



# AZABU Vol.23 June 2013

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

## Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ①



1, 2 and 3 show the artwork being lifted by a crane. Photographed by: Masaru Mera



Mr. Igarashi was appointed as President of Tama Art University in 2010.

Mr. Igarashi spoke to us in a calm and relaxed manner which created a pleasant atmosphere for the interview. He is active in diverse areas and in his hometown of Takikawa, Hokkaido, the "Paper Bag Lantern Festival," which was his brainchild, takes place every February (this year marks its 11th anniversary). Mr. Igarashi's desire for the paper bag lantern artworks to fulfill the role of bringing people together, "to engage with art in everyday life," and "to create a town which attracts visitors through art" is being realized. The number of lanterns has grown from 1,500 at the festival's inception to 14,000 today, and the festival is also enjoying an increase in participant numbers.

### "KUMO," floating gently in the air and "NUNO," firmly planted on the ground

The concept of the Azabu Juban Shopping Arcade is "a town of smiles" and "a town where one wants to continue to live." Capitalizing on the fact that Azabu is a town with many embassies, in 1996, a rich variety of public artworks started to appear in the town through the cooperation of 12 different countries, under the theme of "smiles." Designer and sculptor Takenobu Igarashi created two pieces of artwork, "KUMO" and "NUNO," for a competition in which he was chosen to represent Japan. We interviewed Mr. Igarashi, looking back at the past 17 years.

#### ●Can you please tell us about the theme of the two pieces of artwork?

"KUMO," which was born from the concept of clouds gently floating in the sky moving along with the breeze, was an idea I had had for some time, and I had started working on it a little. I began to properly realize the idea after being chosen for the competition; it took me three months to create a model, then I worked in a factory on the enlarged artwork for two months.

As for "NUNO," I had heard that there was once a wharf along the Furukawa River in Azabu, which gave me the hint which inspired me to create a design representing waves. One of the origins of the name "Azabu" was that it was a place which created linen, "asa," so I wanted to create a sculpture incorporating the image of cloth. I had the stone smoothed so that people could actually touch the artwork.

#### ●Did you experience any difficulties during production?

Since "KUMO" was to be displayed at a height above people's heads, I was very careful to avoid raindrops mixed with rust falling from the sculpture during rainy weather. Therefore, the artwork was made with a special mesh-type coating. "NUNO" is made from marble: years of exposure to the wind and the rain causes erosion, so I chose a material which would maintain its feel.

#### ●Have you gone back to look at your artwork 17 years later?

When I come here, even if I have to make a detour, I always go to see my work. At the time it was produced, Roppongi Hills (completed in 2003) wasn't even constructed. The atmosphere surrounding the artwork has changed a lot. The zelkova tree standing next to "KUMO" in front of the Roppongi Hills Gate Tower has grown very tall. The stairs behind "NUNO," which is displayed at the bottom of Nanzan Shogakko Hill, are now kept very clean, so I think it attracts more people, which makes me happy.

#### ●Could you please share your thoughts on public art?

More and more public art can be seen everywhere in recent years, which makes me very happy. In Los Angeles where I used to live, there is a law that 1% of public building costs have to be used for public artworks. As artworks are thought of as part of the landscape, they are regularly maintained. It would be nice if the administration in Japan would also make an active effort to maintain artworks and not just leave them as they are.

#### ●Finally, please tell us how art should be in the future.

It is extremely difficult to decide how you should define "art." Challenging new things or breaking down common sense is what's good about art and whether the artwork born from that is superior or not doesn't matter. The artist's desire in the fulfillment of their work is to move the viewer. In future, I hope that I can be involved in the creation of public art which can contribute to developing a town which attracts visitors.

# 麻布

"Azabu — A Human Story"

# びと



Yasuhisa Sugishita

## Three Generations going back to the Edo Period: the Untold Stories of Azabu

There are still hints of the Edo period in Shinmachi, Akasaka, of the transition from the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the Meiji Restoration. Tomiyoshi, who became an apprentice for the Mikawayaya Oil Shop at the age of 10 after losing his mother aged 5, was looked after by the women in the neighborhood. Later, at the age of 19, he opened a metalwork wholesaler at Nishi Azabu (formerly Kasumicho). What was it like to be part of the three generations which have passed down the story of Kaishu Katsu? We interviewed Mr. Yasuhisa Sugishita, who to do this day continues to run his shop in the same place.

### The Untold Story about Kaishu Katsu Passed Down to Yasuhisa Sugishita by his Grandfather, Tomiyoshi

The story goes back 116 years, to right after the Meiji Restoration in a row of 100 houses in Akasaka. The women in this area were all taking care of a boy who lost his mother at the age of 5 and was going to start working as an apprentice at an oil shop at 10 years old.



Grandfather – Mr. Tomiyoshi Sugishita: In his oil shop uniform.  
Grandmother – Ms. Tome Tanaka: Believed to be the photograph taken for her matchmaking.

The women were gathered around, telling the boy, "You work hard, okay?" "If you do your best, you'll be able to own your own shop one day." Right at that time, a man passing by on his way back from a walk asked, "What's going on here? What are you all standing around chatting for?" The women told him, "Mr. Katsu, this boy is going to become an apprentice at an oil shop from now on." Hearing this, the man bent down to the height of the boy and said, "Apprenticeship ain't easy and you'll have hard times but you be patient, okay?"

The man who said this was none other than, Kaishu Katsu, leading figure of the Meiji Restoration.

Yasuhisa Sugishita (born 1949), the third generation of the family, said, "I had heard this story so many times from my grandfather and I'm sure these were the types of conversations that took place in those times."

