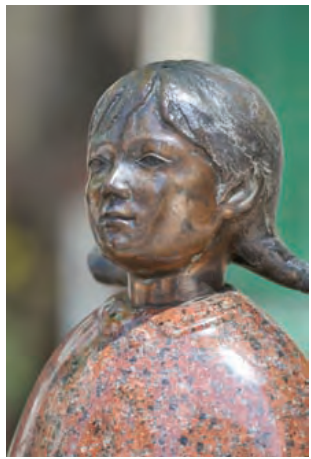




Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ②



"Kimi-chan" Statue, Azabujuban's Landmark

Patio Juban is a small square located on one corner of the Azabujuban Shopping Arcade. It was designated as one of the modernization projects of the metropolitan government and was completed in 1986. The Kimi-chan statue was also completed three years later in Feb. 1989. Since then, 25 years have gone by but Kimi-chan still looks appealing and is supported by the shopping arcade and the people of the community, and continues to watch over Juban to this day. We interviewed Itaru Sasaki, the sculptor of the Kimi-chan statue.



Itaru Sasaki graduated from the postgraduate course at Tama Arts University and is active as a sculptor. He works in Tokyo and also in his atelier located in Nobeyama, Nagano Prefecture.



The Kimi-chan statue in 1989. The round object on the bottom right is for donations. It is currently now a box.

● Why were you commissioned the Kimi-chan statue?

At first it was an offer to produce a monument to attach a memorial plate to commemorate the patio. It was a joint project with three artists and we came up with 10 patterns. When we were working on ideas, someone from the shopping arcade told us about Kimi-chan. They say that Kimi-chan is a model of the girl from a song that everyone knows, "The Little Girl in Red Shoes." She was left at the orphanage of Toriizaka Church because the missionary didn't take her back to the U.S and died at the age of nine from tuberculosis. That gave me a strong impression that Kimi-chan had a deep connection with Juban and my image of this project became the statue of Kimi-chan. Work started under this idea and my two partners said that it would be better if I worked on it alone and as a result, it became a solo project.

I communicated closely with the people of the Azabujuban Shopping Arcade from the planning stage which was a learning experience for me.

● Tell us about the progress of your work?

There was a Kimi-chan statue in those days at the Harbor View Park in Yokohama but I refrained from looking at it. I started working on it purely from the image I had. I wanted to choose a material which was bright because it was going to be a statue of a child, and granite has white or black, but I chose a bit brighter red granite. I polished it at least eight times to get the smooth touch I was after. The face and legs are made from bronze. My niece was nine, the same age that Kimi-chan went to heaven, so I used the image of my niece a little as well.

Kimi-chan's mother believed that her daughter was living in the U.S until the day she died. So I thought that a mother would probably want to dress up her daughter who was just about to leave for the U.S. and that's where I got the idea of the cape. I thought that capes must have been fashionable in the Meiji era. Of course, this was all my imagination. It took me over three months to complete it.

● Do you ever look at your artwork since 25 years have passed?

Yes, I come to look at it sometimes. My last visit was three years ago. The trees in patio have grown so big and the shopping arcade has also changed which surprised me a little but my "Kimi-chan" statue hasn't changed at all, which makes me feel how fortunate I am as an artist. I'm really grateful to the people of the shopping arcade and the region for taking such good care of it.

I also heard that many people leave donations with hopes of fortune for their children and family. Donations to UNICEF have exceeded over 10 million yen and as it's been 25 years since its completion, I am so grateful for Kimi-chan, who left my possession, having wings on her own.

Kimi-chan has a round face and is looking slightly upwards which looks like she's looking into the future in a way. Her cape is close to a yellowish pink, sort of fluffy and warm, and she is wearing shoes with laces.

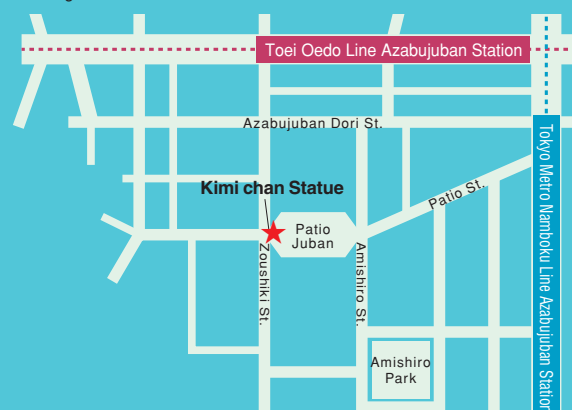
Passers-by get the urge to want to pat her head. This is probably because she's wrapped in the warm love of Mr. Sasaki, the sculptor.

There were times that people would put a red cap and apron on the stone statue of Jizo standing along the street and we would pray for daily happiness. Kimi-chan, which is a modern statue, is an alternative symbol of the Jizo which stands in the patio of Azabujuban, warmly watching over passers-by.



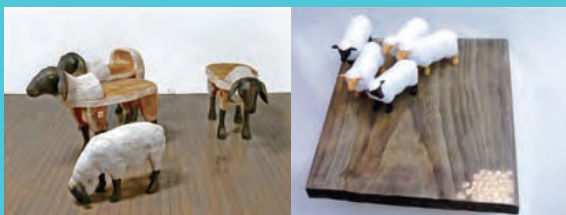
About Kimi-chan

The song, "The Little Girl in Red Shoes," was written by poet Ujō Noguchi and musical composer Nagayo Motoori and became known all over Japan after it was released in 1922. Kimi was born in Shizuoka and was adopted by an American missionary couple when her mother remarried and was presumed to have headed to the U.S. However, contrary to the lyrics, "A little girl in her pretty red shoes has gone far away, taken by a foreigner (American)," Kimi had never left Japan at all but died at the orphanage of Toriizaka Church at the age of nine from tuberculosis in 1911.



