

A community information paper created from interviews by the people who live in Azabu and edited by them.

## Fascinated by Artistic Azabu ③



Shigeru Uchida is a leading Japanese designer who has engaged in diverse design projects worldwide from furniture, lighting equipment, clocks to architectural space designs. He designed fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto's boutiques, as well as tea-ceremony rooms, and is active in opening his exhibitions in Milan and New York. He is a recipient of numerous prestigious awards including the Mainichi Design Award, the Education Minister's Art Encouragement Award and honored with the Purple Ribbon Medal.

### Art & Design by Transferring the Creation of Time in Street Furniture

The material of the street furniture located alongside Roppongi Keyakizaka St. in Roppongi Hills is made out of solid stainless steel with ceramic painting. However, to me this rose red shape looks like the heavenly robe of an angel, gracefully flying in the air, or like waves or ripples when you wave the ribbon up and down. At times, you can see the tender eyes of a mother watching over her child climbing up on the furniture, and in another instant, a family from a foreign country sitting on the furniture and taking a souvenir shot. The passing of time there is embraced in natural love and then disappears the next instant like an illusion when they walk away.



The title of this street furniture is derived from a famous jazz tune, "I Can't Give You Anything But Love..." and titled "Ai Dake Wo" (Love).



Street Furniture "Ai Dake Wo"

#### ●The Creation of the Street Furniture

There are several street furniture which have been designed along Roppongi Keyakizaka St. Upon the request of Minoru Mori, who was the President of the Mori Building Co., Ltd., at that time, Interior Designer Shigeru Uchida called out to the leading designers of the world to participate in "creating the world's only one street furniture of today, with a modern perception." Luckily, the common understanding of the designers of the world at that time was the concept of not creating a piece of work completely devoted to technique, but was more in pursuing designs which would create a richness in one's heart through daily life that would build a bond between objects and people.

One of these street furniture, "Ai Dake Wo," was designed by Mr. Uchida in 2003. This piece of street furniture, "Ai Dake Wo," was designed on a street with a steepness of a 15° difference of elevation. He had imagined from the beginning that it would be a curved section and after trying several ideas, it became a curve like a ribbon. And because it was to be designed on the street, he felt that a clear and vivid color would be necessary and chose red, his favorite color.

#### ●Design is an Act of Creating Time

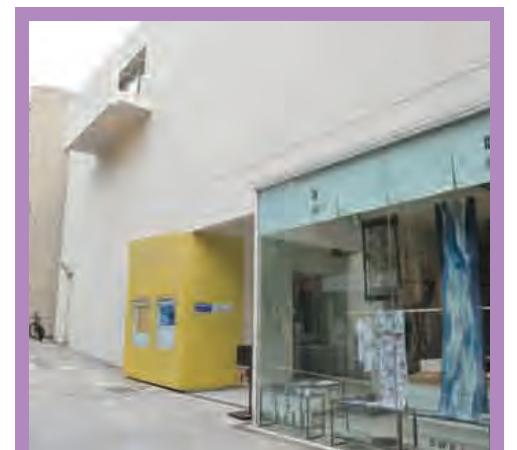
The functional aspects and roles of street furniture, clocks or architectural space resides within daily life. By designing these pieces, the relationship between objects and people become even deeper, time spent for "family affairs and work," time spent for "having fun," and time spent for "praying" in the hopes for the health and safety throughout the community. We can all choose our own comfortable form of lifestyle. It's about the creation of high quality "time" to live one's life freely, this is what Mr. Uchida feels is the subject of designing. Pursuing expressions of diversity through designs, for example, Japan's traditional "Wabi" (the beauty of simplicity) found in tea ceremony or Waka (Japanese poems), treasuring the beauty beyond "gracefulness" or "frailty," something beyond the visible or touchable. Mr. Uchida finds it important.

#### ●"Ai Dake Wo" is an Artistically Designed Street Furniture

The street furniture designed in red, "AI Dake Wo," shows the contrast between the graceful curves of Japanese beauty and the strong direct lines of the slope alongside Roppongi Keyakizaka St. Time can provide a touch of sweet taste to lovers, a time of happiness to those getting older, peace to the ill, and a time to meditate for those who are powerfully energetic. It radiates a special moment of "time."

What kind of time will you create when you sit on this street furniture? An existence within the invisible, an infinite humanness, not visible in words, is what it will show you.

Street furniture "Ai Dake Wo", a modern concept of art & design.



Le Bain Kasumicho Building designed by Shigeru Uchida, Uchida Design Inc. 3F



"Moo" by Shigeru Uchida



Patio of MITATE and Gallery Le Bain



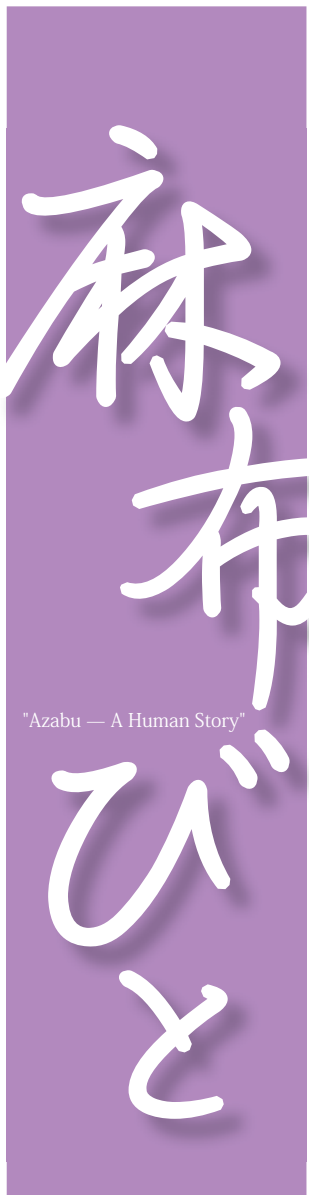
"December" by Shigeru Uchida Collection of Kobe Fashion Museum



"NY Chair 1" by Shigeru Uchida

References: Shigeru Uchida "Designscape" Kosakusha Publishing  
 Shigeru Uchida "What is Design?" Kuwasawa Design School  
 Shigeru Uchida "Interior and the Japanese" Shobunsha Publishing  
 Interview cooperated by: Shigeru Uchida, Uchida Design, Inc.  
 Cooperation for taking photographs by: Reliance, Inc. 3-16-28 Nishi Azabu, Minato City





# Treating People from Over 100 Nations for Half a Century and the Savior of the Foreigners: Dr. Akahige\* of Roppongi

In one corner of Ikura Katamachi in Roppongi, lies an approximately 100 year old Western style house. This is the International Clinic, operated by Dr. Eugene Nikolaevich Aksenoff (hereafter referred to as Doctor). The Doctor who was born in 1924, is 89 years old and he specializes as a surgeon, but cooperates with the clinics in the area and treats all types of patients with his reassuring smile, as he works with Japanese doctors and nurses. We interviewed the Doctor about his remarkable life.