His grandfather Tomiyoshi was born in 1886 and his father Jun was born in 1915. Tomiyoshi, encouraged by Rintaro Yoshikuni Katsu did exactly as he was told: he worked hard and at the age of 19, opened his own shop. Mr. Sugishita's late grandfather kept his shop and family going, telling this story to his son and grandson. After his



Yasuhisa Sugishita in front of the shop around 1953.



Flier from the 1960s



Right: Photograph taken during apprenticeship at Aoyama  
Left: The Sugishita store open for business in its current location of Nishi Azabu (former Kasumicho)



The photograph he is holding is of the Nishi Azabu crossing, in front of the current Gonpachi restaurant

apprenticeship in Akasaka was over, after the Russo-Japanese War, he moved to the current location of Azabu in 1905.

### Pre-war Azabu was a military town

Mr. Sugishita has a Pre-Level 1 certificate as a specialist in the history of Edo. He has an amazing memory and is probably one of the most knowledgeable experts in Azabu local history. He told us many stories about how Azabu used to be.

Roppongi and Azabu are now known for being at the forefront of fashion and art. Mr. Sugishita told us, "No one mentions the fact that Azabu used to be a military town anymore." The number of people now who don't even know that the present day Tokyo Midtown was built where the former Defense Agency used to be is growing.



Photograph provided by: Kaoruko Kato

Cooperation by: Stories of myself and towns of Minato City (Creative Art Executive Committee)

"We are a merchant family so we face the main street and behind our house was that of Mineichi Koga, the 28th Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet of the Japanese Navy. The front and the back of our houses were connected, so Mrs. Koga often said "Good morning" to my mother, who was doing the washing by the well, and upon seeing my mother still doing the washing when she returned in the afternoon she would say, "You've married into quite a hectic family, haven't you?" Mineichi Koga was very close to Isoroku Yamamoto, a Commander of the Combined Fleet, and is said to have been against going to war with the U.S. The 1st Infantry Regiment was also in the vicinity (where the current Tokyo Midtown is) and Emperor Showa's younger brother, Prince Chichibunomiya, was the Company Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment (where the National Art Center, Tokyo currently is) and so it was a town in which soldiers and commoners lived together.

Roppongi, the town which was close to the regiments, flourished because it was a town in which the soldiers who were discharged after their two years of service would go to buy a lot of souvenirs such as sake cups, fans and lucky omens. Many soldiers returned home after purchasing souvenirs there.

There aren't many people nowadays who can talk about the military town Roppongi was 70 years ago, before the war.

### The story he would like to continue to tell about Azabu as its landscape changes

It was delightful to listen to Mr. Sugishita talk. So many stories about Azabu came up one after another and he vividly spoke of life in Azabu in those days.

"Do you know about take-no-pinch and itadori? My grandpa was the one who came up with the actual patents for those." He was talking about bamboo clothes pegs and mousetraps. "And do you know who Enoken is? He was my grandma's cousin. When he would come over to visit, she would say to the girls, "Don't look at him! Don't look at him! He's a delinquent." Enoken was the comedy king of the Showa period and received the Purple Ribbon Medal of Honor. He was born in Azabu Juban and is entombed in Hase Temple as a prominent person of Azabu. Mr. Sugishita's stories were never-ending, "Did you know that they used to say that ghosts appeared in Azabu Morioka-cho (now Minami Azabu)? Like the ittan-momen (a folkloric ghost which takes the form of a bolt of cotton) and many others." \*Edo Sandai Yokai Meisho (Three Most Famous Haunted Places in Edo)

"I have one older brother. He retired in March 2003. He was a professor at Tokyo University's Faculty of Science III." If we were able to go back in time and meet Kaishu Katsu and my grandpa when he was 10 years old, I'm sure he would have added to his phrase that "that's what you call revolution!"

There are few people who know about the exchange between Grandfather Tomiyoshi and Kaishu Katsu, the story which has been handed down in the Sugishita Family. Kaishu Katsu died a year and a half after their meeting and Tomiyoshi talked about this memory many times until he died at the age of 85. This untold story of Azabu, which can only be passed down through word of mouth, is a tale we should preserve as "A Human Story" of Azabu.

(Interviewed by: Akira Mori, Tsuneko Ishiyama; Written by: Tsuneko Ishiyama)



## Taking a Walk down the Straight Road from Roppongi to Hiroo

Start

It takes only about 3 minutes on subway from Roppongi to Hiroo. If you walk this distance down the main road, you would walk westward from Roppongi Crossing, turn southward once at Nishi-azabu Crossing and then just walk down Gaien Nishi-dori Street. For this "Azabu Walking," we walked straight down various wide and narrow streets towards Hiroo without relying on an easy route.

The walk starts from a high rise building, The Roppongi Tokyo ① located midway on the Ichimi-zaka Slope (Roppongi-dori Street) at Roppongi 3-chome. As you go to the back of this building by going down the street alongside Motomachi Union, the supermarket located on the 1st floor, you will come out to a narrow slope ② with barely enough space for a bicycle and person to cross by each other. There is a cemetery to the right and even though you may be curious about this mysterious alley, which is a short cut to your left ③, since walking down straight is this walk's motto, you should go up the hill towards Roppongi 5-chome Crossing. As you walk straight up, the Azabu Regional City Office comes into view on your left along with the Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Junior High School, Senior High School and Graduate School; ④ Toyo Eiwa Yochien and Primary School and Torizaka Church will be to your right ⑤, with many austere buildings in line such as the International House of Japan ⑥. As you approach the Embassy of Singapore of Torii-zaka Slope, you will be able to see an octagonal high rise building in the distance. Walk down the slope, cross the main road, and walk across Azabujuban Shopping Arcade. ⑦ From the bottom of Kurayami-zaka Slope, walk alongside around the Embassy of Austria, which is like a fortress, and move on. As you come to the top of the slope, you will come across Ipponmatsu, one of Azabu's seven mysteries ⑧ which is standing against the front of Motoazabu Hills Tower. Nishimachi International School and Hikawa Shrine ⑨ stand along the gentle slope near Ipponmatsu, followed by attrac-

