

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

Located in the midst of an open environment overflowing with greenery, a new large-scale health and welfare complex for people of all ages, ranging from infants to seniors, opened on September 1st. Arisu Iki-iki Plaza and Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall aim to take root in the local community as facilities for enhancing the lives of people across a broad range of generations.

Located next to Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park at the top of Nambuzaka Slope, this property was the site of the home of a feudal lord during the late Edo Period. It later became a national government research facility, and in 2009 it became the property of Minato City. Installed with the very latest eco-system utilizing domestic lumber, solar energy, geothermal heating, and rainwater, this health and welfare complex is a facility that Minato City can be proud of.



Arisu Iki-iki Plaza



Arisu Iki-iki Plaza provides a bright, healthy space in terms of both design and color in a bustling environment as users converse with each other and undergo health training. Arisu Iki-iki Plaza has more than 100 users each day and is a place not only for enhancing and maintaining health and preventing the need for nursing care, but also for promoting exchange through cultural programs and assembly facilities. In addition to classes on exercises for preventing the need for nursing care, cultural classes on calligraphy, cooking, and karaoke are also held. There is a constant stream of applications for registration to use the facilities.

Various seasonal activities are held, and in-house events are also conducted frequently. Well equipped with fulfilling facilities, Arisu Iki-iki Plaza is said to be one of Minato City's top facilities for seniors. In the future, we hope that the number of people who wish to remain both physically and mentally healthy will increase and that even more Azabu residents will use this facility.

Interviewee: Mr. Masahiro Takada, Azabu Arisu Iki-iki Plaza General Director
 Designated administrator: Ms. Sanae Takahashi, Central Sports Instructor



- 1 The sunlight shining through the windows and the greenery of Arisugawanomiya Memorial Park brightly illuminate the interior.
- 2 The first training machines to be introduced in the Azabu District were machines for improving basic physical fitness. Several highly experienced staff provide assistance in improving muscle strength.
- 3 Training using chairs. Learn what to do and then try the exercises at home!
- 4 Doing stretches while checking for correct posture in the mirror.
- 5 The facility's fully-equipped cooking classroom. Azabu's first cooking class for men is hugely popular!

Message from an Arisu Iki-iki Plaza staff member

● Ms. Sanae Takahashi, Instructor

There is a preconceived notion that preventing the need for nursing care is only an issue for elderly seniors, but in fact it is very important to begin health maintenance measures early. There are many classes that anyone aged 50 or over can attend. Please visit us and try out the facilities in order to establish good fitness habits!



Address: 4-6-7 Minami-azabu, Minato City

Tel: 03-3444-3656

Opening hours:

Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.

Closed: Year-end/New Year (December 29–January 3)

The facilities may also close temporarily on other days.

Website that introduces the Arisu Iki-iki Plaza
<http://www.central.co.jp/plaza/alice/index.html>



Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall

Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall was established with the following aims: "Passing on Azabu's long and distinguished history and richly international culture," "Creating a base for the healthy growth of children," and "Generating a diversity of values through involvement in community activities." The Hall has amassed more than 5,000 registered users over the two and a half months since it opened. Symbolic of the richly international makeup of the Azabu district, one third of the center's users are foreign nationals. English-language signs are provided and English-speaking staff are always on hand.

Positioned around a spacious rest area, this center is characterized by its facilities equipped with functions capable of responding to the needs of a broad range of age groups. These include an arena for physical activity, music and

dance studios, a craft room, a study room, and a "Child-rearing Plaza," which caretakers of young children can use with peace of mind. The center's interior design reflects the kind consideration given to users.

In addition to students of Minato Municipal Honmura, Higashimachi, and Kogai Elementary Schools and Koryo Junior High School, the center is frequently used by students of private schools, such as Azabu Gakuen and Hiroo Gakuen, because of its attractive location and facilities. Under the concept of "Kids and Teens Communicating and Creating a Community," the center plans to actively promote use of its facilities.

We want to support the center's activities and show its huge presence through the planning of events in collaboration with neighboring districts and other efforts.

Interviewee: Mr. Shinichi Sano, Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall Director

Message from an Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall staff member

● Mr. Shinichi Sano, Director

This is the first Kids-to-Teens plaza to be established in Azabu, and it has enabled the provision of a venue that furthers broad exchange for everyone in the community. What is important for the growth of healthy children is the creation of a place for them.



Address: 4-6-7 Minami-azabu, Minato City

Tel: 03-5447-0611

Opening hours: 9:30 a.m-8:00 p.m.

Closed: public holidays, Year-end/New Year (December 29-January 3)

Website that introduces the Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall
<http://www.azabu-plaza.jp/>



- 6 The spacious arena is the size of a basketball court.
- 7 There is a rollerblading rink on the fourth floor where users can practice inline skating or play with balls or ride-on toys.
- 8 The rest area, where users ranging from caregivers with young children to teenagers can gather. There are also bench seats and a book corner in the center.
- 9 The layout of the "Child-rearing Plaza" facilitates communication between children as well as between their caregivers.
- 10 The playroom, craft room, and study room are also available for use.



Helping the Town of Azabu Become Brighter and More Convenient for 62 Years

Local electronics store Furuta Denki stands on the corner where Hojozaka Slope curves off from Old TV Asahi-dori Street. No doubt many people in this neighborhood have purchased their home appliances here or had the store electricians do electrical work for them. The founder, Mr. Shuichi Furuta, still runs the store today, together with his two sons and grandson. With his eldest son, Nobuyoshi, Shuichi spoke about his experiences during the war and after he opened the store in the postwar period.

Tossed about by the war in his youth

Shuichi was born in 1918 in the Sarugakucho area of Shibuya City. His father worked for the City Office. He studied at the correspondence course at school in Nakano and was sent to Manchuria during the war as a communication soldier. He was later interned in Siberia, experiencing so-called forced labor. "I worked as a civilian employee¹ of the Kwantung Army.² At the end of the war, I was charged with espionage and became a prisoner of the Soviet Army and was sent to Siberia. I must have changed prison camps more than 10 times. Since I could use machines, I was once assigned to an automobile factory." Shuichi was finally released six years after the war ended in 1951. He says, "I didn't think I would come home alive from such harsh conditions in Siberia. The only reason I did is because my mother blessed me with a very strong constitution when she gave birth to me."

1 A unit of the former Japanese Army that was stationed in Manchuria and Guangdong, China

2 Personnel affiliated with the military who are not military

Opening an electrical store in 1952

While Shuichi was in Siberia, his father retired and his parents moved to Azabu, where his father ran a bread and pastry shop called Kikuya. After taking some time to recover from his ordeal, Shuichi bought the land across the road from his father's shop and opened an electronics store with his wife, Fumiko. He says, "Back then, there were no ready-made products; I would ride my bicycle to Akihabara to buy parts for radios and audio systems and put them together myself to sell." At that time, the area from Nishi-azabu 3 chome to Moto-azabu 2-chome and 3-chome was called "Sangenya-cho" and was a bustling shopping district. Further along, in the Kinoshitazaka Slope and Hojozaka Slope neighborhoods, the street was lined with the grand homes of politicians and business leaders. One event that left a particularly deep impression in Shuichi's memory was when black-and-white televisions went on sale in 1953. He says, "When a broadcast of one of Rikidozan's professional wrestling matches began, the store would become so crowded with people in the neighborhood coming to watch TV that some couldn't get inside. So we put a TV on the roof of the storehouse next door so that people could watch TV from the adjacent vacant lot. The people from the mansions would watch together with people from the shopping district. It was a time when there was a sense of togetherness throughout the entire community." Shuichi's elder son, Nobuyoshi, and second son, Yoshinori, also began helping out with the family business.

In 1957, Shuichi's store became a distributor for National (the former Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., which is now known as Panasonic), and the range of electrical goods sold by the store increased. In particular, televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines were collectively known as the "Three Sacred Treasures" and became symbolic of affluent households during Japan's period of high economic growth. At this point, Nobuyoshi joins the conversation, saying, "There were so many orders, it was impossible to keep up with delivery. The entire family worked nonstop from early in the morning until late at night. I'm sure the situation was the same for everyone in Japan during that period." Later, Nobuyoshi's son Yasuhisa also joined the family business, making a four person team that spans three generations operating the store.

The street underwent a transformation in the mid-1980s, during the period of the bubble economy. Land prices soared, with prices reaching 30 million yen per *tsubo* (3,306m²). Virtually all of the stores in the shopping district closed, their owners selling the land and moving away. Says Shuichi, "There were 48 stores, and now there is just us,



Located in front of the Aikuboyin-mae traffic lights on Old TV Asahi Street, the store is a familiar place for local residents.

麻布びと

"Azabu — A Human Story"



Furuta Denki

Shuichi Furuta
(96)



Shuichi with his elder son, Nobuyoshi. In his hand is a tube used to repair old CRT-based television sets.



The Furuta Family. From the left are Shuichi, Nobuyoshi, and Yoshinori (Shuichi's second son); Yasuhisa (Shuichi's grandson) stands behind them.



(Top left) The 1977 membership registry for the Sangenya-cho neighborhood association. Even today, the association carries out activities throughout the year.

(Top right) In 1966, Shuichi was awarded the first certificate of appreciation issued by the National Federation of Small and Medium Business Associations for his efforts with the Electrical Products Association of Japan. This was at the time of the Eisaku Sato Cabinet.

(Left) Essential tools for electronics stores: megohmmeters for detecting electrical leaks; illuminometers; and instruments for detecting wood, steel beams, pillars, and balks inside walls.

Rairaiken (a Chinese restaurant), Hanako (a flower shop), and Takano Cleaning. But we intend to stay here and stand firm!"

Desire to be of service to others

Shuichi also works for the community and society as a whole. After opening his store, he organized a neighborhood association centered on the shopping district, the Sanshinkai. The first thing the association did was to install lights along the street, which was previously dark at night. In addition, for over 20 years Shuichi has voluntarily supervised children from the Kogai Elementary School as they cross the street at the crossing in front of the store on their way to and from school. He is also active as a founding member of the Electrical Products Association of Japan (ZDS), an electronics stores union, as the Azabu ZDS was the first ZDS to be established in Japan.

After the interview concludes, Shuichi stands up and goes outside. With a school flag in his hand, he begins supervising children on their way home from school. Watching this scene, Nobuyoshi comments, "My father is so passionate about everything that he does. He always wants to be of service to other people. Having miraculously returned from Siberia, he feels that he is alive at the wish of his many comrades who died. This conviction seems to be his motivating force."

Wearing his favorite red shirt, Shuichi is again standing watch on the footpath outside the store. He is a strong yet kind Azabu-Bito with the ability to brighten people's hearts.



Shuichi and his late wife, Fumiko, at the wedding of their grandson Yasuhisa 18 years ago. With her bright and easy-going personality, Fumiko ran the store with Shuichi and provided constant support.



If you see a gentleman in a red shirt standing near the store, it is Shuichi.

●Furuta Denki Shokai, 3-8-7 Nishi-azabu, Minato City
(Interviewed and written by Aki Tanaka)

ワダンも 麻布っ子

Call me Azabu-kko

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



According to Mr. T, because he is such a handsome elderly gentleman, Cole has many female canine admirers.



Cole always stays on the left when walking, constantly looking left and right with his eyes, ears, and nose on the alert as he guards his master.

Since an incident this summer, interest in seeing-eye dogs has increased.

The Azabu-kko for this issue, Cole, worked for many years as a seeing-eye dog in the Azabu District and retired from service in October of this year. We talked to Cole's handler, Mr. T., about how to interact with seeing-eye dogs, who are truly the eyes of visually impaired people.

● Surprise at the lack of friendliness

I first met Cole in October 2004. It was the first day of our four-week live-in training at Eye Mate, Inc. Cole was so unfriendly I became worried that he would not become attached to me, but the trainer told me that this was an "appropriate personality trait for a seeing-eye dog."

● After attaching the harness, the dog "switches on"

For this joint around-the-clock training, one pair (dog and handler) share a room, and the dog's job begins as soon as his harness goes on. He indicates doorknobs and elevator buttons with his nose, picks up items that have been dropped, and guides his handler past construction sites without reacting to the loud noise. On the final day of training, we went walking in the Ginza District.

Unable to do a U-turn when getting out of taxis, Cole expertly gets out by his back feet. After checking the road for safety, he lets me out of the car. He is extremely good at moving through crowds, like those at the intersection in front of the Hachiko Exit at Shibuya Station. He is as fast as a slalom skier and doesn't bump into anyone.

● For the dog to carry out his/her mission

The mission of a seeing-eye dog is to protect his/her handler while also guiding them to their

exact destination. For the dog to be able to fulfill this mission, there must be a close relationship between the dog and the handler. The dog must not become attached to other people, so for the first month after the completion of training, even family members are not allowed to call the dog's name or make eye contact.

● Because there is mutual trust

A universal rule is that the seeing-eye dog walks on the left of the handler, who walks on the side next to the road. In the case of Japan, vehicles also drive on the left side of the road, so it is rather frightening, but the dog is also careful of vehicles coming from behind. At the same time, the dog avoids any obstacles in the handler's path, pushing his/her body against the handler's. It is precisely because I trust Cole that I am able to walk about by myself. Also, it is precisely because Cole trusts humans that he does not bark.

● Care with grooming and appearance

When we get up in the morning, I clean Cole's eyes and nose. We ride on trains so he must



Mr. T and Cole take a break during their walk.

not shed hair and he must not be smelly. Every day I brush his coat twice until it shines, then rub him over thoroughly with a steamed towel from his claws to his tail to keep him clean. For his mouth, I "brush" his teeth with cotton work gloves. He gets shampooed three to four times a year, but even so he does not smell – he is a "Roppongi nobleman."

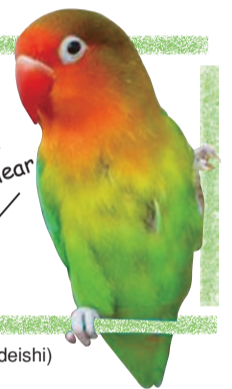
Now over eighty in human years, Cole retired from his 10-year working career in October, turning over the job to his successor. In his retirement, he is now living out his remaining days comfortably and quietly with a new family.

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 about 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 application. Thank you.

"Call me Azabu-kko" Application Desk, Community Policy Subsection,
Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office
5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8515

We're waiting to hear
from you



(Photographs by Ken Takewaki; interviewed and written by Kyoko Ideishi)



Curator
The National Art Center,
Tokyo
Ms. Yayoi Motohashi

[Curator]
A person who manages
museums and art galleries. In
Japan, curators are called
gakugeiin.

From the *Kōjien* Dictionary,
Fifth Edition (Iwanami Shoten,
Publishers)

There are many types of work in the world
Curator

Fulfilling Days Busily Working to Make Exhibitions Happen

Two first-year students at Minato Municipal Roppongi Junior High School interviewed Ms. Yayoi Motohashi, the curator of The National Art Center, Tokyo. Curators are involved in the planning and holding of exhibitions.

◎ Why did you become a curator?

When I was in high school, I happened to go and see a pop art exhibition in London and I was stunned. I learned that "displaying" is deeply meaningful – it does not simply mean showing works but also creating a story through the arrangement and order of the pieces. I felt that I wanted to do that kind of work.

◎ How do you become a curator?

You can obtain curator qualifications by studying specialist subjects at university, but whether or not you can work at an art museum is an entirely different question. Also, you must become proficient in English, the common language of the world, in order to negotiate with overseas institutions and research literature on artists' latest works.

◎ When do you formulate plans for an exhibition?

For large-scale exhibitions, planning begins three to five years in advance, and for exhibitions of contemporary art, planning begins around one year before the event. After the budget has been confirmed and the exhibition plan approved at a meeting, negotiations are conducted with the owners of

the works to be displayed in the exhibition; fliers and other printed materials are created three months before the exhibition, at the latest. I am responsible for all aspects of an exhibition, including the planning and holding of related events.

◎ How do you go about borrowing works for an exhibition?

I ask the owner of a work we wish to show to lend it to us, explaining the purpose of the exhibition and the importance of the work within it.

◎ When is your job the most fun?

When I'm thinking about the content and arrangement of exhibits. I draw layouts of the exhibition gallery as I think about the exhibition's



Looking at posters from past exhibitions, the expressions on the interviewers' faces say, "What a pity to dispose of the designs that weren't used!"

story, and I then sometimes make three-dimensional models to check the layout. I also adjust the lighting intensity up until immediately before the exhibition so the works are shown to their best advantage while also considering their preservation.

◎ At what times do you feel glad that you became a curator?

When I encounter a truly marvelous work, and when I am able to interact with an artist who is alive today. Also, I feel very happy seeing visitors at an exhibition enjoying themselves.

◎ What kind of art museum do you want to make The National Art Center, Tokyo?

I want to make it a place of exchange between people of all ages, from children to adults, a place where new art and expression are born, and an art museum that people will enjoy and want to visit again.

Impressions

● Through this interview, we felt strongly that curators are strong pillars who uphold the art museum as they perform their work behind the scenes. We hope we were able to convey this effectively to our readers.

● We also felt that we wanted to visit a museum in the future.

The National Art Center, Tokyo
7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
TEL: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)
URL: <http://www.nact.jp>

To give children power for life

Reading
material
for parents
and children

KIDS! Hello Work



(Top right) Photo Courtesy: The National Art Center, Tokyo The installation view in "The Light: MATSUMOTO Yoko / NOGUCHI Rica" (Bottom right) Front view of The National Art Center, Tokyo

(Interviewed and written by Mio Isobe (Year 1, Roppongi Junior High School) and Atsushi Sasaki (Year 1, Roppongi Junior High School); Interview Support: Kumiko Omura)



The Ambassador and his wife, Galina (on the right).

Republic of Lithuania

Area: 65,000 km²
 Population: 2,972,000 (as of 2013; Lithuanian Department of Statistics)
 Capital City: Vilnius
 Official Language: Lithuanian
 Head of State: President Dalia Grybauskaitė
 Legislature: National Assembly (141 seats; four-year term)

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

His Excellency Ambassador Egidijus Meilunas, Ambassador of Lithuania to Japan (seated on the left in the photograph)

Article collaboration:
 Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania

Visiting Embassies 29

From the "World" of Azabu



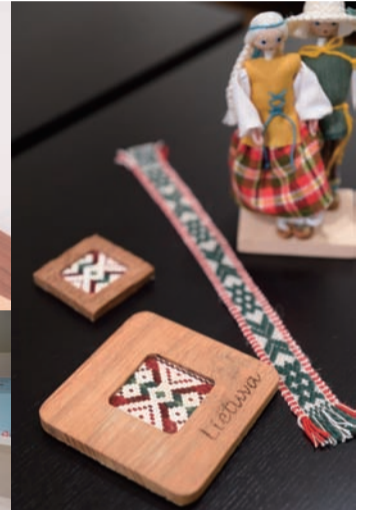
Lithuania

Lithuania: A Robust Country Enjoying Rapid Economic Growth

One of the three Baltic countries, Lithuania is located on the eastern side of the Baltic Sea and is bordered by Poland, Belarus, Latvia, and Russia. The country gained independence in 1990. We spoke with the youthful Ambassador Meilunas, an appropriate representative for such a young country.

Lithuania is currently promoting numerous products for export in the future, including herbal teas, honey, chocolate, and 35% alcohol liqueurs containing herbs (top left).

In the corner of the embassy there is a library that collects and displays books and materials related to Lithuania (bottom left).



National Ribbon—ribbon made with traditional Lithuanian patterns. They also look adorable tied around the forehead. On the right is a doll in national Lithuanian costume.

A Country Boasting 3% Economic Growth

Appearing with his wife, Galina, the cheerfully smiling Ambassador is 50 years of age. Our first impression was amazement at Mrs. Meilunas's excellent Japanese. It turns out that she was once a student in Japan. The Republic of Lithuania has strong representation from women politicians, including its female president, Dalia Grybauskaitė, and its active female cabinet ministers. We requested that Mrs. Meilunas also participate in the interview to give her perspective on the role of women in Lithuania.

Ambassador Meilunas was appointed in 2012. This is his first posting in Asia, after having served as Lithuania's Ambassador to Poland. What is his impression of Japan? "It is a very beautiful country, and there are many fascinating people," he said, adding that, "I am also extremely attracted to Japanese culture."

Lithuania joined the EU in 2004. The country boasts a large amount of foreign investment, which has led to the expansion of overseas markets. The robust country is now achieving annual economic growth of 3% and adopted the euro from January 1, 2015. Lithuania's main industries include food products, chemicals, wood materials, furniture, and textiles. A leader in the dairy industry, Lithuania has a thriving dairy product processing industry and overseas demand is also growing.

Trade with Japan is increasing every year. Lithuania's main imports from Japan are vehicles, electrical devices/machinery, and plastic/rubber, while Japan's main imports from Lithuania are optical equipment, furniture, textile products, and dairy products. Asked about the optical equipment, Lithuania's largest export to Japan, the Ambassador explained that, "This refers to lasers used in medical care and other applications. Lithuania's optical equipment has an excellent reputation worldwide and is an important export product." This equipment is also used by the Japanese scientists and is playing an important role in the scientific research in Japan.

The Ambassador Loves Okonomiyaki

As an aside, we asked the Ambassador if he experienced any confusion regarding Japanese culture, customs, or food while

he was posted in Japan.

"Not especially," he replied. "In Lithuania, there are actually many Japanese restaurants. I love sushi and often ate at sushi bars in Lithuania, even though these bars are not necessarily operated by Japanese people." After being posted to Japan, he says with a smile, he realized that the sushi here is even more delicious. The Ambassador explained that besides sushi, his favorite Japanese food is okonomiyaki (savory pancakes)! What is more, since there are so many different regional varieties of okonomiyaki, he also enjoys tasting and comparing different variations. He seems quite knowledgeable on the subject.

When we asked Mrs. Meilunas if she experienced any inconvenience preparing Lithuanian dishes in Japan, she said that virtually all of the necessary ingredients are available here. "In Lithuania, we have a rich variety of soups. In particular, *Saltibarsciai* is made in every household, just like Japanese miso soup. *Saltibarsciai* is a traditional cold soup made with beets, like a cold version of borscht. In addition to beets, the ingredients include cucumber, apple juice, and lemon. In Lithuania we add *kefir* (fermented milk), but in Japan you can use yogurt instead. It is a healthy soup with a tart taste so I think Japanese people would also enjoy it," she explained. *Saltibarsciai* is apparently often eaten with black bread.

The Ambassador had a recommendation for us, saying "You should really taste the beer in Lithuania!" Apparently there are more than 350 craft beers (local brand beers) in Lithuania!

The Deep Relationship between Japan and Lithuania: The Role of Diplomat Chiune Sugihara

In the relationship between Lithuania and Japan, the actions of diplomat Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986), known as Japan's Schindler, cannot be forgotten. Stationed at the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania, during World War II, Chiune Sugihara issued many, many visas to enable refugees to escape Nazi persecution. He is said to have saved the lives of more than 6,000 people. At that time, his actions were against the orders of Japan's Foreign Ministry, but Sugihara pressed ahead nonetheless. Up until 1992, the Foreign Ministry

deemed his actions as subordination. However in 2000 a plaque commemorating his actions was installed at the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and his honor was restored. In Lithuania, a memorial museum and park are named in Sugihara's honor, and as the Ambassador and his wife both attest, "He is still the most famous Japanese person in Lithuania."

The National Government Supports the Creation of an Environment that Makes it Easier for Women to Work

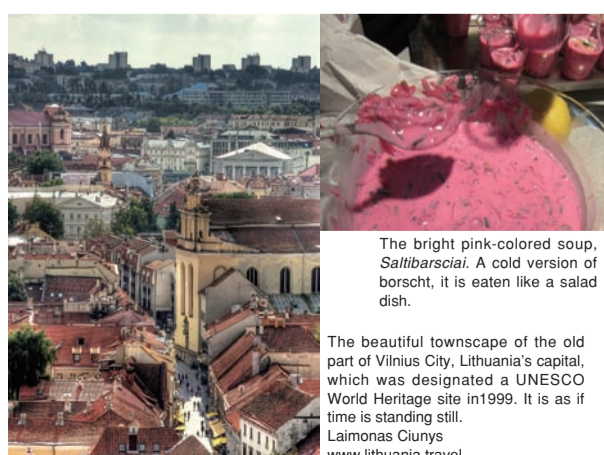
Last but not least, we asked about the position of women in Lithuania. We were all astounded to learn that, "Childcare leave is guaranteed for three years after a child is born. Of these three years, the mother receives wages from her employer for the first two years. Employers must also keep the mother's jobs open for her for the entire three years until she returns to work. In addition, fathers can take one month of paternity leave." The national government is improving and supporting the child-raising environment with generous conditions.

The government has also created various programs to provide support to women who wish to become independent and start up their own businesses. In addition, low interest rates are set for loans. There are many women who are involved in politics, beginning with the country's female president and moving down. There seems to be quite a gap between the situation in Lithuania and the situation in Japan.

We were further surprised to hear that some 52% of Lithuania's scientists are women and that women are more active than men in this field. In the near future, the day is sure to come when a Lithuanian female scientist wins the Nobel Prize.

In order to promote awareness of Lithuania, the embassy arranges stalls at local city festivals and holds readings of Lithuanian literature at the Citizen's Hall. We left the embassy with a very favorable view of their proactive promotional activities.

<http://jp.mfa.lt/index.php?3592445785> (Japanese)



The bright pink-colored soup, *Saltibarsciai*. A cold version of borscht, it is eaten like a salad dish.

The beautiful townscape of the old part of Vilnius City, Lithuania's capital, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999. It is as if time is standing still. Laimonas Ciunys www.lithuania.travel



The Ambassador's place to walk is Azabujuban. "When you get into the back streets, there are shrines and temples here and there mixed in near the new stores. I find this mismatched chaotic streetscape extremely fascinating."



The most popular sport in Lithuania is basketball. Lithuania has won the European championships three times in the past and came second to France in 2014. Many Lithuanian players are also active in American's NBA. The ball in the photograph is the Ambassador's treasured basketball, signed by the members of Lithuania's 2006 national team.

Chiune Sugihara, known as Japan's Schindler. He doggedly issued visas to some 2,139 refugees, writing continuously to the point that his hand could no longer move.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio

A town name that has disappeared

When speaking of ligura, it is no exaggeration to say that the name is so famous that it instantly conjures up an image of the area. It could be called a face of Azabu, and today there are many buildings and facilities that still bear this name (*see the table below). However, this town name no longer exists as an "address."

How did the town name ligura originate in the first place? Simply looking at the Kanji characters, I supposed it was named for a rice storehouse or some such thing, but after going quite some way back into the past, I discovered that this was not the case. Although there are various theories as to the name's origin, it first appeared in the *Azumakagami (Mirror of the East)* historical chronicle. There is an article describing how Minamoto-no-Yorimoto donated an *iigura mikuriya* to Ise Shrine in 1184—some 830 years ago. *Mikuriya* literally means "the gods' kitchen," and referred to the place where *shinsen* (food offerings to the gods) were prepared. In a sense, this shows how this town name is a historical name that cannot disappear, even today.

Examples of Names of Buildings and Facilities that Include ligura

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Metropolitan Expressway Inner Circular Route ligura Entrance/Exit | 7. Azabu ligura Iki-iki Plaza |
| 2. Iigua Intersection; ligura-Katamachi Intersection | 8. Minato Municipal ligura Nursery School |
| 3. Toei Bus Service ligura-Katamachi Bus Stop | 9. Minato Municipal ligura Pupils' Club |
| 4. ligura-Katamachi Underground Passage | 10. Minato Municipal ligura Park |
| 5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs ligura Office | 11. Nodaiwa Azabu ligura Head Office |
| 6. Azabu Fire Department ligura Branch | 12. Chianti ligura-Katamachi Head Office |

The past



1959
Nagazaka was so named because of the slope's substantial 288m length. On the right side of the photograph the Nagasaka-Sarashina soba noodles shop can be seen, which at that time was a one-story structure.

The present



2010
Today, the Metropolitan Expressway passes through this spot and the top of the slope is no longer visible, but even now you can sense the length of the slope. As the sign in the top right of the photograph shows, the Nagasaka-Sarashina Head Office building now stands here.

About the Azabu Future Photo Studio?

Since 2009, the Azabu Regional City Office has been implementing Azabu Future Photo Studio activities in an endeavor to capture changes to the cityscape of Azabu, working together with local residents and businesses to collect old photographs of the Azabu region, as well as taking photographs at fixed-point locations.

Through the collection and preservation of Azabu region materials, these activities are aimed at preserving and passing down to future generations historical and cultural resources that are familiar to long-time local residents, as well as further expanding their utilization. At the same time, the project aims to make the history and culture of the town known to even more people, contributing to the deepening of their affection for the town.

Azabu-dori (Azabu Street) has been selected as the nickname for Tokyo Metropolitan Road No. 415 (Takanawa-Azabu Line)!

Did you know that the section of the Tokyo Metropolitan Road No. 415 between Minami-azabu 2 chome and Roppongi 1 chome (Takanawa-Azabu Line) has been named Azabu-dori Street? For this purpose, a committee was launched, comprising of 15 neighborhood associations and 5 shopping district associations along the route, Minato City Assembly members, and Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly members. Official approval was received in September of this year from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Construction for this section of the expressway to be nicknamed Azabu-dori Street. The locations of signs bearing this nickname are currently under consideration, with several locations planned.

The Azabu Regional City Office is coordinating with the Council and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and actively endeavoring to make the nickname widely known.

The Azabu Future Photo Studio is looking for old photographs.

If you have any old photographs of the Azabu region that you feel should be preserved and passed on with a view to the future, please contact the Azabu Regional City Office. For details, please contact the Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office. **Inquiries: Tel.: 03-5114-8812**

- Proud town names that have remained to this day - ligura and Nagasaka

The past



1941
Source: Azabuku-shi ("Azabu District History")

Adjoining ligura—which was also the remains of an old samurai residential district—ligura-Katamachi had residences featuring windows with upright wooden bars (photograph above). Today, the streets around the ligura-Katamachi intersection are lined with buildings, Chinese restaurants, and cafes standing shoulder-to-shoulder along the road (photograph below).

The present



2009

A town name that remains

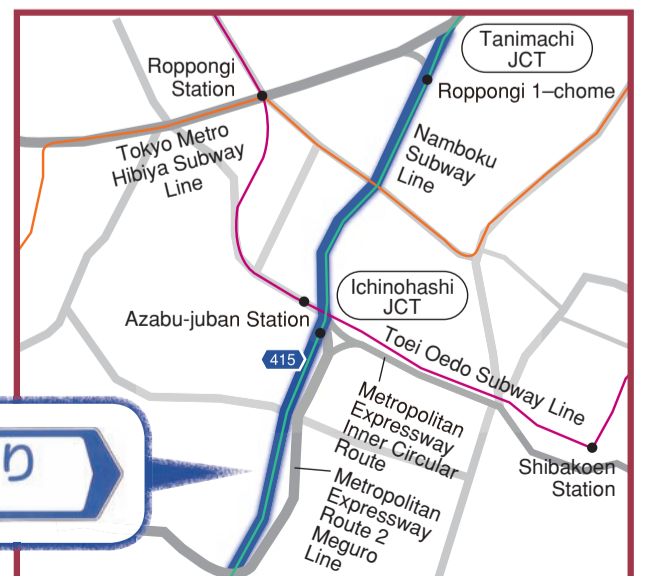
For many people, I am sure that the name Nagasaka evokes images of soba noodles, as in the famous Nagasaka-Sarashina soba noodles shop. However, Nagasaka is also the name of another famous town, an authentic face of Azabu. In contrast to ligura, Nagasaka remains in use today as both an address and the name of a district. The origins of the name are shallow (historically speaking, and compared with ligura). The town was named in 1713 for a long slope (Nagazaka) passing from a low-lying part of Azabu towards Shiba.

Today, Nagasaka and Azabu-mamianacho are the only districts in Minato City where addresses are not indicated officially (meaning there are no block or house numbers). Simply put, when sending a letter to a resident of this district, the letter will safely arrive addressed only to "Mr. X, Number YY Azabu-nagasakacho, Minato City." Although this is an extremely rare case, the fact that addresses are not indicated officially can be said to show just how much local residents love and are proud of this town name.

Brands that surpass the town name

Disappearing town names and town names that remain in use today—both will surely continue to be spoken of with pride as "town symbols" in the future. These are not just town names, they are Azabu brand names.

(Interviewed and written by Yasuhiro Tanaka)



麻布通り
Azabu St.

Azabu-toriizaka, the Home of Hanako Muraoka, Translator of *Anne of Green Gables*: Part 1



Hanako Muraoka
(birth name: Hana Annaka)
(June 21, 1893
—October 25, 1968)

NHK's drama series for the first half of 2014, *Hanako and Anne*, is based on the biography *An no Yurikago Muraoka Hanako no Shogai (Anne's Cradle: The Life of Hanako Muraoka)* (written by Eri Muraoka; published by Shinchosha Publishing Co., Ltd.). The book tells the life story of Hanako Muraoka (1893-1968), the person who first translated *Anne of Green Gables* into Japanese. Hanako Muraoka (Hana Annaka) was a student at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko girl's school (now Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin) in Azabu-toriizaka between 1903 and 1913. The story of her 10 years spent in Azabu, her meeting with close friend Byakuren Yanagiwara, and her curious encounter with Kimi Sano, the model for the children's song "Red Shoes," are traced in this two-part series.



The school at the time Hanako was a student there
A wooden four-story building with a floor space of 650 *tsubo* (2,149m²) (including attached buildings), the school is an impressive structure. The school building connects to living quarters for the western teachers. On the first floor are classrooms, a dining hall, the principal's office, and the teachers' room. The second and third floors house dormitory rooms for boarding students and on the fourth floor there is a prayer room. Hanako lived in a room on the second floor with several other students. At that time, the school had around 200 students, with approximately half of them boarders and half day students.

The Azabu-toriizaka District at the End of the Meiji Era

"Nowadays that area is apparently generally referred to as Roppongi, but when I was at school there from the late Meiji to early Taisho Periods—until very recently, in fact—there was a place known as Azabu-Toriizaka... Since this was an era when there was still a nobility, there were rows of stately homes, such as the Sanjo family residence and the home where the Crown Prince of Korea was being raised."¹

As Hanako writes here, the stage for this story is Azabu-toriizaka. From the Roppongi Intersection, go along Gaien Higashi-dori Street in the direction of Tokyo Tower and turn right just past the Roi Building. Azabu-toriizaka is the area on both sides of the street for approximately 500 meters, going down the steep slope after the International House of Japan in the direction of Azabu-juban.

In those days, the section on the east side of the street was called Higashi-toriizaka-cho, while the west side was called Toriizaka-cho. When Hanako entered the Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin School in 1903, the Azabu-toriizaka area was filled with the residences of feudal lords and their high-ranking retainers during the Edo period. From the Meiji Period onwards, residences for members of the imperial family, noblemen, and the heads of zaibatsu conglomerates were built one after the other.

Specifically, these included the Higashikuni-no-miya family residence, the Kinyoshi Sanjo residence, the Yasuzumi Saneyoshi residence, the residence of Keisuke Otori (a key player in the Meiji Restoration), and the Yi imperial family residence where the Crown Prince of Korea lived.

The eldest daughter of Higashikuni-no-miya was the Empress Kojun (1903–2000), Empress Consort of Emperor Showa. During the Meiji Era, there was another Higashikuni-no-miya family residence in Hiroo on the site where the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo now stands. It is recorded that Empress Kojun was born in Azabu, but it is unclear whether she was born at the Toriizaka residence or the residence in Hiroo, which was previously part of Azabu. Kinyoshi Sanjo (1875–1914) was a duke who died at the young age of 39. His father Sanetomi Sanjo (1837–1891) served as the last Grand Minister under the Grand Council of State system (equivalent to today's Prime Minister before the current cabinet system was established) in the early days of the Meiji Government (1871–1885). Viscount Yasuzumi Saneyoshi (1848–1932) was a physician who served as Director of the Naval Medical School and was also a politician. Coincidentally, a stone's throw from his home was the residence of Baron Kanehiro Takagi (1849–1920), founder of the Jikei University School of Medicine (this residence is now the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore).

Viscount Saneyoshi was a person who strove to reduce the number of beriberi patients to zero. Beriberi was a disease that was common in the navy in those days. Viscount Saneyoshi worked together with Baron Takagi to eradicate beriberi through measures such as changing the rice seamen ate from polished white rice to rice cooked with barley. He also served as Dean of Tokyo Jikkeikai Medical Academy, the predecessor to the Jikei University School of Medicine. Keisuke Otori (1833–1911) fought together with Takeaki Enomoto (1836–1908) in the Battle of Hakodate. After surrendering to the Imperial Army in 1869, Otori was imprisoned, but was granted clemency in 1872. He later worked in the Meiji government as a technical officer, contributing to the development of a wide range of fields such as dam technology, ship building, and spinning. In addition, the residence that Hanako mentioned as "the home where the Crown Prince of Korea was being raised" was the Yi imperial family residence where Crown Prince Yi Un of Korea (1897–1970) lived. With Japan's annexation of the Korean Peninsula in 1910, the Korean Imperial Family were treated as members of the Japanese Imperial Family. The Crown Prince was invited to Japan, where he studied at the Gakushuin Peers' School, Central Preparatory Military School, and the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. After graduating, he joined the Japanese Army, ultimately rising to the

rank of lieutenant general. Following World War II, he desired to return to Korea but was forced to remain in Japan until the conclusion of the Japan-Korea Normalization Negotiations in 1963.

Thus, stepping into the Toriizaka District with its many stately homes of eminent people was for Hanako like stepping into another universe. In those days the streets were lined with cherry trees and glowing gas lamps, a high-class residential area appropriate for stately mansions. Toyo Eiwa Jogakko school, which had been established by Canadian missionaries, stood in the midst of this elegant streetscape.

More than 100 years have passed since Hanako lived in Toriizaka, and the buildings from that time no longer exist. All that remains from that era is the vestige of the original red brick wall around the Kinyoshi Sanjo residence (now the annex of the Bank of Japan).

Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, the school where Hanako studied

Hanako enrolled in Toyo Eiwa Jogakko preparatory school at the age of 10, living at the school as a boarder for 10 years until her graduation from Collegiate Department at the age of 20. The daughter of a poor tea-leaf dealer in Shinagawa, Hanako was able to enroll at Toyo Eiwa Jogakko, a school attended by the daughters of so-called good families amongst the aristocracy, due to the efforts of her father, who had a connection with the school's founder through their shared religious faith. However, she was classified as a "stipendiary student"—in other words, a scholarship student—and she was required to volunteer at an orphanage in Azabu-juban (Nagasaka Kojoin) and at Sunday School throughout her time at the school. In exchange for exemption from tuition fees, a stipendiary student could be expelled for bad grades.

In the dormitory, each day began with a church service conducted by Principal Blackmore. Classes included not only English and Bible studies, but also music, dressmaking, cooking, and physical education. The afternoon lessons were conducted in English. The female Canadian missionaries also strictly instructed the students in a range of skills, from how to speak and table manners to cleaning and bed-making. Hanako writes, "Throughout the preparatory and regular courses, Miss Blackmore was my teacher for both English conversation and grammar. Even today, I am sobered whenever I remember her strictness in English conversation class."² The teachers were also very strict about manners, and if a student made a mistake, they were told without mercy to "go to bed" to encourage repentance.

Although Hanako was initially somewhat bewildered in this environment, she immersed herself in her English studies with her inherent love of learning, reading virtually all of the English and American classical literature in the school's library. Her friends even called her "English Hanasan." Her English skills developed so well that as representative of the student body, she read aloud her graduation thesis, which was written in English, at her high school graduation. It was entitled "The Past, Present, and Future of Japanese Women."



Hana Annaka at around 18 years of age. She had already begun assisting with translations.



Principal I.S. Blackmore
Serving as the school's 7th (1896–1900) and 10th (1901–1912) principals, Isabella S. Blackmore was involved in education for 36 years. At times strict, yet overflowing with affection, this principal from Canada exerted a huge influence on Hanako.

麻布の軌跡

The Phenomena of Azabu

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|---|---|
| Early Meiji Period (late 1800s) —1923 | Sanjo Residence | | Residence of Crown Prince Yi Un of Korea | |
| Early Showa Period (mid-to-late 1920s) | Bank of Japan | | Teishitsu Rinyakyoku (Imperial Household Forestry Agency) (Higashikuni-no-miya Residence) | |
| 1952 | Company housing of the Bank of Japan | | Toriizaka Church | Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Kindergarten |
| Present day | Bank of Japan Toriizaka Branch Grounds | | Toriizaka Church | Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Kindergarten and Elementary School |
| Present day | Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Junior School, High School, and University | | Philippine Embassy | Azabu Regional City Office |
| Early Showa Period (mid-to-late 1920s) | Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin | Yoza Yamao | Yoza Yamao | Azabu Jingo Elementary School |
| | Rihei Matsumoto | Azabu Church | Ryoji Oda | Takashu Kyogoku |
| | Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin | Yoza Yamao | Yoza Yamao | Azabu Elementary School |
| | Chojiro Kashima | Azabu Church | Morinosuke Mitsui | Ichiro Motono |
| Late Meiji Period (early 1900s) | Motoyama | Yoza Yamao | Yoza Yamao | Azabu Elementary School |
| 1884 | | | | Morimichi/Ichiro Motono |

Materials: Azabu Future Photo Studio (These were prepared in 2010, and thus differ from the current structure.)

(Written/Contributed to by Nobuhito Kiyosawa; edited by Yukiko Takayanagi)

Materials/cooperation: Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin Archives
References
1 Hanako Muraoka, *Toriizaka* (1968)
2 Fumiko Matsuda (ed.), *Kono Senseitachi* (These Teachers), Kadogawa Shoten (1959)

We are recruiting volunteers in Azabu area

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. An English interpreter is available during the activity.

Eligibility:

Foreign nationals aged 20 and over who are interested in volunteer work.

Activity:

To keep the environment clean and to patrol at 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:

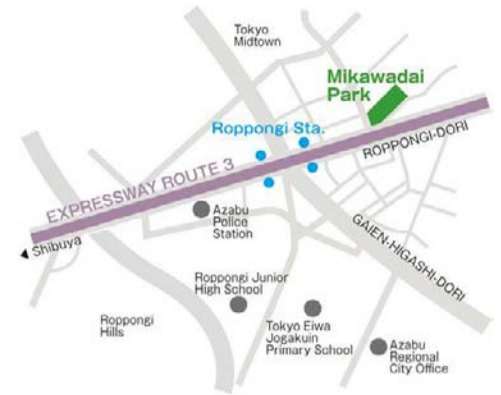
Please call or fax your name and phone number by 3 P.M. on the day before the event.

- * You can participate in both the cleanup and patrol, or either one.
- * There will be no reward.
- * The activities will be cancelled on rainy days. We will contact you on the day before the event if it happens.

Inquiries:

Collaboration Project Section of the Azabu Regional City Office.

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



Information from Twitter and Facebook

Minato City has distributed information in case of a disaster or emergency. The city will send out the information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures in English, Chinese, and Korean through Twitter and Facebook. Please utilize this service from September 1.

Twitter: @minato_city

Minato City, Tokyo

- Information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures

Information related to Minato City will be posted in times of disaster or emergency. If you retweet the post, please use only the official retweet command. In principle, we will not be providing replies.

Facebook: city.minato

Minato City, Tokyo

- Information regarding disasters and emergency countermeasures

The same information as our Twitter posts will be posted.

Section in charge: Public Relations Subsection



Twitter



English



Chinese



Korean



Facebook



English



Chinese



Korean

Come and join us! We are recruiting new members for the Azabu Junior Fire Department.

The Azabu Junior Fire Department has 35 members ranging in age from first grade elementary school to third-year junior high school including non-Japanese children who enjoy training and fun activities. Based on concept such as helping each other and behaving in an orderly manner, activities include rope-working, first-aid training, firefighting training, and rescue training.

Activities are conducted at a pace around one Sunday per month at the Azabu Fire Station. The department also plans to have "Summer camp" and go and see "Dezomeshiki-traditional new year's fire review".

If you are interested in joining, please contact the Azabu Fire Station.

Inquiries:

Ms. Hasegawa, Chiiki-bosai (Safety education), Azabu Fire Station

Mail: azabu2@tfd.metro.tokyo.jp Tel: 03-3470-0119 ext.322



Information from Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office

The Tax Agent System for Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax, and Real Estate Acquisition Tax

A taxpayer who does not hold an address within the Metropolitan area shall appoint a tax agent to handle all matters related taxation on behalf of the taxpayer. After appointing a tax agent, please submit a notification to the competent Metropolitan Taxation Office having jurisdiction over the area where the land/building is located.

For inquiries regarding land/building located in Minato Ward:

Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office, Fixed Assets Tax Section: 03-5549-3800 (main number)

Have You Submitted an Address Change Notice of the Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax Notice to the Metropolitan Taxation Office? (in 23 special wards)

Even if you have changed the address of the resident card, unless you have also changed the address of the real estate register, the sending address of the Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax Notice within 23 special wards will not change. If you have not completed the real estate registration, please submit an Address Change Notice of the Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax Notice to the Metropolitan Taxation Office.

*An Address Change Notice cannot change any other registration information except an address.

For inquiries regarding land/building located in Minato Ward:

Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office, Fixed Assets Tax Section: 03-5549-3800 (main number)

Information from Bureau of Waterworks

The Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, is promoting the **Tokyo Tap Water Project**. Potable delicious Tokyo water has the following benefits.

- **Eco-friendly and budget-pleasing**

Tap water: Turn on the tap and the water is delivered to you immediately. The energy efficiency for producing and transporting tap water is very good and eco-friendly! (Approx. 0.2 yen/liter)

- **Essential-to-daily-life**

Clean running water for washing your hands, gargling, cooking, and bathing—Tokyo Water is always close by providing support for hygienic living.

- **A promotional video can be viewed on your smartphone.**

Inquiries:

Minato Sales Office, Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

1-3-27 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Tel: 03-5444-2091



The Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (FY 2015–FY 2020) (Draft) has been completed!

Because the current Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu District Basic Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Azabu District Plan”) will conclude at the end of FY 2014, the Azabu Regional City Office has been formulating a new Azabu District Plan for FY 2015–FY 2020.

The Azabu District Plan (Draft) was completed in late October 2014, and briefings were held for participating citizens’ organizations/local residents, and opinions were solicited.



Based on the comments and suggestions for changes received, the draft was being amended and the new Azabu District Plan was to be decided at the end of January 2015.

●What is the Azabu District Plan?

The Azabu District Plan is a three-year plan of activities to be undertaken independently by the Azabu District and was formulated with a focus on local projects. It incorporates measures for resolving local issues and further enhancing the appeal of the Azabu District while optimizing the district’s characteristics.

How to hear comments and suggestions

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| October 28 and November 6, 2014 | Citizens’ organizations Briefing for the <i>Azabu-o-Katarukai</i> (Association for Discussing Azabu) |
| November 11–December 12, 2014 | Solicitation of opinions (Minato City website, <i>Koho Minato</i> newsletter (Special Issue), and the Azabu Regional City Office and certain other municipal facilities) |
| November 16 and 19, 2014 | Residents’ Briefing (Minato District) Arisu Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Regional City Office |

Azabu District Independent Local Projects

- Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project
- Disaster Prevention Network-building Project
- ★Minato de Ekotto Project
- Azabu Future Photo Studio
- Azabu International Fureai Project
- Azabu Festa
- ★Project to Invigorate Azabu through “Local Power”
- ★Forming an exchange community between Azabu and Funagata-machi in Yamagata Prefecture
- Local salons (cafes for just dropping by)
- Toy library
- Azabu Expert Club

* The project name “Forming an exchange community between Azabu and Funagata-machi in Yamagata Prefecture” is to be changed.
* Items marked with a star (★) are new local projects.

Inquiries: Community Policy Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8812

Notice regarding “Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind” activities



六本木安全安心憲章 賑わい綺麗なまち六本木を目指して

On July 23, 2013, the Roppongi Council for the Promotion of Urban Development for Safety and Peace of Mind established the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind (hereinafter referred to as “the Charter”). This charter proclaims the image that Roppongi is aiming to achieve through independent Roppongi District rules that are symbols aimed towards ensuring safety and peace of mind for people in Roppongi, as well as prescribing the rules that all people in Roppongi should adhere to.

● Charter content can be viewed in full on the Minato City Official Website or obtained from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

For further information on the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind, please see below.



Minato City Official Website
<http://www.citu.minato.tokyo.jp/>

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind

We Are Continually Looking for Shops and Businesses that Agree With the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind!!

As part of efforts to make the charter as widely known as possible, the Minato City Certification System for Recommended Businesses Supporting the Minato City Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind has been established, and shops and businesses that agree with the Charter are being recruited as follows.

●Recruitment Details

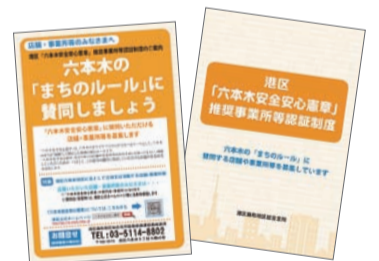
Eligibility Shops and business enterprises, etc. located or active mainly in the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome 7)

How to apply **Step 1:** Check that you understand the purport and content of the charter by looking at the Minato City Official Website

Step 2: Obtain a Letter of Agreement from the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, or from the Minato City Official Website.

Step 3: Fill in the required information on the Letter of Agreement and either send it by postal mail or submit it in person at the counter to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

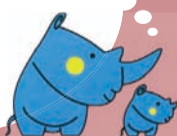
➔ The names of shops/business enterprises that agree with the charter will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as “Businesses that Agree with the Charter!”



* “Businesses that Agree with the Charter” will be sent an application form for certification as a “Supporting/Recommended Business.” After the shop/business submits the application form, the application is screened and those shops/businesses that are granted certification are presented with a certificate and certification sticker. In addition, their name and details of their activities will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters. Please note that applications for certification for FY 2014 have closed.

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

Please send us your comments or requests regarding **The Azabu**



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 City, Tokyo (106-8515).

● Tel: 03-5114-8802 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We Are Looking For **Editorial Staff**

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City homepage.



AZABU

●Location of the newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabu-juban subway stations, the Chii Bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-iki Plaza, Arisu Iki-iki Plaza, Azabu Iki-iki Plaza, Nishi-azabu Iki-iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.
●Usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

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- Sub Chief Yukiko Takayanagi
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- Kumiko Omura Akira Mori
- Keiko Orito Ryoza Yamashita
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- Yasuhiro Tanaka
- Junior Staff Mio Isobe Atsushi Sasaki

Editor’s Note

Recently, several additions have been made to my image of Azabu. First of all, there is history, and I was surprised that Azabu’s history can be traced quite a long way back (and that it took me so long to discover this fact). For those who think it would be difficult to link the images of Azabu and history, by all means, please do a little digging into the past. I’m sure you will catch a glimpse of Azabu’s cultivated side!

(Yasuhiro Tanaka)

The original article is written in Japanese.

“Minato Call” information service.

Minato call is a 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