## An Essential Doctor to the Foreigners

He was born in Halpin, to a Russian father and a German mother. He came to Japan in 1943 and studied at the Jikei University School of Medicine, and then opened his clinic in a building located in front of the Azabu Police Dept. in 1953 and then he moved to his current clinic at Azabu-dai in 1956.



The doctor spent his childhood in Halpin, Manchuria. (The doctor when he was about 4 years old)

He told us as he looked back at those years and said, "The Russian Embassy, the American Club, the U.S Embassy and Hotel Okura are nearby so, as soon as I opened, I was very busy." The doctor speaks fluent English, Chinese, Russian, German, Greek and Japanese, and he not only treats the foreign residents in Japan but also foreign V.I.P's visiting Japan.

He is an essential figure in managing the health of foreigners! To the question we asked him regarding people who left an impression on him, he came up with name after name of many people we knew!

John Wayne, Michael Jackson, Brad Pitt, Lady Gaga; all names of famous actors and singers. He still vividly remembers meeting them and episodes with them, as if it only happened yesterday. He kindly told us his story looking back at those days.

Great stars and popular singers, needless to say, arrive under a tight and busy schedule. They're exhausted, tired from long trips, in addition to the jet lag they have. They're also stressed from coming to a country they aren't familiar with. They also feel tense at times, insecure, be it official duty or work, meaning there are numerous reasons which make them feel ill. The doctor has rushed to his patient's side, if he is called, whether it's in the middle of the night or even if he happened to be out. He listened to their symptoms, consulted them and at times, did simple surgery on the spot. There was this incident also; he was contacted and told that an American female singer on tour in Japan was feeling sick and so he rushed to the hotel, only to find that she had nothing wrong with her. However, the doctor noticed that she was fatigued and stressed, so he took her hands and listened to her. The singer felt relaxed and much better and said to the doctor, "Doctor, stay with me here."

This episode clearly reflects the doctor's personality and that, to him, listening intently to the patient at the time of diagnosis were important. Rumi Yamamoto, who has worked as a nurse in the clinic for 19 years, also said, "When people are feeling sick or insecure, they feel relieved to see the doctor's face rather than being examined by a Japanese doctor." He looks so warm and embracing. We can understand why agents kept the doctor's telephone number with them at all times when artists were performing in Japan.

## Doesn't Ask for a Fee When the Patient is Poor

The Japanese health insurance card can't be used at this clinic. That is why the majority of his patients are foreigners, but the doctor has never refused anyone for treatment ever since he opened his clinic, even if that patient doesn't have a passport. If the patient happens to have no money, he will send that patient back home without charging him. If the patient doesn't have any living expenses, the doctor will try to raise money for him. "I'm a doctor. It's my mission to take care of people who are in trouble." The doctor's selfless love has been highly evaluated and he was the recipient of the 32nd Yoshikawa Eiji Cultural Award in 1998, and was also awarded by the



As proof of the doctor's personality, many of his patients send him letters of appreciation and photographs, which are displayed on the wall.

Foundation for Encouragement of Social Contribution in 2007 for his contribution to society.

## The Clinic is a Historical Building of Minato City

The clinic is a two-story wooden building and he has only touched a few areas of this building for repair since the opening of the clinic in 1956.



The smiling doctor.

It is a very precious historical house of Minato City. We were told that the building had been built before the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923), but the exact year is unknown. Mr. Haruta of the Bank of Japan was inspired by the houses when he was appointed to London, and he ordered this house to be built like an English house. In later years it belonged to a foreigner, but he purchased it from a relative who was the last owner. The 2nd floor Japanese room had beds for hospitalized patients, which is no longer used.

There is a porch in front of the entrance and a stained glass window of a bird on the front door. To the left of the entrance is the waiting room. [The outer wall has a stuccoed finish, the window is using scratched tile. The window slides up and down.] (Excerpt from the Board of Education of Minato City, published in 2006, Minato City's Historical Buildings, P175). Next to that is the examining room in which you find the doctor sitting in his chair. The floor's of the hallway are black and shiny and you can see right away that good care was taken. Ms. Yamamoto told us that they had just recently repaired the drainpipe because it was leaking.

\* \* \* \* \*

As we were preparing to photograph the doctor after the interview, a piece of French bread came out of the doctor's suit pocket. Rumi Yamamoto, the nurse, told us that since the doctor has experienced a shortage of food when he came to Japan during the war, he always took back any food that was left over when he ate outside because he didn't want to waste food.

We felt that this was another heartwarming episode which showcased the character of the doctor and as we left the clinic.

1-5-9 Azabu-dai, Minato City International Clinic

\*Akahige (Red Beard) is a noble and gentle character who never took money for treatment from poor patients. Akahige was a town doctor who actually existed during the Edo period. Novels were written about him, and Akira Kurosawa, directed a film depicting him, titled "Red Beard" in 1965.

(Interviewed and written by: Yoshie Osawa, Kazumi Nagahama, Yukiko Takayanagi)



Dr. Eugene Nikolaevich Aksenoff

The waiting room is to the left of the entrance. The building has a history of over 100 years and makes one forget that this is in the middle of a crowded city. The air seems to be so different.



The clinic's signboard (top) and entrance (bottom)



This stained glass window with the motif of a bird which welcomes those who set foot in the clinic by the side of the entrance is also a reflection of the over 100 year old building.



# ワタシも 麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

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



One of our readers introduced to us a beautiful cat with a round eyes and so we visited this beautiful black lady, Claire and her owner, Ms. N at Moto Azabu. Claire was slightly nervous with the unfamiliar staff who came but talked to us a lot.

My name is Claire and I'll be 2 years old soon. I started living with Ms. N last year. Ms. N actually is allergic to cats, however, she loves cats and had always dreamt of living with one. They were even searching for a foster family system for a cat on the Internet but it didn't work out.