Mr. Sasaki's artwork is not only using stone but also wood

(Left) "Karera No Yukue"
 95th Nika Art Exhibition
 (Right) "Hitsujitachi wa Mori e Kieru"



麻布びと

"Azabu — A Human Story"



Inheriting his barbershop as a 2nd generation barber and telling people about the cinema paradise that Azabujuban once was.

Cinema was a great boom of entertainment around 1945 to the 1950's and to reflect that boom, Azabujuban back in those days had 4 movie theaters. "Azabu Eiga Gekijyo," "Azabu Chuo Gekijyo," "Azabu Nikkatsu Kan," and "Azabu Meiga-za." Mr. Endo who was enchanted by the world of film, continues to this day to see movies, regardless of genre. We listened to an enjoyable and precious story of how his family business of being a barber connected to the world of film.

Inherited the Barbershop because I was the oldest son

Yukio Endo runs his barber shop business on Zoushiki St. which is close to Patio Azabujuban. He was born at Azabu Sakashitacho (currently Azabujuban 2 chome) where his parents ran their barber shop. During the war, the whole family had to evacuate and leave Juban. Unfortunately, their shop was totally destroyed during the Great Air Raid. "There was nothing but burnt - out ruins in this whole area."



May 1945; 3 months before the end of the war, Azabujuban got totally destroyed by fire. The view from Higash-azabu. The arrow points at the tower of Nikkatsu Kan in the ruins.

The family stayed with their relative in Shirokane, which survived the air raid, after the war. They finally returned to Azabujuban because their clientele wanted them to start their business and set up shop where it is today. Yukio, who was the oldest of the three brothers, attended a haircut school after graduating from high school and after he worked as an apprentice at several barber shops, finally inheriting the business from his father.



Yukio (12 years old) on the left with his parents and brothers in front of their shop in Jan., 1950.

Mr. Endo told us, "I really wanted to go on to college but I was the oldest so...."



1950's, Azabu Chuo Gekijyo on the right and Azabu Eiga Gekijyo on the left. There are now 2 supermarkets there.



1950's, the Azabu Chuo Gekijyo during a New Year's screening. Showy decoration reflects that it is the golden age of films.

His Encounter with Cinema

Along with the reconstruction of postwar Japan, the golden age of Japanese cinema also arrived. According to the statics of 1958, the attendance record at movie theaters was 1.13 billion people, the population at that time was approximately 90 million. What this amounts to is that every citizen from babies to the elderly went to the theater once per month.



Mr. Endo is still an active barber at the age of 76

"Television had not yet been available in each household at that time so everyone, including myself, went to the cinema."

Mr. Endo's eyes start to shine when he starts talking about film. In the 50m small radius of the Juban Shopping Arcade, there were 4 movie theaters. If you

walked a little more, there was Kyoei in Gyoranzaka-shita and Shibaen Kan at Akabanebashi. This whole area was truly a cinema paradise.

During the 1950's when Mr. Endo was helping his father's business, many film industry people came to get their hair cut which was why their shop was filled with colorful posters of films being screened.

Movies in those days changed every week. His father threw away old posters of film which had been screened along with old newspapers. "I couldn't bear to see him throw away posters of the films that I liked or those that were beautifully designed." That was what made Mr. Endo keep the posters he liked.

Before long, the golden age of cinema came to an end. As television started to spread along with other forms of entertainment, the theaters in Azabujuban were forced to close down and not even one was left in the area except for the 72 posters of his favorite films which Mr. Endo kept.

Approximately 10 years ago, Mr. Endo who was involved in the editing of the Azabujuban Shopping Arcade's public relations magazine, "Juban Dayori," and wrote serial publications of his episodes and memories of the films he saw. Later, as a compilation of his work, he published "Azabujuban wo Wakaseta Eiga tachi" (the movies which brought excitement to Azabujuban). [Aug. 2010 issue/not on sale]

He is currently 76 years old and his son works as the 3rd generation barber of the family at the shop, but he's still active in the business. He continues to be swift with his scissors to older clientele and goes to watch movies on his days off. He's a film freak who deeply loves films and is also known for his many rare and precious posters he collects. He even appeared on a TV program with his 72 posters because his friend recommended he do so. There was even a collector who saw the program and contacted him, asking him to sell his collection.



He showed us his precious posters.



"The movies which brought excitement to Azabujuban"



Amongst the posters he introduced on TV, "Roman Holiday," "Revenge of Frankenstein" and "Uchujin Tokyo ni Arawareru" were praised as being highly valuable. (Reprint from "The movies which brought excitement to Azabujuban")

But these treasures are indispensable to him and he says that no one other than he will possess them.

"He was close to film because his family ran the barber shop" but he is a true film lover who not only loves to see films but loves to thoroughly research them as well. Our desire is that he continues to live along with film and tell people about the cinema paradise which existed in Azabujuban.

ワダンも 麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

We would like to introduce your dear "family" in this corner.



The electrical appliance shop, Nikkoshu, stands at the entrance of the National Arts Center, Tokyo, which is located midway to Nogizaka from the Roppongi Crossing. Poo chan & Chibi chan are the two vivid colored parakeets who watch over the people walking the streets. You can sometimes hear their energetic sounds from the large and small bird cage set in front of the shop. The passers-by stop to look at them often.



We asked the shop owner about them.

How long have these two lived in Azabu?

The bigger one, Poo chan, has been here for 4 years and Chibi chan is 10. They are respectively the 3rd and 5th generation.

Why did you choose birds as a mascot for your shop?

It was 20 some odd years ago that someone delivered a lost vivid colored parakeet to the police box at the Roppongi Crossing. The police contacted us on how to treat the parakeet since they thought my grandfather would know because he had kept hundreds of chickens on the rooftop right after the war. In the end, it ended up being a mascot of our shop so that passers-by could also look at it.

Many people stop in front of the cage, don't they?

