



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



Where the world's young administrative officers gather.

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

A little over a year has passed since the National Art Center, Tokyo, opened. There have probably been quite a lot of you who have also visited. However, I wonder how many of you have noticed that the sophisticated building standing across from there is another "piece of art" jointly designed by R. Rogers, the English architect who designed the Pompidou Center and the Yamashita Sekkei 10 years has passed since this Institute For Policy Studies has accepted promising specialists who would lead the world. I visited the campus which moved its center of activity to Roppongi 3 and half years ago.



Those who design parks are mostly those from engineering backgrounds and think of the design only from mathematical perspectives. I want to develop resources who can think from social science perspectives on what kind of person will come and what will they do in the park." Quotes Tatsuo Hatta, president.

Students having a friendly discussion. There are students who say that what they study is directly connected to their work and so therefore, is very worthwhile.



A student from the Indian Department of Treasury reading with his family. At the 2nd floor library.

A graduate school called university.

Although it is called university in Japanese, it is an independent graduate institute offering programs at the Master's level as well as doctoral programs. In recent years, we were told that we could use the name "Tokyo Metropolitan University" but decided against that option as it didn't fit our original plan.

There are students studying from 47 countries including countries from within Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe. The majority of the students are on a scholarship program and the school also plays the role of an ODA. Most of the classes are in English. Students sit together with a diverse range of races. Tatsuo Hatta, the president says, "It matches the international aspects of Minato Ward."

The trend on policy studies strategies faces the rural areas.

Rather than going after the trend, the school prefers to use learning from the forefathers and based on that has created its own research and academics on policy studies. The president quotes, "When looking at the trend of the world, you notice that experts who have economic and mathematical background are creating policies more and more and so therefore, the importance lies in economic analysis and statistics. I am trying to break through the trend of where graduates from faculty of law are the center of creating policies."



A ceremony to award degrees took place on Sept. 17th. Those who have completed their programs will utilize their talents in the various environments they will go back to.

The faculty members are comprised of over 70 from around the world including Hiroko Ota, former Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Kiyoshi Kurokawa and Takashi Shiraishi.



In order to nurture and develop the most advanced education on policies, GRIPS has reached out to a wide variety of business partners. A town development program has started this year however, these days in order to reflect the decentralization seen, they also respond to the design needs of each of the local government's as many policies have been transferred to them from the former Ministry of Construction.

In terms of their involvement with the Roppongi area, "The exchange students can get first hand experience of what is happening in the center of Japan. It's good because exchange can take place with people of various positions." (President)

There are many government officials, students with corporate background as well as those who graduated under graduate school and they accept a diverse range of students. Why not consider this school as a venue for academic studies if you are interested?



National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIP)
Established in 1997
Total number of students- 324
Master's programs- 261
Doctoral programs- 63
As of April, 2008- 198 are exchange students.
Graduate course, masters, research and education on policy implementation & policy reforms
(Educational programs- Master's program 14 (including English programs) Doctoral programs-5.
Affiliated organization- 4 organizations including government research project center

A lecture titled "GRIPS Forum" is held twice a month. The next one will be in Oct. Please contact GRIP's homepage for details. <http://www.grips.ac.jp>

Roppongi Hills became a new tourist spot after it's opening in April, 2003. The tall buildings are truly a symbol of the city, however, I am sure that everyone remembers reading in former month's edition that this area was also known for it's high quality natural springs. There was a goldfish merchant in this area called "Hara Kinsan" who used this natural spring of Azabu right to the last moment before it went under construction in 1999. Yasutaro Hara Store- Goldfish Merchant established in the Tenpoh era.. Tamotsu Hara (77 years old) is the 5th generation in line. He currently spends very busy days as the local town chairman of Roppongi Hills. It may not be an exaggeration to say that he is Japan's most famous local town chairman.

A picture of Yasutaro Hara-Goldfish Merchant-wholesaler



Roppongi 6 chome cityscape before redevelopment

Mr. Hara became the local town chairman from the administrative director of the redevelopment union. He manages this whole community from the structure of the local town, to those who move in, commercial buildings, corporations and even broadcasting stations to hotels. I thought that before I met him that he would be a very aggressive person. But Mr. Hara who arrived in the interview room had a smile on his face all the time and he answered all the questions our editors started asking about goldfish because the story was so interesting. He was a humble person who was very nice. You can't just be a powerful person to do this job.