Just about that time, my former family had to move to a faraway place and were looking for friends who might want to take me in. Ms. N had heard through the grapevine that I was looking for a family and when she saw my photograph, she fell in love at first sight of me! So we met and here I am.

I was like a toy to the two rascals at my former owner's house, but this new family is like living in heaven. Ms. N basically leaves me alone, but plays with me sometimes, so I think we have a good sense of distance. Having said that, I was a little nervous the first week I moved in. I moved all the way from Tama to Azabu, so what do you expect? I had some hesitation and my fur fell out a little which really got Ms. N worried.

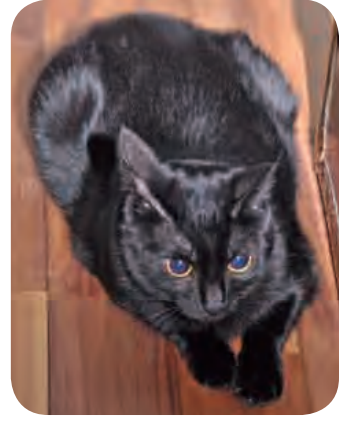
My mornings start with me asking

for my breakfast. I get inside Ms. N's bed and bite her sweetly on the arms. It's a competition for me or the alarm clock in trying to wake her up!

I'm always alone during the day. I don't go outside and I sometimes sit by the window sill outside the blinds and watch what's going on outside. I can hear the birds resting on the trees of Moto Azabu Hills chirping and can hear the cats in my neighborhood as well.

I go to the door when Ms. N comes home after work to tell her I'm hungry, but she just thinks I'm welcoming her home. Don't tell her this.

You might think that I'm always hungry. The doctor has said that I'm a little overweight and that I shouldn't eat so much. If I can lose a little more weight, I can probably jump up to high places like other cats do. But if I fall, I might damage my beautiful coat and that would make Ms. N very worried again so I'm not going to be too active.

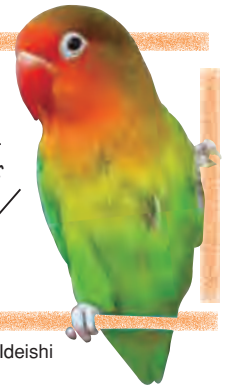


Please introduce the animals which are popular in your town.

Please enclose a picture along with your story to the address below. It can be a story written 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 applications. Thank you.

Azabu Regional City Office, Collaboration Project Section Community Policy Subsection  
"I'm Also A Child of Azabu!" Application Desk  
5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-Ku (106-8515)

We're waiting to hear from you



Interviewed by: Kyoko Ideishi, Yoko Mitsuki Written by: Kyoko Ideishi

## A Magician who Creates Visual Beauty!

This issue's theme is about the job of a hair and make-up artist. Three 2nd year students of the Koryo Jr. High School visited Willow Co. Ltd. (Roppongi) to interview Nobuto Yanagi.

What kind of work is it?

It's a job in which we create the visual looks of talents and models when they appear in the media such as on television, films, stage and magazines. So, I do the make-up and set the hair of these personalities.

How do you become a hair & make-up artist?

The most effective way would be to go to a beauty school and get a beautician's license. In my case, I was already a beautician, so I studied make-up and now do both.

What made you become interested in this profession?

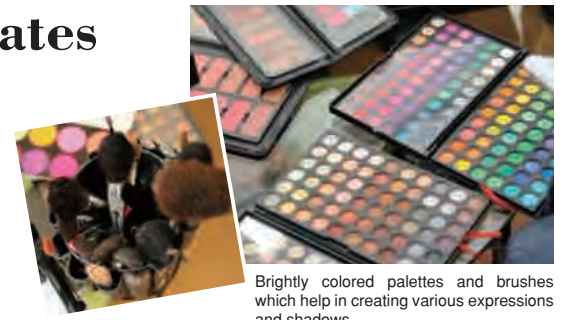
When I was little, I saw "Planet of the Apes" which left an impactful impression on me. I also have a sister who is 8 years older than me, and watching her close by putting on make-up and seeing how it changed her, was fascinating to me as a child and I became interested in make-up.

How did your parent's react?

I was an athlete and went to university at first, but left school half-way and enrolled in a beauty school. My parents had this strong concept that beauty was for girls and were strongly against my decision. But after I obtained my license and became a professional, I set my parents' hair and they were very happy. That's when I finally felt that I became a true professional.

Tell us about the equipment you use.

I take many types of equipment with me to the venue. I'm especially particular about my scissors. I cut the hair of over 10



Brightly colored palettes and brushes which help in creating various expressions and shadows.

people in a day, so I can't afford to get tired if I want to do a good job. Good scissors not only cut well, but are less of a burden to my body as well. I also use over 50 brushes depending on the job and I make it a point to try to use my equipment in communicating with the models. If it makes the models feel excited when they see colorful palettes or scissors with jewelry on it, this then motivates the hair & make-up artists, meaning we're both helping each other do a good job.

When do you feel happy?

Of course, when I hear "thank you" when I've been successful in creating a beautiful finish it makes me happy, but when I see the person who I worked on up on stage looking beautiful under the lights, that is satisfying beyond words. I also feel how deep the power of the technique can be when I just do one thing differently, whether it be technique or method and the end result turns out to be amazing. That makes me love this job even more.



We want to learn how to put make-up on when we get a little older.



Nobuto Yanagi  
Beauty & Creative Artist

He is the Representative Director of Willow Co. Ltd. which employs many make-up artists, as well as teaching successors this profession at his alma mater, Hollywood University of Fashion & Beauty.

There are many types of work in the world  
**Hair & Make-up Artist**

To give children power for life

Reading material for parents and children

# KIDS' Hello Work



Putting lipstick on is a technique much different from putting lip gloss on.



It is challenging to use the triple hair iron to create waves under the supervision of Mr. Yanagi.

Interviewed and written by: Mana Abe, Remi Inoue, Mao Ohta Interview supported by: Kyoko Ideishi





Kingdom of Spain  
 Total Area: 506,000 km<sup>2</sup> (approximately 1.3 times the size of Japan)  
 Population: Approx. 47.19 million people (statics from Jan. 2011)  
 Capital: Madrid (approx. 3.26 million people) (statics from Jan. 2011)  
 Language: Spanish (Castilian) (Basque, Catalan, Galician, and Valencian are recognized as official languages depending on the region)  
 Religion: Freedom of religion is protected by law (approximately 75% are Catholic)  
 Government: Constitutional monarchy  
 Head of State: King Juan Carlos I, Enthroned on November 22, 1975  
 Legislature: Bicameral legislature (Congress of Deputies 350 members), (Senate 266 members) (Each serving four-year terms and has a dissolution system)



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs homepage:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/area/spain/Index.html>

H.E. Miguel Angel Navarro Portera, Ambassador  
 Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Interview Cooperation by:  
 Embassy of Spain



Visiting Embassies 24

From the "World"  
 of Azabu



The Spanish colonial gate. The Embassy building is the one on the left and the Ambassador's residence is on the right, behind the garden.