The other day, a patient who used to go to the Cardiovascular Institute (it moved from Nogizaka to Nishi-azabu 2 years ago) as an outpatient dropped by to take a look at them feeling nostalgic. Some others would stop and look at the birds each time and take pictures regularly every year. And elementary

school students also stop and say hi on their way home from school.

Weren't there more before?

We used to have three but on the night my mother passed away last year, the bird that she liked the most also suddenly died. So now we only have these two.

A message to the readers.

Please call out their names if you happen to pass in front of the shop. If they're in a good mood, they'll answer.

Chibi chan is a beautiful 7-colored bird.



Please enclose a picture along with your story to the address below. It can be a story made by the owner, as well. If we should get many applications, we may have to hold an editor's meeting to decide which story to introduce. Please note that we will not be able to reply to any inquiries regarding whether your story was chosen or not. If we decide to cover your story, we will be in touch with you regarding the scheduling of the interview. We look forward to receiving your applications. Thank you.

"I'm Also A Child of Azabu!" application -District Policy Division, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office

〒106-8515 Roppongi 5-16-45

Please introduce the animals which are popular in your town.

Interviewed and Written by: Kyoko Ideishi

We Welcome Anyone Who is Committed

This issue's theme is about the job of an actor. Three 2nd year students of the Koryo Jr. High School visited the Haiyuza (Roppongi) rehearsal room and interviewed three young actors. Each one of them came from a different career. One transferred from the financial world, one said that it was an extension of her drama days as a student and one said that she came to Tokyo because she wanted work in a job of expressing her feelings.

What was your family's reaction when you became an actor?

—It was like, "what happened," "is everything alright?"

—I was told, "to do what I pleased."

—My father was against it at first, but, after I passed the audition, he started to support my career.

What makes you happy doing this job?

—I feel very happy when I shake hands with the audience when I'm back to myself after the curtain call and not in the character of the role I'm playing.

—I like the moment I'm on stage. You also don't get scolded when you're up on stage. (Laughs)

—When you're up on stage you just do your best to play your character and there's no hierarchical relationship.

What are you most careful about in continuing your career as an actor?

Well there're a lot of restrictions such as you can't cut your hair just because you want to, can't get a suntan or you're not allowed to ride bikes or go skiing because you might get injured, so you really have to keep in good shape. From a physical aspect, you're a manual laborer so it's important to be strong and healthy. In addition to using a humidifier to protect my throat, I wear a white mask under my mask, and I also avoid spicy food and sodas.

How do you memorize long lines?

If you understand the situation, then there're no problem with lines. You can remember them if you know you have to. You read the script over and over,



One can see that the script is read over & over from the notes written and the labels on them.

write it down and hear yourself... there are many ways to memorize lines, and it's not that difficult. The difficult part is after that.

Would you recommend this job to others?

(All three of them) No. (Laughs) If you're not committed it becomes really difficult. If you aren't cast, you have no job. But we do welcome those who are committed.

What is your advice to those who want to become actors?

What you might think is not worthwhile now, will eventually become worthwhile because you don't know what kind of role you'll be cast in and that's the fun. Enjoy what you're doing now! Physical labor is important so be prepared.



The students in front of the Haiyuza with the script of the next tour which was given to them.



Haiyuza
Ami Kobayashi (last row)
Nanae Saito (right, front row)
Miwa Morine (left, front row)

The reason why the girls are in pigtails and wearing monpe work pants is because they were acting in the roles of students during the war.

There are many types of work in the world

Actor

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

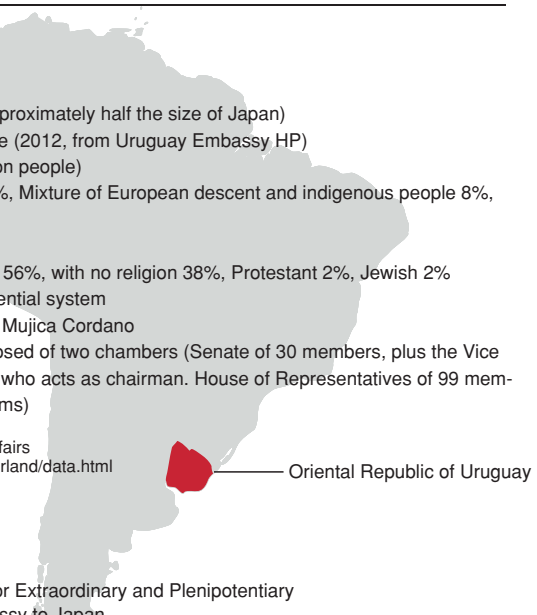
KIDS' Hello Work



They gave us time during their rehearsal. They laugh as questions are fired one after another but the actors answer them with smiles.



Oriental Republic of Uruguay
 Total Area: 176,215 sq. kilometers (approximately half the size of Japan)
 Population: Approx. 3.38 million people (2012, from Uruguay Embassy HP)
 Capital: Montevideo (approx. 1.4 million people)
 Ethnic Groups: European descent 90%, Mixture of European descent and indigenous people 8%, African approx. 2%
 Language: Spanish
 Religion: No official religion, Catholics 56%, with no religion 38%, Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%
 Government: Republic under a presidential system
 Head of State: President José Alberto Mujica Cordano
 Legislature: General Assembly, composed of two chambers (Senate of 30 members, plus the Vice President of the Republic who acts as chairman. House of Representatives of 99 members. Both are 5 years terms)
 Information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/switzerland/data.html>



H.E. Mr. Eduardo BOUZOUT, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
 Interview Cooperation by: Uruguay Embassy to Japan

Visiting Embassies 23
 From the "World" of Azabu



Estadio Centenario, the stadium in which the first FIFA World Cup final was played.