There were 4 town assemblies and one apartment complex. (note:4) I continued as a goldfish merchant until the construction for redevelopment began. My biggest concern was that I would be the one that would be closing down the business we had for 170 years. I really felt that my ancestors wouldn't give me the permission to go in the same grave with them by doing what I had to do. I got together with everyone and had discussions after I became the administrative director of the redevelopment union. We had approximately 130 formal meetings in one year. I don't know what that number would be if we added the informal meetings we had. Although there were those who were against it, we finally decided to work together and got a 100% agreement from everyone. That was a relief. But don't you feel that this town is rather nice? The place where I had my goldfish business was where the current Tiffany and

Louis Vuitton store is. I now feel that my ancestors are proud of me and will allow me in their grave. Article 1 of the local town constitution is to always greet everyone. To greet everyone even if it's inside the elevator regardless, even if people think we are persistent. And we do quite a lot here. The morning market, taijiquan (a traditional Chinese pugilism) festivals, Halloween, clean up, kagami-biraki (a ceremony held on January 11 when New Year's round rice-cakes are cut and cooked in sweet adzuki bean soup), bean throwing ceremony, harvesting, and even during the Ise traditional Ohiki festival. But it's only been 6 years. Asakusa is a community from the Edo period. We still have a long ways to go. But our target is to become the No. 1 local town community. There are 2 disaster protection wells in Roppongi. We are fortunate because we have natural water underground. I used to get interviewed a lot on the water when I was in business. This water will become useful during a disaster...hopefully it will never happen though. Another thing I'm proud of is this aquarium (note:6) Do you know what a round fish is? It's a very interesting fish which doesn't have any dorsal fins. I would like to take care of a round fish. It's in my blood as a goldfish merchant. (Pointing at the Sky Aquarium II poster) I'm so happy about that.

Goldfish scooping during the summer festival. I remember as a child that the thin paper used to scoop fish would melt in water and I would think that the goldfish's fin would melt away as well. I'm sure that everyone has these types of nostalgic memories. You would think off hand that Roppongi Hills which shines under the sky at night has nothing to do with nature but try to overlap your fantasy of goldfish swimming under Roppongi Hills. Mr. Hara playing the part of a paddy owner at the Roppongi festival (note:7) Although the old days are gone, here is a 5th generation who still loves the water and his homeland.

(Note 1) 1650. Hidemoto, the grandson of Motonari Mohri built a feudal lords mansion in Higakubo (currently known as Roppongi 6 chome)
 (Note 2) A slogan by the government in reinforcing increase of population to secure soldiers during the war.
 (Note 3) Aichi. One of the major 3 breeding locations. The other two are Yamaichi, Yamato Gun, Nara and Edogawa-ku, Tokyo.
 (Note 4) The Zaimokucho town council, Miyamura town council, Sakurada Hitomi Council, and Higakubo Shinwakai housing complex.
 (Note 5) The "Okihiki Festival" involves people from surrounding towns dragging huge wooden logs through the streets and is a festival which takes place once in 20 years at Ise Shrine. The last one on Feb. 4, 2007. The Okihiki took place at Roppongi Hills' Keyakizaka.
 (Note 6) A summer event took place at Roppongi Hills' observation deck, "City View". It's called the aquarium in the sky.
 (Note 7) A person who leads the country festival. Like a local town chairman.
 (Interviewed by: Kumiko Omura, Hibiki Omura, Miyuki Ito Written by: Miyuki Ito)

People gather where the water is.



"AZABU - A Human Story"

麻布ひと

I used to be a goldfish merchant. It goes back to 1841. It's the time of Toyama No Kinsan. (a famous town magistrate during the Edo period). Goldfish merchants really date back everywhere. I would say that where I used to live in the old days as a geographical shape would be around the stomach of a human being. The entrance and exit were very narrow and the middle era was spacious. It was a place where even fire trucks couldn't get in. The east was lowlands and the north, west and south were cliffs. So these very high areas...there would be about a 10 - 20 meters difference and the natural spring would flow down from above...and this water was so great. That's why I think my ancestors started the goldfish business. The low grade samurais- especially in this area near Mohri san (note: 1) were where the low grade samurais lived and I heard that they bred fish as a side job. We used to live at the bottom of a hill, which was only about 4 meters wide and there used to be a stone wall and the water used to stream down from above and because there was water inside the stone walls you could even catch Japanese freshwater crabs. If you poked the water with the tip of a bamboo stick they would come out. We used to catch them. Before the war when I was in elementary school, goldfish merchants would be calling out "go-ld fish, go-ld fish" which were sold on two-wheeled carts. We used to have about 40 people working when the store was at its peak. During the war, there were many pregnant women because the government wanted people to have babies and increase the population (note:2) That's when live carps were rationed. There weren't a lot of facilities back then so we supplied quite a lot of carps. In my memory, that's about the only time that people had to cue in line to get fish. (laughs)