# Kingdom of Spain

400 Year of Exchange with Japan;  
 Confirming the Strong Ties of the Two Countries Anew

**This year marks the 400th anniversary of exchange between Spain and Japan. The two countries will be holding many commemorative events to celebrate the four centennial years of the relationship from this year through the next. It becomes a popular topic of conversation. Located in Roppongi 1 chome, with many office buildings in the vicinity, the Embassy is surrounded by lush greenery. We had the privilege to meet and interview Spanish Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Miguel Angel Navarro Portera.**



National Treasure Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga  
 (Collection at Sendai City Museum)

"Materials Related to Keicho Mission to Europe" was jointly recommended by Spain and Japan and was registered as UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in June, this year. The "San Juan Batista" that the Hasekura mission boarded was restored in 1993, remained intact even though it was engulfed by 10 meter high tsunami waves during the Eastern Japan Earthquake. It is moored and exhibited at the Miyagi San Juan Bautista Museum in Ishinomaki City. (Scheduled to open again from Nov. 3)

## The Relationship Started with the Historic Keicho Mission to Europe

One of the big topics which came up in the interview was about the historic mission, known as the Keicho Mission to Europe going back 400 years and the ancestors of this mission called the "Japons." This topic has been taken up in newspapers and T.V. programs, so we are sure that there are probably many readers who are interested to learn more.

In 1613, Date Masamune, the Sendai feudal lord, dispatched the Keicho Mission, headed by Hasekura Tsunenaga to Spain via Acapulco in Mexico (Spanish at that time). The purpose was to pave the way to negotiate trade with the Kingdom of Spain, which achieved prosperity. Hasekura was baptized a Christian, and received an audience with King Philip III and the Pope Paul V in Rome later and returned to Sendai in 1620.

The surname Japon is one of the footsteps left behind from those times. There are approximately 650 people bearing the surname Japon living in Coria del Rio, near Seville, Andalusia, located in the southwest of Spain. Japon, or Xappon if written, of course means Japan. It is said that some of the Mission delegates stayed behind, leaving descendants. Japan's Crown Prince visited Spain in June of this year as the Honorary President for the "400 Years of Exchange between Japan and Spain." It was reported that he was met and welcomed by the local Spaniards bearing the name "Japon" at the reception party in Seville. H.E. Miguel Angel Navarro Portera, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, had also accompanied this visit. "The Mission is a part of the town's history which has been passed down and there is also a statue of Hasekura there. Those

who bear the name of Japon are proud of their ancestry and there is especially a lot of excitement this year. The reception was a success. There are many with the Japon surname who are active not only in the sports world but in various genres as well."

As subjoinder, two years prior to the visit of the Mission, the Keicho Sanriku earthquake caused immense damage to the Sendai feudal domain in 1611 and a tsunami devastated the area. There are also opinions that the Sendai feudal domain decided to send the Keicho Mission as a part of reconstructing the area by negotiating trade with foreign nations. As if going through a time tunnel, this year, which is 2 years after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, our two countries are confirming the strong ties that were created 400 years ago. It seems as if the two countries are connected by fate.

## Japanese Culture which is accepted by the Spanish

There was news in June of this year about a haiku poet residing in Miyagi, visiting 6 provinces of Spain to teach and hold lectures on haiku poetry. Over 30 of Spain's leading haiku poets gathered at the summer haiku seminar held at the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Albacete, which was one of the venues. This is what the Ambassador told us about the exchange of Spain and Japan through haiku. "Japan's haiku became loved in Spain from about 20 - 30 years ago. There is a genre of Spanish literature in the form of prose poems which is 1- 2 lines, which is about the poetic qualities such as heightened imagery and emotional effects and I believe that these two forms have a common attractiveness."

Other forms of Japanese cultural influence to Spain are martial arts, wood-block print, manga and video games, to mention a few. Ukiyo-e wood-block

print from the Edo period had already been introduced to Spain in the 18th century and the Prado Museum in Madrid is currently having a special exhibition of Japanese block prints celebrating 400 years of exchange.

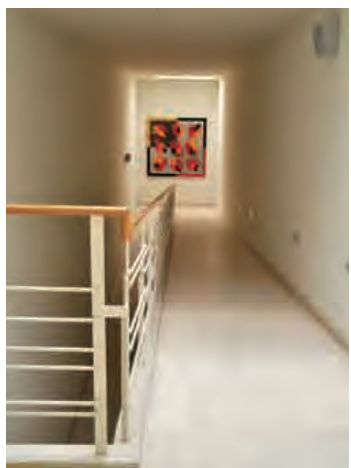
## Enjoying Japan's Simple Landscape during His Official Work

The Ambassador's residence can also be found inside the Embassy complex. It was built by the American architect James McDonald Gardiner in 1927. The Spanish colonial style house is very beautiful and quite impressive. The house is surrounded by lush greenery, making one forget they're in the center of a city. The Ambassador also enjoys living in this surrounding.

He takes walks during his private time around the surrounding Azabu area, has also visited the Five Lakes of Mt. Fuji, the Izu area and farther away such as Hokkaido and Kyushu. "I enjoy walking down the back streets on these occasions and enjoy discovering simple landscapes of Japan which have not changed. I have noticed that the

Japanese are polite everywhere I go and the quality of education is wonderful." He also told us that he enjoys various types of Japanese cuisine such as sushi and sashimi. We saw a very humorous side of him when he said, "If I go to restaurants which have no English menu, I just point at the Japanese and look forward to what's going to be served which is fun."

\* "Looking at Historical Exchange from Diplomatic Archives; Japan and Spain" will be available until Nov. 29 at the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Azabu-dai.



The Embassy was completed in 2004, led by Spanish architect Pablo Carvajal. The contrast between natural light and shadows creates a relaxing atmosphere. In each corner there are modern paintings or Lladro's pieces of work on display.



A painting using the windmills of Castile La Mancha as a motif.