Oriental Republic of Uruguay

A Country Most Farthest From Japan
 Uruguayans, Cheerful and Passionate,
 Resonating Their Latin Blood



Punta del Este is a beach resort town located 138km from the capital of Montevideo. This beautiful beach resort enjoys many tourists from Argentina and Brazil. (Photograph provided by the Embassy)



The beat of drums can be heard throughout the city during Carnival Season. Many artistic performances can also be seen. (Photograph provided by the Embassy)

Uruguay is a country in the southeastern part of South America facing the Atlantic Ocean and located between Brazil and Argentina. From Japan, it takes over 30 hours having to change planes twice. We had the honor of interviewing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, H.E Mr. Eduardo Bouzout at the Uruguay Embassy to Japan located in a building at Nishi-azabu and asked him about the people of his country, the relationship with Japan and about how he spends his daily life.

Economic Relations with Japan are Getting Stronger Year by Year

After completing his degree from the Law Department and graduating from the University of the Republic, H.E Mr. Bouzout became a teacher and professor at Universidad del Trabajo del Uruguay, then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985. He was appointed as Ambassador to the Uruguay Embassy to Japan in July 2012 after positions at the Uruguay Embassy in Ecuador, United States and Canada. As you can see from his photograph, the Ambassador was a very cheerful and warm gentleman. He answered our questions with a smile throughout our interview.

Uruguay and Japan established diplomatic relations in Sept. 1921. Friendly relations between the two nations continue with a focus on economic cooperation. In recent years, more Japanese companies have become active in Uruguay, expanding into various fields, such as production of auto parts and Japanese rice. Agriculture is one of the main industries with main export commodities such as beef, wool, and wine to Europe and countries around the world. Japanese rice produced in

Uruguay is imported to neighboring Brazil where there is a large Japanese descendant community. On the other hand, fresh beef is not yet imported into Japan, however, the Uruguayan government sent donations, juice, water and 4,600 cans (approximately 2 tons) of corned beef to Japan at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

When we asked the Ambassador about the difference in character between the Uruguayan and Japanese people, he praised us by saying, "The Japanese are very polite people. Everyone makes a line at the station to board trains. Even in the case of work, once they start something, they complete the task perfectly until the end, so I think they are very serious-minded." On the other hand, as for his people, he said, "They are typical Latin American so they're cheerful, friendly and open minded." The Ambassador, himself, was also very cheerful and his hearty laughter to us felt that it was very Latino. He also told us that people looked forward to Carnival Season which begins in late January (summer in Uruguay) with main activities taking place in the capital, Montevideo. Their Carnival Season is the longest in the world, which is over 40 days!

He said that there weren't many Uruguayans living in Japan and because of the geographical distance between our two countries, he told us, "As one of my future activities, I would like to call on famous artists and singers to introduce and spread the culture of my country."

The Secret behind Being One of the World's Strongest Soccer Teams

Soccer comes into the minds of many people when they hear the name Uruguay. The country has glorious records in soccer. Uruguay won the inaugural tournament of the FIFA World Cup on home soil in 1930 when the country celebrated the centenary of its first constitution. They won again in 1950, famously defeating Brazil in the final match, scoring an upset victory with 2 goals in the latter half. People are still talking about this match calling it "Maracanazo."

Despite the early success, there were times that they struggled, however, in the 2010 FIFA World Cup held in South Africa, Uruguay showed its power as a strong team and came in 4th place. "90% of our national team plays in the European leagues. They're gaining great experience playing in stoic conditions." When we asked the Ambassador what he thought was the secret behind being a strong team, he answered with humor and said, "It's the Uruguayan DNA." We could see that behind his smile, that the Ambassador was very proud of his national team.



Mate is the local hot drink and is served with a metal straw from a shared hollow calabash gourd, or containers carved out of wood or horns. The straw is called a bombilla and used by everyone drinking it.

Red Uruguayan wine goes well with meat. Tannat grapes were brought over from France. Their wines are full-bodied. It can also be found in Japan.



We were confident that the international goodwill game scheduled between Japan and Uruguay in August at the Miyagi Stadium would be an exciting game.

Enjoying the Culture of Japan with his Wife Who also Loves Japan

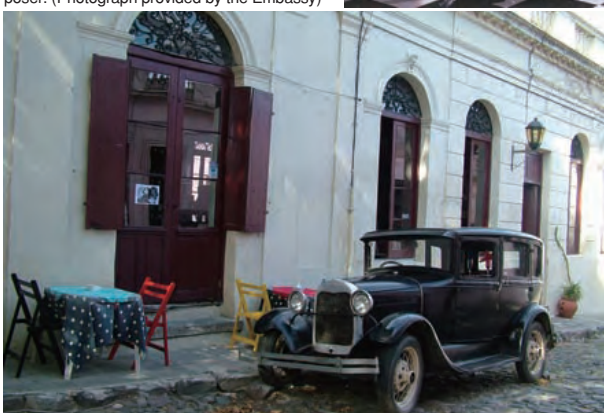
One year has passed since his appointment and he is enjoying his experience and life in Japan. His wife is a Japanophile and happened to come to Japan when she was a teenager because her relative lived here. Her original plan was to stay for 6 months which ended out to be 2 years and we were told that she was very happy about her husband's appointment to Japan this time. His wife learns tea ceremony and the Ambassador has also participated in one. With a smile he said, "In tea ceremony you have to prepare so many things, don't you?" They have also seen sumo and enjoyed the cherry blossoms near the Embassy this spring. When we informed him that Azabujuban had the Obon Festival in August, he seemed to be very interested. There may be an opportunity this summer to see the Ambassador wearing a yukata in the neighborhood.



Ornaments are sold as souvenirs. The owls look very humorous.



"Tango" is famous in Uruguay just as it is in Argentina. La Cumparsita, said to be played most in the world, was composed by a Uruguayan composer. (Photograph provided by the Embassy)



Colonia del Sacramento was a city streetscape in the 17th century that has been preserved, and named to the UNESCO list of world heritage (Photograph provided by: Hironori Mikami)

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

- The Changes of the Azabujuban Shopping Arcade -

When you compare the photographs

In the 1967 picture, you can see that the shape of the signal and structure of the shopping arcade is also different (photo on the right). The bank building was not built yet.