Saikaku Ihara (a poet) during the Genroku period even wrote that it would cost even feudal lords 5- 7 gold coins to buy a gold fish...as he quoted, goldfish were very expensive. In the latter half of the Edo period, direct retainers of the Shogun who became poor but had vast land, would breed goldfish in their pond as a side business. The current location of Roppongi Hills happened to be a great location to do this.

The poster in the interview room is the "Sky Aquarium II with Perrier Cafe."



Mr. Hara playing the part of paddy owner at the Roppongi Raku pre-festival night bon-odori at Roppongi Hills

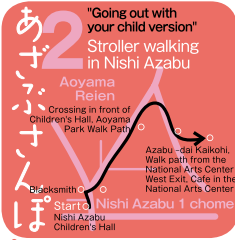
Goldfish originate from China. New specimens increased and came in after the war. Goldfish normally have babies after 3 years. You would grow the goldfish for 4 years and export them abroad...we also had a branch in London. Europeans like goldfish and carps very much. Especially in London. It was during the boom of Japanese gardens and so we sold quite a lot through the Japanese living there. I think I had an eye for judging fish. Only vendors can be involved in fish auctions. We used to travel to Yatomi (note:3) by bullet train every week...one box would hold 1000 small goldfishes and would be auctioned in one minute and so you have to be alert. You have to look at the color and shape instantaneously. I think I was pretty good at it. And so I opened a fish market in Hokkaido with my friend. We would invite vendors every week and hold auctions. I think I traveled to Hokkaido 500 times. People keep the rooms warm during the winter. That's why they sold well during the winter season also. I think it was during the Sapporo Olympics. I was there when the Japan team won the bronze, silver and gold medals for the ski jump. We would go sell the fish into the mountains we never heard of. Back in those days in Hokkaido, there were people who sold fish in huge basins. It was really a learning for me. I got used to challenging new things...especially selling them overseas. We started the business in England from scratch. But the goldfish business isn't easy. After all, you're dealing with living creatures. In the old days, we would all be wearing rain boots and would work from spring until autumn with no holidays. I remember that our whole family worked so hard that we got food poisoning together one day. That's when we decided to take at least one day off per month.



"I want to become Japan's Nbr. 1 Local Town Chairman"

Roppongi Hills Local Town Chairman
Tamotsu Hara





Why not go out with your baby on a nice autumn day?

As the first day to start walking your baby in the stroller, we start from the Nishi Azabu Children's Hall which is a great place to start. The Children's Hall ❶ is located right near the Nishi Azabu Crossing and although the building looks a little old, the baby room made out of tatami mats is full of new toys and you can also eat there so the mom's are very happy with this facility. There are also regular events for babies during the morning hours which take place. (info A) Why not let your baby play here for awhile, give him or her enough liquids and then start on your stroller journey.

walk but if you climb to the top of the hill in the park, there's a nice path surrounded by trees. ❷ As you slowly walk down the path, you can see the skyscrapers of Roppongi Hills on the other side, then you come in contact with nature in the middle of city. If you climb to the top of the stairs, you end up at the top of the hill which is where the "Azabu-dai Kaikohi" is ❸ You can learn about the history of Azabu here.

