era and her older sister, Haru, was the wife of former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Edwin O. Reischauer. Tané grew up learning English from a governess and also studied in the United States. It is no wonder that she wanted to recreate the kind of liberal and creative educational environment, not available in Japan at that time. Returning to Japan after WWII, Tane opened classes in 1949 with the hopes of teaching children in a free environment with broad exposure to different cultures. She also hoped to foster in her students, sensitivity and the ability to act individually. Eventually, the number of children grew as well as the diversity of countries represented and eventually the school became truly international.

The school is situated in a neighborhood once known as Azabu Nishimachi and this is what gave rise to the school's name. Today, the first thing one sees walking into the school grounds is a print of an old photo of school children sitting around Tané as she teaches in front of the fire place inside the Matsukata House. It's a very peaceful image and it symbolizes the atmosphere of the school itself.

The Matsukata House is still currently used as a part of the school facilities. The building of the house was commissioned by Tane's parents and was built by the renown American architect who was active from the Taisho to Showa period, William Merrel Vories. Although the interior has been renovated several times, the stairs and doors made out of oak have a profound atmosphere, the tiled fireplace and many beautiful detailed designs still remain which are truly fabulous. It has been appointed as a historical building by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. There is a plate on the side of the road which shows the outline of the building and the floor print when it was first built. This school is an important equity to the town of Azabu as well.

(Interviewed by: Hikaru Takahashi, Aki Tanaka, Written by: Aki Tanaka)



- 1 The Headmaster's room. The current Headmaster, Terence Christian, is Irish. The fireplace is original and used to warm the family's music room.
- 2 The white pergola and foyer against the gray wall of the Matsukata House attracts the attention of passersby. The interior is not open to the public.
- 3 The stylized "M" of the Matsukata House carved in the stucco wall.
- 4 The beautifully designed door and fanlight of the entrance hall. In recent years, the "Outreach Scholarship Fund" program has been established to enroll children in financial difficulty and to provide them an opportunity of education.

The metal knob to lift the window is an elegant detail.

Light shines through the window and illuminates the stair landing. The gentle slope and silky texture of the rail invites one to climb up the stairs, a hallmark of Vories' architecture.

The designing skills of the architect can be seen in the details by the staircase.

The photographs on the wall facing the hallway go back to when the school was established and show pictures of the various events which have taken place over the years. The historical display creates a sense of continuity and a warm atmosphere.

## Nishimachi International School

### 西町インターナショナルスクール

**Nishimachi International School is located north of Arisugawanomya Memorial Park, near the top of Sendaizaka in the residential neighborhood of Moto Azabu 2 chome. The school has just celebrated its 60th anniversary and the classic Western style Matsukata House has been there from the beginning. Of course, the campus has expanded with modern buildings and most recently a fully-equipped media and library facility.**



Left: Children of different nationalities and culture develop harmoniously.

Bottom: On the outside wall of the gym is a photo of Tané and children relaxing around the Matsukata House fire place. The print was displayed to commemorate the school's 60th anniversary.



Top: The Yashiro Media Center features a glassed space, both open and relaxed in atmosphere. Many children love to read there.

Right: John Kolosowski or "Mr.k" is the librarian from Australia who helps kids search for books, magazines, or Internet data.



# 麻布

“AZABU – A Human Story”

# ひと

The “Higashi Azabu” area can be found on the left side heading towards Akabane-bashi from the Shin-ichi-no-hashii crossing with the Azabu Juban Shopping Arcade behind you. It looks like a quiet residential area at first glance. Since the Legal Affairs Bureau is close by, you notice many buildings with signboards of Judicial Scriveners and Registered Land and Building Investigators. If you listen quietly you can also hear sounds of machines from small factories. One notices seasonal flowers along the eaves of houses and passers-by who talk casually with neighbors along the Azabu East Dori Street. This is probably one of the areas of Minato City known only by those who know this neighborhood. We visited Mr. Kazuo Sano who has lived in the Higashi Azabu area for generations. We used an excerpt of his grandfather, the late Akira Sano’s (sculptor & graduate of the Technology Arts School) words in one of our The Azabu (3rd issue).

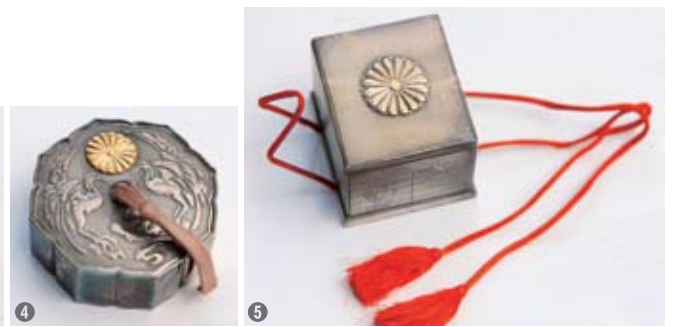
My grandfather, Akira Sano, was a sculptor. He was in the first graduating class of the Technology Arts School Sculptor Department. ※1 He was born in the 1st year of the Keio (1865) era and lived throughout the Meiji, Taisho and Showa era. There was someone who presented a research paper on him in detail last year at the Meiji Arts Academic Association. ※2 We have a sculptor of a lion ※3 in our front entrance, but, the most representative work which remains to this day is the bronze statue at the Hamarikyu Garden. It’s covered by blue rust because of the acid rain which is a concern. I was told that there were bigger pieces of art in Kumamoto and Fukuoka but that it was used for metal parts during WWII. The Technology Arts School had many foreign teachers and he learned directly from Italian sculptor, Ragusa. I recently visited Sicily where Ragusa was born. It’s such a beautiful place. Ragusa is still famous in that area presently as well. There was a bronze statue in the town and everyone knew about him. I also visited his grave on behalf of my grandfather. Ragusa’s wife, Tama, who was the first Japanese woman to get married to a foreigner, is also in his grave as well. Tama was originally buried inside the Chogenji Temple so I think some of her ashes were transferred to his grave.

Mr. Sano unfolded the treasures of his grandfather one by one. There was a travel document of the Meiji era which was a document written on heavy washi paper, a postcard sent by vessel from a famous artist of western painting, a coin purse (on it was a relief of the Diet Building which his grandfather was involved in ), a souvenir given at the Completion of the Framework of the Diet Building, and others...which I felt were all precious items that probably should be displayed inside a glass case of a museum.

