



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



The atrium is the reception area where the visitors first come in to. Each floor is color-coded and yellow is used on this floor to match the light which streams through.

## French Embassy

**Two and a half year after the construction of the French embassy (at Minami-azabu 4 chome), many people must still remember the "No Man's Land" exhibition which took place in the old embassy. In this issue of Azabu, we invite you to take a tour of the new embassy.**

Passing through the main gate, the visitor discovers a long ramp that leads straight up to the 4 storey building and into its atrium hall, flooded by the light coming from the glass ceiling. The building is the result of a joint collaboration between the French architects Pierre Michel Delpeuch and Dominique Chavanne of ADPI (Aéroports de Paris Ingénierie) and the Japanese firm Takenaka Corporation.

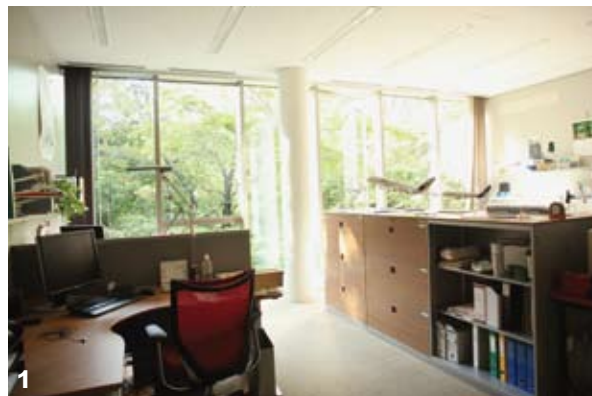
The area's history goes back as far as the Dewa Shinjo clan which used to lived there at the end of the Edo period. The place was later turned over to the Owari branch of the Tokugawa clan. The Japanese government bought the land in the Showa period and then resold it to the French Embassy in 1972. The main idea behind the new embassy design was to preserve and to highlight the landscape. Facing the north side of the garden, the building is curbed to embrace the old forest.

The French embassy is designed to showcase its concern for environmental quality and energy conservation. For example, the Low-E glass has airtight and thermal insulation properties, a rainwater recycling system is installed on the roof and the windows allow natural ventilation. Even though the air conditioner was not functioning the day we visited, we could feel a gentle breeze coming from the garden and circulating through the atrium.

Attractive pieces of art and furniture are displayed in the embassy: collages, paintings and murals by creators such as Nicole Boeuf and Jean-Michel Alberola, tables designed by Charlotte Perriand in the Ambassador's office and VIP waiting room, furniture by famous creators such as Eames and Philippe Starck... The lighting sculpture by Keichi Tahara by the outer ramp is fascinating.

Artistically designed, the new and modern embassy building is designed to highlight one of the last natural landscape remaining in the Azabu area. It is truly a testimony to France's pursuit of modern design.

(Interview and tour of the embassy were under the cooperation of: Jules Irrman, Counselor and Junko Yamada of the PR Department)



- 1 Offices facing the greenery.
- 2 The beautiful stairs with slopes and banisters.
- 3 Concrete mixed with fieldstone creating a soft atmosphere is used on the walls of the atrium.
- 4 Jean-Michel Alberola's metric system used by France and Japan is the theme of the mural. Each floor displays different color chairs designed by Christophe Pillet.



\*France signed a 64-year partial lease of the land with the MINTAK Consortium (business team consisting of Nomura Real Estate Department, Mitsui & Co., ADPI, Takenaka Corporation and Kume Sekkei); MINTAK will build high-rise condominiums which will go on sale. As a price, MINTAK planned, built and developed the new embassy building, providing maintenance service for the next 15 years. By this system, France does not need to pay any public expenses including repair work.

- 5 The green rooftop. The forest on the left and the Ambassador's residence is located at the back of the building.
- 6 The outdoor lighting art; lighting art which combines 3 different types of lighting by Keichi Tahara. (Photograph provided by Kawasumi Architectural Photograph Office)
- 7 The expansive glass designed gate has started to blend in with Azabu's landscape. The large-scaled complex consists of a 2.5ha site area with the building a total floor area of 8438 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 8 The building seen from the wooded area of the garden. The north side of the building is all glass.
- 9 The dynamic and elegant slope alongside the green wall leads to the entrance area





There were many furniture upholsterers from Shiba to Mita street as it was the producing district of western style furniture called "shiba-kagu". Born in Azabu Iigura, Mr. Aida's factory was also one of them. Kiyotaka, succeeded his late father's business and works hard at recycling Japan's woods, using thinned wood.



## Half a century flew by as she supported her husband, a furniture upholsterer, took care of the residential staff, and raised her three children.

### Starting Her Honeymoon Days in Tokyo Along with 5 Craftsmen

I'm from Tochigi. My husband was also from there. Right about the time he started his own business as a furniture upholsterer was when I was urged to marry him. I made up my mind one week after I formally met him. Maybe I just felt that he was the man I could share my life with.

I got married in 1955 at the age of 23. I didn't know anything about Tokyo and when I came to the house which was also a work place run by my husband, my was I so surprised! There were 5 craftsmen that lived in the house as well. I had to start making meals for 7 people, my husband and myself and the 5 craftsmen. I didn't have any time to be idle. I cooked 3.6 liters of rice every day in this huge rice cooker. There weren't any delicatessens like you find now so I had to prepare everything from the start.



My husband and the craftsmen would start working as soon as we finished breakfast, and I would have to start preparing for lunch immediately. The men would all go together to the bath house as soon as they finished working and I would prepare dinner while they were gone. Cleaning the house, washing, and shopping for food – it was no sweet honeymoon.