You realize that in less than 6 years that although the original landscape still remains, that a big change took place.



1967: Photograph taken by: Masanori Taguchi Photograph provided by: Shigehisa Taguchi



1973: Back in those days, there was an arcade above the streets Photograph provided by: Shoichi Sakurai

When you compare the photographs

Present day (2012), 39 years later, is the subway entrance and a condominium behind it. The shopping arcade no longer exists.

However, one can still feel the remnants from days gone by. The townscape seems to be the reflection of the spirit of the people of the region of "consulting the past to learn about the future."



1973: Photograph provided by: Shoichi Sakurai



2012: The arcade has disappeared and now the street has stone pavements



2012

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

The Azabu Regional City Office started this project, "The Azabu Future Photo Studio" in 2009, with the collaboration of our residents and corporations by collecting old photographs of the Azabu region. Fixed-point photographs have also been shot and photographs of the changing town have been saved.

This project's objective is also to collect and preserve data of the Azabu Region and through this effort to save and pass down the historic and cultural assets of the town through old photographs. At the same time, we want as many people as possible to gain knowledge about the history and culture of this "town" in order to have people feel a deep attachment to the Azabu region.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu region which you think are worth passing down in the future, please send them to the Azabu Regional City Office. It can be any picture. Please contact the Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office if you are interested in our projects or would like to join us as an editorial staff. Tel:03-5114-8812

(Interviewed and written by: Yasuhiro Tanaka)

地域社会のゆくえ

11

"The Local Community"

Those who have pets and those who don't

"Compassion" to create a happy community for people and pets (1)

You see many people taking their dogs on walks when walking in Azabu. These days it seems like we see more cases of owners with two to three dogs. It's a very heartwarming scene to those who love animals, but, on the other hand, there are cases of trouble as well. We interviewed Kenichi Ikoma from the Environmental Health Division of the Public Health Center.

The Situation of Pets in Minato City

The number of dogs registered in Minato City is increasing year over year and there are approximately 9,000 registered (approximately 2,400 in the Azabu region), however, according to the assumption of the Pet Food Industry Association, the number is said to be double from the volume of pet food which is consumed. Registration of dogs is mandatory in accordance with the Rabies Law. There is no established treatment for rabies and very fatal if humans are infected with it, therefore, it is critical that owners take their dogs for rabies vaccination.

The City Office does not have access to information regarding cats which are pets since

there is no obligation regarding registration of cats.

Trouble Regarding Pets

The top ranking cases of complaints regarding pets are the disposing of feces and urine, odor, leaving dogs loose and barking.

The Minor Offenses Act stipulates that those who dispose of garbage, dead bodies of birds and wild animals and other filth and waste material against public interest will be fined or sentenced to detention.

Minato City, as a principle, promotes public awareness of owners to take their dogs on a walk after the pet has used the toilet at home. When we consider the regional characteristics of Minato City, we would like for everyone to cooperate so we can "live together comfortably" because there are approximately 230,000 people living in a 20km²radius. As for cats, we do receive quite a lot of complaints that people are feeding stray cats, however, we have seen the effects of the countermeasures such as



Manner Book and Passport (left) published by the Minato Public Health Center and a plate (right) promoting manners of owning pets. Distribution is available to those who would like to have them.

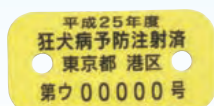
allotting funds for spaying and sterilization and setting up rules for feeding which have resulted in a decrease of cats in the region over the past 5 years and less trouble as well. The overall complaints consultation cases (Azabu region) has decreased to 78 cases in 2011 from the 258 cases in 2008.

Upon Owning Pets

Please have a strong commitment to look after your pet's life which may be 20 years even if your lifestyle should change. Please also prepare emergency goods for your pet in case of when disaster strikes. Evacuation sites accept pets but do not prepare anything for them. You may be at the site for 3-5 days so please prepare food, litter and a cage so your pet has a place to be.

*Acceptance of pets may differ according to evacuation sites (contact Chairman Otsuka of the Higashi-machi Small Region Disaster Prevention Council) so please make sure you check for your peace of mind as well.

Pets can be soothing and you can also make friends through your pet which are all good things. Please always be considerate of each other, regardless of whether you like pets or dislike them so we can all live comfortably. We would appreciate it very much if those who don't own pets were aware of the region's issues, as well.



Tag that indicates the rabies vaccination has been completed (left) and a dog license (right). Do you have one for your dog?



A scene from the "Cat Seminar for Minato City" which was held on Mar. 10, 2013, by the Minato Public Health Center. Manner classes for dogs are also held provisionally.

*Please contact the Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office for consultation regarding pets. (Tel: 03-5114-8802) FAQ's are available on the Minato City HP (<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>).

(Interviewed and written by: Yoko Mitsuki)

The Akabane Setsugusho (reception house) for Foreigners

The closed-door policy lasted for 200 years but was lifted after numerous requests to open the doors by the Western countries after visiting Japan one after another at the end of the Edo period. As restoration began, diplomatic establishments of the United States and United Kingdom and others were built in Edo. Later, as more countries started to send in their delegation to start trade with Japan, the Tokugawa government built the Akabane Setsugusho (reception house) to accommodate them. The Setsugusho was a place for accommodation for the foreigners visiting Edo as well as a stage for diplomatic exchange. This issue will introduce you to the Akabane Setsugusho by referring to the precious historical documents which remain.



"The townscape near Akabane" Painting: (Albert Berg [Eulenberg Expedition] Minato City Local History Museum)

麻布の軌跡

The Akabane Setsugusho was built over the land which used to be a military training center at Shiba Akabane on Aug. 1859. It is said that the property was 9455m² which was the space of what a Daimyo residence would be and that it was enclosed by the Zojoji Temple annex. In addition to it being an accommodation facility and reception house for foreigners, it also had offices, stables and a guardroom. The officers of the Shogunate were watching and guarding the foreigners.