His grandfather, Akira Sano, joined the Imperial Household Ministry after graduating from the Technology Arts School and was mainly involved in decorations of buildings. He worked on the exterior of the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace and the Diet Building. Since the Akasaka Palace was made to look like the Versailles Palace, he was ordered by the bureau to visit the Palace and look at all the details and stayed in France was approximately one year. He also was one of the judges at the Paris Expo during his stay. Take a look at the travel document I have here from those days. It was a document with writing only and no picture. Because it was back in those days, he was blessed before leaving.

He was good friends with Seiki Kuroda and Keiichiro Kume at the Hakubakai ※4 (White Horse Society- an art group). He received many postcards from Paris. Seiki Kuroda sent several postcards wanting to tell my grandfather about Rodin.

Our current house used to be my grandfather’s atelier. He worked here to make the original shapes of the big bronze



statues. My father was sent out as a troop member during WWII and my grandfather, mother, younger brother and I experienced the big Tokyo air raid here. I remember seeing the pagoda at the Zojoji Temple burning in flames right from here. I was about 4 or 5 at that time and rather than being afraid, I thought the site looked beautiful. My grandfather and mother felt that it would be too dangerous and decided to evacuate to the Higashi Murayama area where my mother’s home was. But we were lucky because this area didn’t burn down. In those days, they would force you to evacuate and would take down the houses so that fire wouldn’t spread. I was told that because of these protective measures nearby, that this area was saved

Although he experienced seeing the air raids when he was small, his childhood started with the post war restoration of the Azabu area.

Iikura Elementary School was my school district since it burnt down during the war, I went to the Nanzan Elementary School in Azabu Juban. I remember skimmed milk and the Koppel bread from those days. I hated the skimmed milk which was inside the bucket.....Azabu Juban had also burned down so there wasn’t any living ware. It wasn’t available anywhere and there were long lines wherever you went.

There’s no one in the family which succeeded as a sculptor. Times were changing and there wasn’t a lot of demand for sculptors in the Showa era. Maybe there wasn’t demand because it was costly and there weren’t any sponsors.

My grandfather was alive until he was 89 years old which was 1955. Sculptors are a combination of 2 methods. One is working from the outside inwards to create an object and one is using clay as the center and working outwards. My grandfather’s style was working from the inside outwards.

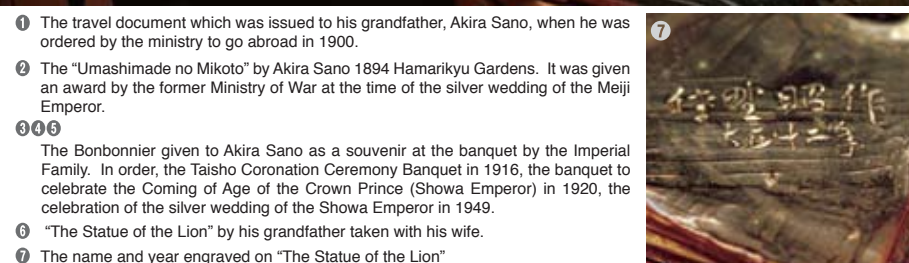
I read about the Azabu Masters Club last year in the newsletter and took the course and received a certificate. I would like to continue to talk about my grandfather, as a grand child of Akira Sano as one living in Azabu.

The Meiji Restoration and Japan’s advance in modernization and westernization is something you read about in history books....I felt that this interview gave me a chance to come in touch with the life of sculptor, Akira Sano, who lived through the changing of those times.

※1 The first state owned school which was founded in 1876  
 ※2 Meiji Arts Academic Meeting, the 18th “Modern Arts” [Sano Akira no chokoku] – [Hakubakai no chokoku wo megutte] Asako Yoshida  
 ※3 Akira Sano “The Statue of the Lion” 1923 Bronze preserved by Kazuo Sano  
 ※4 An arts group started by Seiki Kuroda and Keiichiro Kume in 1896

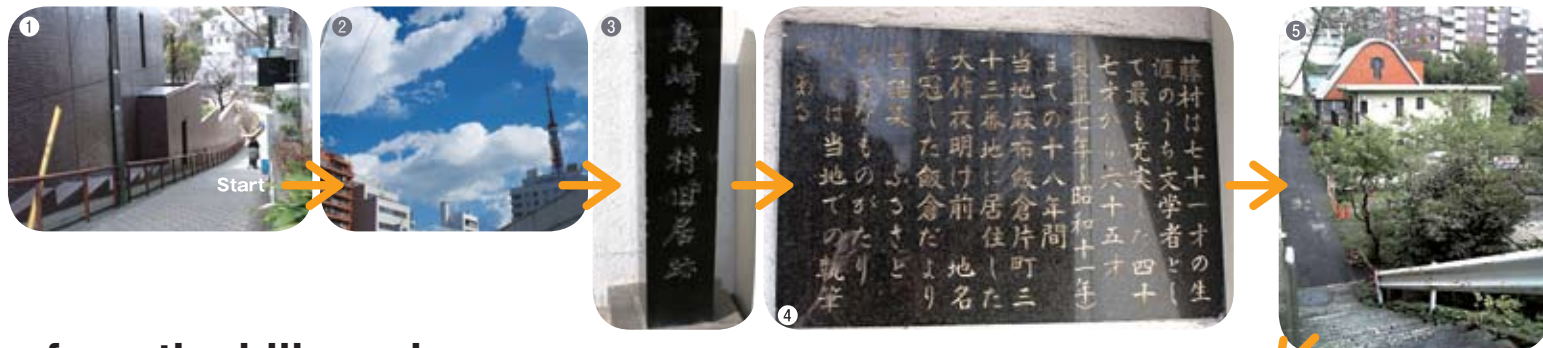
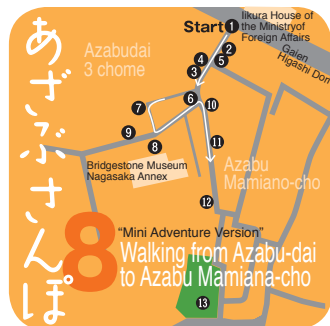