A unique Lladro doll, a deformation of a samurai, designed in commemoration of the 400 years of exchange.



The Ambassador's residence is a Spanish colonial design which was a design that spread in the U.S. during the pioneer days by Spanish settlers. It is a historical building in Minato City.



# The Azabu Future Photo Studio

- Looking Upon Azabu and Sendaizaka -

## Sendaizakashita



1975  
Photographed by: Masanori Taguchi  
Photograph provided by: Shigehisa Taguchi



2012

It seems like there is no big difference in the width of the road nor the view looking up towards the hill from the photograph from 1975 and the one approximately 40 years later (2012). As a fact, it seems like the present day photographs have more telephone wires which does make it more modern day.

The origin of this hill goes back to the Edo period when the Sendai Domain suburban residence existed where the photographs were taken. This slope has looked upon the times from that period. This is a precious place where you can catch a glimpse of the original landscape of Azabu.

## Sendaizakaue



2012



1974

Photograph provided by: Shoichi Sakurai

When you look at the two photographs, you might think they're the same at a glance, however, in the photograph of 1974, you can see Tokyo Tower behind the signal on the right hand side. You can see that the photograph has been shot from almost the same angle. It's hard to see from the photograph, but the slope is very steep from the top of the hill. A tanka poet, Hakushu Kitahara, who once lived in Azabujuban also mentions in his tanka how steep Sendaizaka was because horses pulling carriages with stones on them would even collapse.

Another attractive point is that Sendaizakaue and Sendaizakashita have such a different expression.

### About the Azabu Future Photo Studio

The Azabu Regional City Office started collaborating with residents and corporations since fiscal 2009 to collect old photographs of the Azabu region, as well as, take fixed point photographs and using them to save the changes of Azabu. This is the Azabu Future Photo Studio project.

The aim of this project is to have the people living in the Azabu region to feel an affinity to the history and culture which can be preserved and inherited through the collection and storing of this as data of the Azabu region and, furthermore, to aim at actively utilizing these photographs.

At the same time, we would like for our people to further understand more about the history and culture of the "town" and further if it could be of help to deepen the people's attachment towards 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 Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office if you interested in our projects or would like to join us as an editorial staff member.  
**Tel: 03-5114-8812**

(Interviewed and written by: Yasuhiro Tanaka)

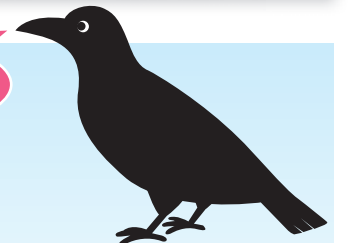
地域社会  
の  
ゆくえ

12

"The Local Community"

## We shouldn't only blame the crows, but we also need to live by following manners

Manners to live well with crows



Crows are taken up for all the mischief they do such as attacking people or for spilling garbage. But the crows must also have an excuse. Although it may look as they are enjoying life in the city, however, as a fact, they had no choice but come to the city and make nests on top of telephone poles because mountains and nature became scarce. It may be that life is not easy for them as well.

We asked the Public Works Subsection, Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office to learn about how we can co-exist with the crows.

### Crows Attack During Breeding Season

The breeding season for crows is from May to July and this is probably when we often hear on the news that humans were attacked when they got near the nests. Which is true because they want to protect their chicks.

The Azabu Regional City Office annually receives approximately 30 petitions and consultation requests regarding crows. Half of them are about being attacked by crows.

Crows make their nests in various places from thick roadside trees or on top of telephone poles. As a habit, one crow will not make a nest in the same place.

Therefore, it's difficult to try to prevent crows from making nests and also very difficult to find.

We understand that even when we receive information about the crow's nest, that the staff have to go several times before finding it.

### Don't Avert Your Eyes from the Crow; If Attacked, Please Contact

### the City Office

Crows know that if they attack humans from the front that they will lose because of the difference in body size, therefore, they attack you from behind. If you feel that a crow is going to attack, keep your eyes locked on the crow and leave from that area.

It is true, that there is nothing one can do if attacked suddenly from behind, this is where you ask for the spirit of helping each other.

If you should be attacked, don't just leave it at "I was so scared," but please notify the Collaboration Project Subsection and tell us about the situation and place in which you were attacked.

We can avoid others from getting attacked if we can remove the nest in that area.

### Use Flexible Bird Netting which can be Rented Out Free of Charge to Cover your Garbage; Do Not Leave Food for Community Cats and Birds Outside.

The main source of nutrition for crows living in the city is garbage and food left outside for pets,



Flexible bird netting can be rented at the Minato Recycle Waste Collection Office (Tel: 03-3450-8025) or the Collaboration Project Subsection (Tel: 03-5114-8802).

pigeons, and community cats. If you cover your garbage with flexible bird netting, you do not need to worry about the garbage being spilled. Do not leave food outside and clean it up. If we improve our manners, then there is less of a chance of the crows doing any mischief.

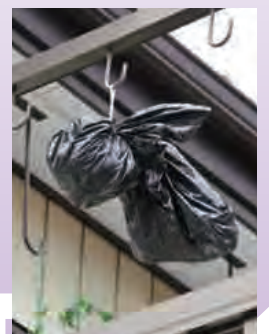
### Contact the Collaboration Project Subsection if You Find a Nest

The other half of the petitions and consultations we receive are requests to remove the nests.

Although the jurisdiction (information is on the Minato City Homepage) is divided such as if in the case of trees along public streets and public parks of Minato City, it would be Azabu Regional City Office, streets managed by Tokyo will be the Minato Construction Project of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and telephone poles will be TEPCO, however, please contact the Collaboration Project Subsection first.

We are not trying to exterminate crows. When you look at them closely, they do have cute round eyes.

Why don't we think about it this way; that we ask for the crows to withdraw only in areas in which humans and crows can't compromise. In order to do this, it is important for us to also follow manners.



A staff member told me that tying a black vinyl bag like a "teru teru bozu" was also effective to scare away crows so the photography staff made one.

\*Please contact the Collaboration Project Subsection, Azabu Regional City Office for any consultation regarding crows (Tel: 03-5114-8802). The Minato Homepage (<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>) also has information regarding measures.

(Interviewed and written by: Yoko Mitsuki)



# Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park

Close to Hiroo Station and surrounded by many embassies, embassy related facilities, a hospital, and tennis courts is the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, a tranquil setting rarely found in central Tokyo. Truly an urban oasis which is enjoyed by the residents of the vicinity. We decided to look at the history of this park in this edition.

Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park is Minato City's largest park covering an area of 67,560 square meters. It's about 1.5 times that of Tokyo Dome. The Tokyo Metropolitan Library located inside the park has a collection of approximately 1.8 million books. From the east end hill from where the equestrian statue of His Royal Highness Taruhito Arisugawa-no-miya stands and to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library located on the west side where the pond is, this park is built into a hill of several tiers, with densely wooded areas arranged in harmony with the natural terrain expressing an elegant natural beauty according to the traditional Japanese Rinsen style of landscaping where one can enjoy the flowers and trees as the season changes. We looked into why this park was named, Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park.

## A Daimyo's Residence During the Edo Period

The suburban residence of the Asano family of the Ako clan was located in this area at the beginning of the Edo period. Later, until the end of the Edo period, this land belonged to the Daimyo of the Nanbu family of the Morioka clan who moved from Akasaka after they exchanged the land with the Asano family.



The Nambu clan suburban residence was approximately 92,560m<sup>2</sup>, which was the size of the current Aiiku Hospital to the baseball ground that can now be seen. The slope that runs along the south side of the park is named, "Nabuzaka" slope \*1 because the Nambu clan had resided here. Then after the Meiji Restoration, the land was obtained by the Meiji Government and this area was named Azabu Morioka-cho. An interesting fact is that the police box located on the side of Aiiku Hospital still goes by the former town name and is called, "Morioka-cho Police Box."

## The Founding of the Arisugawa-no-miya Family, One of the Four Cadet Branches of the Imperial Family and Its End

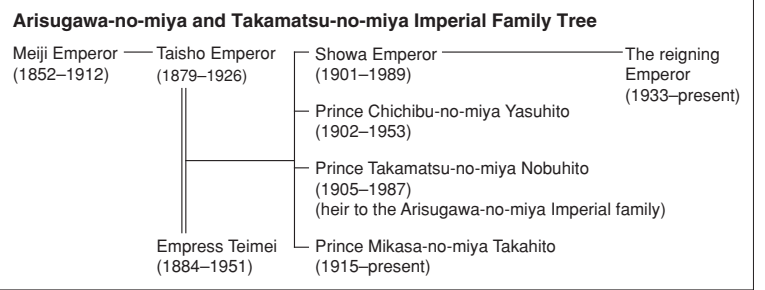
The Arisugawa-no-miya family was founded by Prince Yoshihito (1603-1638), the seventh son of Emperor Go-Yōzei (1571-1617), the Emperor from the Azuchi Momoya period until the early days of the Edo period. The house was part of the Arisugawa-no-miya family, along with the other three cadet branches of the Imperial Household of Japan, Fushimi-no-miya family, Katsura-no-miya family and the Kan'in-no-miya family. Prince Arisugawa Taruhito (1835-1895), the 9th head of Arisugawa-no-miya was sent to Edo as the Great Governor-General in charge of the military expedition to the east, at the end of the Edo period.

In the Boshin War, he served the Great Governor-General in the expeditionary force to the east (the Imperial Army) and is known for accepting the bloodless surrender of Edo Castle. (An equestrian statue stands in the park. \*2). He is also famous for being engaged to Princess Kazunomiya (1846-1877), the half-sister of Emperor Kōmei (1831-1867). Princess Kazunomiya married the 14th Shogun Tokugawa Iemochi (1846-1866) after breaking up her engagement with him.

On the other hand, Prince Taruhito, was active in the Imperial Japanese Army during the Seinan War and Sino-Japanese War. His residence changed during this time from the Shiba-rikyu (Detached Palace) to Kazumigaseki and to Kojimachi. He was a chief of staff during the Sino-Japanese War, and was at the Imperial General Headquarters in Hiroshima. However, he became ill and went to the villa at Maiko in Hyogo Prefecture to recover and died there in January 1895. He had no children to succeed him and so his younger brother, Prince Arisugawa Takehito (1862-1913) took over the house. He acquired the former Morioka Domain of approximately 92,560m<sup>2</sup> in Morioka-cho in 1896 to build the new residence for his heir, Prince Tanehito (1888-1908). However, Prince Tanehito died at an early age, and then Prince Takehito who succeeded him also died in July of 1913, and the direct line of descent of the house of Arisugawa-no-miya became extinct at this time.

## From the Prince Takamatsu Line to a Park

Emperor Taisho had his third son, Prince Nobuhito, take over the Arisugawa-no-miya rite and gave him the title of Takamatsu-no-miya. \*3. The property owned by the Arisugawa-no-miya was also inherited by Takamatsu-no-miya. He built his residence in 1927 at Takanawa Nishidai-machi, leaving the land he had in Azabu Morioka-cho in disuse. Prince Takamatsu was aware that the grounds of an elementary school near Azabu Morioka-cho was small and said he wanted the children to use this land, and in 1927,



he made the 16,520m<sup>2</sup> of the Imperial villa available to the public.

Prince Takamatsu donated (36,360m<sup>2</sup>) 40% of his land which consisted of the forest and pond on the north side of the center of Arisugawa-no-miya to Tokyo for use as a park in 1934, the 20th anniversary of the death of Prince Arisugawa Taruhito. The vicinity of Azabu in those days still had the atmosphere of the suburbs of Tokyo and when he found out that there was no park, especially for the children, out of his great personal interest in promoting children's health and education, he decided to donate his land. It is said that in donating the house, the Imperial prince requested that the natural terrain be maintained as much as possible. After the land was donated in January, the city of Tokyo immediately began construction and the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park was opened in November 1934 as we see it in present day. \*4,5,6

On the other hand, in commemoration of the birth (Dec. 23, 1933) of the Crown Prince (the current Emperor), the Takamatsu-no-miya family donated 21% (approximately 19,440m<sup>2</sup>) of the east western side of the land to the city of Tokyo for usage as a ground of training for martial arts (Seifuen and Yoseikan) in 1934, which in later years became the Metropolitan Hibiya Library branch office and the current Tokyo Metropolitan Library. Furthermore, a foundation which was bestowed a grant from the Imperial Household in commemoration of the birth of the Crown Prince, built a hospital in 1938, which is the Aiiku Hospital.

## As a Park of Minato City As a Base Point for the Resident's Disaster Prevention

In 1976, the administration of the park was given over to Minato City by the Metropolitan Tokyo Government and furthermore, 13% (approximately 12,860m<sup>2</sup>) of the baseball field, tennis courts and Arisugawa grounds under the administration of Minato City at that time were added. The Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park was founded consisting of the main park, Tokyo Metropolitan Library, baseball field, and tennis courts. It has also been designated as the safety evacuation site at times of disaster which supports the lives of the residents from a disaster prevention perspective as well.