tive buildings such as the Embassy of Argentina and Ando Memorial Church ⑩. As you approach the road which forks six ways ⑪ at the top of Sendai-zaka Slope, you should break the rule of only going straight once and take the 2nd alley on the right. This will lead you down the side of the famous Tenshin-ji Temple ⑫ of the Rinzai school of Buddhism, and to a dead end which faces the Azabu Sports Field, which means there's no choice but to go down to the left. So walk alongside the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, Arisu-no-Mori ⑬, the Embassy of Germany, Nambuzaka Church ⑭ and down the slope (Nambu-zaka Slope) and once you get to the supermarket (National Azabu), Hiroo will be in front of your eyes.

Your walking course will approach the finish line as you go across the main road and walk towards Hiroo, a place full of photogenic treasures. Our advice to readers is to walk this course with a camera in hand.



Goal



(Researched and written by: Kyoko Ideishi)



Patisserie Mizuka Brosseau

## The Joy of Making Cakes is Central to Customers' Happiness

The theme of this issue is the job of a patissier. Three first year students of Minato city's Koryo Jr. High School visited Ms. Mizuka Brosseau, who works at La Precieuse, a patisserie in Minami Azabu.



### How did you become a patissier?

I loved baking confectionaries from when I was a child, but I didn't think I would become a patissier at that time. I went to university and then travelled abroad, and then I began to realize that I didn't want to do the same thing as everyone else. That was about when I started taking a night course on patisserie: I realized that this work suited me and decided to pursue it as a career.

### How can you become a patissier?

The most important thing is commitment. Of you course, you need physical strength too. Although I haven't been to pastry school, I think anyone can become a patissier as long as they are committed and ambitious.

### How do you spend your day?

I start working on the baked confections and cakes I prepared the day before from 6.30am every morning until around opening time at 10.00am. Depending on the day's sales, if we think we're going to be short of certain kinds of cakes, we prepare more, and we sell them until the evening. The last person in charge of cleaning up finishes at about 8.00pm. We prepare from 100 to 150 pieces per item. The busiest season is winter, when there are a lot of special events.

### How do products change seasonally?

We choose ingredients, especially fruit, which represent the seasons. We make products that both we and those around us would like to eat. The overall balance of colors in the display case is also important.

### What makes you happy doing this job?

People eat cakes when they're happy, when they want to be comforted and also at times of celebration. It's a pleasure to think that a product I made is part of a happy moment for a customer. It makes me especially happy when a customer says the birthday cake I made was delicious and they come back again the next year.

### What do you do when you've been unsuccessful?

I try to reflect back on what I did wrong before I throw

away products I've burnt and which can't be eaten. I sometimes eat them when I'm hungry. (Said with a wry smile)

### Is there anything you take special care with in terms of customer service?

I try to pay attention to the customer as much as possible and always think of what I can do for them. I try to be careful of the timing at which I receive payments and hand over the goods, and if the customer has heavy things with them, I carry the product to the door for them. And, of course, I always make sure to smile.



The students got to experience baking cakes after the interview. They got to measure, mix, and pour into the cup and then bake the cakes in a commercial oven. Thank you to Ms. Brosseau for the experience and prompt instructions.

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

# KIDS' Hello Work



She showed images of when she was working at a restaurant in Paris as part of her apprenticeship training as a patissier.

(Interviewed and written by: Miyabi Vivienne Inaba, Koyoh Yoshimatsu and Hibiki Omura Interview support by: Kumiko Omura)



The capital, Bern is the fifth most populous city in Switzerland following Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Lausanne. The city still reflects the image of the 13th century and the historic old town in the center of Bern became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Photograph provided by: Switzerland Tourism)



Switzerland known for its dairy products has an abundance of cheese. The Emmental and Gruyères cheese used for the Swiss Fondue is exported around the world.. (Photograph provided by: Switzerland Tourism) Swiss-image.ch/Andy Mattler



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## From the "World" of Azabu

Swiss Confederation  
 Area: 41,000 sq. km (Slightly larger than the island of Kyushu)  
 Population: 7.87 million people (Swiss Confederation Statistics Bureau, 2010)  
 Capital: Bern (Population approximately 120,000 people) (Swiss Confederation Statistics Bureau, 2010)  
 Race: Mainly Germanic people (Approximately 20% are foreigners)  
 Official Languages: 64% German, 20% French, 6% Italian, 1% Romansh  
 Religion: Catholic, approximately 41%, Protestant approximately 35%  
 Government: Federal Republic (the Confederation consists of 26 cantons)  
 Head of State: President Ueli Maurer head of the Swiss Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sports (Swiss People's Party) (Appointed Jan. 2013, one year term)  
 Assembly: Bicameral parliament: Council of States-46 representatives, National Council-200 members

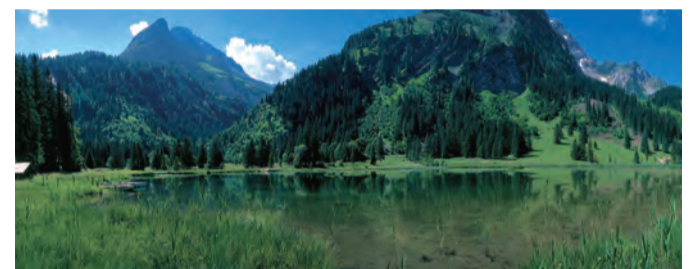
Information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/switzerland/data.html>

Embassy of Switzerland Ambassador, H.E. Urs Bucher  
 Interview cooperation by the Embassy of Switzerland



# Swiss Confederation

A country endeavoring to keep its landscape beautiful and a comfortable place to live in forever.