**Kazuo Sano**  
 (70 years old)  
 “I will continue to talk about my grandfather who lived over 4 periods.”



① The travel document which was issued to his grandfather, Akira Sano, when he was ordered by the ministry to go abroad in 1900.  
 ② The “Umashimade no Mikoto” by Akira Sano 1894 Hamarikyu Gardens. It was given an award by the former Ministry of War at the time of the silver wedding of the Meiji Emperor.  
 ③④⑤ The Bonbonnier given to Akira Sano as a souvenir at the banquet by the Imperial Family. In order, the Taisho Coronation Ceremony Banquet in 1916, the banquet to celebrate the Coming of Age of the Crown Prince (Showa Emperor) in 1920, the celebration of the silver wedding of the Showa Emperor in 1949.  
 ⑥ “The Statue of the Lion” by his grandfather taken with his wife.  
 ⑦ The name and year engraved on “The Statue of the Lion”

## Living With The Treasures Left Behind By My Grandfather



## Enjoying the view from the hills and walking the slopes of Azabu Mamiana-cho

We depart on "Azabu Walking" from Azabudai as we did in our last issue. This time we start our journey from an alley alongside the street from Iikura House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ① One is surprised at the steep slope which comes into view which is so different from the atmosphere of the street. I try to stay calm as I carefully head down the slope. An open space ② comes into view as soon as the slope becomes gentle. There quietly stands the monument ③ of Toson Shimazaki (a Japanese author) where his resident used to be, in which one can feel the presence of Azabu's history and literary culture. On the monument is inscribed ④ that his great work, "Before The Dawn" and fairy tale, "Furusato" were written here. One might be able to feel Toson's world of children's literature if you walked with your child.

(Toson mentions about Azabu in his novels although he says it was inconvenient but enjoyed the lifestyle here.)

There is a steep set of stairs in front of Toson's monument which makes you want to climb down. ⑤ If you were taking a walk, it would be good to walk towards Higashi Azabu, however, this time we take a right into the alley in front of the Uekizaka ⑥ which leads to a residential area. On the way, to your right is another staircase which stands out but this one is covered with flowers and green. ⑦ At the top of these stairs stands the Bridgestone Museum Nagasaka Annex ⑧ and then to your right it leads to the Azabu Nagasaka-cho top residential area ⑨, but, here, we go down the Uekizaka slope on the left and return to where we were a while ago and walk towards the right. ⑩

From this point, we can enjoy our walk at the top of the slope and open scenery in front of us. ⑪ Our last stretch is walking down Nezumizaka ⑫ where we end up at Mamiana Park. ⑬ My child has been waiting for this moment and dashes into the park and starts playing.

Although this issue's "Azabu Walking" was a short walk, I hope you enjoyed walking the slopes and climbing the stairs, which I thought would be like an adventure trip. Don't you think you can enjoy the scenery and the surrounding atmosphere when walking down the slopes? Not many cars pass these streets, so please try this route once.



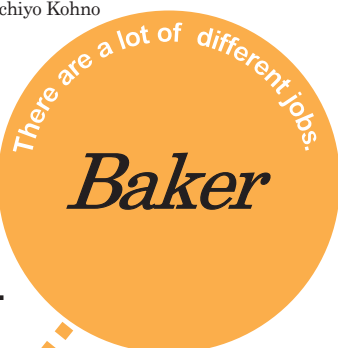
(Written and photographed by: Toshie Suzuki)



Even if it's in Japanese, if you look into the eyes of the foreign customers, they will understand you. I'd like to continue to bake quality bread.  
Panetteria Danoi: Michiyo Kohno

## A profession I dreamt about from kindergarten.

We visited Michiyo Kohno who is a baker. She works hard every day at the "Danoi" baker which is located at the foot of Hottazaka of Nishi Azabu 4 chome.



☺ Visiting a baker was the dream of junior editors, Taichi and Hibiki. They got all excited as they stepped in to see the products displayed on the shelf and the spic and span atmosphere of the workshop.

### What kind of work do you do?

We start baking bread from 6 in the morning and start selling it to our customers from past 9 o'clock. We bake about 20 different types of bread everyday. We're very busy in the morning as we also need to put the bread in bags which we deliver to the department stores. In the afternoon, we continue to sell and also prepare the material to be baked for our next day at the same time. The last task of the day is cleaning up. We have to wash huge steel boards and sweep the crumbs and powder. Everyday is fulfilling

### How did you become a baker?

It was a dream from my kindergarten days to become a baker. I studied in the field of agriculture when I was in university and learned about food, nutrition and fermentation. I joined a company which baked bread after I graduated from university.

The company was like being on a varsity team and very strict but also very kind and taught me how to bake bread. While I was working, I started to imagine what kind of bread I wanted to bake. That's when I decided to quit this big company and start working as an apprentice at a smaller shop. This baker is my 3rd shop. I love French bread and German bread although I've never gone to those countries. I love simple bread.

### What is the joy working of everyday?

I'm happy because I get to interact with the customers who come. People in this neighborhood are very kind and don't get irritated with small things. We sometimes keep them waiting for the bread to bake or at times when I goof up in slicing the bread. Even then, they say it's okay. Keeping healthy is important. Your feelings reflect in the bread you bake. When I'm not feeling well, fermentation doesn't go well and at times, our customers point this out. I truly feel that the bread I bake is like my child.

☺ Thank you very much for letting the children experience part of baking bread today.

"I enjoyed teaching them as well. I've experienced working as an assistant at a baking class, but, you also learn from the students. You also realize when you're teaching how small you are. Everything is an experience."

Ms. Kohno said, "You learn something new everyday. I want to do what I can do now and really enjoy the opportunity which I have been provided." You could see how humble and positive she was.

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Shiori Ito, Kumiko Ohmura, Hibiki Ohmura, Toshie Suzuki, Taichi Suzuki, Written by: Kumiko Ohmura.)