The work place then is in the same location as it is now at Higashi Azabu 1-chome. It was called Azabu Iigura 5-chome during the 1950s. The young people these days say "Iikura" but its official pronunciation is "Iigura". Sakurada-dori Street was so close that it was really convenient. There was a street car which ran alongside Mita-dori Street which connected Kamiya-cho and Fudanotsuji, but I usually used my bicycle. I never wore fashionable high heels. I wore sandals and dressed casually anywhere I went. (Laughs) I went to Azabu Juban often as well because it was close. I used the Azabu Morimotocho shopping arcade for everyday shopping. In those days, there were grocery stores, butchers and fish shops along the street and it was bustling. Unfortunately, it's gotten so quiet these days.

I don't know the details of why my husband chose this area for his business because he has passed away. He went into apprenticeship as a furniture upholsterer and started business together with his friends which was going smoothly. I married him when they all decided to start their own business.

Japan was in the high growth period after our marriage, so we were always very busy. The construction of Tokyo Tower began in Shibakoen which was on the other side of Sakurada-dori and I remember how excited I was as it started to gradually get higher and higher. The craftsmen who were living with us gradually started to reduce as they got married or started their own business. But back then, I was bringing up my children and also helping my husband so I was still busy. After I prepared the meals, I would calculate the pay check for the craftsmen and also had to go to the bank. However, I enjoyed those busy days in my own way.

My parent's ran a kimono shop and since I had many brothers, I prepared meals for my family and staff after I graduated from elementary school. I had this experience behind me when I got

married so I believe I was smoothly able to cook for so many people right away. Each of the craftsmen, who came to work for us in Tokyo, were the precious children of parents who trusted us to take care of them. My husband was their mentor and a father figure to them. I was their mother. I was committed to have them learn their skills. Maybe that's why I never got into arguments with my husband. We all slept, ate and worked under the same roof, and my husband would need to act like their boss when it came to work. My husband would feel awkward working with them if they saw us fighting. But he was hardly home so maybe we just didn't have time to fight. (Laugh)

Her husband, Takumi's work was diverse ranging from making household furniture such as chairs and tables, building houses and stores and interior finishing work. The work place eventually became small and he opened a work place in Koto ward. They also started to hire clerical staff. Their son, Kiyotaka, has started his own company and has succeeded his father's business and is producing furniture and handles interior work from a new perspective.

### A new type of business scheme endeavoring to recycle Japanese wood; carefully repairing old furniture and utilizing thinned wood.

Kiyotaka also joined us in the interview.

I was never told even once to succeed my father's business. The craftsmen were like my brothers from when I can remember, and they would always play with me. The toys I played with were scrapped wood or wood shavings. We not only produced products in the factory but also received orders for handmade furniture, so I grew up watching the craftsmen at their work.



Kiyotaka, who was born in 1967, went to Iigura Elementary which closed down in 2004. Many of the children were kids from stores in Azabu Morimoto-cho. There are some classmates who succeeded their parent's business and still live in this area. Even the girls, who got married and moved away, call each other using "chan" when they come back home.

When we were small, we all played at Shibakoen. Tokyo Tower had been completed so there was a lot of excitement.

I studied architectural design at college. I had somewhat made up my mind that I would probably be succeeding the family business at some point. That's why I wanted to see other industries before that and I started working in the financial field. Later, my friend introduced me to a job to work on the interior of a pub in London, so I helped with the startup of the business and left Japan for a while. My experience of working abroad made me interested in not only production of furniture but also interior finishing.

After my return, my father and craftsmen taught me the techniques and I set up my own furniture production business. My work consisted of collaborative work with my father at times, and sometimes of my own.

I started to admire the handmade furniture made by skilled craftsman after my father passed away. I thought why not try to handle the repair of these high quality handmade furniture and that's what I've started doing. I'm proud of the fact that we can quickly respond to orders for reforms and special furniture.

I'm focusing my business right now on manufacturing and selling furniture using thinned wood. I feel that it's our mission as Japanese to use thinned wood. Now that we are close to the 50th anniversary of our business, I would like to work even harder to excel at my skills.



Kiyotaka, who has succeeded the business, has been working to produce furniture for almost 20 years. He learned techniques on how to read the wood and how to cut and shave it from his father and craftsmen who were living together. He is currently focusing his efforts on utilizing the special qualities of thinned wood in the creation of furniture.



He has opened a showroom in one corner of his work space.

(Interviewed by: Keiko Orido, Yukiko Takayanagi) Written by: Yukiko Takayanagi  
The original article is written in Japanese.

麻布  
びと

"AZABU – A Human Story"



### Kiyoshi and Kiyotaka Aida

"Walking Along Together With Her Husband, a furniture upholsterer, for 50 Years; Succeeded by Her Son With A New Perspective"



The plane his father used for many years continues to be cherished and used by his son, Kiyotaka.







**Start**



**Walking the back streets of Roppongi 7 chome**

Do you know that there are 5 bus stops on the Akasaka route of the Minato City Community Bus, Chibus, alongside Roppongi 7 chome leading from the Roppongi crossing to the National Art Center, Tokyo? We decided to get off at these bus stops to take a walk along the back streets of Roppongi 7 chome.

We start from the “Roppongi 7 chome South (Minami)” bus stop in front of the MEIDI-YA Roppongi store. ① The 3-storied concrete building of Izumo Taisha Shrine Tokyo Bunshi ② comes into view on the left side as you walk northward from Roppongi Dori. It was built in 1889, then was rebuilt into the current building type of shrine when the neighboring area underwent redevelopment.

As we walk down the alley parallel to Roppongi Dori, we encounter Roppongi Nishi Park ③ surrounded by an impressive wall. As we go through the roofed gate which is located on the west side of “Roppongi Ekimae” bus stop ④, a quiet Japanese-style garden spreads in front of us. ④ ⑤ It is difficult to believe we are in the middle of a city.