Prince Arisugawa Taruhito, Collection of Kokugakuin University



Prince Arisugawa Takehito, Collection of Kokugakuin University

\*1 The "Nambuzaka" slope name comes from the fact that the Nanbu family of the Morioka clan was located here in the past, however, there is one more "Nambuzaka" slope in Minato City which is located near the Hikawa Shrine in Akasaka. This name also derives from the fact that the Nanbu family was located here before they moved to Hiroo. Incidentally, the well-known parting in the snow at 'Nambuzaka' from the "Chushingura" play and historical narrative takes place at Nambuzaka in Akasaka.

\*2 A bronze statue of Prince Arisugawa Takehito used to be outside the General Staff Headquarters in Miyakezaka, however, it was moved to the current location together with the base in 1962 because of the highway construction which took place for the Olympics. The statue was created by Okuma Ujihiro, a sculptor from the Meiji period. Okuma studied from Italian sculptor Ragusa (husband of Otama). The bronze statue of Omura Masujiro<sup>†</sup> at Yasukuni Shrine was also the work of Okuma.

\*3 The 1st and 2nd heir of the Arisugawa-no-miya line used the name of "Takamatsu-no-miya." It was decided to use the name of Arisugawa-no-miya from the 3rd successor as this was the name on the family cemetery. It can be said though that the Takamatsu-no-miya and Arisugawa-no-miya are of the same Imperial family.

\*4 Tokyo city decided to name the park "Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park" in consideration of the thoughts of Prince Takamatsu-no-miya who donated the land.

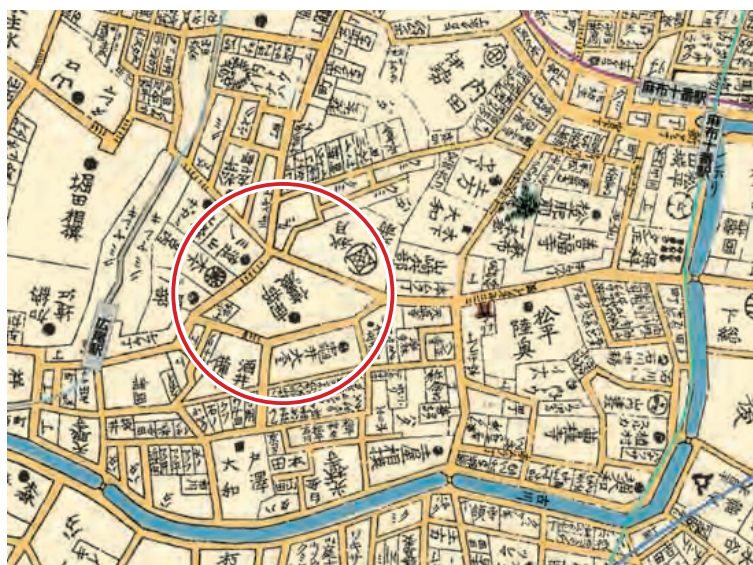
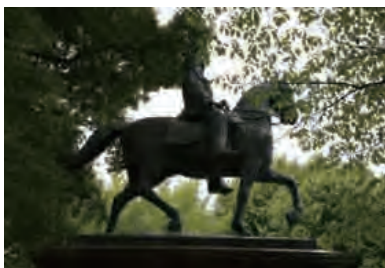
\*5 The park's cascading hills and valleys, ponds, and densely wooded areas have been arranged in harmony with the natural terrain expressing an elegant natural beauty. However, with the progress of development in the vicinity of the park these days, the source of water dried out and now has to rely on water being pumped up.

\*6 One of the purposes of establishing this park was to secure grounds for children to play in. Therefore, when the park originally opened, there was a high ground in the center where the children could play and a stage shaped play space. Originally, there also was a bronze plaque placed in the center of the stage which explained the origin of Arisugawa-no-miya, but, was taken away to be used as metal which was scarce during the war and was never replaced. The bronze plaque explained the founding of the Arisugawa-no-miya family, and achievements of both Prince Takehito and Prince Tanehito.

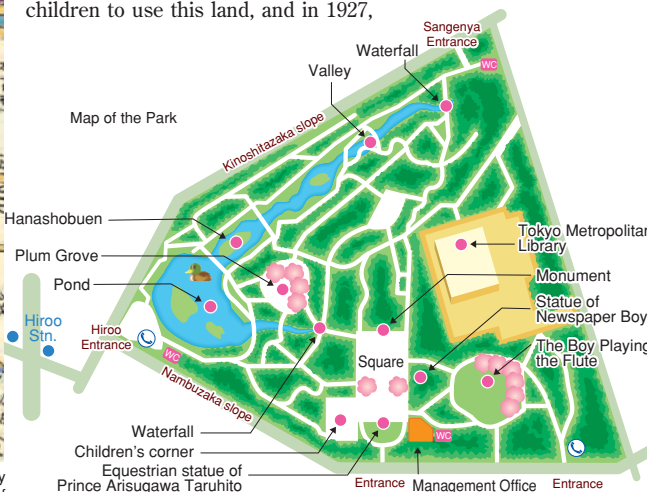


Equestrian statue of Prince Arisugawa Taruhito

# 麻布の軌跡



The vicinity of the park during the Edo period. Guidebook to Visiting the Town (published by Minato City Industry & Local Promotion Support Group) in 1828. The circled area is the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park. (Map of Edo City) ©Jinbunsha



Photograph of Minato City San (Azabu Region Version) 2 years from opening, view of the park in 1936 (municipal government summary) Property of Minato Local History Museum

(Contribution: Shozo Kakei Edited by: Yukiko Takayanagi)



## Traffic Safety Classes! To Realize our Target of “Minato City Aims to be a Safe and Secure city”

The Community Safety Subcommittee is a part of the Community Safety Committee which is active in community safety and protecting the environment of the Azabu region under the theme of promoting “safety and security” in the region through “measures towards bicycles and motorcycles” and “safety measures in parks and on roads.”

A traffic safety class will be conducted in the hopes of trying to prevent traffic accidents which occur frequently as much as possible. Lectures are conducted on a safe way of riding bicycles, as well as correct rules and manners to ride bicycles safely. Practical skills are enhanced while actually riding on a bicycle in order to increase awareness on traffic safety. We would like to encourage everyone to participate in the program.

Date: Middle of December

Place: Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park and Arisu-no-mori Kinoko Minami-azabu

Sponsored by: The Community Safety Community which Protects Community Safety and the Environment of the Azabu Region.



**Inquiries: The Community Safety Committee which Protects Community Safety and the Environment of the Azabu Region Executive Office. Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802**

※There may be changes made to these contents.

## 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.

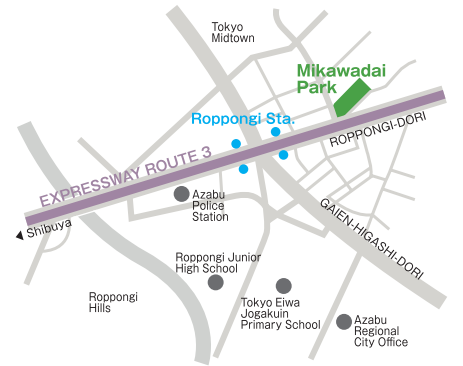
※There will be no reward.

※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



## Let's Have Fun at “Azabu Art Festa!”

The Azabu Regional City Office hosts the “Azabu Art Festa” with the purpose of creating a deep bond with the community through art & design. At the same time, this project allows the participants to create a rapport and exchange between each other by being held throughout the year.

Our first step was to get applications on ideas for the Azabu Art Festa character under the theme of “a character which supports the town of Azabu.” The entry which won the outstanding award this time was used as a character for the Azabu Art Festa, reflected as original merchandise. We exhibited the applications we received in the 1st floor lobby of the Azabu Regional City Office from mid October.

At the workshop conducted at Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park in August under the title of “Watching Cicadas Emerge!”, the participants were able to witness the fascinating moment of the cicada emerging in a natural terrain.

A workshop was held in November at the Azabu Regional City Office to introduce children to the world of the sumi and writing brush. We had adults to children participate in this event.

Furthermore, we participated in the “Nanzan Festival” held at Nanza Public Elementary School in October to PR the Azabu Art Festa through photographs.

※ Other art related events are being planned.

※ Contents are subject to change.

Please read details in the “Koho Minato” newsletter, the “A! Zabu Zabu Newspaper” which is the Azabu Art Festa public paper and the Minato City HP.

**Inquiries: General Administration Subsection, General Administration Section, Azabu Regional City Office  
Tel: 03-5114-8805 (Japanese only)**



### Notice Regarding Metropolitan Tax

## Beware of Fake Metropolitan Tax Officers!

There have been recent cases of people posing as Metropolitan Government tax officers in attempts to illegally acquire personal information or trying to swindle money.

**Criminal Technique:**

- Posing as a Metropolitan Government tax officer and making phone calls to obtain personal information on family structure or occupation.
- Posing as a Metropolitan Government tax officer and making phone calls by falsely saying that there will be a tax return or return of medical expenses by trying to lure the person to transfer money through the ATM.

If you should receive any 'number-withheld' calls and feel that it is suspicious, make sure to hang up once and contact your local metropolitan tax office or the Public Relations Consultation Sub-section, General Affairs Section, General Affairs Division, Tax Agency (03-5388-2924).

If in the worst case scenario, you become a victim, contact the Police Department immediately.

**Inquiries: Minato Tax Bureau, Tax Office or Public Relations Consultation Sub-section**

**Tel: 03-5549-3800**

**Or**

**Public Relations Consultation Sub-section, General Affairs Section, General Affairs Division, Tax Agency**

**Tel: 03-5388-2924**



## Information from Azabu Regional City Office

## Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind

Roppongi, aiming to be a bustling and  
clean neighborhood



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

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: 03-5114-8002**

## Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind

### Roppongi, aiming to be a bustling and clean neighborhood

We declare the "Roppongi Charter for Safety & Peace of Mind" as a rule which everyone here in Roppongi should follow.

The Roppongi neighborhood developed and flourished along with postwar Japan and is now known as one of the country's leading entertainment and business districts. It is also one of the centers for transmitting culture and art and is known worldwide.

We will continue to work hand-in-hand with all residents and visitors to provide them with joy and peace of mind and to aim to make Roppongi a bustling and clean neighborhood.

Roppongi Local Development Committee on Safety & Security July 23, 2013

#### We Will Prevent Crime

- We will actively participate in activities such as safety & security patrols.
- The community will watch over children.
- If a criminal act is committed, we will immediately report to the police.
- We will work with the police to remove organized crime groups.

#### Creating a Beautiful Neighborhood

- We will actively participate in activities to keep Roppongi clean.
- We will make it a custom to clean in front of your house and your shops.
- We will handle garbage properly so it doesn't cause trouble to the city.
- We will not do and will not allow graffiti.

#### We Follow the Rules When Smoking

- We will follow the Minato City Smoking Rules and smoke only in designated areas.
- We will not discard cigarettes on the road.

#### We Make Our Streets Safe and Secure

- We will not cause trouble to others such as drinking and loitering on the streets.
- We will not put advertisements on the streets without permission.
- We will not distribute fliers without permission.
- We will only park bicycles in designated areas and not in illegal area.
- We will follow bicycle riding rules and do not ride dangerously

#### Try to operate Business without Causing Trouble to Neighbors

- We will not cause trouble to others by soliciting or waiting for customers.
- We will be careful of noise and odors when doing business.
- We will not permit vicious business such as illegal nightclubs.
- Late night business owners will coach employees not to cause trouble to neighbors.

## 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.

Chief	Aki Tanaka	
Sub Chief	Yukiko Takayanagi	
Staff	Kyoko Ideishi	Kazumi Nagahama
	Sumie Osawa	Yasuhiro Tanaka
	Kumiko Omura	Yoko Mitsuki
	Yasuhiro Ozaki	Akira Mori
	Keiko Orito	Ryozo Yamashita
Junior Staff	Mana Abe	Mao Ohta
	Remi Inoue	

#### Editor's Note

I've been told by my acquaintances or neighbors living in Azabu more often these days of how they enjoyed an article or how interesting it was, ever since I have become part of the editing staff. It is very sobering. After discussions at the editorial meetings, we compiled this issue from soft and hard facts with a variety of stories, thanks to the efforts of each of the editing staff working diligently with interviews, as well as, in the heat. I hope you also think so. We look forward to hearing your comments and opinions.

(Ryozo Yamashita)

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**