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

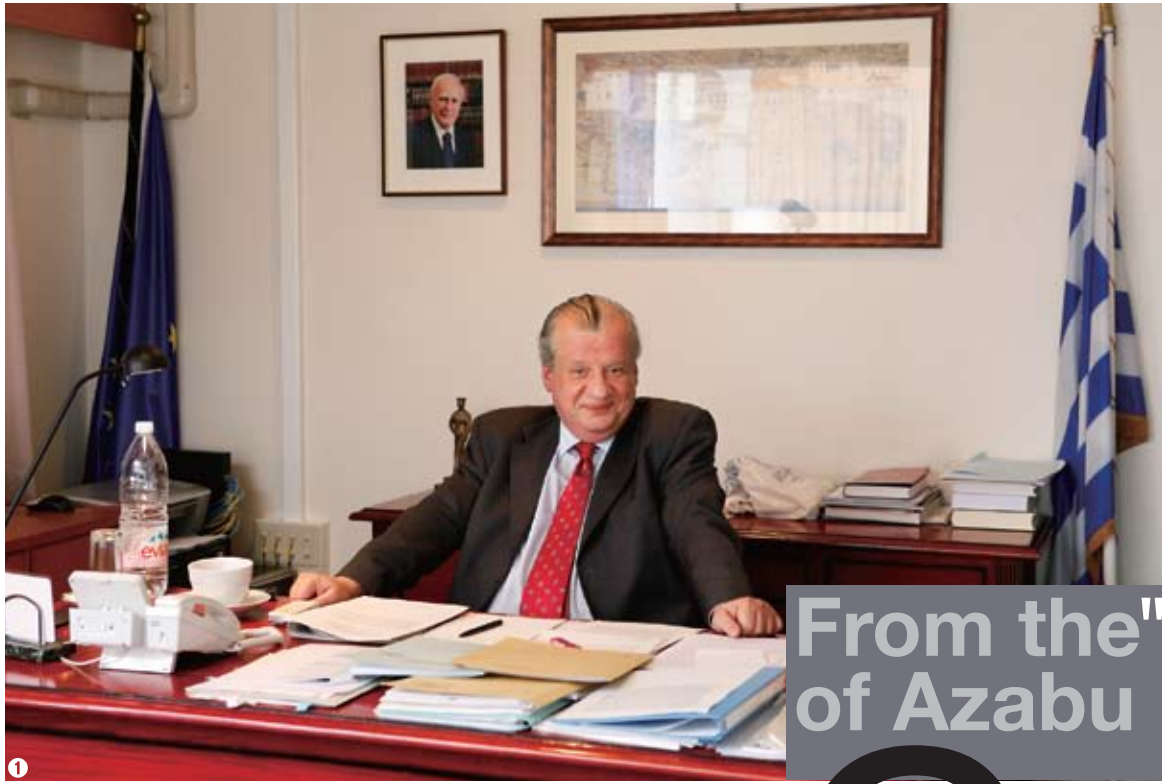
# KIDS' Hello Work



The children were able to bake their "special bread" from learning how to. "Squeezing chocolate cream wasn't easy because it was hard and took time but I enjoyed it!" (Taichi)

"Ms. Kohno's explanation was clear and easy to understand." (Hibiki)





Greece  
 Area: 130,000 square kilometers  
 (approximately 1/3 of Japan)  
 Population: Approximately 11,130,000 people (2007)  
 Capital: Athens (approximately 3 million in population)  
 Ethnic Group: Greek  
 Language: Modern Greek  
 Religion: Greek Orthodox  
 Government: Parliamentary Republic  
 Head of State: President Karolos Papoulias  
 (elected in Mar. 2005, 5 year term)  
 Legislature: Unicameral parliament  
 Prime Minister: George Papandreu  
 Foreign Ministry homepage:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/greece/data.html>

Interview cooperated by the Embassy of Greece in Japan

From the "World"  
 of Azabu

# Greece

The root of European culture; great civilization and history and the power of words!



Did you know that the official name of Greece was Hellenic Republic? Diplomatic relations with Japan have been for over 100 years and Greece is a well-known country to us but how many of us actually knew that the official name of the country was Hellenic Republic? We interviewed H.E. Ambassador Nikolaus Tsamados about things we think we know about Greece but actually don't.

The Ambassador who welcomed us into his office with a cheerful smile was appointed as Ambassador to Japan in October of last year. He has a cosmopolitan background as his father was a diplomat as well and he spent 3/4 of his life outside of Greece. He has been appointed to many countries such as France, Germany, Italy, Tunisia and Lebanon and speaks 6 languages. His grandfather was a politician as well and he, himself, has quite a distinguished background by holding a doctorate degree in international law. However, he is a great soccer fan and told us that if he didn't become a diplomat he would have become a soccer player. Soccer is very popular in Greece, and, H.E. said that he was looking forward to both Greece and Japan playing in the coming World Cup.

There are many who say that Japan and Greece do not have a lot of similarities, however, H.E., doesn't quite think so. It is true that Japanese are quiet, polite and passive and on the contrary, the national characteristics of the Greek people are cheerful, aggressive and like to debate a lot which is the opposite. However, on the other hand, there are many similarities such as 80% of Greece being surrounded by mountains and in Japan's case it is 70%; both countries are surrounded by the sea and value its resources, with both having long history and a unique culture of its own. H.E. feels that the environment of a country influences the national sentiment and said that there were more similarities versus differences.

He has a strong feeling regarding the power of words the Greek have. Greek compared to other languages is known as a language with abundant vocabulary and has influenced many other languages. Greek vocabulary is used as English words and words of many other languages. The influence the Greek people had is indeed reflected in the power of their language. H.E. at this point, printed out a speech by renowned Greek economist who later became Prime Minister, Xenophon Zolotas. This was the speech, Professor Zolotas read to the foreign audience of the international banks when he was the director general of the Bank of Greece in 1950. The speech was written in Greek; however, at the same time it was all in English. In other words, he proved to the audience that there were many words in English which derived from Greek. There were many difficult vocabularies but all of them were indeed English, and could be found in the English dictionary.

H.E. who feels the importance of the power of words had a request to the Japanese. He said, "Japan is the 2nd largest economy in the world but you are at a disadvantage because there are not many Japanese who speak English.

Japan might have become No. 1 economically in the world if English was spoken." There are probably others in addition to the Ambassador who feel that Japan's national power and influence to the world have a connection with the lack of English spoken by the Japanese. Of course the ability to speak English is not the only reason but with more boundaries between countries going away and the progress of globalization, it is a fact that the lack of English ability among the Japanese will put us at a disadvantage.