We turn into Ryudocho Bijutsukan Dori ⑥ from Gaien Higashi Dori where the “Roppongi Kosaten Kita” bus stop is located ⑤. One of the Seven Gods of Fortune, “Fukurokuju” (God of happiness, wealth and longevity) in Minato City is located in the Manpuku Inari Shrine ⑦ inside the Tenso Jinja

Shrine (Ryudo Sinmeigu). The old cherry blossom tree ⑧ which stands near it is a hidden but famous cherry blossom viewing site.

The stairs ⑨ leading to Seijoki Dori is like a time tunnel which connects the roads leading to the Meiji Period and Edo Period. It was introduced on TV programs also. As you climb up the stairs, the National Art Center, Tokyo and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies are located on the left.

We walk back to Gaien Higashi Dori and head towards Tokyo Midtown where the “Roppongi 7 chome” bus stop ⑩ is located, and if we walk in the opposite direction towards Nogizaka, we arrive at the 5th bus stop in the area which is Nogizaka Ekimae Yubinkyoku ⑪.

And that concludes our mini adventure visiting the 5 bus stops in Roppongi 7 chome.



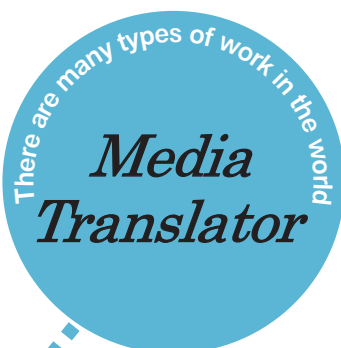
**Goal**



(Researched by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Kyoko Ideishi Written by: Kyoko Ideishi)



President, Wise-Infinity Inc.  
Translator- Nanako Yamashita



To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

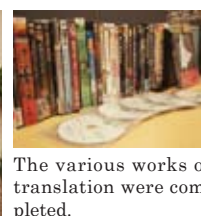
**KIDS' Hello Work**



The editors were shy at first and rather it was Ms. Yamashita who was interviewing them by asking, “Do you like English?”, “What are you interested in?” but gradually they got over their shyness and started to focus on interviewing.

**Those Who Are Good At Japanese Language Are Suited For This Job**

This issue's theme is about the job of a media translator. Three 2nd year students of Koryo Jr. High School visited Ms. Nanako Yamashita who started her own translating company from being a media translator.



The various works of translation were completed.

The students were shown and given explanations about the PC software used for subtitles.

**What kind of work is it?**

It's about inserting easy-to-understand Japanese translations onto foreign visual material. Our work is divided into TV broadcasting programs and into DVD and drama related programs. We do translation work for subjects which have no transcripts, such as interviews, and on the other hand, DVD's and dramas have scripts which we translate to produce subtitles under a rule of 4 letters per minute. In recent years, there has been an increase of simultaneous world releases of DVD's, and in the case of Japanese which does not have common letters with other languages, translation takes a long time and is not an easy task. When the deadline is close, it is necessary to work overnight.

allows you to understand what “certain things mean” in an area which you are not familiar with. It is not necessary to be knowledgeable about everything. The importance is whether you know how to and where to look for the required information.

**How did you become a media translator?**

There was a time when you would go to the theaters to watch films or watch roadshows on television and then times changed and videos came into the world. I stepped into the world of translating when I was asked to join a company to insert subtitles into imported videos from abroad. Having the commitment to do my best in this job was very important, which led into what I am doing now.

**Who is suited for this job?**

Translation means you need to translate the subject into Japanese which is easy to understand. In other words, what is required of this job is not only understanding English but understanding the Japanese language. That's why I think those who are good at the Japanese language are suited for this job. Other requirements will be the skill to look up technical terms and you should be concerned about every detail. In the case of films, at times, medical terms are necessary. It means you need to know about science and social studies.

**What were the happy moments and difficult moments you experienced through your work?**

I was very happy when the work that I did became commercialized and my name or company name appeared on the product. This type of experience is proof of great performance which makes you happy to share with your family.

The difficulties in this work is that when you can't find the right word when translating or regretting that you should have chosen a different form of expression after finishing the translation. You try to overcome that because it's no use crying over spilt milk. Of course, you need to review and check your work over until the last minute.

**How can you become a translator?**

Well, in the case of students, studying not only English but all subjects is necessary. The next step would be that if you are a translator for the “entertainment related business”, your miscellaneous knowledge in various matters makes a big difference in performance. This is because translating for subtitles of programs cover a wide range of topics and if you are offered to translate for specific programs or films, your knowledge base in various matters

(Interviews conducted and written by: Ryozan Uchino, Kyosuke Ebara, Hiroto Fukuoka Interview support by: Kumiko Omura) The original article is written in Japanese.





Republic of Lithuania  
 Total Area: 6.5 sq kilo meters  
 Population: 3,199,000 (as of 2012) (Lithuanian Statistics Bureau)  
 Capital: Vilnius (population approx. 542, 900)  
 Language: Lithuanian  
 Religion: Mainly Catholic  
 Government: Parliamentary Republic  
 Head of State: President Dalia Grybauskaitė  
 Assembly: Unicameral representation

Information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/lithuania/data.html>

Lithuania

Mr. Alverdas Algirdas Dambrauskas, Charge d'Affaires ad interim  
 Interview cooperation by Embassy of Lithuania

Visiting the Ambassador 19  
**From the "World" of Azabu**



# Lithuania



## World heritage sand dunes and world-famous amber

Lithuania, one of the three Baltic states, lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea surrounded by Poland, Belarus, Latvia, and Russia. The country celebrated its 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Japan in 2011. In 1999, the Embassy of Lithuania was established in Japan and stands in a quiet residential area of Moto Azabu. Dr. Dambrauskas, Chargé d'Affaires, who holds a doctorate in economics, greeted us in a room adorned with paintings by famous Lithuanian painter and composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis and a photograph of Lithuania's first female Head of State, Dalia Grybauskaitė. Chargé d'Affaires was appointed to Japan last September from his former appointment in India, after serving in Estonia, Greece, and New York. He enthusiastically told us about diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan going back to the pre-war period and about his country's history, culture, economy, world heritage, and traditional dishes.