Switzerland has about 1,500 lakes, large and small, which can be found in most areas of the country. Lake Lauenen which was recommended by the Ambassador is located to the south of Bern and 30 minutes by bus from Gstaad. (Photograph provided by: Switzerland Tourism) Switzerland Tourism By-Line: swiss-image.ch/Christof Sonderegger



The shogunate accepted the letter from Swiss Consul, Rudolphe Lindau, and granted his request in 1864 of wanting to stay near the French or Dutch Consul in Japan. He chose the Shosenji Temple (later transferred to Meguro ward in 1913) in Takanawa for his lodging. The consulate in those days was located in Yokohama. In the same year, the Treaty of Amity and Trade had been signed. Later, the Embassy moved several times and in 1945, a rental agreement on the residence of Sir Baron Shigeya Kondo, a member of the House of Peers at the time was signed. Back in those days it was used as housing for the staff. A contract for sale was signed between the Kondo family in 1963 and the Swiss Confederation took over the ownership of the land. The current building was completed in 1978. (Photograph provided by: Furusato Mura Seimei No Mori Resort Japan Aerobics Center)

**Switzerland attracts the tourists of the world with the magnificent view of the Alps and landscape. 60% of its surface area are mountainous and the size of the country is about the same as Kyushu. To us Japanese, Switzerland is a popular tourist destination. Next year, in 2014, Switzerland and Japan will celebrate its 150 year anniversary of diplomatic relations. Halfway up Kinoshita-zaka hill and alongside the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, the Embassy of Switzerland is located in a quiet residential area. We visited and met with H.E. Urs Bucher, Ambassador of Switzerland to Japan, at his residence.**

**The building which was used until 1977, still exists in Chiba today.**

Ambassador Bucher graduated from the University of Bern, acquired his qualifications as a lawyer in the Canton of Bern and joined the Foreign Ministry in 1990. He was first posted to Moscow. Having then served in Bern and at the Swiss Mission to the EU, he became Ambassador and Head of the Directorate for European Affairs in Bern. In 2010, he was appointed as the Ambassador of Switzerland to Japan. Tokyo is his first appointment in Asia and we learned that he perceives this experience as extremely positive in all respects.

The Ambassador's residence is adjacent to the Embassy building and is within a stone's throw from the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park. He told us that he goes on walks in the park with his family and cycles in the city of Tokyo. He also likes to walk across the Rainbow Bridge and to show the skyline of Tokyo to visitors from Switzerland. He says to us, "my country has many mountains and I like high places. As a substitute, I often go to the observatory tower of the Mori Tower in Roppongi Hills, but I regret that I cannot walk up the stairs to get there." He did seem a little disappointed though that he couldn't find opportunities close-by to enjoy skiing which is another of his hobbies.

He has also travelled to many areas of Japan and is enjoying this country. When we asked him where his favorite destination was, he immediately answered, "Kyoto"! He discovers the new culture and history of Japan each time he travels. He also mentioned to us that the Benesse Art Site Naoshima in Naoshima, Kagawa Prefecture was a great place to visit and strongly recommended the Chichu Museum which was designed by Tadao Ando. To ensure that the museum does not affect the beautiful scenery of Inland Sea, the majority of the building is located underground.

With a smile he also said, "There's one other place I would like the readers to visit which is "Furusato Mura" at Nagara, Chiba. We donated the former Embassy of Switzerland that was standing here in Azabu, which was the residence of Baron Kondo. The building which was removed and rebuilt in its new location is used as a restaurant that offers delicious Japanese food, but not Swiss cuisine."

We asked him if he had any favorite Japanese dish. He told us he was most impressed with the presentation and taste of the Kaiseki

(a traditional Japanese meal brought in courses) he had in Kyoto. He continued to tell us that he also loves sashimi, tempura and sushi but said that he recently had an opportunity to try the monkfish liver and that was not something he could get used to along with natto (fermented soy beans). He also told us that the quality of Japanese restaurants was excellent and that he was surprised to discover that European food is more often of a higher quality than in Europe. When we asked him about Swiss Fondue he explained that it is prepared using Swiss cheese and Swiss White Wine and that there are only a few restaurants in Tokyo where you can get it. In our interview with the Ambassador, we found out that one of his hobbies was cooking and that he liked to make original dishes. He must have picked up many hints through trying the many dishes of the restaurants that he has visited.