Because he told us that everyday was exciting and full of surprises since he was appointed to Japan, we asked him to share some of these with us. First of all, he was very touched with the welcome he received when he visited the Yoron Island which is a sister island with Mykonos Island. There was even a Greek Village on Yoron Island, and he said everyone welcomed him waving the Greek flag. He said he was very delighted to be this welcomed in a foreign country. He also finds surprises in the town of Azabu every weekend. Azabu which has delicious cuisine is like a "Small Paris" to the Ambassador. He said he can find delicious dishes at a reasonable price compared to Athens where the cost of living is increasing these days. He was told that if he lived in Japan he would be able to lose weight with eating healthy Japanese food but he smiled and said it was not what actually happened.



In closing, we asked him about the future of Greece. Although there was news going around on the financial state of Greece on the day we went to interview him, H.E. said, "The financial state of Greece is in difficulty but its people were not poor. 70% of the population of Greek people have their own business and therefore, it is not difficult for one to have individual wealth and in reality living wasn't that difficult." Ship building and the navy were strong in the past; however, he told us enthusiastically that the country was going to be putting more effort into tourism. You would think that many Japanese tourists probably visited the country to see its beautiful sea and ancient ruins, but was surprised to hear that only 50,000 visited annually. Even though they have more sights to see than any other country in the world, they have a big gap compared to their neighboring European countries. He passionately told us that having the Japanese people become more aware of the attractive points of Greece was also one of the Ambassador's objectives.

(Interviewed and written by: Chie Kato)

1 H.E., Ambassador Nikolaus Tsamados was very cheerful and the two hour interview flew by fast.

2 The blue symbolizes the beautiful sea and the white cross symbolizes Greek Orthodoxy. The symbol of the country which was the basis of European culture is recognized throughout the world.

3 Everyone admires the white house and blue sea of Greece. However, unfortunately, the number of Japanese tourists has not increased in recent years. One of the reasons is because there are no more direct flights from Japan. (The photograph is Santorini. Provided by the Greek Tourist Bureau [www.visitgreece.jp](http://www.visitgreece.jp))

4 Mykonos Island and Yoron Island are sister islands. A Japanese who visited the island 30 years ago was so inspired with the successful tourist business on the island that he wanted to do the same for the Yoron Island and proposed that the 2 islands sign a sister island agreement. (Photograph provided by the Greece Tourist Bureau)

5 "Follie Follie" the Greek jewelry brand which is popular among Japanese women as well.

6 Ouzo made from grapes is a liqueur that represents Greece. The official way of drinking ouzo is 2 oz of ouzo, 2 oz of water and with ice cubes. In recent years, efforts have been put in exporting wine as well.

7 Olives are one of the most famous Greek agricultural products. Olives play an important role in Greek cuisine. It is a produce which is very close to the Greek people.

# Azabu-nista

A report about foreigners who work in Azabu



Thai Language Class Pachara Teacher  
Mori Pachara

## Solving differences of perception through conversation. That's why language is important.

Pachara Mori who was born in a northeastern town of Thailand had an admiration for the sea ever since she saw the ocean on television when she was a child. She studied aquaculture at the Burapha University in Thailand and later came to Japan as an exchange student. After studying Japanese for two years, she enrolled and did research at the Tsukuba University Graduate School and the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology Graduate School and studied environmental science and maritime environmental science. She later returned to Thailand and joined a Japanese consumable goods manufacturer. She was involved in corporate services and also acted as an advisor on water quality.

It was at that time that she came across situations in which communication was not running smoothly between the Japanese boss and Thai staff. Pachara felt frustration at what she saw and started to teach Japanese to the Thai staff. It was this experience which later got her involved in opportunities to teach Thai and work as an interpreter, however, she felt that not only acting as a bridge between the two languages was important but that it was also important to explain on the background surrounding each country's culture and custom to gain understanding.

At the "Thai Language Class Pachara" which Pachara teaches at, the curriculum is built in the same way that Thai children learn their own language, therefore, beginners need not be nervous



Pachara's classes are held every Sunday night. She invites you in with a friendly "sawadika" (hello) and her classes have a good reputation. Pachara told us with enthusiasm that she would like to be more and more involved in the friendly relation between Japan and Thailand.

to participate in the lessons. She chose Higashi Azabu because she wanted to open a classroom where the local people could gather and because it was where her husband grew up in and he had a fondness about the area.

She met her Japanese husband when she was studying in Japan at graduate school and after keeping in touch with each other for three years while she was back in Thailand, they finally got married. There are still many things she is surprised about and flustered to spend her married life in a country where culture and perception is different, however, she talks things over with her husband and solves the problems, so she never gets into an argument with her husband. Pachara's favorite Thai dishes are pad thai (Thai fried noodles) and som tam (papaya salad), however, stewed Japanese style potatoes and beef and potato salad which she learnt from her mother-in-law is also her specialty. Wives wanting to cook dishes that husband's like is a universal trend.

She also lived in Minami Azabu for two years and so she has many favorite places in the Azabu area. She loves the Azabu Juban Summer Festival but also loves fishing with her husband at the Shurakuen and is truly deeply rooted into the Azabu region.

We borrowed the photograph we used in this article from her husband which he took. You can see from her radiant smile that the two have a splendid relationship. (Interviewed by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Ayako Fukumoto, Kanako Morizumi, Written by: Ayako Fukumoto Photograph borrowed from: Genta Mori)

Community activities supported by the town council and shopping arcade association

## Fun to Watch! But even more fun to participate in the Kakashi Matsuri

### Why are there rows of scarecrows right beneath the Tokyo Tower?

It is said that the "kakashi matsuri" (scarecrow festival) originally started because there were many people from the Tohoku region living in Higashi Azabu and it was a way for them to "reminisce about their homelands and thank the good harvest in autumn and to have people enjoy that".

Each of the "scarecrows" are made by the children of the nursery schools, kindergartens, Azabu Elementary School, pupils clubs and some even make them at their homes and work place. Everyone brings their "scarecrows" made with loving care and line them up alongside Azabu East Dori. A contest is held on stage followed by an awarding ceremony and many other exciting events take place. In addition, there is a parade of the "Hanagasa Ondo" (folk song) of the Yamagata region which is closely related to Azabu and the "Tokyo Ondo". These days, the city office even offers cooperation to this shopping arcade association's event.

Fresh autumn vegetables, imo-ni, salted wild ayu (fish) from Oniguni River, tama konnyaku and many other indigenous products are directly transported from Funagata Town of Yamagata at the "kakashi matsuri" which is very popular. It was awarded the "Tokyo Shopping Arcade Association Grand Prize" thanks to

the many supports received from the city office, town council, and shopping arcade association.