For Japanese people, Lithuania brings to mind the name of Chiune Sugihara, known as "Japan's Schindler". Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat who served as Vice-Consul for the Japanese Empire in Lithuania during WW2 and helped Jewish refugees. We were told that there is a memorial museum of Sugihara in Kaunas and, as well as a park planted with cherry trees in his honor in the capital Vilnius. We learned that Lithuanians have a deep interest in Japan and that Japanese gardens were especially popular due to Lithuania's own vast natural beauty. Lithuania has approximately 3,000 lakes of various sizes; the Curonian Spit, a world heritage site, is a very popular resort area due to its attractive landscape and is visited by many European tourists.



Lithuanian cuisine is deeply influenced by Europe. Although it is a small country, it has over 200 kinds of beer. The name of their most popular dish, *cepelinai*, means "airplane," similar to the German word *zappelin*. This popular homemade dish takes over three hours to prepare and is made with grated potato dumplings stuffed with minced meat, vegetables, and dry cottage cheese. It is so named because their shape resembles that of a zeppelin airship. *Šakotis* is one of the most important desserts in Lithuanian celebrations, such as weddings. This dynamic dessert is baked by layering dough onto a stick in an oven, and is said to be the roots of the German dessert *baumkuchen*. What look like branches form as the layers of dough are added and baked, and the final product ends up looking quite peculiar.

The very tall Chargé d'Affaires enjoys basketball, Lithuania's most popular sport. The national team has won the European championship three times. Japanese basketball teams have also visited Lithuania for friendly exhibition games. Although it has only been six months since his appointment, his favorite weekend pastime is to go for walks around the Embassy and Tokyo, including visits to Roppongi Hills. You never know, we may come across him taking a walk in Azabu one weekend.



- 1 The Curonian Spit is a 98km long sand peninsula that separates the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. This world heritage is a popular tourist destination of Europe.
- 2 Famous for its amber production. Also known to process necklaces and ornaments as seen in the photograph. Klaipėda, a seaside city is the sister city of Kuze City, Iwate which is the only city in Japan which produces amber.
- 3 Linen luncheon mats and table clothes are specialties of Lithuania.
- 4 Lithuanian alcoholic drink using honey. 50% alcohol volume.
- 5 Sugihara House (museum) in Kaunas.



# Azabu Cool

We will be asking foreign nationals who either reside, work, or study in the Azabu region to appear in our edition to ask them about their impression of Japan. We interviewed Mr. Rotta Pascal (26 yrs. old and from Switzerland) this time, who is taking a master's course in the public politics program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. (Roppongi 7th street).



Seminars open to the public titled "GRIPS Forum" are held once or twice a month. Please refer to the school's website for details. <http://www.grips.ac.jp>

## Why did you decide to come to Japan?

This is actually my third visit. I learned about Japan when I was a teenager through Japanese animation such as Pokemon and Dragon Ball. Evangelion was the animation which had the biggest impact on me.

I first came to Japan in 2004, when I was 18 years old. I came on an exchange student program and home stayed with a farmer's family in Wakayama and went to Hashimoto High School, a local school, for one year. After returning, I entered university and studied philosophy and history. After graduation, I used the internship program and came back to Japan again in 2009 for one year, and interned at the regional office and jurisdiction of the Minato City Office. This is my 3rd visit, and, I learned about the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies while I was participating in the internship program of Minato City.

## What are you most interested in regarding Japanese culture?

That would be manga. What's outstanding about Japanese manga is the detailed descriptions. The plot doesn't merely end in a simple ending of the hero defeating the villain, but there are a lot of detailed descriptions regarding the characters' personality, as well as intricate relationships which are expressed. That is the reason why there's a wide range of readers and even adults finding pleasure from it.

## How is Japanese food?

I can eat everything except natto (fermented soy beans) and umeboshi (pickled plum). I like donburimono, gyoza, and okonomiyaki. I also cook rice with a rice cooker that was given to me by my host family in Wakayama prefecture. Japan has a diverse variety of restaurants with a wide range of prices, so I don't have any trouble with meals.

## What kinds of gift (souvenirs) do plan to buy for your family and friends when you go back?

I'm thinking of giving them chopsticks, green tea and yukata to wear in place of robes. This is not a gift, but since I like tatami mats, I have tatami mats at my home in Switzerland and sleep on a futon.

## Did you ever feel perplexed with the difference in lifestyle between Switzerland and Japan?

Not really, however, I do feel that the key in living comfortably is to understand Japanese. My favorite colloquial expression in Japanese is "KY" (being unable to read the situation). My colleague whom I worked with at the Minato City Office during my internship taught me that word. I thought the abbreviation of the phrase was interesting. As this word symbolizes, there are many words in Japanese which are between the lines and are not expressed in communication. Therefore, when you get to understand this is when you really understand Japan as a country and can start to fit in.

Pascal intends to get his masters in this one-year program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and after that will return to go to a graduate school in Switzerland to attain his PhD in the same field, which is public policy.

(Interview and written by: Kumiko Ohmura, Ayako Fukumoto)



When we asked him to write his favorite kanji, he wrote KY.