The first guest of the Akabane Setsugusho was the diplomatic mission of the Kingdom of Prussia led by Count Eulenburg. The Eulenberg diplomatic mission, which was in East Asia with the navy, visited the Edo Port in Sept. 1860 wanting to start trade between Prussia, the Hanseatic League countries and Japan.

As gun salutes could be heard, the mission which landed in Tamachi consisted of 250 people including a military band and armed sailors who marched in one line for one kilometer down a straight road and entered the Akabane Setsugusho. The diplomatic mission remained there for 6 months until the day the "Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation" was signed between Prussia and the Shogunate. The crew of the SMS Arcona and warships anchored at Edo Port, took turns and also stayed at the Setsugusho.

According to the diaries and letters of the diplomatic mission, to the east of the building surrounded by black board fences, there was a large gate assembled from huge square timber and a heavy tiled roof on top and a graveled garden.

The building that the delegation was staying at had 3 drawing rooms to the left of the entrance, and many rows of suites of two rooms to the left and right alongside the long and narrow hallway which was surrounded by verandah-like porches facing the gardens of drawing rooms and suites; the foreigners called this area the "veranda with a roof." The fusuma and shoji paper sliding doors which acted as walls between the rooms were recorded as being very functional, at which the delegation seemed surprised, because the "paper walls could be opened" and detached to make the size of the rooms larger. There were only a few furniture available; a tatami room with a desk and chair and simple bed and other necessary items were brought over from the ship. There



Hoisting of the national flag of Prussia (which led to the formation of Germany) at the Akabane Setsugusho (Sept. 8, 1860). "Lithographs, Drawings and Photographs from the Prussian Expedition to Japan, 1860-61" (OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens)

was a short hallway to the right of the entrance which was connected to the Bakufu officers facility. Although it was a standard samurai residence in those days, it looked slightly "like a tent" to the foreigners but highly evaluated "overall as being very good and comfortable, with light shining in the rooms and good ventilation."

The Bakufu prepared fish and vegetables on the first day of arrival and it seems like the fresh salmon sashimi and sweet sugared cake for dessert was satisfying. Later, it was recorded that merchants sold vegetables, fruit, fish and meat (duck, chicken, pheasant). Other types of meat were also purchased from merchants in Yokohama and a foreign cook accompa-

nying the mission prepared European style meals.

In addition to the purveyors of the government selling groceries and household goods, there were vendors who brought various goods and it is said that it looked like a bazaar during the day. As time went by, the foreigners and vendors started to understand each other's languages that they were able to order and buy products of their preference.

One of the gifts to the Shogun from the Kingdom of Prussia was an electromagnetic telegraph machine from Siemens. Two samurai lords were invited to the Setsugusho to learn directions on how to use it. Kanenori Ichikawa, a genius of the Fukui clan, not only became skilled with the machine but also mastered German and in 1862, the following year, edited Japan's first German dictionary.

The delegation also actively celebrated Christmas during their stay at the Setsugusho. It's said that the drawing room was decorated with grass and trees and according to Count Eulenburg's idea, the fir tree was decorated with mikan (tangerines), pears, persimmons, flowers and sugar sweet cakes with Japanese lanterns lit and hanging from the fir tree. It is said that this was the first Christmas tree in Japan but there are various views regarding this.



Signing of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Russia (Jan. 24, 1861). Remnants of Christmas decorations can be seen on the pillars. Painting: William Hein. "Japan at the end of the Shogunate from the viewpoint of Prussia, German-woodblock prints, illustrations, and photographs from the Eulenberg Expedition" (OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens)

The 2nd guest following Prussia was Ph. Fr. von Siebold who taught the most advanced Western medicine in Japan. In later years, he returned to Japan as an adviser to the Agent of the Dutch Trading Society in Nagasaki. He was offered an adviser position by the Bakufu government and went to Edo and resided at the Setsugusho along with his son for 5 months from June to Nov. 1861. His son Alexander, who was ten years old then, remained in Japan after his father's departure and acted as an interpreter for various diplomatic negotiations at the end of the Edo period to the middle of the Meiji period. There is interesting data left that Siebold's daughter, known as "Holland O-Ine" lived in the Azabu area in her later years.

The Setsugusho was also used as the stage for territorial negotiations with Czarist Russia. The Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Russia was signed in Feb. 1855 which allowed Russia to call at Shimoda, Hakodate and Nagasaki ports, however, Russia suddenly sent the Posadnik to the island of Tsushima, located between the Japan Sea and East China Sea, and partially took over a part of the island in Mar.1861. Various forages and clashes happened on the island; the Japanese government asked the British, who wanted to stop Russia's advancing southward, to intervene and finally diplomatic negotiations with Russia took place. The Russian Consul in Hakodate, Goshkevitch, visited Edo in July 1861, and held several days of negotiations at the Setsugusho with Foreign Magistrate Muragaki Norimasa. As a result of these talks, the Posadnik finally left Tsushima in Sept. of the same year.

The Setsugusho was an important facility used by the foreigners who arrived in Japan, acting as a place for reception and diplomatic negotiations, however, since each country started to establish their own legation, the usage of the facility as an accommodation for foreigners started to decrease. Unfortunately, we were not able to find any records this time as to when the facility was closed and the buildings demolished. The Akabane Setsugusho, which was an important landmark for diplomatic negotiations and for the people of Edo and foreigners to hold exchanges, is now Iikura Park. There is only one signboard inside the park which indicates that the Setsugusho existed here.



Signboard at Iikura Park

[Floor plan of Akabane Setsugusho for Foreigners] (Tokyo University Historical Edits)



Map of Shiba Atago-cho. (International Research Center for Japanese Studies) The circled area is where the Akabane Setsugusho for foreigners was located.