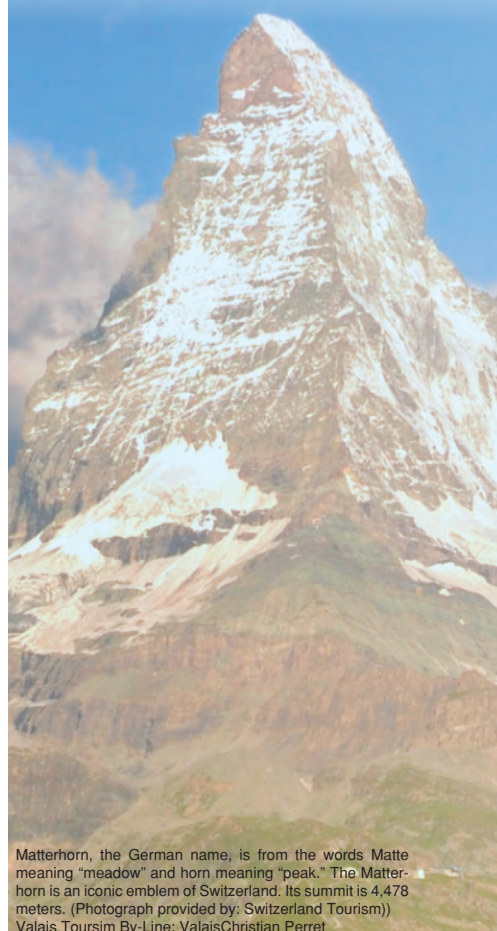
**The country's effort in preserving the environment is one that we can learn from.**

Everyone in Switzerland puts in efforts to preserve the beautiful skies and water of this country which has no seaside. The Old City of their capital, Bern, has been designated as a world heritage and the country has a high environmental standard carried out by its people to maintain the beautiful landscape. Vegetables are sold in pieces at supermarkets and not in vinyl bags as you might find in Japan. Adults to children all bring their own shopping bags. We were told that there were no plastic bags available as you might find in Japan's supermarket and convenience stores. However, you can buy recycled paper bags. Children are taught to separate garbage from when they are small. The Ambassador praised Japan's garbage disposal efforts but I strongly felt that there was a lot we could learn from the efforts put in by Switzerland.

In ending the interview, we asked him if he could recommend any destinations for Japanese tourists to visit which were not found in guidebooks. He recommended the area around Lake of Lauenen. (All three of us felt immediately that we would like to visit there.)

Next year will be a milestone, as Japan and Switzerland will be celebrating the two country's 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations. We were told that many events were being planned. The Ambassador was such a warm and hospitable person that the interview seemed so short but a wonderful experience.

\*General information on Switzerland can be found at <http://www.swissworld.org/>



Matterhorn, the German name, is from the words Matte meaning "meadow" and horn meaning "peak." The Matterhorn is an iconic emblem of Switzerland. Its summit is 4,478 meters. (Photograph provided by: Switzerland Tourism) Valais Tourism By-Line: ValaisChristian Perret

# Azabu Cool

We will be asking foreign nationals who reside, work, or study in the Azabu region to appear in our pages and ask them about their impression of Japan. We interviewed Mr. Satnam Singh Sunny (born in New Delhi, India) this time, who owns an Indian restaurant “MOTTI” in Roppongi.



Mr. Sunny shows up at his restaurant every day and takes the lead in taking care of customers.



The restaurant has been built in the image of a palace of India. Here is Mr. Sani in front of his restaurant.



All three of his sons are independent. All the brothers came together at the wedding of Amit Singh, his 3rd son.

### Why did you decide to come to Japan?

My father was a tour conductor in New Delhi and one of his customer's was a chairman of a major supermarket in Aoyama. He used to come every year. My father wanted me to have experience overseas and this chairman also recommended I do that, so I came to Japan in 1973, when I was 24 years old.

### What kind of work did you do?

I came to Tokyo and was at a complete loss, not knowing my surroundings, when this chairman was kind enough to offer me to work at his supermarket in Aoyama. I was the only foreigner at my dormitory but I started to make Japanese friends and started to learn the language. I still meet with my colleagues from those days. They came to the wedding of my third son the other day as well.

### Tell us about how you started your restaurant?

I met someone who said they would support me in 1978 and opened a restaurant in Akasaka. Then in 1982, I opened this restaurant in Roppongi, near the Azabu Police Station. I'm very fortunate to own 4 restaurants now.

There were broadcasting stations in Roppongi and Akasaka back in those days, so there were overwhelmingly more foreign customers. It also had to do with the fact that there weren't many restaurants which could serve dishes for vegetarians and word of mouth about that was amazing. We still have many foreign customers, and



MOTTI's lunch set.

models often come as well. It probably has to do with the location too.

Most of all, my employees are my pride and fortune. We have many Indian employees and the majority of them have worked for me for over 20 years. I really feel that I am fortunate.

### Where is your favorite place in Japan?

I would say Tokyo. Akasaka and Roppongi are especially wonderful towns because it is easier for foreigners to make friends. I've been doing business in Roppongi for 31 years and feel it's a place that has Japanese like scenery and also a cosmopolitan side to it. I notice the change of the town and the people; to me this is my second homeland.

### What about Japanese food?

My wife is Japanese and I've lived here for 40 years already so I have no problem at all. I love Japanese pickles and so as long as I have rice, miso soup and “furikake” (dried food sprinkled over rice), I'm fine (laughs). I make sure I drink a special juice made from bananas, carrots, apples and ginger for my health.

Mr. Sunny answered our questions politely in fluent Japanese. I felt that the key to his success with his customers was because of his gentleness and soft demeanor. All of his three sons each studied at a university in the U.S. and are independent now. I truly felt that his customers must come to his restaurant to relax and enjoy his smile and delicious curry.

(Interviewed and written by: Yukiko Takayanagi)

## 地域社会のゆくえ

10

“The Local Community”

# Regional bonds shine in times of emergency

## Activities of the Regional Disaster Prevention Committee

Why not participate?

Do you know about the activities of your disaster prevention committee who manage disaster prevention measures in the region where you live? There are six disaster prevention committees – one for each school district associated with the elementary schools in the Azabu region – consisting of resident volunteers who manage committee activities, utilizing subsidy funds from the city office. We interviewed Mr. Akira Otsuka, Chairman of the Higashi Machi Elementary School District Disaster Prevention Committee.