### When and how did the summer experience learning program start?

There is a deep relationship which exists with the Funagata Town of Yamagata prefecture in the background of this festival. Air pollution was a social issue back in 1973. Katsumi Sato who was the PTA chairman of Iikura Elementary School (now consolidated and currently the Azabu Elementary School) and others thought that the children of Tokyo should have an opportunity to experience nature and wildlife in the country and took the children on a two nights three day trip to his homeland, Funagata Town, and that is how the summer experience learning program started.

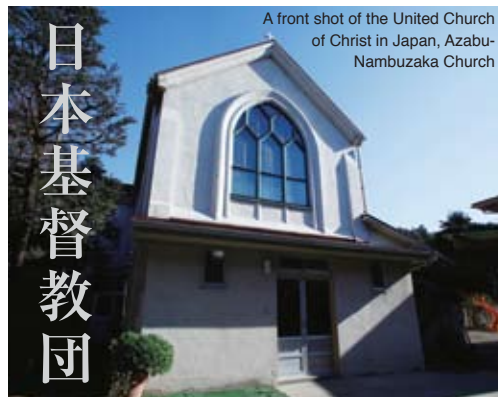
From left: Mr. Mizushima, Chairman of the Higashi Azabu Shopping Arcade Association Mr. Sato, Chairman and Mr. Shiihashi, Vice Chairman, Azabu Morimoto-cho Town Council.

This community exchange has continued with Funagata Town ever since. Although it was temporarily suspended once, thanks to the cooperation of the Azabu Morimoto-cho town council, and the other town councils of the region, shopping arcade association, Iikura Elementary School, the Rotary Clubs of Azabu and Roppongi and the Board of Education, it re-started in 1981. It has now expanded into a mutual experience learning program with the children of the Higashi Azabu area. And the children of Funagata Elementary School also come and experience the big city of Tokyo.

We were surprised to hear that over 2000 children have experienced each other's town and have gone back with fond memories. There are other programs which are being planned together with Funagata Town concerning the aging society, issues surrounding the elderly, and on cooperating with each other at times of disaster and emergencies. We understand that these wishes are moving forward step by step. Friendly relationships continue into the future, we were touched by the region's strength.

The 36th Kakashi Matsuri (scarecrow festival) will be held as follows:  
Planned on Oct. 1st & 2nd, 2010 (the 1st Friday and Saturday of the month)

(Interviewed and written by: Kazue Asakawa, Yukiko Takayanagi)



A front shot of the United Church of Christ in Japan, Azabu-Nambuzaka Church

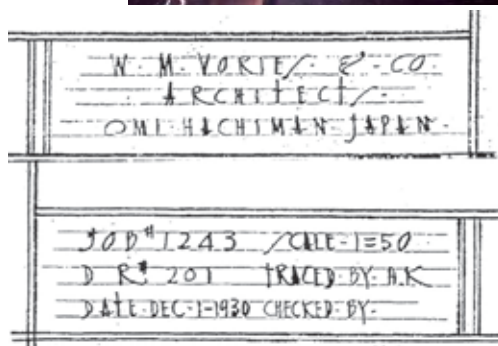
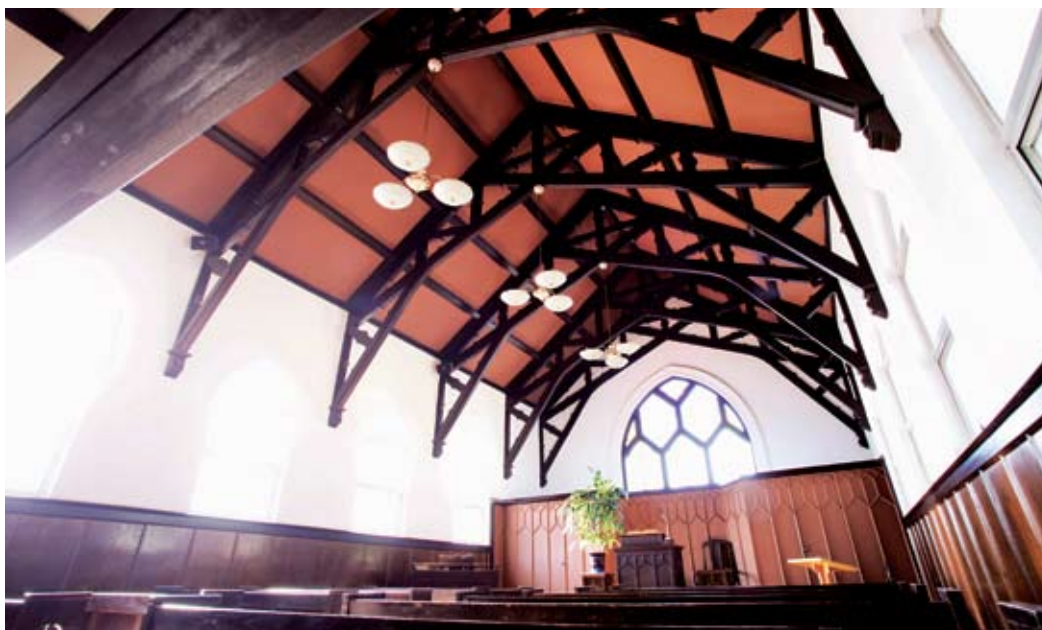
日本基督教団

麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"



(Top) A cross designed on the wooden bench  
(Bottom) The chapel supported by the truss



A part of the drawing design of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church (Vories Architectural Company and date)  
Preserved by the W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha

On the way to the top of the Nambuzaka slope alongside the green of the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, the cross of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church comes into view. A fir tree stands in front of the chapel. However; you can hear the cheerful voices of the children from the Nambuzaka Kindergarten next door and hymns accompanied by an old organ from the church on Sundays. Let's take a look at the phenomena of how this church was built.