Pascal with his host family during his homestay at Wakayama prefecture in 2004.

地域社会  
の  
ゆくえ

7

"The Local Community"

# Volunteer Fire Corps (Shobodan) Which Protect Their Own Communities

-Why not join your local community and volunteer for the fire corps?-



What is the difference between the volunteer fire corps and the fire station? I had this simple question in mind as I visited the Azabu Fire Station.

"The volunteer fire corps consists of people living or working in the community, which will work together with the fire station at times of disaster. One can join from the age of 18. The Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps consists of the corps head office and 4 branches. There are a total of 114 members including 14 women. Training takes place throughout the year for active corps members and they gather to compete in their skills of firefighting at the Volunteer Fire Corps Pumping Contest. They hold training sessions 2-3 times a week on average before the contest and they are really serious about their role." - quoted by the person in charge at the fire Station.

We were also told that activities took place to inform the residents about what the volunteer fire corps activity consisted of and that they were looking for young volunteer members to join. (Please contact the Azabu Shobodan Head Office (03-3470-0119) located inside the Azabu Fire Station for inquiries.)

## My First Experience to Watch the Portable Pumping Equipment Training Session

I had the opportunity to watch the training session

by the 2nd Branch out of the 4 branches of the Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps. The training session primarily takes place at the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library's parking space. On the training day, you could see how serious everyone was during the session which took place from 7 p.m. till 10 p.m. I was told about the "portable pumping equipment" which the Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps uses.

The "portable pumping equipment" is a system which is used to extinguish fires. This equipment is useful as it is easy to maneuver in narrow streets where fire trucks can't get into, and at times during big disasters if the fire hydrants can't be used, this equipment can pump up water from ponds and rivers.

The session which I saw was firefighting activities using this pump and I heard that a quick and disciplined manner with great teamwork is needed.

Also, there were various other forms of training which were being conducted for the newly joined members on this day, and I felt that there was soulful communication among the members that were taking place reflecting their age and experience.

I interviewed Mr. Yuji Fukuzawa, the head of the 2nd Branch.

He told us, "The activity of the volunteer fire corps does not only take place during disasters. Our activity is diverse, such as precautions and PR activities on fire prevention, coaching at emergency drills and first-aid training conducted by towns and local communities. I hope that there will be more people who will become interested in joining the volunteer fire corps when they see what we do at our activities such as at our emergency drills."

## Activities of the Junior Fire Department Members

The Junior Fire Department consists of elementary school and junior high school students who are interested in the work of fire fighters and disaster preparedness. It was founded to foster the wholesome development of youths. Their activity consists of visiting elderlies at their homes.

I was also able to watch the enlistment and graduation ceremony of the Azabu Junior Fire Department while I was conducting interviews of the Azabu Volunteer Fire Corps. Minato City Mayor Takei, distinguished guests and parents looked on warmly as the children participated in the ceremony and each child looked bright with joy.

I asked the parents after the ceremony about whether they felt it was a good decision to have their children join the volunteer group. They said that it was a great opportunity for the children to learn about fire prevention and disaster preparedness and also to be acquainted with the people in the community who gave them words of encouragement. They also said that the children were very calm during the March 11 earthquake last year. Many also said that they were especially very happy to watch their child be satisfied by participating in various activities.

Mr. Yoshinobu Tanaka, the head of the Azabu Junior Fire Department told us, "I hope the children will become our future leaders in fire safety and disaster preparedness."

I intend to keep a watch out on the activities of the volunteer fire corps actively protecting the region of Azabu.

(Interview by: Yukiko Takayanagi, Keiko Orido Written by: Keiko Orido)  
The original article is written in Japanese.





Azabu Mikawadai Machi – Exterior of Josiah's house  
Owned by the Minato City Local History Museum

# 麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"

Josiah Conder



"Koi No Zu" by Kyoei (Conder)  
Owned by the Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum

He taught architecture at the Imperial College of Engineering (the current Tokyo University) during the Meiji Era and designed many notable buildings. Late in life, he built his house in the current Roppongi 4 chome area (midway from the road leading from Mikawadai Park to Mid-Town) where he lived. This is a story about a British man who loved Japanese art and remained in this country for the rest of his life.

## Josiah Conder – The Architect Who Came From Britain

### Foreign Employee of the Japanese Government

In 1877, the Koubudaigakko (the Imperial College of Engineering) to teach mining engineering, telegraphy (electrical engineering) started, after the name changed from Kougakuryou (the Imperial Preparatory College of Engineering).

Englishman, Josiah Conder (1852-1920) came to Japan as a professor of the Imperial College of Engineering and arrived in January of that year under a 5 year contract of a monthly salary which was about 333 yen, settling at Azabu Imaicho 22 (currently Roppongi 2-1) which was the land that was transferred over to the Government.

Conder studied theory and practice of architecture, a requirement as an architect at two of London's renowned architect's office from the age of 16, also studying art at seminars held at London University and earned the Royal Institute of British Architects' Thorne Award, a prestigious honor for young architects. Having been influenced by the London International Exhibition on Industry and Art, Expo 1862 on Japonism, it is said that he started collecting Japanese paintings which may have been why he decided to come to Japan. He painted in water colors, liked to sketch; sketches still remain of his which are sketches drawn in France and Italy on the way to his appointment to Japan and also sketches of buildings in Nikko, Hakone, Nagoya, Kyoto, Koyasan, Hiroshima and Shimonoseki sketched after his arrival in Japan.

### Famous Pieces of Architecture Such As Rokumeikan and His Residence

In his transcript, "Handbook on Architecture", Conder quotes that technology and humanity are necessary in order for humans to maintain their health, safety and sense of pleasure which was at his basis as he taught the essentials of architecture to his students. His gentle and warm character was loved by the students.