### Activities of the Disaster Prevention Committee

We hold monthly meetings to discuss the management of evacuation sites for times of disaster, to create manuals for the evacuation sites, to inspect supplies, to manage the manhole toilets and to conduct evacuation drills. We will also manage the operation of the evacuation sites should disaster strike. We provided blankets and water to the approximately 200 people who evacuated to the Higashi Machi Elementary School during the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake.



Mr. Akira Otsuka, Chairman of the Higashi Machi District Disaster Prevention Committee

### Creating “Bonds” by Actively Participating in Regional Activities and Being Self-dependent

It is impossible to prepare supplies for all residents and those who work in the Higashi Machi area for when disaster strikes. Therefore, we ask that each household and company prepare and stock one week's worth of emergency food, drinks, blankets and other things. Being self-dependent is the most important thing. Try to get to know more people in your area. Don't let the evacuation site be the first time you meet people: instead cultivate a sense of concern for your neighbors, thinking, “I wonder if they are on their way,” or, “I hope they are okay.” This will help make life at the evacuation site much easier. We asked for volunteers in the Higashi Machi school district in 2010 and dug a well in the playground of the elementary school. It was for the purpose of irrigating the manhole toilets, and it took three months to complete, using the Kazusa method of well digging. We were able to build a strong sense of regional solidarity through this activity and our committee membership grew to 60 people.

### The Issue is Communication with Residents

According to the Higashi Machi Disaster Prevention Committee, approximately 80% of the residents in the area live in apartment blocks, and there are also quite a lot of people living alone. Circulation notices and bulletin boards are used to notify residents of evacuation and disaster prevention information; however, it is difficult to make sure this reaches everyone. We would like to ask for the residents' cooperation. We will be holding an evacuation site tour of Higashi



One never knows when disaster might strike. The disaster prevention committee used an emergency gas burner for cooking during a nighttime drill.



Digging the well with the cooperation of regional residents

Machi Elementary School on April 20. Please feel free to come and join, even if it's your first time.

Activity Schedule of the Higashi Machi Elementary School District	
April	Evacuation Site Tour
June	General Meeting and Get-Together
Sept.	Picking up Children at the Time of the Evacuation Drill
Oct.	Participation in the Minato City-wide Disaster Prevention Drill

※Please contact the Collaboration Promotion Sub-section, Collaboration Promotion Section of the Azabu Regional City Office at 03-5114-8802 regarding inquiries such as participating in the disaster prevention committee.

(Interviewed and written by: Yoko Mitsuki)



Chokushinmon Gate  
The mountain gate of Zenpuku-ji Temple has been called Chokushinmon Gate from the time the temple was designated a Chokugan-ji by the order of Emperor Kameyama.

# The Roots of Azabu, the Town of Embassies; “Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji-Temple”

Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple at Moto Azabu 1 chome boasts a 1,200 year history and is Azabu’s foremost ancient temple. There are currently 80 embassies in Minato City, which is about half of the whole country’s embassies, and within that approximately 60% are concentrated in the Azabu area. In addition, the Europa House of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, which held a successful Open Day in May of last year, is also located in Minami Azabu. The Azabu area continues to strengthen its cosmopolitan colors, however, the roots of Azabu as a town of embassies lie in Zenpuku-ji Temple, where the first U.S Embassy was built.

## 麻布の軌跡

### From a Place of Accommodation to Legation

Townsend Harris was appointed as envoy to Japan in 1859 and he made his official residence at Zenpuku-ji temple, where the U.S Legation was established. There is a memorial commemorating Harris inside the temple precincts. The original legation (in the inner drawing room, part of the reception hall) was built on the north side of the main temple. Although these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1863 when attacked by anti-foreign factions of Mito samurai, they were reconstructed with the aid of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the U.S.



Takashi Masuda (first president of Mitsui Trading Company) and others who learned English from Harris donated the memorial in 1936.



The first U.S Legation  
Of the two foreigners, the gentleman on the left is U.S. Consul General Townsend Harris and on the right is his interpreter and secretary, Henry Heusken. The boy in the center is the apprentice interpreter, Takashi Masuda (who later became the first president of Mitsui Trading Company) (People at Zenpuku-ji Temple, Azabu, Edo; Shimoda History Museum)



Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple during the Edo period (1818-1844) (Keisai Ensen’s woodblock print of the temple grounds of Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple (1818-1844) Minato City Local History Museum)



The current main temple building was the main temple of Yao Betsuin of Kyoto Hongan-ji Temple, built during the Edo period and dismantled and reconstructed at Zenpuku-ji Temple after the war.

### Figures Involved in the U.S Legation

#### Townsend Harris (1804-1878)

Harris was a U.S diplomat born in New York. In 1856, as the first Consul General to be appointed to Shimoda, he concluded the Shimoda Treaty, based on the Kanagawa Treaty. He traveled to Edo and urged the Shogunate to begin trade, and in 1858 successfully signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with Japan; the U.S. was the first of the major world powers to break through Japan’s policy of national isolation. He was later promoted to the position of the first envoy to Japan in 1859 by President Franklin Pierce and was stationed in Japan along with Heusken. His official residence was located at the Zenpuku-ji Temple. During his stay, he held lectures on international law for the officers of the Tokugawa Shogunate and contributed to the internationalization and modernization of Japan. He returned to the U.S. in 1862 due to ill health. Abraham Lincoln, a republican, had been elected President by the time he returned. The biggest shock to Harris during his six year tenure in Japan was the assassination of Heusken. It is said that when Heusken died, Harris clung to his body and wept bitterly.