## United Church of Christ in Japan, Azabu-Nambuzaka Church Minami Azabu 4-5-6 A Historical Building

### Unfolding the footsteps on the building of the chapel of the Nambuzaka Church through historical records.

The Azabu-Nambuzaka Church started out as a place to preach at Azabu Gazonbocho (currently Azabu-dai 1 chome) in 1915 and then moved to Azabu-ku, Hiroo 35- Nambuzaka-shita in 1918, With support from Henry Miller, a preacher of the German Reformed Church of the United States, an 89.1 square meter two-story wooden missionary building to use as a place to preach was built and that then became the Azabu Missionary Church 2 years later. ※1 The opportunity arose to build a western construction church building in 1927 and the church building was finally completed in 1933. On that day, Nov. 19th, it started with Mrs. Miller's accompaniment and hymn # 171 (currently #191), "..... fix in us thy humble dwelling was sung and with that the consecrating ceremony of the United Church of Christ in Japan, Azabu Church took place. ※2 It stands as the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church to this day.

The following is recorded in the "70 years of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church", [the American architect and businessman]; [according to Vories, Mentholatum Co Ltd, known for the ointment in the white round bottle with the green nurse]. ※3 I became interested in what kind of career this Mr. Vories had, and, at the same time, would like to pay attention to the fact that in the "70 years" that the name of the architect could not be mentioned and was described as hear-say in the form of "according to Vories".

### Architect, William Merrel Vories whose name appears in Japan's modern architectural history. His rare life style and his design philosophy full of gentleness.

William Merrel Vories was born in the Leavenworth, Kansas in October, 1880 and came to Japan in 1905 and ended his life in May, 1964 at the age of 83, under the name of Merrel Hitotsuyanagi. He was given a citizens funeral in Omi Hachiman and was posthumously awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd class by the Japanese government. Vories was brought up under a family environment in which his mother spared no efforts in missionary activities as well as his grand father and entered Colorado College. Though he hoped to be an architect, he decided to engage in Christian missionary work. He was introduced by YMCA ※4, to work as an English teacher at the Omi Hachiman Commercial High School in Shiga prefecture. ※5 He lost his job as an English teacher in 1907 as balancing his lifestyle as an English teacher and engaging in YMCA activities became difficult, however, shortly after was asked to become involved building. He returned to the United

In 1920 he changed the organization and formed the Vories Architectural Company and increased the number of staff and managing architectural designing became his work. Vories wanted to be a missionary architect so he could be involved in creating work which had "human spirit in architecture". ※8 His style of architecture was to create a healthy environment in which those living inside and working inside the building could feel comfort and convenience concentrating on pursuing comfortable space over how the building looked visually from the exterior. ※9 His work included private residences in Omi, the Meiji Gakuin University Chapel (1916), Nishimachi International School (former Shokuma Matsukata Resident) in 1921, other works were Daimaru Inc. Shinsaibashi (Osaka), Toyo Eiwa Joshi Gakuin, the Yamanoue Hotel, and the Toyosato Elementary School. Data which is available regarding Vories' lifetime work are 392 sketches and 1,091 jobs which come to a total of 1,483. ※10 Later the architectural company changed its name to Hitotsuyanagi Architectural Company and although the business had to be suspended during WWII, it re-opened as the architectural department of the Christian Omi Brotherhood in 1946. After 1961, the company name changed to the present day name, V. M., Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha.

It was V. M., Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha which worked on the anti-seismic reinforcement and renovation of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church in 2009. When we asked about the construction of the first church building, we were able to confirm that the design was by Vories from his name and date written, DEC - 1, 1930 on the drawing of the design of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church.

### A Heart Soothing Space Separate from the Noise Around



The first floor of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church is used as a meeting room and kindergarten. As the church was built along the slope of the Nambuzaka, the chapel entrance is on the 2nd floor of the building. The 2nd and 3rd floor of the chapel is an open space supported by a truss and behind the platform, one can notice wheatears designed on the stained-glass window. A warm light shines through both windows into the chapel and as you sit on the long used bench, this warm light envelopes you which has a natural soothing effect. The chapel is indeed full of gentle warmth.



The scenery of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church which has its 80 year history standing alongside Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park may change; I can only say that I do hope this precious church building reflecting the environment of the early days of the Showa era is preserved and long lives.

(Top) The stained-glass window of the chapel  
(Bottom) The whole view of the church seen from Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park

States once in 1908 and later came back with an American architect and with this he started his business as an architect which was the first step n expanding his career. In 1919, Vories married the daughter of viscount Suenori Hitotsuyanagi ※6, Makiko Hitotsuyanagi (1884-1969). His wife contributed in educational activities and built the basis of the Omi Brotherhood School. Later, Mentholatum granted him the sales rights so he could earn funds to support his missionary work, which enabled him to organize the Omi-Brotherhood Pharmaceutical Company. He became a naturalized Japanese citizen in 1941 right about the time the Pacific War was about to start and took his wife's family name of Hitotsuyanagi. ※7

- ※1 The Editing Committee of the 70 years of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church Nihon Kirisutokyo Kyodan Azabu-Nambuzaka Kyokai 70nen no Ayumi Pg. 1-20
- ※2 The Editing Committee of the 70 years of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church op. cit pg 34-35
- ※3 The Editing Committee of the 70 years of the Azabu-Nambuzaka Church op. cit pg 34-35
- ※4 Young Men's Christian Association - Christian movement which started among young people in the beginning of the 19th century.
- ※5 Edited by W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha - The Episodes of an American Teacher in Japan pg. 3- 29  
W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha www.vories.co.jp
- ※6 Minoru Senda Kazoku Soran pg 667 Kodansha Gendai Shinsho
- ※7 Written by Naohiko Okumura Vories Hyoden pg 222 Minato no Hito
- ※8 Edited by W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha Dendo to Kenchiku pg 9
- ※9 Edited by W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha op. cit pg 215 - 217
- ※10 Edited by Masaaki Yamagata William Merrel Vories no kenchiku wo meguru kenkyu 1993. 2 data

Cooperation for interview by:  
the United Church of Christ in Japan, Azabu-Nambuzaka Church  
W. M Vories & Architectural Company Ichiryusha Tomoko Matsunami, Tomoyuki Serino  
Titles which appear in the article have been abbreviated.

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Aki Tanaka, Akira Mori, Kanako Morizumi, Written by: Aki Tanaka, Akira Mori, Kanako Morizumi Title by: Hikaru Takahashi)

# Living in AZABU



## Flowery Spring

Spring is coming, after a long cold winter.  
How nice and happy days.

My theme color for this spring is "pink".  
Clothes plan for pink colored,  
put some beads on the cardigan,  
came out very dainty!!  
And store bought spangled parts  
set for making pins.