He designed over 60 pieces of architecture ranging from the Rokumeikan, auditorium of the Tokyo Imperial University, Nikolai Cathedral in Surugadai, Iikura Church (St. Andrews Church which was burnt down during the war) near Tokyo Tower, Mita Club which still exists in Mita and the recently restored Mitsubishi No. 1 Building. His architectural style was diverse consisting of Romanesque, Renaissance, Islamic and Baroque introducing the world's architectural style to Japan. His thoughts also covered earthquake resistant construction and he took measures by wrapping iron bands around bricks which was incorporated in the building of the Mitsubishi No. 1 Building. He won his fame through his career as a professor of the Imperial College of Engineering, lecturer at the Tokyo Imperial University Architectural Department, honorary advisor for the Ministry of Home Affairs, and, finally as a residential architect and was decorated with the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Conder's own residence which he constructed in 1904 on a sprawling piece of land in Azabu Mikawadai Machi 25 (currently Roppongi 4-3) was approximately 882 tsubos, (2910 m<sup>2</sup>). The residence was a combination of western and Japanese style of housing with the first floor of a brick construction and that of a wooden structure on the 2nd floor. The house of a Tudor style consisted of two wings, a rose garden, with Conder's library and drafting room and Japanese style which was designed to incorporate his wife, Kume's wish.

He married Kume Maenami (1856-1920) in 1893, and adopted Kume's older sister's daughter, Yae, and later adopted his estranged daughter, Haru (Helen Aiko, born in 1880) as Kume's child. Haru went to study in Belgium in 1901 and married a Swede in 1906. There is a record of June 1906 left on the Land Register of his residence that he got a hint from the English law. He purchased the land in Haru's name in 1902. In 1906, Conder was 51 and Kume was 47

#### Reference:

A Hundred History of The University of Tokyo edited by The Editorial Committee For A Hundred History of the University of Tokyo. The University of Tokyo  
The Collection of the plans of Josiah Conder's Architecture III edited by Yoshiyuki Kawahigashi. Chuo Koron Bijyutsu  
The History of Urban Area in Tokyo Metropolitan. Vol. 59. Edited by Tokyo Metropolitan Office Kenji Hatakeyama The man who planned Rokumeikan. Kawade Sobo Shinsha  
Terunobu Fujimori Friendship between Conder and Kyosai. Kyosai Vol.22.  
Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum  
Eizou Inamura Sketchbooks of Josiah Conder. in The Collection of Eizou Inamura Vol.6 Chuo Koron Bijyutsu  
Journal of The Architectural Institute of Japan No.402, 405, 406  
Handbook of Architecture. Dictation of Josiah Conder. Note taking by Shuji Matsuda, Tatsuzo Sone in the Collection of Meiji Culture supplementary Vol.3 Nippon Hyoron Sha  
Modern Biographical Dictionary Taisho & Meiji Period. Edited by Kamejiro Furubayashi Reprint of The last Vol. Nihon Tosho Center  
Josiah Conder : A Victorian Architect in Japan. Catalogue supervised by Hiroyuki Suzuki. Terunobu Fujimori. Tokuzo Hara. Kenchiku Gaho

years old. Although there is no verification of whether he thought he should prepare the estate for them when they got old and he wanted to secure a house for Haru to return to and also maybe as Haru's dowry, he set a 999 years (almost 10 centuries) surface right of his residence's building including the roses in the garden on Haru's land, paying Haru 6,000 yen for land rent. He simultaneously succeeded the land's ownership right to Yae in July.

His wife, Kume, passed away in June 1920 and Conder followed shortly after. Helen Aiko Grut inherited the surface rights in August; however, in September of the following year, she renounced these rights, inherited Conder's personal belongings and left Japan. Shozo Maenami (Yae's brother) inherited the land. Helen Aiko in later years donated the "Kume Conder" sculpture by Italian sculptor and a Professor of the Imperial College of Arts, Vincenzo Ragusa, to the Copenhagen National Museum and his sketchbook to Tokyo University.

### Cultural and Artistic Exchange between Japan and the United Kingdom

Conder submitted papers on "Notes on Japanese Architecture", "Construction of Temples" and "Japanese Houses" to the Royal Institute of British Architects and had disputes regarding his viewpoint on the central pillar of the pagoda.

On the other hand, Conder became a member of the Asiatic Society of Japan as soon as he arrived in Japan, published a book on "Japan's History of Armor" in 1880 on traditional clothes and armor, "Landscape Gardening in Japan" in 1886 and had his butler, Michiyasu Takahashi be the publisher of his book, "The Floral Arts of Japan" in 1899 showing his deep interest in Japanese art.

Conder met artist, Kyosai Kawanabe in 1881. Kyosai received his artistic training at the Kano school and was an eccentric artist who challenged the limits in his expressive style. He taught Conder Japanese painting at his home in Imaicho. He was very fond of his pupil and taught him painting for 3 yen per lesson and gave him the name of "Kyoei", in which he produced Japanese painting.

Conder and Kyosai had a deep bonding in the name of art for a lifetime. Josiah was at Kyosai's bedside along with his family when Kyosai passed away in 1889. In 1911, he published a book titled "Paintings & Studies by Kawanabe Kyosai" comparing western style of painting with Kyosai's solid expression of the hands and legs as well as the beautiful lines of his style. Dr. Kusumi Kawanabe, Kyosai's great-grand daughter has displayed Kyosai's work in her museum, endeavoring to tell people about the relationship between Conder and Kyosai to the coming generations.