Harris (left) and Heusken (right) as seen by the people of Edo (Ehisu no Uwasa) 5th Edition National Diet Library

#### Henry Heusken (1832-1861)

Born in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, he came to Japan in 1856 as an interpreter and secretary to Harris. He spoke not only his native Dutch but was fluent in English, French and German, and could also speak Japanese. He played an active role in the complicated negotiations between Japan and the U.S. as Harris’s right-hand man. He also acted as an interpreter for foreign nations other than the U.S. in negotiating with the Tokugawa Shogunate. He was attacked and killed by anti-foreigner samurai near Nakanohashi on the way back to his lodgings in Zenpuku-ji Temple after interpreting for the Prussian (former name for Germany) Legation on difficult negotiations with the Tokugawa Shogunate near Akabane Setsugusho (now Iikura Park). The French, British and Dutch legations criticized the Shogunate’s security system after this incident and temporarily withdrew to Yokohama, creating a serious diplomatic issue. Heusken’s funeral, attended by diplomats, consuls general and envoys from various nations, was held at Zenpuku-ji Temple, however, since burials were prohibited there, his remains were brought to Korin-ji Temple in Azabu for burial.



Heusken’s funeral procession from Zenpuku-ji Temple to Minami Azabu Korin-ji Temple. (Speiss “Prussia’s Expedition to East Asia” Waseda University Library)

### The Origin of Zenpuku-ji Temple

Azabu-san Zenpuku-ji Temple was built at its current location in 824, during the Heian period. It was built to imitate Koya-san Kongobu-ji Temple in the west of Japan. It is the oldest temple in Tokyo after Kinryu-zan Senso-ji Temple. Zenpuku-ji Temple was designated a Chokugan-ji\* during the Kamakura period at the order of the reigning Emperor, Kameyama at the time of the Mongol Invasion (Bunei Invasion). During the Edo period, the Shogunate expanded the temple’s estate by approximately 18 sq.km, and placed it under careful protection.

\*Chokugan-ji are temples built at the behest of an emperor where prayers were offered for the well-being of the Imperial Family and the stability of the country.

### The Witness of History “The Ginkgo Tree of Zenpuku-ji Temple”

Within the temple precincts is “the ginkgo tree of Zenpuku-ji Temple.” The circumference of its trunk is approximately 10 meters, it is said to be about 750 years old – the oldest tree in Tokyo – and it has been designated a National Natural Monument. The top of the tree is gone, there are areas where it was blackened by fire during the war and it looks like a “gigantic dead tree” in the winter. However, once spring approaches, new leaves start to sprout, and during the fall, its fallen leaves turn the ground around it to a carpet of golden yellow. The vitality of the tree is astonishing. Perhaps this witness from the Kamakura period will continue to quietly watch over Azabu as the area changes.



“The Ginkgo Tree of Zenpuku-ji Temple” will be celebrating its 750th year.

- References:  
 Foreign Embassies of Edo, edited and issued by Minato City Local History Museum  
 Leaflet from Zenpuku-ji Temple  
 Azabu-san Homepage  
 Juban Waga Furusato, written by Rikichi Inagaki



Map  
Taken from illustrations from Minato City’s Modern History Collection, Azabu and Roppongi 1862 Minato City Local History Museum

## Following last month's edition, we would like to introduce you to 3 of the 12 regional projects independently conducted by the Azabu Regional City Office: "The Community Project on Safety and Security," "The Azabu Art Festa," and "The Azabu Future Photo Studio."

### 4. Community Project on Safety and Security

#### [Issues leading up to the project]

It is important to implement measures specific to regional issues. With that in mind, improvements on securing a safe living environment, measures on disaster prevention and the vitalization of the community need to take place so that everyone living in the Azabu region can feel safe and secure in their daily lives.

#### [Content of Project]

Detailed analysis will be conducted based on the opinions of regional groups regarding the current situation and issues, followed by discussion on measures to be taken and then a model project will be executed. We will be asking the residents to participate in regional activities such as activities to secure a safe living environment and regional disaster prevention activities.

Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Investigation/ Analysis Execution of Model Project	-	Investigation	Construction	Execution	Execution

### 5. Azabu Art Festa

#### [Issues leading up to the project]

The Azabu region has a concentration of art and culture facilities such as the National Art Center (Tokyo) and the Mori Art Museum; the region also has many active creators and designers.

Capitalizing on these characteristics of the Azabu region, we will endeavor to create regional appeal and energize the community through this project, in which we hope our residents, those who work in the region and foreigners will participate.



#### [Content of Project]

We will invite professional artists to host fun workshops in which participants can experience art first hand. This will not only be a single annual event but will be held multiple times with hopes that this project will provide opportunities for the participants to get together and build friendships.



This project will be executed by gaining the participation of residents and various people from the region so it can be operated mainly by the people of the region.

Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Executed 19 times	Executed 10 times	Planning & Operation by Support Team 3 times	Team Azabu Festa held 3 times	Hosted totally by Team Azabu Festa 3 times	9 times

### 6. The Azabu Future Photo Studio

#### [Issues leading up to the project]

The Azabu region is rich in interesting elements such as historical stories and legends of temple towns and old samurai residences. However, there are few residents and visitors who know Azabu's history and culture well.

In order to give people a feeling of deep attachment to the Azabu region, we would like people to learn about the history and culture of the town through old photographs of the Azabu region.

#### [Content of Project]

With the cooperation of our residents and corporations 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 will also hold permanent panel exhibitions by providing a collaborative space for residents to use.