References:
[Eulenberg Japan Expedition Vol. 1 & 2] Author: Masao Nakai Yushodo
[Impressions of an Imperial Envoy, Karl von Eisendecher in Meiji Japan] Co-authors: Sven Saaler, Peter Pantzer OAG German Association of Oriental Studies
[Lithographs, Drawings and Photographs from the Prussian Expedition to Japan, 1860-61] OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens Co-authors: Sebastian Dobson, Sven Saaler

[Siebold's Diary Revisiting at the End of Shogunate] Translation by: Teiichi Ishiyama, Koichi Maki Yasaka Shobo
[End of Shogunate from the viewpoint of Russians] Author: Kazuya Ito Yoshikawa Hirobumi Kan
[Edo's Overseas Network] Author: Tetsunori Iwashita Yoshikawa Hirobumi Kan [Edo's Foreign Legation] Minato City Local History Museum

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Tomoko Matsumoto (OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens)
Maiko Roeder (OAG Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens)

Following last month's edition, we would like to introduce you to: "International Collaboration," "The likura Katamachi Underground Crossing Children's Art Exhibit" and "Activating the Bond of Azabu" out of the 12 original projects led by the Azabu Regional City Office.

7. International Collaboration Project

[Issues to be recognized toward project]

There are many embassies in Azabu and also an increase in the number of foreign residents and visitors. We would like to create more opportunities for the Japanese and foreigners to communicate with each other, deepen trust with each other and for everyone to feel a deep attachment to the community.

[Content of Project]

We would like for the residing foreign residents and those who are active to get to know more about the Azabu region through sharing regional information, as well as to have them participate in the disaster prevention seminar conducted with the people of the region. We will be introducing and asking for participation in volunteer activities (environmental cleaning & community patrol, etc.) of the Azabu region, translation of reading material into multiple languages and distribution of issues published from the Azabu Regional City Office, aiming at creating a feeling of deeper attachment to the community.



Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Replacing paintings in one area	Replacing paintings	Replacing paintings in one area	Replacing paintings in one area	Replacing paintings in one area	Replacing paintings in one area



9. Activating the Bond of Azabu

[Issues to be recognized toward project]

Regional groups of town councils which don't have their own office or a base for their activities tend to be limited in their endeavors. Furthermore, human connection with various activities become the foundation of activation of the activities. We would like to heighten the "power of the community" by supporting the activation and continuation of regional community activities, as well as encouraging exchange between the groups.

[Content of Project]

We will be setting up opportunities for the elementary school children, who support the future of the regional community and their parents to have them experience activities such as disaster prevention and environmental cleaning.

Furthermore, in order to strengthen solidarity of the regional community and its activities, we would like to get applications from the elementary school children on creating a symbol which reflects the feeling of their interest and attachment towards the region.

Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Participation in regional volunteer activities, enhancement and implementation of translation of publications and information on events. Holding of disaster prevention drills hosting disaster prevention sessions, exchange activities	Participation in regional activities, enhancement and implementation of translation of publications and information on events	Enhancement • Implementation • Holding	Enhancement • Implementation • Holding	Enhancement • Implementation • Holding	Enhancement • Implementation • Holding

Overall Project Target (End of Fiscal 2014)	Current Situation (Fiscal 2011)	Project Plan			
		Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Total
Implementation	-	Implementation	Implementation	Implementation	Implementation

8. The likura Katamachi Underground Crossing Children's Art Exhibit

[Issues to be recognized toward project]

There have been many cases recently in which elementary school children get involved in crime and other incidents in their commuting route to and from school. Securing safety on these routes is an issue.

The likura Katamachi Underground Crossing is used as a commuting route of the children, however, there is concern about security aspects as it is a closed area because it is underground. We would like to take steps to change this area so the people of the community can drop by as a "place for communication with the children and the community." We would like to heighten the "power of the region" by providing a chance for the people to feel an attachment and to keep a watch out as a protective function of the community route.

[Content of Project]

We would exhibit the paintings by elementary school students using the underground crossing, a public space that serves as the commuting route of the elementary school students. We hope to provide a place for regional community through these art exhibits by the children of the region as well as enhance the usage of public space as a protective function and to heighten a sense of solidarity amongst diverse people.



This is the "Azabu Protection Signal" character which won the "Bond of Azabu" award at the Azabu Festa.

Azabu Junior Fire Department Recruiting New Members



The "Enrollment and Graduation Ceremony for the Azabu Junior Fire Department" took place on Apr. 21, 2013, at the Azabu Fire Station.

A representative of the 12 new members declared their commitment "to take actions with courage and responsibility" which was received with loud applause.

The children's achievement was also introduced. Junior high school students showed how to stop bleeding by using a triangular bandage and the 6th graders showed their rope work.

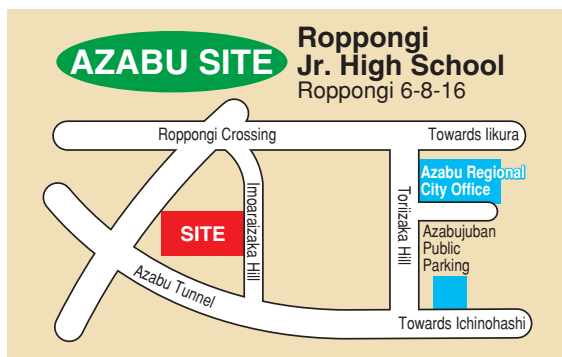
There are lots of interesting events planned this year as well, such as the summer camp and New Year's Fire Review. Those who are in 1st grade of elementary school up to their 3rd year in junior high school can join. Please contact the Azabu Fire Station if you are interested in joining.

Person In-Charge: Hasegawa of Safety Education Section of Azabu Fire Department Tel: 03-3470-0119



Information from Azabu Regional City Office

Come Participate in the Comprehensive MINATO DISASTER PREVENTION DRILLS at the Azabu site! – Open to all residents –



Let's Aim at Improving the "Communities' Disaster Prevention Power!"