After living in Japan for over 43 years, Conder's funeral was held at the St. Andrews Church which he designed. His grave is at Gokokuji (Temple) where his 65th memorial service was conducted by the old boys club of the architectural course of Tokyo University and the Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum.



"Kyosai's Drawing Diary" by Kyosai (part)  
Feb. 7, 1885  
Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum

Shigekatsu Onoki On the Subject of Mrs. Conder. in The Outline Papers of The Scientific Lecture Meeting of The Architectural Institute of Japan Oct.1975  
"Raguusa and Rokuzan. Sculpture of Meiji Era" Catalogue. Edited Ryo Furuta · Ai Teraji · Asako Yoshida. The University Art Museum of Tokyo University of the Arts  
Conder in Kyosai's Drawing Diary. Edited by Dr. Kusumi Kawanabe  
Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum  
Hiroyuki Suzuki Josiah Conder's Philosophy of Architecture and Japan in The Special Quality of Japanese Architecture. Chuo Koron Bijyutsu Taiyo. The separate volume. Supervised by Toshinobu Yasumura. Heibonsha  
Kawanabe Kyosai. Written by Josiah Conder. Translated by Seiichi Yamaguchi Iwanamishoten  
Josiah Conder Paintings & Studies by Kawanabe Kyosai. The Maruzen  
Reprinted by Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum

Interview Cooperation by:  
Kyosai Kawanabe Memorial Museum  
Yoshiyuki KAWAHIGASHI Prof. emeritus, Oyama National College of Technology, Dr.Eng.  
Daniel Inc., the President Yasukazu Takahashi

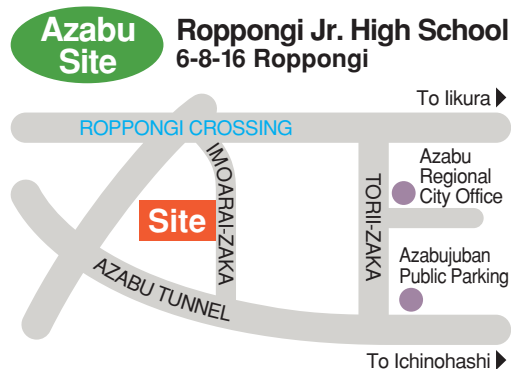
(Interview by: Yoshie Osawa, Kyoko Ideishi, Kazue Asakawa, Akira Mori Written by: Akira Mori)  
The original article is written in Japanese.



## Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from  
Azabu Regional  
City Office



Inquiries : Azabu Regional City Office  
Tel: 03-5114-8802

### Date

Nov.4(Sun), 2012 09:30 am - 11:30 am  
(Cancelled when raining)

### Location

Roppongi Junior High School  
\*Please contact Minato Call  
(03-5472-3710 from 07:00 am) on inquiries regarding the drill day.  
\*Disaster prevention related give-aways will be available for all participants on this day.

## Come Participate in the MINATO CITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DRILL in Azabu! (Everyone is welcome to join)

### Let's Work Together To Heighten the Level of Disaster Prevention Readiness in the Azabu Region

Various drills will take place under the assumption that major damage will occur in buildings and people due to the 7-plus magnitude earthquake which is being said to have a 70% probability of hitting Tokyo within the next 30 years. Why not participate in the drill to heighten the level of disaster prevention readiness in the region.

### Your Cooperation Is Necessary At Times of Disaster

Disaster can be reduced if the following 3 attempts are taken: 1. "self-reliance" - protecting your life by yourself 2. "cooperation" - to protect your own region through cooperating with your community members 3. "public help" - support from disaster-prevention organizations.

In other words, in order to keep the disaster at a minimum, it is critical for the residents to cooperate with each other. You will be able to gain proper knowledge of disaster prevention by participating in the drill and it will be a good opportunity to think about how to "take precise action at times of disaster and know what you should do". We encourage you to participate in the Minato Disaster Preparedness Drill, in order to protect you and your family's lives from a major earthquake.

## To Foreign Nationals - Would you like to participate in a "Disaster prevention drill and discussion for foreigners"?

Residents of Azabu have become even more conscious about disaster prevention since the Great East Japan Earthquake and in the Azabu region where we have many foreign nationals residing, we believe everyone is aiming at creating a town which is safe and secure. Wouldn't you be interested in participating in creating a town which is strong against disaster by sharing information and knowledge on disaster prevention?

### Eligibility:

Foreign nationals who are interested in the Azabu region

### Capacity:

Approx. 20 people (in order of arrival)  
\* Bandanas with former town names printed will be given out to the participants.

### Date:

Oct. 14 (Sun), 2012 10:00 am to noon

### Location:

Azabu Regional City Office 2nd Floor Num. 3 Meeting Room  
Roppongi 5-16-45, Minato City, Tokyo (zip code 106-8515)

### Contents:

Video screening on disaster prevention (English), first-aid drill using triangular cloth initial firefighting drill, drill on how to set up manhole toilets, lectures by participants and cooperating organizations.



- \* English interpreters will be available.
- \* We will ask for an exchange of opinions during the lecture and will have you try emergency food (pregelatinized rice).

### Application:

Please provide us with the following information by phone or by fax (1) name (2) address (3) telephone (4) whether you understand Japanese or not (5) whether you need temporary nursing for children

<Telephone> Minato call 03-5472-3710

By Sept. 30 (Sun), 2012  
(Business Hours: 09:00 - 17:00)

<Fax> Collaboration Promotion Section,  
Azabu Regional City Office  
03-3583-3782

Needs to arrive by Sept. 28 (Fri), 2012

For Inquiries: Collaboration Promotion Section,  
Azabu Regional City Office  
03-5114-8812



Initial firefighting drill



Drill using triangular bandages at Minato City

## Roppongi Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot Opened in March, 2012! No Parking Zones for Bicycles Have Also Been Designated

Roppongi's Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot were opened in March, 2012 and are now available in use.