In addition, a process will be put into place so a wider audience, including our residents, can access this project with efforts put into utilizing digital data and the homepage. Through these efforts, we intend to spread the word of the attractive scenery and historical and cultural resources which belong to the Azabu region.

Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Photo Shoots & Data Collection, Set Permanent Panels (1 location) Panel Exhibition (28 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Panel Exhibition (13 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Prepare Web Applications Investigate Permanent Panels (5 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Web Opens Set Permanent Panels Panel Exhibition (5 locations)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Web Opens Set Permanent Panels Panel Exhibition (5 locations) Create Booklets (3,000 Copies)	Photo Shoot & Data Collection Web Opens Set Permanent Panels Panel Exhibition (15 locations) Create Booklets (3,000 Copies)



Azabu City Office 1935  
Source: History of Minato City Assembly Complete History



Present Day Azabu Regional City Office

## Information from Azabu Regional City Office

# The Azabu Juban Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot Opened in May, 2013! No Parking Zones for Bicycles Have Also Been Designated

The Azabu Juban Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot opened in May, 2013 and is now available for use.

No parking zones for bicycles have also been designated along with the opening of the temporary bicycle parking lot. 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 Azabu Juban region in order to create a safe, secure and comfortable environment for pedestrians. Please be aware that bicycles left in no parking zones will be removed immediately.

Parking Lot Detail	No. 1 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot	No. 2 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot
Capacity	268 (Bicycles Only)	2nd Floor 84 (Bicycles Only) 1st Floor 30 (Motorized Two-Wheeled Vehicle)
Usage	Hourly/Periodical Usage	Bicycles: Hourly/Periodical Usage Motorized Two-Wheeled Vehicle: Hourly
Fee	Free for the first 2 hours and 100 yen for every 6 hours after that General:1,800 yen/month Students:1,300 yen/month	Free for the first 2 hours and 100 yen for every 8 hours after that General:1,800 yen/month Students:1,300 yen/month Motorized Two-Wheeled Vehicle
Hours	24 Hours	24 hours

\* The No. 2 Temporary Bicycle Parking Lot for Motorized Two-Wheeled Vehicles will not be available until Apr. 1, 2014.

For Inquiries: [On Embankment Construction] Tokyo Metropolitan No. 1 Construction Department, Tel: 03-3452-1298

[On Bicycle Parking Lot and Bicycle Parking Locations] Community Development Support Subsection Collaboration Project Section Azabu Regional City Office, Tel: 03-5114-8802



## (Tentative) We're Taking Applications on a Nickname for the Azabu Children's Hall Kids-to-Teens Hall Multiplex Facility

We're looking for a nickname for the multiplex facility (Children's Hall Kids-to-Teens Plaza, nursery school, and Iki Iki Plaza) which is scheduled to open at Minami Azabu 4 chome in 2014. Please think of a name which sounds friendly and easy to say. We are also taking applications on naming the Iki Iki Plaza which is within this facility. The nickname etc. will go through a selection process by the Selection Committee before the names are decided. The copyright will belong to the city office.

Eligible Persons: Those residing, working and studying within Minato City

Applications: 1. Nickname for the multiplex facility 2. Name for the Iki Iki Plaza

One person can only send in one name per selection along with the reason, address, name and telephone number (name of company or school if working or studying within Minato City) by Mar. 22 (must arrive by Friday) via mail or fax to the following:

General Administration Subsection, General Administration Section  
Azabu Regional City Office (106-8515) Tel: 5114-8805 Fax: 3583-3782



Conceptual Drawing

## 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 aged 20 and over who are interested in volunteer work.

### Activity:

An initiative to keep the environment clean and to patrol around the Roppongi area for about one hour during the nighttime. The purpose of the activity will be explained before the start.

### Schedule:

Please see the Minato City website.

### Meeting Place:

Mikawadai Park (Roppongi 4-2-27)

### Area:

In the vicinity of Roppongi Crossing

### Application:

Please call or fax your name and phone number by 3 P.M. on the day before the event.

※ You can participate in both the cleanup and patrol, or either one.

※ There will be no reward.

※ The activity will be cancelled if it rains, and you will be contacted about this on that day.

### Inquiries:

Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office.

Tel.03-5114-8812 Fax.03-3583-3782



## We Are Looking For Editorial Staff

Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have no limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo (106-8515).

●Tel: 03-5114-8802 ●Fax: 03-3583-3782

We look forward to your participation as editorial staff to make the newsletter more appealing.



You can access the Azabu Newsletter from the homepage as well.



## 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 Aki Tanaka

Sub Chief Yukiko Takayanagi

Staff Kyoko Ideishi Keiko Orito Yoko Mitsuki

Kumiko Omura Yasuhiro Tanaka Akira Mori

Yasuhiko Ozaki Kazumi Nagahama Ryoza Yamashita

Junior Staff Akane Ishiyama Hibiki Omura Misa Suzuki

Miyabi Vivienne Inaba Daichi Suzuki

(This staff as of April 1, 2013)

### Editor's Note

This is the season when plants and trees sprout new leaves and flowers bloom. It is also a time of parting but a time for new departures, new experiences such as enrollment to schools, work, promotions and transfers. Our editorial staffs are all volunteers who work together with the Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office by holding editorial meetings to issue this regional newsletter.

All of us who have different working backgrounds and age work together to share ideas, conduct interviews and truly feel the joy of "collaboration" when we issue this newsletter. We look forward to your participation and cooperation in the editing of "The Azabu" newsletter.

Please let us hear your comments and opinion as well.

(Kazue Asakawa)

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