As for cherry blossoms,  
Single, double and weeping style,  
I look around all of them in  
Azabu. It's a big enjoyment of the season.  
My friend has a big cherry  
tree in the garden so she  
does "OHANAMI" at home!!



My wishful thinking,  
taking a walk beneath  
those beautiful trees with  
Mr. wonderful together.  
What a gorgeous ambition!!

Spend the delightful spring.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

The Azabu Regional City Office intends to solve the various issues of the community by working and thinking together with the residents from residents' point of view.

### Regarding the Azabu Regional City Office Precinct Plan

Following the last issue, we would like to introduce you to three projects out of 12. These are "The Azabu Future Photo Studio," "The Collaborative International Program," and "The Azabu Festa."

#### 4 The Azabu Future Photo Studio

##### "Reviewing why it was adopted as our project"

The Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park retains feudal lord mansions, temple towns, and old samurai residences with many historical stories or legends of the Azabu region.

However, it's very much a situation in which Azabu's history and culture are not well known to many of our residents and visitors.

In order to have people feel a deep attachment for the Azabu region, we would like people to know the history and culture of the town through old photographs of the Azabu region.

##### [Content of Project]

With the cooperation of our residents, corporations, and universities, we will start collecting old photographs of the Azabu region as data. Fixed-point photographs will be shot and photographs of the changing town will be saved. We would like to have these data available for browsing at the Azabu Regional City Office in the future.

#### 5 Collaborative International Project

##### "Reviewing why it was adopted as our project"

There are many embassies, foreign people with foreign resident registrations, and also visitors from abroad in Azabu. Therefore, we need to increase opportunities of communication between Japanese and foreign people in order to deepen the sense of attachment to Azabu and the relations of trust between them.

##### [Content of Project]

In order for foreign people, who live and take active parts in the Azabu region, sharing information and to have them feel a deeper special attachment, we introduce or call for participation of volunteer activities such as keeping the environment clean and patrolling, etc.

We will also translate the city information and distribute them.

#### 6 The Azabu Festa

##### "Reviewing why it was adopted as our project"

In order to increase a sense of togetherness in the Azabu region and to bring out the regional power, we need to develop the area of activities where people of the community and various organizations can deepen exchanges under cooperation and get to know each other.

##### [Content of Project]

Themes will be annual and the Festa will take place with the objective set on enlightenment activities and community interaction.

(To be continued in the next issue)

To Our Readers Please let us hear your comments.

Please let us hear your comments about our articles or topics you want to be taken up. We would like to use them as reference to make an even more attractive newsletter.



Bandanas with former town names printed on them will be given as gifts to the readers who send in their comments or opinions.

Please contact the following with your name, age, address and occupation.

By telephone: 03-5114-8812 (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday)

By fax: 03-3583-3782

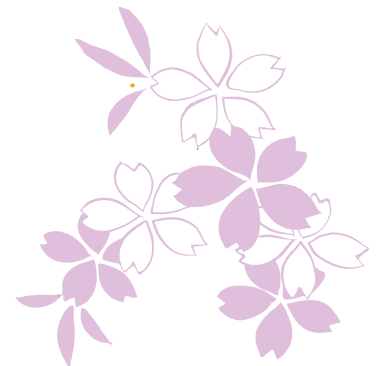
By post: Editing Department of "The AZABU" Azabu Regional City Office  
5-16-45 Roppongi Minato-ku Tokyo, 105-8515



# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



## Recruiting Foreign Nationals for Community Volunteer Activities in Azabu.



Wouldn't you want to learn more about Azabu by participating in local community volunteer activities? English interpreters will be there to help you while you participate in the activities. If you are interested in community activities or want to share information about the community, please come and join.

### Eligibility

Foreign nationals who are 20 years old or older and are interested in volunteer activities.

### Activities

Volunteers keep the environment clean and patrol the community from the evening to the night in once a month. It takes about one hour to volunteer. You can participate in either one or both.

### Schedule

We will contact you later about the schedule.

### Area

Vicinity of the Roppongi Crossing

\*There will be no reward.

\*The activity will be cancelled when raining and you will be contacted on that day.

### Application;Minato Call

Tel:03-5472-3710 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.



## This is a list of the main parks within the Azabu region.



### #4 Mamiana Park

#### Address

63 Azabu- Mamianacho

#### Outline of Facility

Area : 1,771.90 square meters

- 1 Fountain pond
- 1 Swing
- 2 Bouncing play equipments
- 1 Slide
- 1 Sandbox

The park is located in a quiet residential area. It has a fountain called "Fusui no Toki" which is established based on the city's "Town with sculptors-development project." One can see people taking a rest or reading on the benches around the fountain. In March 2008, various kinds of hydrangeas were planted on the eastern slope of the park.

#### Access

A 3 minute walk from the Toei Oedo Line Azabu-juban Station



**Inquiries**  
Public Works Subsection,  
Collaboration Project Section,  
Azabu Regional City Office  
Tel: 03-5114-8803

## AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Chi-bus, Minato Library, Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Nishi-Azabu Community Welfare Hall, Ikkura Community Welfare Hall, Hommura Community Welfare Hall, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office etc.  
● Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

Chief Yasuhiko Ozaki

Sub Chief Miyuki Ito

Staff Kazue Asakawa

Tsuneko Ishiyama

Shiori Ito

Takashi Ito

Kumiko Omura

Chie Kato

Junior Staff Akane Ishiyama

Hibiki Omura

Taichi Suzuki

Toshie Suzuki

Hikaru Takahashi

Yukiko Takayanagi

Aki Tanaka

Satsuki Nishino

Akiko Hashimoto

Ayako Hukumoto

Yoko Mitsuki

Sanae Minato

Akira Mori

Kanako Morizumi

Ryozo Yamashita



Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

### Editor's Note

The Greek Ambassador also mentioned this but I also think that Azabu is similar to Paris. There are delicious bakers and cafes, fashionable people, lots of dogs; the dogs are now wearing lighter garments because it's gotten warm. Cherry blossoms have bloomed and it's the perfect climate to take walks, but, please don't forget to take back your fond memories and your dogs litter.

(Yoko Mitsuki)

### "Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a new city information service, available in English every day from 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

\*English speakers are also available

Minato Call :

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

E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp