

## A Great Survivor of a Ginkgo Tree, in the Azabusan Zenpuku-ji Temple

### Visiting the tree in early summer, 70 years after the Great Yamanote Air Raid

In the fresh green season of late spring, the big ginkgo tree commonly known as “Sakasa Icho” (The Upside-Down Ginkgo Tree) located on the premises of Azabusan Zenpuku-ji Temple, was covered with fresh green leaves again this year. The tree was terribly damaged in the Great Yamanote Air Raid\* on May 25, 1945 (the 20th year of Showa), 70 years ago. However, in the 70 years since then, this tree has continued to vigorously bud every year.

\* The Great Yamanote Air Raid

For two hours from 10:22pm on May 25, 1945, B29 bombers sustained an air raid on the middle and west areas of Tokyo. Most of the urban area burned down as a result of this air raid. According to the archives of that time, about 303 persons were killed or injured, and the fire in Azabu Ward destroyed 7,654 houses.



#### The Legendary “Sakasa Icho” (The Upside-Down Ginkgo Tree) in Azabu

In the town of Azabu where new and old coexist, the most representative of the old side is the ancient Azabusan Zenpuku-ji Temple (established in 824, the first year of the Tencho Era), and the oldest living thing is “Sakasa Icho” (The Upside-Down Ginkgo Tree) on the premises of the temple. Old ginkgo trees frequently have branches growing downward (also called “Chichine” (roots like women’s breasts) or “Kikon” (aerial root)). Because these roots have a unique shape like stalactites hanging from the ceiling of limestone caves, this tree came to be called “Sakasa Icho” (Photo 1). On the other hand, there is a legend that this ginkgo tree was grown from a cane that “Shinran Shonin (holy priest Shinran)”, thrust into the ground. Therefore, this tree is also called “Cane Ginkgo Tree”. It is estimated that this tree could be about 800 years old. Ginkgo trees are gymnosperms, with both male and female trees. This tree is a “Male” tree that doesn’t produce seeds (gingko), so it must be the oldest “man” in Tokyo.

#### The tree was the largest and oldest tree in Tokyo. After it was nationally designated as a natural monument, it was damaged.

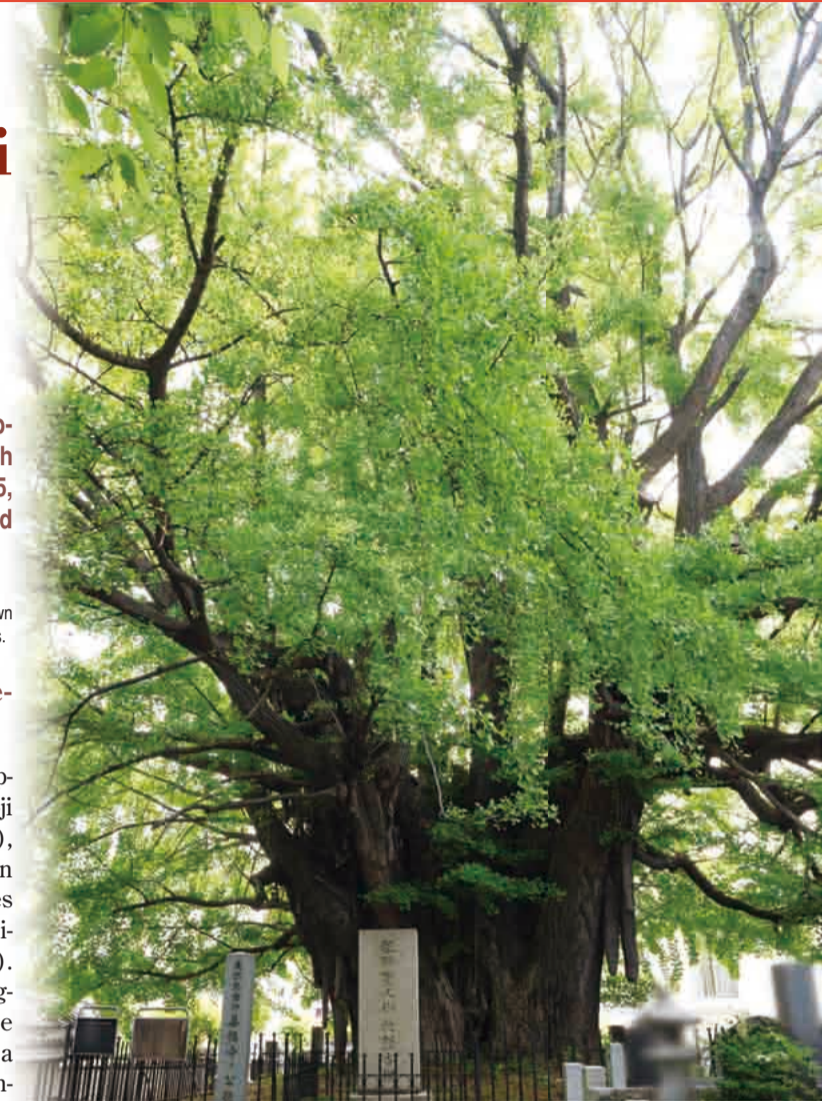
This tree was nationally designated as one of the “Natural Monuments of Historic Sites and Places of Scenic Beauty” in October 1926. According to records from that time, “the girth is 9.09m and height is 19.7m. The shape of the tree is magnificent and graceful... this is the biggest living tree in the city (notes and quote: in Tokyo City). This tree is about 750 years old (the age of the tree)... it must be the oldest tree in the city”. However, 19 years later, on May 25, 1945, “the height and the graceful shape of the tree” were both lost. Viewed from the right under the tree, you can see that the upper half of the main trunk was lost in the fire (Photo 2). However, because countless branches were growing toward the sky, the difference in “tree height” is less than what we might have expected when viewed from a distance.

#### The Vigorous Survival Power of the Big Tree Silently Tells Local History

When looking at the big tree close up, it has a multifaceted surface, giving us an impression of complex topography. It looks like there is a whole forest in one tree. In addition to the strange shapes of the branches growing downward, part of the trunk has a big hollow in it which looks like a cave (Photo 3). Another plant (perhaps a hemp palm) is parasitically growing on it



“Sakasa Icho” designated nationally as a Natural Monument at that time  
 (Source: Investigation Report for the Natural Monuments of Historic Sites and Places of Scenic Beauty in Tokyo Prefecture)



Shot on May 25, 2015: Full of life with no sign of decline, even 70 years after the damage



(Photo 4). Going around to the east side of the trunk, there’s a black burnt section; scars left from the war. (Photo 5) In particular, there was a section so carbonized that we cannot recognize it as a part of a living thing (Photo 6). It seems that this old tree has stopped in time and silently bears witness to the heat, sound, vibrations, and smells experienced 70 years ago. A witness to history.

Generally speaking, ginkgo trees are known as useful trees for fire prevention, as this tree proves. Even though the main part is burned away, the tree continues to grow and new branches grow quickly. This is a vigorous survivor. After the damage in the war, without any special “life-prolonging treatment” by humans, this tree has survived until now under its own power. When a fire prevention water tank was setup on the premises in Zenpuku-ji Temple, it was confirmed that the underground roots of the tree went to a depth of 10m. This tree is on a biological clock on a totally different in scale from ours; literally immeasurable.

Cooperation by Azabusan Zenpuku-ji Temple

#### References

- “Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot” by Peter Crane, and published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha
- “Natural and Cultural History of Ginkgo” by Toshiyuki Nagata, and published by SHOKABO Co., Ltd.
- “Investigation Report for the Natural Monuments of Historic Sites and Places of Scenic Beauty in Tokyo Prefecture” edited by Tokyo Prefectural Government (Tokyo Prefecture)
- “Great Tokyo Air Raids - War Damage Documentation, Table of Contents Volumes No. 2 and No. 3” (Tokyo Great Air Raids Reporting Society)

#### Small Art

#### Illustrated postal date stamp of Ginkgo Tree

Introduced in 1949 (the 24th year of the Showa Era), and designed by Teizo Kasori

This can be stamped only at the Azabu Post Office (1-6-19, Azabudai) if you ask at the counter.





# 麻布びと

"Azabu — A Human Story"

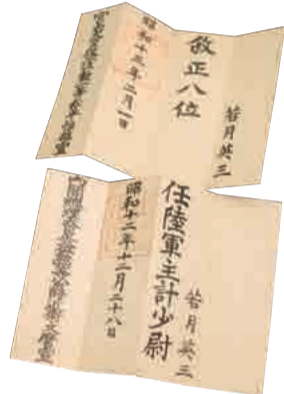
## Still active even over 100 years old

There are about 60,000 people over 100 years old in Japan, out of whom 108 (as of May 1, 2015) are living in Minato City. However, the number of these people who still have jobs and regularly go to their offices would be fewer. This time, the interviewee, 103-year-old Mr. Eizo Wakatsuki, is still active and goes to his office in Tsukiji three days a week. We asked him about his memory of Azabu before the war and his secret for a long life.

### His Young Days in Roppongi, Military Town

Mr. Wakatsuki was born in Kofu City in Yamanashi Prefecture in 1911 (the 44th year of the Meiji Era). Planning to become a lawyer, he entered the Faculty of Law at Meiji University. After graduating in 1935 (the 10th year of the Showa Era), he joined the Army as a military cadet (in the Accounting Department) and started military life in a dormitory as a member of the 1st Infantry Regiment in what is now Tokyo Midtown. In 1936, young officers tried to carry out a coup d'état, the so-called "February 26th Incident", which failed. The young officers who joined the attempt were put to death. Some friends of Mr. Wakatsuki, who lived in the same room as him, were among these officers.

In addition to the 1st Infantry Regiment, the building of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, was located in the area, currently the National Art Center, until the end of the War. This was referred to as the "one and only modern building (built of reinforced concrete) in Japan", and Roppongi was the town where many



Serviceman Appointment Slip. The name of Fumimaro Konoe (Prime Minister at that time) is seen on it.



Signature Pose at the time he was an officer

servicemen were seen hanging around. Seishido, located on a corner of the Roppongi intersection, was the only special bookshop for military books in Tokyo. Yamawaki Girls' High School (moved to Tango-cho, Akasaka – at present Akasaka 4-chome – in November 1935) was located next to the 1st Infantry Regiment building. During breaks, many schoolgirls in their sailor-collared uniforms watched the military exercises from the second floor of the school building.

In front of the 3rd Infantry Regiment building area entrance (currently on the north side of the Museum Street), there was a Western style food restaurant called "Ryudoken" (which later moved to Nishi-azabu 1-chome). This restaurant was always crowded with officers, particularly on Sundays. Mr. Wakatsuki told us that he was a big fan of the curry & rice and fried pork cutlets in this restaurant, and went there often.

At the end of the war, Mr. Wakatsuki was in Tokyo. In 1948, he got a job at Tsukiji Fish Market through a recommendation from his friend. At the time, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government managed the Market. Afterward, he



Looking the Seishido Bookshop from the opposite side of the Roppongi intersection ("1930 Nippon Chiri Fuzoku Taikai" published by Seibundo Shinkosha Publishing Co., Ltd.)

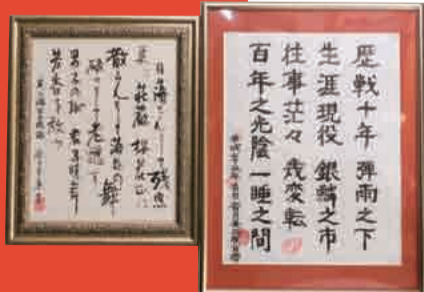
In the Meiji Era, cultured people, and in the Showa Era, servicemen, often came to this Western style restaurant called "Ryudoken". Picture provided by Ryudoken



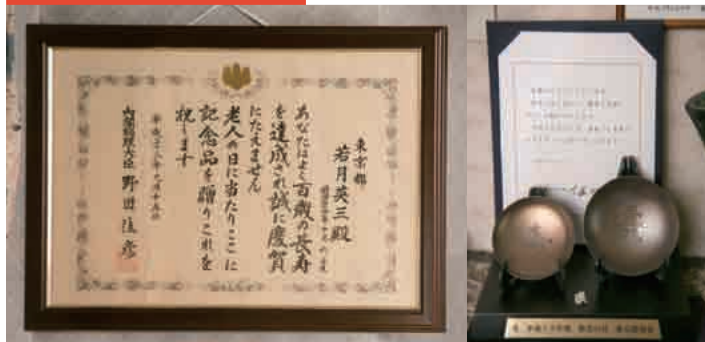
moved to a wholesale company in the market and ever since, for more than half a century, he has been watching over this market, "The Kitchen of Tokyo". His services have been highly appreciated and he was granted a Yellow Ribbon Medal in 1996.

### Training both in Letters and Arms

Three days a week, he goes to the office of the company he has served as an advisor, and still keeps a watchful eye on the company management. When I asked about the secret of long life, he answered, "This year, I became 60 years old, but it took 103 years". He told us that he has always had an easygoing lifestyle. However, his lifestyle looks quite strict, far from easygoing. He stopped smoking when he was 60 years old and does not drink alcohol. He eats up every dish served for him and laughs often. In addition to physical exercise every morning, he does not miss 50 practice



Tankas composed when he was 102 years old (on the right side) and 103 years old (on the left). He made a good showing of his whole active life.



On the Respect-for-the-Aged Day when he turned 100 years old, he received congratulatory gifts and certificates of recognition from the Prime Minister and Governor of Tokyo.



Certification of Recognition for Yellow Ribbon Medal: He went to court with his wife who passed away soon after.



Swinging his wooden sword 50 times every morning, afternoon, and night: His solid muscle is the proof of his whole active life.

swings of his wooden sword every morning, afternoon, and night.

He told me that his hobby was to follow economic trends, and he reads three economic newspapers carefully cover to cover. When he finds any interesting news, he writes it down on a memo pad he keeps close at hand. Also, he composes 'tanka' (original Japanese style poems), and writes them down in a large notebook just like a diary. When I asked him to show some of his recent poems from among the ten notebooks he has, he read them loudly but a little self-consciously.

### Sokai no Chikazuku Tabini Intai wo Omoedo Hikenu Shougai Geneki

(Whenever the time for the stockholders' general meeting comes close, the word "retirement" comes to mind, but I cannot retire because I plan on being in active service my whole life).

### Omoikiya Hyakuyon-sai mo Shikono Kan Kouun Ryusui Kazeno Fukumama

(When I think back on everything, 104 years of life is just a short time. Not knowing the future, and not becoming too attached to anything, I wish my life to go in any direction the wind blows.)

He composed these two tankas with his mind swaying between retirement and active service after the settlement and before the stockholders' general meeting this spring.

### Strong Family Ties are also the Secret to Longevity

He has lived alone since his wife passed away 10 years ago.

His oldest son and his wife live nearby and take care of him, including making his meals. However, he cleans his rooms and washes his clothes himself. In his notebook, he has written tankas thanking his oldest son's wife, who willingly takes care of him as if she were his own daughter.



He records anything he finds interesting in his hand-made memo pad.

### Roware wo Itawarikureshi Korekoso-ga Choujuno Hiketsu Hiroko Arigato

(You take care of me, although I am very old. It is my secret of long life. Thank you, Hiroko).

### Roware wo Itawari Sasaeru Konohitowo, Tsumani Erabishi Hideo Arigato

(She takes care of and supports me, despite my age. You chose her to be your wife. Thank you, Hideo.)

He also does not forget to express his gratitude to his son. He told us that he would keep these two tankas secret while he is alive, with a charming smile.

Although we believe that he is a serious and honest man, we were surprised to find this page in the abovementioned notebook.

In January 2015 Singing when I have nothing to do

### Akasaka Kouta (Akasaka Ballad)

Lyrics by Romantic Hyakusan

♪ *Miyako Akasaka Hito mo shigoroni, Hitotsugi-dori Hito no nami Tsuki mo Tayutou SAKAS no Yoruni, Akasaka Odori Mai no Sode*

(In Akasaka City, at the time the lamps are turned on, there are waves of people in Hitotsugi-dori Street. In the night around Akasaka SAKAS with the moon swaying, we can see waving sleeves in the lines of Akasaka folk dancers).

♪ *Minako Akasaka Nogizaka Atari, Mukashi Gunto no Ryudo-cho Ima wa Takumi no Hananoka Kisou Triangle Bijutsukan*

(In Akasaka City, around Nogizaka Slope, there is a town called "Ryudo-cho" that used to be a military town. Now, it is an art town where brilliant artists compete with each other in the triangle area with three museums)

♪ *Minato Akasaka Neon no Kagede Dare wo Matsuyara Yo wa Fukeru Konya Iouka Akirameyouka, Hanakin Yoru no Roppongi*

(In Akasaka City, in the shade of neon light, I don't know who you are waiting for. Night goes on. Tonight, should I tell her I love her, or should I give her up? A Friday night in Roppongi.)

Staying involved in society, basking in the love of his family, not forgetting his sense of humor, and living every day to the fullest, he is an admirable person. It was energizing just being with him.

(Interviewed and written by Kyoko Ideishi)



# The Azabu Future Photo Studio

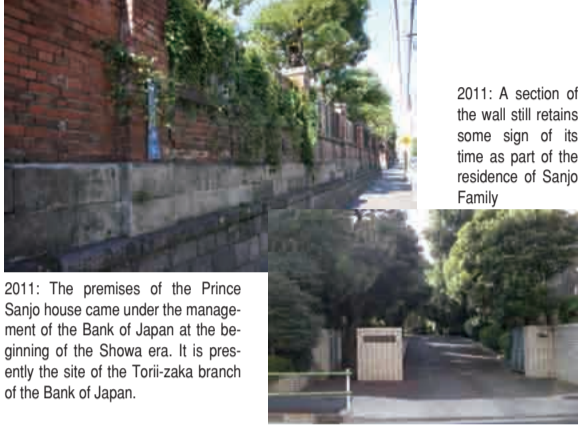
# - Through the Meiji, Taisho and Showa Eras - Torii-zaka Slope (2)

## - More Homes of Famous People -

Following the previous edition, we look back at the houses of famous people closely associated with the history and culture of the Edo, Meiji, Taisho and Showa Eras who once lived in the Torii-zaka area through valuable photos and profiles of these figures.

### Home of the Sanjo Family

This house, which once belonged to Prince Sanjo, was located across from the present-day site of Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin. Prince Sanetomi Sanjo became the chief minister after the Meiji Restoration and was appointed as Minister of the Interior following the inauguration of the parliamentary cabinet. He passed away on February 18, 1891 in his main house in Azabu Ichibei-cho. After that, Kinyoshi Sanjo, who became the head of the family following the death of Sanetomi Sanjo, moved the main house to its 1 Torii-zaka-cho address.



2011: The premises of the Prince Sanjo house came under the management of the Bank of Japan at the beginning of the Showa era. It is presently the site of the Torii-zaka branch of the Bank of Japan.

2011: A section of the wall still retains some sign of its time as part of the residence of Sanjo Family

### Home of the Yamao Family

Yozo Yamao, who provided Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin with the land on which it currently stands, came from the Choshu Domain (present day Yamaguchi Prefecture) and lived from the final days of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the Taisho Era. He learned the art of navigation in Edo, and studied various engineering sciences in London and Glasgow together with Hirobumi Itoh, Kaoru Inoue, Masaru Inoue and Kinsuke Endo in 1863 before his return to Japan in 1868. Following his return, he held a succession of engineering-related posts in the government, and was appointed as the first Chief of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau after the inauguration of the parliamentary cabinet system.



2011: Only a part of the original wall remains. A condominium building occupies most of the site.

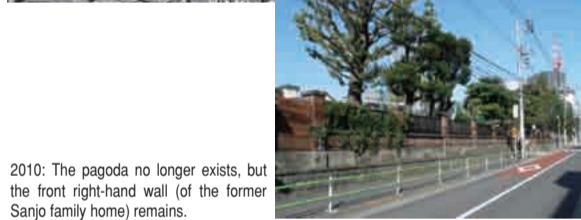
Unfortunately, no photo exists showing the Yamao family home. A company office was later constructed on the site. Source: "Modern Architecture Guidebook," issued by Kajima Institute Publishing Co., Ltd.

### The Kawasaki Family Home, with a Three-Storeyed Pagoda

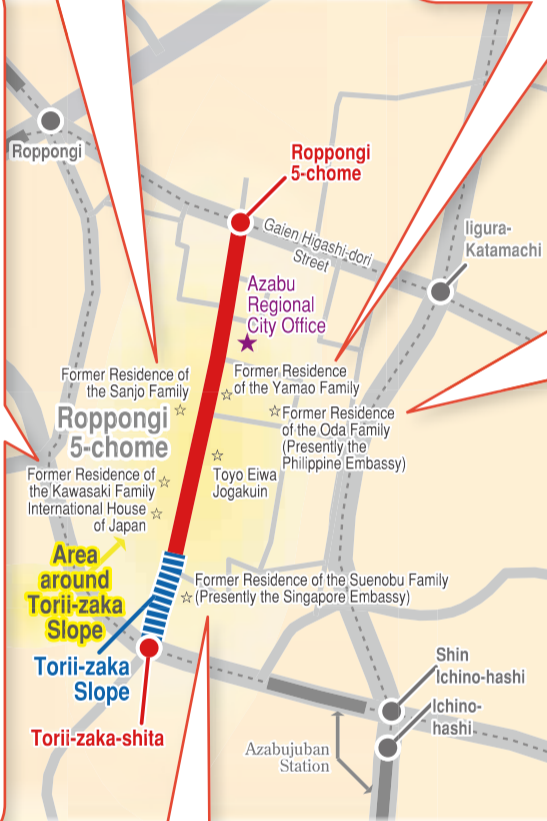
The home of Kinzaburo Kawasaki was located at 2-1 Torii-zaka. He served as an executive director of the former Chiyoda Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd., and then of Chiyoda Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. This land was owned by an organization called "Teitokukai," which later became Kawasaki Teitoku & Co., Ltd. It is said that there was once a pagoda on the premises of the Kawasaki family home. In this photo the pagoda can be seen behind the new construction of the Toyo Eiwa Jogakko (presently Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin) building.



1932: The three-storeyed pagoda visible at the back of the photo was located on the premises of the Kawasaki family home. In the foreground, the construction of the Toyo Eiwa Jogakko building is underway. Picture provided by Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin



2010: The pagoda no longer exists, but the front right-hand wall (of the former Sanjo family home) remains.



### Home of the Oda Family, with an Astronomical Observatory

To the east of the Yamao family home, in the land alongside Nagasaka-cho (presently 6 and 7-1 Higashi-Torii-zaka-cho), originally stood the home of Morinosuke Mitsui. A member of one of the eleven Mitsui families, Morinosuke Mitsui's household was known as the Nagasaka-cho Mitsui family. However, the home of Ryoji Oda was constructed on this site at the end of Taisho Era, as Morinosuke Mitsui had by then moved to his new 1 Nagasaka address. As soon as Ryoji Oda obtained the land he constructed a Western-style house with an astronomical observatory, designed by the American architect James McDonald Gardiner in 1924.



1932: The round building visible at the center was an astronomical observatory located on the premises of the Oda family home. In front, the construction of the Toyo Eiwa Jogakko building can be seen.



2010: The present Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines



1983: The Oda family home, together with the astronomical observatory, was once used as the Embassy building for the Republic of the Philippines. Picture provided by Mr. Hiroshi Koyama

### Home of Michinari Suenobu, Designed by Josiah Conder

Before the war Michinari Suenobu owned what is now the site of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore. He was the top executive member of the Mitsubishi Group, and later served as the chairman of the former Tokyo Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. He asked the famous English architect Josiah Conder to design a two-storeyed Western-style house for him, and constructed it in 1907. The home of the Suenobu family was a half-timbered (\*1) design, just like Josiah Conder's own house, located in Mikawadai-machi.



The home of the Suenobu family in its prime. Source: "JOSIAH CONDER," issued by Kenchiku Gahou Inc.



2010: The Embassy of the Republic of Singapore is presently located on this site.

### Josiah Conder's Own Home, Formerly Located in Mikawadai

Conder designed the former home of Hisaya Iwasaki in Ikenohata, Taito City, which still stands as an important government-designated cultural property. He also designed the Ueno Museum and the Rokumeikan and Mitsui Club buildings, and is praised as the father of modern architecture in Japan. In May 1904, Conder obtained a plot of more than 800 tsubos (about 2,640m<sup>2</sup>) in Mikawadai (close to Mikawadai Park, at what is currently Roppongi 4-chome) and constructed a half-timbered (\*1) Western-style building and an additional Japanese-style house. Over the next 10 years, starting with his own home, he would create a variety of gorgeous and elegant house designs.



Source: "JOSIAH CONDER," issued by Kenchiku Gahou Inc.

\*1: Half Timbered: This architectural technique for the construction of wooden houses (also called half-timber framing) employs exposed timber pillars as part of the walls, and was used mainly in northern Europe. The technique was frequently used in houses in England from the 15th to 17th centuries. The wooden framework, including the pillars, beams, diagonal bracing (diagonal beams), puncheons and windowsills, is not hidden, and is instead integral to the external decorative design. The buildings are finished using mortar, bricks and stone between the frameworks.

### 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.

**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.  
**Tel: 03-5114-8812**





**Republic of Haiti**  
 Area: 27,750 km<sup>2</sup> (Approx. 1/3 of the area of Hokkaido)  
 Population: 10,510,000 people (as of 2015: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: ECLAC)  
 Capital City: Port-au-Prince  
 Head of State: President Michel Joseph MARTELLY (Inaugurated in May 2011 for a five year term)  
 Legislature: Bicameral System (Upper House (30 seats) and Lower House (99 seats))

From the Ministry of Foreign Affaires website:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofa/area/haiti/>

Judith EXAVIER CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM

Republic of Haiti

Article Collaboration:  
 Embassy of the Republic of Haiti

# Haiti

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## From the "World" of Azabu



The national flag of Haiti has changed many times with the political changes. The current national flag was decided on in 1986. Red represents mulatto (mixed blood of white and black persons), blue represents black persons and the central emblem represents their fight for freedom and independence. "A freedom hat" is located on the top of the palm tree and drums, wind instruments and trumpets are arranged as war trophies, and cannons and cannon balls to the right and left. The letters written at the root of the palm tree mean, "Unity gives us the Power".

### Haiti's energetic national character converts "Negative" to "Positive"!

The Republic of Haiti (hereinafter called "Haiti") is located in the west of Hispaniola Island in the Caribbean Sea. The area of this country is small, about 1/3 of the area of Hokkaido in Japan. The Dominican Republic is in the east of this country. Ms. Judith Exavier, Charge d'Affaires ad interim (hereinafter called "Ambassador"), appeared in a bright orange dress and white jacket, exactly matching the image of a cheerful and passionate Caribbean Sea. She is tall and slender. In the interview, she told us about Haiti open-heartedly and with great passion.

#### The Great Earthquake of 2010, and the 300,000 victims

One year before the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, a great earthquake registering a magnitude of 7 hit Haiti on January 13, 2010. The seismic center was the area close to the capital, Port-au-Prince. The exact number of victims is unknown. It was said 220,000 to 300,000 people perished. Also, about 3 million people, 1/3 of the population of Haiti, were left impoverished from the disaster caused by the great earthquake. At that time, the Ambassador was in New York working for the United Nations (UN). From the following month, she started visiting refugee camps in her mother country and accepted interviews from journalists from foreign countries. While taking care of her relatives who had narrowly escaped death, she spent many days making every effort to collect funds for the reconstruction through her cultivated personal connections.

She not only aimed at recovery from the cruel situation created by the great earthquake, but also continued to act as a driving force for the idea of a "Much Better Haiti". In October of a year of violent change, she was assigned to be the Charge d'Affaires



A painting by a Haitian painter, Denis Rousseau  
 His paintings reflecting the colorful workings of nature in Haiti, are well known worldwide.

ad interim for the Embassy of Haiti in Japan.

#### When she was asked what "her dream for the future" was, she answered that she would like to be "the President" of Haiti.

The Ambassador was born in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and grew up in a good family in which both her mother and father had great success as a politician and an industrialist. After graduating senior high school, she entered law school. However, she moved to the US and entered the university and graduate school in the US because of the instability of the political situation in Haiti. After studying human rights, development studies and international relations, she worked for UNICEF and the UN. Her arrival at this new post at this time was the first diplomatic appointment of the current President Michel Joseph Martelly Administration. After coming to Japan, she studies politics in a doctoral course in graduate school when she can find a spare moment in her extremely busy schedule. At the same time, she does not forget to have time to enjoy her music appreciation, cooking and dance hobbies. She manages to perfectly play her role and carry out her mission as a well-chosen diplomat, while at the same time she enjoys her life. Her attitude really inspired us.

She told us with a big smile that when she was asked what "her dream for the future" was, she answered that she would like to be the "the President" of Haiti". She added that her teacher was amazed at such an answer from her.

#### "Women's Empowerment": is it the National Character of Haiti?

Like the Ambassador, the level of women's social progress is high in Haiti and many positive images of women can be seen. For the Ambassador, the best role model in the world is her mother. She believes that she can do anything if she tries and she does not lose heart in any time of trouble. She never says "No". The Ambassador has inherited this mental strength from her mother.

Generally speaking, 65% of women are engaged in an occupation and 40% are the heads of a family. It is clearly a different situation, in that more women generally support the family budget in Haiti, compared to Japan. It is amazing even to us.

"There are many men in Haiti who imagine they are enjoying



their lives by always drinking alcohol and staring at the beautiful sea", she explained humorously. Haiti is an island nation like Japan where the sea is very beautiful and the weather is hot. She told us that there are many men who love drinking. However, her explanation made us feel the "open-mindedness" and "passion" of Haiti rather than giving us the impression that men in Haiti work less hard than women.

#### No Compulsory Education in Haiti: Going to school is expensive.

In Haiti, there is no compulsory education system. Receiving an education is still "extravagant" for them. The literacy rate is less than 50%, and the present situation is that 50% of the people live on less than 2 dollars a day. Under the current President Michel Joseph Martelly Administration, they clearly recognize the importance of education. A national policy of providing a basic education for free for three years and providing educational materials, uniforms and lunches once a day, has been promoted for five successive years. 1.4 million people have used these services and the situation has been improving step by step.

#### Recovering Haiti

Five years have passed since the great earthquake and some new hotels have been constructed. Haiti has recovered to the point that it can accept one million visitors. It has a world famous beautiful coastline, continuously blue skies, ladies with colorful dresses and natural essential oil fragrances. The sight-seeing spot recommended by the Ambassador is surely "the coastline in Abaca Bay in Jacmel, a famous resort town in the south of Haiti".

The Ambassador herself was very attractive, and always spoke positively. We got the impression that the harsh realities we'd heard of in Haiti, as a disaster-stricken country, could be swept away by her passion. We honestly felt that we would like to visit Haiti sometime soon. This interview was very fruitful and gave us hope.



A drum used in the music performances such as for Haitian music "Kompa".  
 Haitian people love singing and dancing.



The highlight of Haitian women's clothing is the colorful textiles.



A small island called "Ile a Vache" located close to Abaca Bay on the coastline in the south of Haiti



地域社会  
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"The Local Community"

Permanent Edition

Please Obtain the Necessary Information Regarding Disaster Measures in the Region.

There may be no point in time at which we have experienced more national disasters than we are currently. In urban districts like Azabu, in particular, we are anxious about the damage that can be caused by earthquakes, unexpectedly strong rain or typhoons. We should prepare for such damage as much as possible, and on a routine basis. In addition to preparation at home, it is important for us to understand disaster measures within the district. We interviewed a staff member at the Azabu Regional City Office about places of refuge and emergency public facilities.

1. Check the Evacuation Procedure

For example, when an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 5 or more hits the region, it is very important to protect yourself: make sure that fires are out (gas stoves, etc.), and confirm the safety of your family members. If you feel worried about remaining at home, go to a specified **Local Meeting Place**. In the Azabu region there are about 40 regional meeting places, including parks, schools and temple grounds, for each town association or residents' association. Confirmation of safety, mutual aid and information exchange will be available there. After confirming that there is no damage to your house, you can return home.

If it is difficult for you to remain in your home because of damage to your building, **Resident Evacuation Site** (Local Disaster Preparedness Center) will be opened in schools or at Iki-iki Plaza. Daily necessities such as food will be distributed here, and you'll be able to stay for several days. Also, a special **Welfare Evacuation Site** will be opened for handicapped people or the aged, for whom staying in the Resident Evacuation Site (Local Disaster Preparedness Center) would be problematic. Related information can be accessed on the Minato City Website.

Arisugawano-miya Memorial Park has been specified as a **Wide-Area Evacuation Site** for the Azabu region. The location will provide particularly safe shelter in the case of a spreading fire. Food and other daily necessities will not be distributed there.

\* If you do not know where your town-association meeting place or regional meeting place is, check the disaster prevention map described in Item 2, or contact the Azabu Regional City Office directly.

2. Possession of the Azabu Area Disaster Prevention Map is a Must

The "2013 Revised Edition Minato City Azabu Area Disaster Prevention Map" was prepared by The Azabu Regional City Office and distributed to all households by post in April 2013. Information about places of refuge, procedures in case of an earthquake, a flow chart for evacuation and basic first aid instruction are all provided in this map. Store it in an accessible place where all family members can easily find it.



If you cannot find this map in your house, please go to the Azabu Regional City Office to obtain one.



3. Emergency Public Facilities You Will Need to Know About

● Manhole Toilets

Some homes may have prepared emergency portable toilets. However, a total of 110 manhole toilets will also be prepared at 18 locations in the Azabu area, including the Resident Evacuation Center. These toilets are directly connected to the sewer system, with no need for maintenance. When a disaster hits, these manhole covers will be opened and temporary toilets will be set up over them. Minato City employees will come to assemble them.



The manhole diameter is small, only 20cm, in order to prevent small children from falling in. The cover cannot be opened without the use of a special tool. The level of comfort of the toilet is more than adequate, and very stable. (In front of Azabu Nursery School).

● Cooking Stove Bench

Usually they are used as normal benches. However, in times of disaster, these benches can have their seats removed, and firewood or charcoal fires can be started under them for cooking. They are located in Mikawadai Park and Iigura Park in the Azabu area.



More cooking stove benches are required. (In Mikawadai Park)

● Emergency Wells

Usually local wells are not used, and the cover is locked in order to prevent vandalism. In times of disaster, a Minato City staff member will unlock the cover and potable water will be accessible. In the Azabu area, local wells are located in Mikawadai Park, Kogai Park, Mamiana Park and Nishi-azabu 2-chome Children's Park.



It is recommended that you confirm the location of your nearest emergency well. (Left: In Mikawadai Park, Right: In Kogai Park)

● Sandbags

In the event of overflowing rivers due to a heavy rain, sandbags are useful for protecting your house and garage from flooding. Sandbags are sold at home-centers and can also be rented from Minato City. They are stored in 8 places throughout the Azabu region, including in the parks and green spaces along the Furukawa River and in the Azabu Regional City Office. If you are anxious about flooding, please make an inquiry.



A sandbag is heavy, about 5 to 6kg. (In Azabu Regional City Office)

Azabu Disaster Prevention Map



(As of July 1, 2015)

For inquiries about disaster prevention, please contact the Azabu Regional City Office. Tel: 03-5114-8802

● Interviewees:

- Mr. Ryo Matsumura, Disaster Prevention Subsection, Disaster Prevention Section, Disaster Prevention & Crisis Management Department
- Mr. Junpei Tsuzuki, Public Works Subsection, Collaboration Project Section
- Mr. Kazumasa Yamaguchi, Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section





Hiromichi Shugio in Full Dress

## The “Beauty of Japan” becomes the “Beauty of the World”

The casual beauty of everyday lives of ordinary townspeople is expressed in art like ukiyo-e (colored woodblock prints in the Edo period). The compositions and colors of such ukiyo-e prints had significant impact on several important impressionist painters, including Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh, and other painters influenced by Japonism. They say that the paintings of such impressionists were collected even more in the US than in France. This page shows the story of a “samurai” in the Meiji and Taisho Eras, who was active in the US at that time, and played an important part getting the beauty of Japanese ceramics, kakemono (scrolls), as well as ukiyo-e, accepted around the world. He was also involved in international expositions and exhibitions overseas and national industrial exhibitions in Japan, desiring industrial development with the creation of the Beauty of Japan, and the establishment of a national museum.

### Hiromichi Shugio (Shigyo) (1853 – 1927)

Hiromichi Shugio was born in 1853 to the samurai family of the Saga Domain. He was recommended by the administration of the Saga Domain, and entered Daigaku Nanko (Tokyo Imperial University). After studying in the US, he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and worked in the Japanese Consulate in Xiamen in the Empire of China. In 1877, he was appointed as the first branch manager of Mitsui Co., Ltd. in Hong Kong. In 1880, he changed jobs and started working for Kiryu Kosho Kaisha's New York Branch, appointed as branch manager later on. This company was established to export and promote Japanese crafts. In 1883, he was involved in the Boston World Exposition business in the US as the acting chairman of the exhibitors. Afterward, he participated in many fairs and exhibitions. Kiryu Kosho Kaisha could not meet consumer demand in Europe, and as a result dissolved in 1891.

In 1897, Shugio opened a fine art shop “Sanshodo” on 5th Avenue in New York.

While he was running business, in 1880, he joined “The Tile Club”, “The Century Association” and “The Aldine Club” where printers, sculptors, musicians, architects, and artists in New York, gathered together; and “The Japan Society, London”, and “The Caxton Club” that dispersed fine art. In 1889, he organized an ukiyo-e exhibition at “The Grolier Club”, held for the first time in the US. At a special sale of ukiyo-e prints in 1896, he gave commentaries for each work of ukiyo-e artists including Harunobu Suzuki in the catalogue, with which he developed something new in the ukiyo-e business.

He associated with many US artists in such clubs, and seemed to be influenced by the spirit of artists pursuing ultimate beauty. He had a life-long interest in fine art, from simple craft products to ukiyo-e, ceramics, and kakemono (scrolls). At the same time he was involved in the World Exposition, exhibitions, and fairs through his business, and promoted his business for Japan's industrial development and to promote the beauty of Japan, in particular ceramics.

His interest in beauty is understandable as he himself was a collector of ukiyo-e. He belonged to the Japan Ukiyo-e Association, and was later listed as “Maegashira” (senior grade) in the “East Side” in the ranking list of refined aficionados of ukiyo-e of all ages and countries (similar to ranks in sumo wrestling).

After that, he expressed his views on ukiyo-e in “The Art of Japan” in English in 1915, which was an excellent text.

He wrote “The creation of this ukiyo-e was the result of our common people's protest against the old aristocratic art, and we might say that it was the artistic declaration of independence in Japan. It has done more toward educating our people and in spreading the artistic taste among them by illustrating our histories, novels, poems, romances, books of travel, and it has at the same time helped in improving our art of color printing, which gave to us the means and pleasure of enjoying our pictures in a cheaper form”. Perhaps, in such ukiyo-e art, painters of the impressionist school felt the attractive freshness by intuition and found the expressive beauty.

Speaking of ukiyo-e, the ukiyo-e collection of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 - 1959) who designed the former Imperial Hotel building, is very famous. He asked Shugio to collect many ukiyo-e prints. These ukiyo-e prints are now owned by the Museum of Fine Arts Boston in its collection.

According to Shugio's letter to Shigenobu Okuma (1838 - 1922) left in Waseda University, he was living in the house addressed 1-5, Iigura-machi, Azabu-ku (present Azabudai 1-chome) from about 1898 to his later years. Based on the fact that Shugio was a close friend of Frank Lloyd Wright and that Toson Shimazaki (1872 - 1943) wrote that there was a house designed by Wright, located near Gangizaka slope and on the same side of Taishido, in his essay, “Iigura Fukin” (Around Iigura area) in 1930, it is reported that the building (built in 1921) separate from the main building in Shugio Family House premises, was surely designed by Wright. I visited Iigura-machi myself, but unfortunately, I could not find any photos of those days.

Shugio was also a collector of classic books. He made some ownership stamps. He also made a Western-style bookplate to be attached to the rear side of the cover. The bookplate is the same as the ownership stamp. However, the history of bookplate goes back to the 15th century and perhaps it means “Exlibris” (from the book owned by ~), in Latin.

The features of bookplate are that names, some favorite words, and a brief can be written on it. They can be made of copper, wood, and stone, and have high artistic value. Shugio has a Japanese style bookplate with falling Sakurafubuki that means shower of cherry blossoms.

Bookplate with “Shower of Cherry Blossoms”  
Size: About 3cm x 3cmSeal Impressions of  
“Shouka Suiryu Dokoro”  
and “Shugio Zosho”

Shugio seems a rather witty person to have used the distinctive bookplate feature for an ownership stamp. Around 1898, he was living in Iigura-machi and decided to use letters from the phrase “Shouka Suiryu Dokoro” (a place with water running under pine trees) for his ownership stamp, perhaps in reference to his house being at the middle of a slope from three directions: From the front, Iiguramamianacho and Gangizaka Ue, and in the rear the verdant Nishikubo Hachiman Shrine. If correct, Shugio was also a humorist. A classic book collection in Waseda University Library, which was owned by Shugio, has a “Shouka Suiryu Dokoro” or “Shoka Suiryu Dokoro Zosho” ownership mark.

### World Expositions in Various Countries

Around 1890, W. E. Griffis (1843 - 1928), E. F. Fenollosa (1853 - 1908), a philosopher, P. L. Hearn (1850 - 1904), Japan researcher, and E. S. Morse (1838 - 1925), a zoologist, all of whom lectured at one time or another at the Tokyo Imperial University, wrote articles about daily life and fine art in Japan for US magazines. This helped to foster the development of interest in Japan.

Around this time, the craft products export business was growing. Two important companies, Samurai Shokai in Yokohama and Yamanaka Shokai, an antiques dealer in Kyoto, started an export business to the US. Bunkyo Matsuki also became well known for ukiyo-e and Morimura-gumi for ceramics sales. Also, Kiryu Kosho Kaisha started their world export business, and Tadamas Hayashi started a vigorous antique dealership in Paris. Later, they were told that they were responsible for the flow of Japanese art out from Japan. Shugio was involved in various expositions, exhibitions, and fairs in and out of Japan through his business.

Hiromichi Shugio was first appointed as a juror for the Industry and Fine Art Section of the 3rd National Industrial Exhibition in 1890. He was then appointed as a secretary and manager of the Foreign Affairs Section. Following that, he became an official of the Sonin rank, and a senior official in the 5th National Industrial Exhibition. He was again later appointed as a juror for the Taisho Exhibition. Between 1893 and 1915, Shugio served as a juror for fine art in the “World's Columbian Exposition”. At the same time, he accepted the request of the US organizer to be an international juror for pictures and woodblock printing. He was appointed as a secretary for the “Universal Exposition in Paris”; a secretary for the “Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis in 1904”; a chief councilor for metal-works, ceramics, and Japanese lacquered works in the Fine Art Section for the Japan British Exhibition in London; and a councilor in the “Panama-Pacific International Exposition” in San Francisco in 1915. In this exhibition in San Francisco, he was also asked to be a juror for the art and sculpture section by the US organizer.

While Shugio was involved in many expositions and exhibitions, in 1890 he wrote “Fragmentary Notes on Japanese Ceramics” in English for “The Curio” magazine in the US. He also compiled and edited the catalogue for Western watercolor drawings and oil paintings, and a Japanese ceramics collection for an American art collector in 1893. In the catalogue, he wrote “Nippon Tojiki Joron” (Introduction of Japanese Ceramics), which then gained popularity. In 1910, he also wrote “Japanese Art and Artists of Today (II): Ceramic Artists” in the British “The Studio” magazine, with photos of a large pot. Shugio came from Saga Prefecture, famous for ceramics, so he made great efforts to promote ceramics. Also, around 1899, he completed seven volumes of “Japanese Art Folio” where he included descriptions of artists, art works and their owners and photos of the kakemono (scrolls), including “Mouko Zu” (drawing of a wild tiger) by Oukyo Maruyama, and more. Afterward he sold them at art book special sales in “The Caxton Club”. He successfully spread the beauty of Japan in the US.

In Japan, he focused on the importance of design, and explained in “Zuan Fukyu no Hoho” (Methods for spreading Design Creation) in 1902 that it would be better to teach design for fine art and craft products as early as elementary or junior high school, so that future designers can easily respond to demand for art and products.

Shugio recalled his efforts at various World Exhibitions including “the World's Columbian Exposition”, “the Universal Exposition in Paris”, “the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis in 1904”, and “the Japan British Exhibition in London”, and how world exhibitions help to develop economies the local cities as well as promote friendship. He did research on how to help exhibition visitors understand the essence of civilization in Japan through the Japanese exhibits. He also found ways for Japanese to have confidence in their art and culture, so that exhibits could be advantageous to both Japanese exhibitors and visitors. He did so in the hope that these exhibitions could be good chances for business development. When the Japan Exposition was still in the planning stage, Shugio suggested that “a museum ought to be constructed for permanent use, and it should be converted to a National Museum when the exposition closes”.

Shugio desired the spread and preservation of Japanese art in and out of Japan, and was decorated with the Fifth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Hiromichi Shugio did not say what happened in his business to any of his family members. He was a reticent and quiet character, and loved his cat most of all. He was always helpful to others his whole life long, mindful of one of Saga Hagakure's vows: “Dai-Ji Hi-Shin” (the spirit of encouragement and consideration).

(Titles omitted)

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“Nihon Dai Hakurankai ni taisuru Kibo” (Hope for Japan Exposition) Shin Jidai No. 1 in Volume No. 1 in January 1908

Preface by Marques Shigenobu Okuma owned by “Hagakure: Kirishima Rongosho”, published by Hagakure Memorial Press

#### Materials/Cooperation

Sosyu Shigyo, Director of Memorial Gallery of Toshima Yasumasa and President of BIOTEC Co., Ltd.

Yumiko Fusegi, Management Chief of Memorial Gallery of Toshima Yasumasa

Misaki Abe, Curator of Memorial Gallery of Toshima Yasumasa

Mr. Sosyu Shigyo is a grandson of Hiromichi Shugio, who told me all about Hiromichi Shugio's personal character, the chronological record, the bookplates, and more. He provided me with invaluable materials that were very helpful.

Mr. Toru Kobayashi, President of the Iigura-machi Town Association, guided me around Iigura-machi.

Mr. Sosyu Shigyo, Director of Memorial  
Gallery of Toshima Yasumasa

(Written by Akira Mori)



# 2015 Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drills will be conducted (Azabu Site).

## – Raising Awareness / Building Up “Self-Help” and “Community Cooperation”! –

**Date and Time** Oct. 18 (Sun), 2015; 9:30 a.m. – 11:30a.m. (will proceed in light rain)

\* Participants will receive a commemorative disaster preparedness-related gift (limited number available).

**Site** Minato City Roppongi Junior High School Ground and Gymnasium

### Main Drills

#### Disaster Preparedness Drill Tour for Foreign Residents

In order to raise self-help awareness for foreign nationals living in the Azabu District, a disaster preparedness drill tour accompanied by English-language interpreters and Ward offices staff members will be conducted (advance application required).

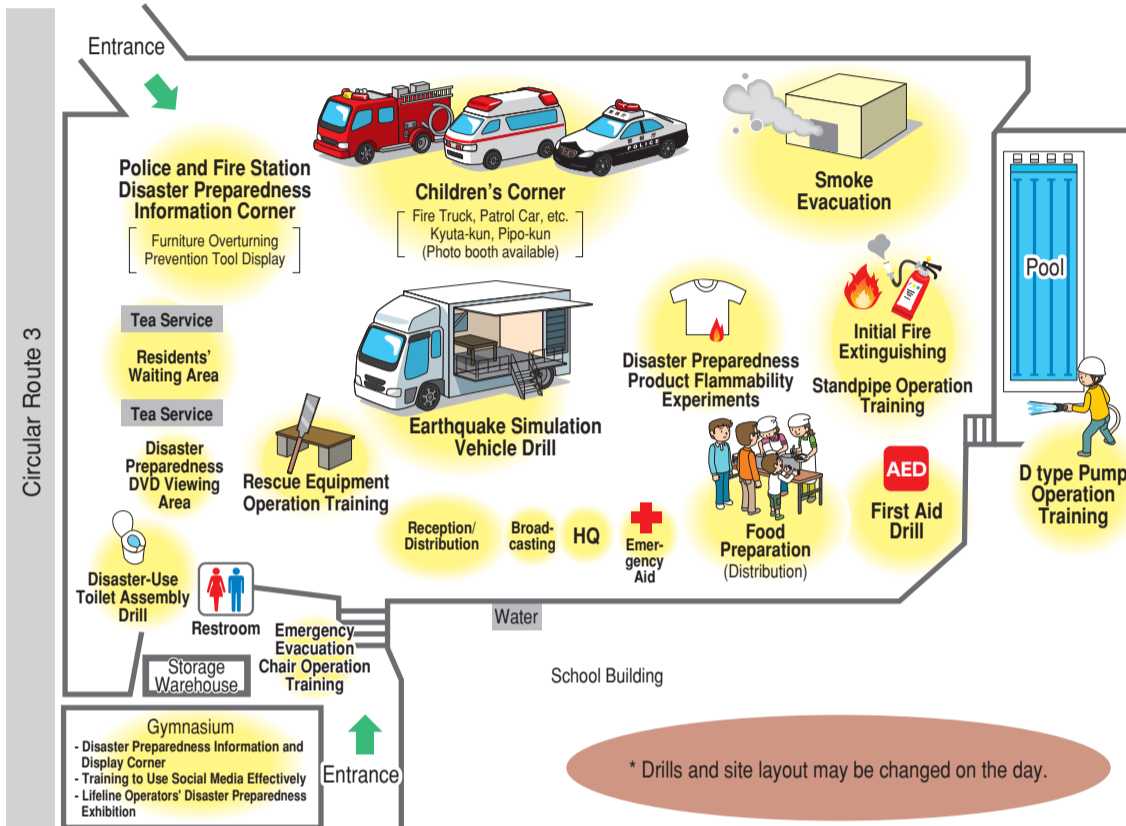
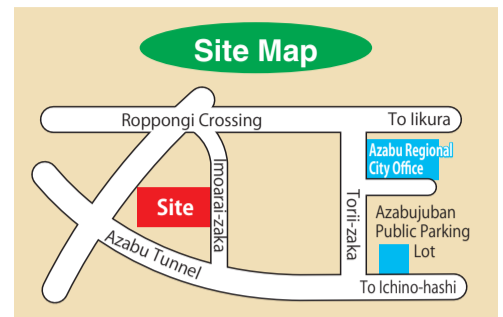
#### Lifeline Operators' Disaster Preparedness Exhibition

Lifeline operators and private enterprises are invited to share various exhibits related to disaster prevention and goods for public awareness.

#### Training to Use Social Media Effectively

This training is for how to properly use social media, such as Twitter.

After how to register and operate the service is explained, the participants will mainly practice sending out confirmed information. Training will also be held on how to use the Minato Disaster Prevention App. In this fiscal year, drills conducted on the school grounds will be accessible through Twitter.



Many other drills, including basic fire extinguisher drills and emergency aid training, will be carried out. In disasters like earthquakes, “self-help” for survival and “community cooperation” are essential. We strongly recommend that you participate in these Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drills to gain the necessary knowledge and enhance individual disaster preparedness awareness for a future large earthquake that could directly hit the Tokyo area.

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

### Disaster Preparedness Drill Tour for Foreign Residents

“If a large earthquake hits our area, what should I do?” “I want to know how I can regularly prepare to minimize damage!” In order to alleviate these concerns about natural disasters, a guided tour with English-language interpreters will be provided for those with limited Japanese language ability during the Minato City Disaster Preparedness Drills (AZABU site). Foreign nationals are invited to come and share information and knowledge about disaster preparedness with other Azabu residents, so that everyone can be prepared for an emergency.

**Contents (planned)** Earthquake Simulation Vehicle Drill, Smoke Evacuation, Emergency Aid, Basic Fire Extinguishing, Food Preparation (tasting included), Rescue Equipment Operation Training, Disaster Preparedness Information Corner, etc.

\* Participants will receive a commemorative disaster preparedness-related gift.

**Admission** Free (Advance application is required)

**Application Deadline** Oct. 6 (Tue), 2015

**How to Apply** Please call or fax, providing the following information: (1) your name; (2) your address; (3) your telephone number; (4) Japanese level; (5) any other special notes

**Tel: Minato Call (City Information Service): 03-5472-3710 (English language service provided)**

**Telephone Acceptable Time Period: (9:00am to 17:00pm)**

**Fax: 03-3583-3782 Azabu Regional City Office**  
(Applications in English are acceptable).

## Earthquake Preparedness Workshop for International Families

The Minato City Gender Equality Center “Libra” will present Earthquake Preparedness Workshop for foreign nationals. This will be a great opportunity to learn together with your family how to be prepared to respond to earthquakes. Workshop will be conducted in English by members of WaNavi Japan.  
<http://jp.wanavi.org/>

**Eligibility:** People who live, work or study in Minato City and their family

**Date and Time:** October 29 (Thu), 2015 10:00am-0:30pm

**Site:** Gender Equality Center “Libra”, 2F Minato Park Shibaura, 1-16-1 Shibaura

**Admission:** Free

**Capacity:** 25 people (application required)

**Overview:** 7 steps to empower yourself : 1. Know How to React To Earthquakes, 2. Acquire Earthquake Literacy, 3. Collect Information, 4. Get Connected with Your Loved Ones, 5. Understand Hazards and Evacuation Shelters/Areas in Your Neighborhood, 6. Earthquake Proof Your Home, 7. Prepare Your Emergency Kit

**Application and Inquiries: (via email only)**

Gender Equality Center libra@career-rise.co.jp

To apply the workshop, send email to us with the title “10/29 EPW” and following details: your name, address, phone number, nationality, other applicants' name and children's age (if any).

## The “Azabu dori Ave.” Road Sign Unveiling Ceremony was Held

“Azabu dori Ave.” was selected as the nickname for Tokyo Municipal Road No. 415 (stretching from Roppongi Itchome to Minami-azabu 2-chome on the Tokyo Municipal Road Takanawa-Azabu line) by the “Council for Nicknaming Tokyo Municipal Road No. 415 ‘Azabu dori Ave.’”.

The “Council for Nicknaming Tokyo Municipal Road No. 415 ‘Azabu dori Ave.’” consists of 15 town associations located along the road, as well as 4 local store associations, City Assembly members and Metropolitan Assembly members.

The road signs have been set up at three locations, including the Azabujuban Avenue sidewalk entrance (1-1 Azabujuban, Minato City), as of March 30 (Mon), 2015. Taking this as an opportunity, the Council organized and held an unveiling ceremony. The Mayor of Minato City attended as a guest.

**Inquiries:** Community Development Support Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8815



Unveiling ceremony

## Information from the Azabu Police Station

### Beware of Benefit Remittance Fraud!

Local governments will continue to provide “Temporary Welfare Benefits” (Simple Benefit Payment Measures) and “Temporary Welfare Benefits and Temporary Special Benefits for Households with Children” in FY2015 as well (Period of time as of yet undetermined).

As a result, there is a danger of becoming a victim of “remittance fraud,” or of receiving “suspicious telephone calls soliciting personal information.” Please be careful.

- No staff member of any government or municipal office, such as a city office, will ever ask you to use an ATM to pay for benefits (refunds).
- No staff member of any government or municipal office, such as a city office, will ever ask you for the bank transfer of a commission fee, etc.
- No staff member of any government or municipal office, such as a city office, will ever ask you your personal information, including household structure or bank account numbers, etc., for the purpose of benefit or pension payment.

\* Should you receive any telephone calls regarding “benefit payment procedure through ATM” or “personal information investigation” from a person who introduces themselves as a staff member of government or municipal offices, such as a city office, report it to the police without delay.

**Inquiries:** Crime Prevention Measures Office, Azabu Police Station Tel: 03-3479-0110, ex. 2162

# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



## Eleven Regional Projects are Being Conducted Based on the Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu Regional Plan (FY2015–FY2020)

### An International Resident-Oriented Cultural City: Safe, Livable and Peaceful (Aiming for an "AZABU" That Connects Both Regions and the World)

#### What is the Azabu Regional Plan?

The Azabu Regional Plan has an initial half-term of three years. Its activities are to be undertaken independently by the Azabu Area, and are designed with a focus on local projects. The Plan incorporates measures for resolving local issues and further enhancing the appeal of the Azabu area while optimizing the district's special features.



#### Local Projects

These projects are to be formulated as part of a three-year plan based on the issues and special characteristics of the district, with the objectives of the projects made clear.

Minato City Basic Plan/Azabu Regional Basic Plan (FY2015–FY2020)

#### 1 The Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project (Collaboration Project Section) New Project

This project has been established in order to keep everyone informed and to spread awareness of the local rules, the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind," developed with the cooperation and collaboration of local town associations, residents' associations, store associations and businesses.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 2,294  | 3,710  | 3,400  | 9,404 |

#### 2 Disaster Mitigation Network Project (City Development Coordination Subsection)

The supporting and fostering of the construction of a network aimed at enabling smooth collaboration between businesses, disaster-prevention residents' organizations and the administration, etc.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 3,003  | 3,140  | 3,140  | 9,283 |

#### 3 Everyone Ekotto Project (City Development Coordination Subsection) New Project

Creating opportunities to "See," "Learn" and "Experience" in cooperation with businesses and regional organizations, etc., so that children in the region can develop a love for nature and wildlife.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 605    | 820    | 820    | 2,245 |

#### 4 The Azabu Future Photo Studio (Collaboration Project Section)

In addition to collecting old photos of the Azabu area, the Studio also takes photos at fixed locations in order to preserve and disseminate the history and culture of the Azabu area through panel exhibitions and the Internet.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 4,056  | 4,680  | 4,900  | 13,636 |

#### 5 Azabu International Fureai Project (Collaboration Project Section)

Conducting a variety of meetings with foreigners living in or visiting the Azabu region in collaboration with Embassies, Universities, Colleges and related organizations in the area in order to enhance the attractiveness of Azabu.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 3,394  | 3,400  | 3,400  | 10,194 |

#### 6 Azabu Festival (General Administration Section)

Creating opportunities for people living in the city to get involved in the community by holding local festivals and events in cooperation with residents.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 6,994  | 7,000  | 7,000  | 20,994 |

#### 7 Azabu Regional Power Revitalization Project (Collaboration Project Section) New Project

Promoting attractive community development through human resources. We foster the development of children as our future leaders. Relationships in the community are reinforced through inter-generational exchanges between children and the elderly and information sharing with various organizations.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 3,418  | 4,340  | 4,340  | 12,098 |

#### 8 Area Exchange Project (General Administration Section)

Collaborative projects with nearby cities continue to be conducted by Azabu area people through indirect support. In addition, more opportunities are being made available for Minato citizens who have fewer chances to participate in community activities to join in exchange activities developed by people in the district. Exchange events using residents' collaboration spaces and local fairs are also being planned in cooperation with Minato citizens.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 2,914  | 4,500  | 4,500  | 11,914 |

#### 9 Regional Salon (Chocotto Tachiyori Cafe) (Residents Support Section)

Providing a place where the elderly can meet together and continue to learn so that they don't become isolated despite having lived in the area for a long time. The Salon contributes to an active lifestyle and peace of mind. In addition, local volunteers are encouraged to participate and a framework to assist local people in supporting each other has also been established.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 3,401  | 3,432  | 3,432  | 10,265 |

#### 10 Toy Library (General Administration Section)

In order to provide and distribute high-quality toys for infants as a part of the child-rearing support project, a toy rental service has been created. Lectures on child rearing, selecting toys for your children and other topics are also held.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 494    | 494    | 494    | 1,482 |

#### 11 Azabu Master Club (Collaboration Project Section)

Developing a resource of people able to take charge of activities for the enhancement of the attractiveness of the Azabu area. The discovery and support of such people is an ongoing part of this project. Furthermore, we provide them with assistance so that they may develop further voluntary activities.

|                                  | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | Total  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating Cost (Unit: 1,000 yen) | 7,092  | 7,223  | 7,223  | 21,538 |

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

## Information from the Metropolitan Tax Office

### Payment by Credit Card is Now Accepted for Fixed Assets Tax and City Planning Tax! (Within 23 Wards)

The number of tax items that can be paid by credit card has increased since 2015. Fixed Assets Tax and City Planning Tax can now also be paid by credit card. Access the dedicated web site ("Metropolitan Tax Payment by Credit Card") using your PC or mobile phone in order to pay these taxes. This web site is very convenient because you can access the site in order to pay your taxes home or away without worrying about the time.

For more information, access the "Payment by Credit Card" web site (<https://zei.tokyo>)

### Notification about the Relief Measure for Fixed Assets Tax and City Planning Tax in FY 2015 (Within the 23 Wards)

- Reduction measure lowering the upper charge limit of the Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax for commercial areas, etc.
- Tax Exemption from Fixed Assets Tax/City Planning Tax for small plots of non-residential land
- Relief Measure for the City Planning Tax for small residential land will continue through FY2015. For more information, refer to our web site, or contact the office listed below

Inquiries (exclusively about real estate in Minato Ward): Fixes Asset Section, Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office Tel: 03-5549-3800 (Rep.)

## Information from the Azabu Fire Station

### Have You Taken Any Measures for Preventing the Collapse or Sudden Shifting of Furniture During an Earthquake?

In Tokyo, thirty-two cases of fire occurred following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Many of them were caused by falling or shifting furniture. Fallen furniture can cause injury, fires, or people becoming trapped in buildings.

Take furniture-tipping prevention measures, such as attaching your furniture to walls, floors, etc., or carefully arrange the furniture in your home or office in order to avoid injury.

#### Examples of how fires have been started in the past

- A bookshelf tipped over, causing a book to fall onto an electric stove.
- A desk lamp fell onto a mat, also causing a fire.

#### Evacuation obstacles

Fallen furniture, etc., can block evacuation routes. Should this happen, you would be unable to escape your home or office. If a fire broke out nearby, what would happen?

For more information, access the Tokyo Fire Department web site.

Inquiries: Chiiki Bosai Section, Azabu Fire Station Tel: 03-3470-0119



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 are not limited), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following address:  
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 web site.



## AZABU

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppong 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo and Azabu Juban subway stations, Minato City Community Bus (Chi Bus), Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-Azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-Azabu, Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.

● The usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Chief     | Aki Tanaka                     |
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|           | Yoshie Osawa Akira Mori        |
|           | Kumiko Omura Ryoza Yamashita   |
|           | Keiko Orito Hisayoshi Watanabe |
|           | Yasuhiro Tanaka                |

#### Editor's Note

I participated in the data collection for the creation of "Disaster Measures in the Region." First, the staff at the Azabu Regional City Office gave me an explanation of the "Disaster Prevention Map." Their explanation related to the "2013 Revised Edition" of the map, and I had only an old edition. Therefore, at least initially, I was unable to understand their explanations clearly. We then left the City Office in order to observe the assembly of the various disaster facilities. I noticed the round iron manhole covers embedded in the road and the iron benches. I was very surprised to see these benches, which looked at first just like ordinary park benches, be converted into disaster facilities under the hands of the Minato City staff members. I would like to express my gratitude for the efforts of the staff members and their devotion. (Keiko Orito)

The original article is written in Japanese.

#### "Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a city information service about services provided by City Hall, facility guide, event information, etc., available from 7:00am to 11:00pm everyday.

※ English speakers are also available.

Minato Call :

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752

E-mail: [info@minato.call-center.jp](mailto:info@minato.call-center.jp)