No parking zones for bicycles have also been designated along with the opening of the temporary bicycle parking lot. Please be aware that bicycles left in no parking zones will be removed immediately.

### The Contents of Roppongi Temporary Bicycle Parking

Contents Parking Lot	Capacity	Usage	Fee	Hours
No. 1 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot	88 (Bicycles Only)	Registration Only	General:1,800 yen/month Students:1,300 yen/month	From 04:45 to 25:15
No. 2 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot	209 (Bicycles Only)	Hourly	Free for the first 2 hours and 100 yen for every 8 hours after that	24 hours
No. 3 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot	52 (Bicycles Only)	Hourly	Free for the first 2 hours and 100 yen for every 6 hours after that	24 hours

\*For regular usage (prior registration required)  
Apply to: Saika Parking Co. Ltd. Tel: 3667-4978 (09:00 - 17:00 except Sundays & National Holidays)  
Registration can also be made by accessing Saika Parking's website.  
<http://www.cyca.co.jp>

Bicycles are convenient and safe vehicles to ride, however, when left on the streets, can become an obstacle and unsafe to pedestrians causing injuries and accidents. They can also be an obstruction to evacuation and rescue operations during times of disaster.

We would like to ask for everyone's understanding and cooperation in eliminating illegally parked bicycles from the Roppongi region in order to create a safe, secure and comfortable environment for pedestrians.



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

## To the foreign nationals residing in Azabu, wouldn't you want to learn more about Azabu by participating in local community volunteer activities?

This will be a great opportunity for you to contribute to the development of the town as well as interact with the people of the community and learn more about the town of Azabu.

English interpreters will be there to help you while you participate in the activities.

### Eligibility:

Foreign nationals residing, working or studying in Minato City who are 20 years old or older and are interested in volunteer activities.

### Time and Place:

Cleanup: Sept. 28 (Fri.) 19:45, Oct. 26 (Fri.) 19:45 (Activity starts from 20:00)

Patrol: Oct. 17 (Wed.) 19:45 (Activity starts from 20:00)

### Meeting Place:

Mikawadai Park (Roppongi 4-2-27)

\* The purpose of the activity and your work will be explained. The activity will be for about one hour from the start.

### Area:

Vicinity of the Roppongi Crossing

- \* You can participate in both cleanup and patrol or either one.
- \* There will be no reward.
- \* The activity will be cancelled if it starts raining and you will be contacted on that day.

### Application:

Please call the inquiry desk by 15:00 the day before the participating date.

### For Inquiries Contact:

Collaboration Promotion Section of the Azabu Regional City Office  
Tel. 03-5114-8812  
Fax 03-3583-3782

## Azabu Residents Taking Part in the Regional Planning Process

Together, Let's Talk about Making Azabu a Better Place to Live

Here's other information about engagement and collaboration among Azabu residents, continued from the previous issue.

### Subcommittee for the "Sending Out Regional Information Activity" of the committee for "Talking about Azabu"

#### Activity:

Editing and Planning of this newsletter, "The Azabu"

#### What is currently taking place?

We're preparing interviews for the publication of Vol. 21 in the coming three months.

### Subcommittee for the "Future Azabu Photo Studio" of the committee for "Talking about Azabu"

#### What is currently taking place?

#### Activity:

We are taking photographs and collecting photographs with our new members.

\* The free "Activity Report on the activities and achievements in 2011" is distributed at the Azabu Regional City Office.

### Subcommittee for the "Development of Basic Plan for the Azabu Region" of the committee for "Talking about Azabu"

#### Activity:

Verifying, etc., the contents of the "Basic Plan for the Azabu Region" which aims for the realization of the future as "a cosmopolitan and cultural city with a priority on the residents so they can live safely, securely and comfortably.

#### What is currently taking place?

We will be verifying the regional projects along with our new members for fiscal 2012.

\* We are always accepting new members. Please contact us at the number below for any inquiries.

### Inquiries:

Regional Policy Subsection, Collaboration Promotion Section of the Azabu Regional City Office; Tel: 03-5114-8812

### Editor's Note

Recently, we have heard a new word, "reki-jo" (female history buffs) and as the word implies, there are more women who have started researching history. I can understand that it must be romantic and interesting to imagine what kind of historical event took place at locations they visit. Walking to historical spots is interesting but the fun doubles by meeting different people. Listening to the stories of the people who have lived in the area for years and hearing about their love and thoughts about the land is at times touching. Visiting spots researched from history books becomes even more interesting when you come in contact with the people living in that area which will make your walk through the town a fun experience. (Yasuhiko Ozaki)

The original article is written in Japanese.

### "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](mailto:info@minato.call-center.jp)

## AZABU

● Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1 chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu Juban subway station, Minato Library, Azabu Library Service Center, Appy Azabu, Azabu Regional City Office etc.

● Usage of articles, illustrations and photographs in this newsletter is prohibited.

Chief Yasuhiko Ozaki  
Sub Chief Tsuneko Ishiyama

Staff Kazue Asakawa  
Shiori Ito  
Yoshie Osawa  
Kumiko Omura  
Keiko Orito  
Chie Kato  
Junior Staff Akane Ishiyama  
Taichi Suzuki  
Hiroto Fukuoka

Tetsuro Kuraishi  
Toshie Suzuki  
Yukiko Takayanagi  
Aki Tanaka  
Mei Nagai  
Ayako Fukumoto  
Hibiki Omura  
Misa Suzuki

Yoko Mitsuki  
Akira Mori  
Ryozo Yamashita  
Ryozan Uchino  
Kyosuke Ebara