– We need your cooperation in times of disaster. –

The country of Japan in which we live in is said to be more prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons compared to other countries of the world, and Japan has experienced immense damages on many occasions in the past. The bigger the size of the damage gets, the less public support functions. Under this circumstance, it is important for each resident to acquire accurate knowledge about disaster prevention and take appropriate actions.

At these comprehensive disaster prevention drills, various drills will be conducted assuming that we fall victim to an earthquake of M7 class whose epicenter is directly under Tokyo that has caused many buildings to be destroyed and caused many human casualties, a 70% possibility within 30 years. Participating in these drills will raise awareness on disaster prevention as well as provide an opportunity to think about "appropriate actions to take at times of disaster." We would like to have as many participants as possible in these drills in order to be able to protect ourselves and the lives of our family and community.

Date: Nov. 3 (Sun) 2013 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. *Not cancelled in case of rain
Location: Roppongi Jr. High School, school yard
We will present disaster prevention relevant goods to the participants.

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

New Initiative From This Year

Participation of Jr. High School Students:

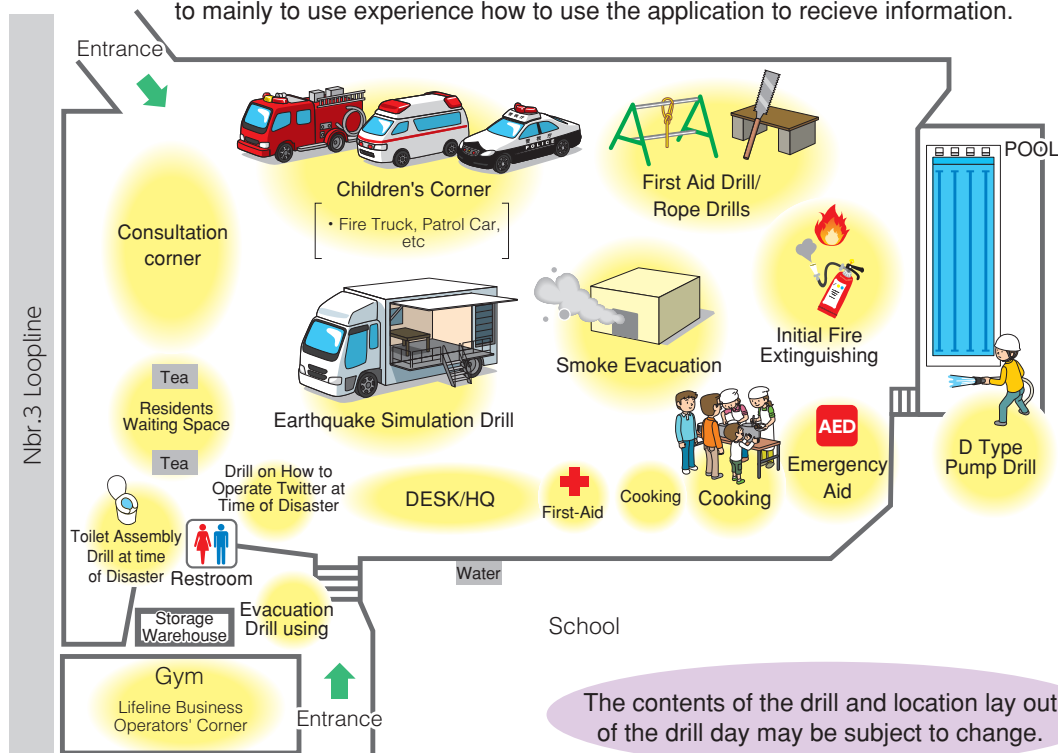
As future leaders of disaster prevention, junior high school students will participate in the operation of disaster preparedness drills. There will be an exhibition corner by the Jr. High School students as well as registration and information available for foreigners.

Participation of Lifeline Business Operators:

Presentation and exhibition by lifeline business operators (Tokyo Gas, Bureau of Waterworks, Bureau of Sewerage, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc. etc.) and other private business operators.

Training session on how to use the Twitter:

Using telecommunication equipment to explain how to register and use the Twitter and to mainly to use experience how to use the application to receive information.



The contents of the drill and location lay out of the drill day may be subject to change.

Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind Has Been Established – Let's All Follow the Town Rules –

"Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind" was established and adopted by Roppongi Local Development Committee on Safety & Security on July 23rd.

This charter is a declaration on how Roppongi aims to be and describes the rules we want everyone to follow which are the following 5 topics; "Crime Prevention," "Environmental Beautification," "Smoking Rules," "Usage of Streets" and "Business Operation."

We intend to spread awareness of this charter by conducting various activities in order to have people and organizations relevant to Roppongi become interested.

It is important for everyone to be aware and take action in order to secure Roppongi's safety and security. We ask for everyone's cooperation.

For Inquiries Please Contact: Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
Tel: 03-5114-8802



Main Focus of the Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind

- We will Prevent Crime
- Creating a Beautiful Neighborhood
- We Follow the Rules When Smoking
- We Make Our Streets Safe and Secure
- Try to Operate Business without Causing Trouble to Neighbors

Crime Prevention
Environmental Beautification
Smoking Rules
Usage of Streets
Business Operation

We are taking applications for editing 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.

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Editor's Note

I have taken on the position of editor-in-chief from this edition. Ever since the first edition came out in 2006, the editing staff are truly "great fans of Azabu" and we have worked together with themes from the staff's own perspectives who have worked hard to create unique stories. We intend to keep our antennas up high so we can catch information. For those of you who are interested in our activity, please come drop by our editorial meetings. We also look forward to receiving applications from our readers on our new corner, "I'm Also A Child of Azabu!" (Aki Tanaka)

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.

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