Info A Events calendar of the Nishi Azabu Children's Hall

For inquiries please contact:
Tel: 03-3409-4921
Hot Hot Group
(program for infants)
Every Thurs: 18 months to toddlers
Every Fri: 0 month to 18 months
Both from 10:30-11:30
Toy Library
(toy rental)
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Both from 10:30-11:30



On the north side of the Children's Hall is a very modern blacksmith. ❷ . We came across a stuffed doll of Winnie the Pooh inside this store which had attractive ornaments. Babies love him but we just started our walk so we have to leave. We slowly walk across the street and head towards Aoyama Park. ❸

You might think that Aoyama Park is mainly a sports facility and not suited for a stroller

Now that you've gotten all this positive natural energy from the park, we head towards the final destination of this walk, the National Arts Center. If you come from Aoyama Park, you can enter the complex through the west gate which is located before the Roppongi Tunnel and you can enjoy your walk as you walk towards the main entrance. ❹ You can enjoy a relaxing time at the cafe inside surrounded by great view of trees ❺. It's a great place to complete your walk, don't you think? If you're an arts lover, why not use the baby-care service a couple times a month and enjoy a leisurely time observing the art work. (info B)

Info B Baby-care service at the National Arts Center

For inquiries please contact:
Tel: 0120-788-222
Open Days: 2-3 times a month
Hours: 12:30-15:00
Fee: From 1000 yen
*Need to book in advance. Please inquire for details.



(Witten & photograph by: Toshie Suzuki)



News is all about talking about humans. Whether it be good or bad, I want people to get touched with what they see about the human race.
Mr. Tsuyoshi Sasaki, Program Producer.

There is a lot of different jobs.
T.V Program Producer

Giving children the power to live.

Parent and child learning together

KIDS' Hello Work

I want the viewers to feel touched about the human race through my programs.

We visited Sasaki, the producer for T.V Asahi's news program " Super J Channel". The interview was conducted along with our junior editing staff, Akane Ishiyama (13 yrs old).

❶ Akane thought a program producer was someone really important who made the program.

What does a program producer do?

If I were to walk you through by day, I overlook and consolidate the evening news program which is 120 minutes long from Monday to Friday. To put it simple, I not only edit the news but other contents within the program consisting of sports, gourmet plans and other corners. Time management on a daily basis is necessary and I have to judge whether everything fits in or not. The news from 5p.m. and 6 p.m. do not cover the same contents. You have to be creative depending on the time of the day, make it simple to understand and I try to deliver the information so it is effective as much as possible. I am in the position to decide on what the overall program should look like in the end. On a mid to long term basis, I communicate with the news casters and staff at the sites to decide on the future direction and concept of the program. Working on a program is to create a work of art. It's important to be able to further elevate the sense and talent of the staff on hand.

How did you start on this job?

I initially joined the broadcasting company



The Super J floor.

because I wanted to make documentaries. I wanted to go after people and show how they lived. I have had various experiences such as journalist, director, chief desk and all of have contributed in this job as a producer. I know what the journalist is doing at the site first hand, even now. What is important is that every time you are given an opportunity is that you respond to that and leave results. That will always give you another chance to go to the next step. But on the other hand, the pressure is quite big. Some times I really get cornered. There are times as well like when you are in a foreign country doing an interview on your own that you feel lonely. But I think the attractive point about this field is that you can show your actual performance and result very clearly. That's probably where it's quite different from a regular business organization.

To those who are aspiring to become program producers...

You have to be a generalist to do a producer's job. You can't respond to what is going on if you are an expert on only a single field. You have to love the world, love people and definitely need to be enthusiastic and action oriented about gathering information. I personally put in a lot of input by print. It's important that you read a lot.

❷ Although Akane was attracted to the posters advertising programs on the wall during the interview, she seemed to understand that "creating programs was a fun job but not an easy one."

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akane Ishiyama, Shihou Ito, Kumiko Omura. Written by: Kumiko Omura)



The 1F Atrium



The Super J Channel Broadcasted from Monday - Friday from 16:53-19:00
Commentators: Etsuko Komiya, Naoki Tsuboi others
120 minutes full of information worthwhile to know.
(Data provided by T.V Asahi)

The T.V Asahi building is a green oasis of Roppongi Hills. It is located next to the Mohri Gardens.



Dominican Republic



From the "World" of Azabu



The Dominican Republic
 Area: 48,442 sq km (the size of Kyushu and Kochi combined)
 Population: 9.75 million people (2007-World Bank)
 Capital: Santo Domingo (916,000 people and 2002: Census)
 Race: Multiracial- 73% , European-16% , African-11%
 Official Language: Spanish
 Religion: Roman Catholic
 Government: Presidential Republic
 Head of State: President Leonel Antonio Fernandez Reyna (Aug. 2008- Aug. 2012, 4 year term)
 Legislature: Bicameral Congress (Senate-32 members, Chamber of Deputies- 178 members) 4 year term
 Foreign Ministry website:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/dominican>

Cooperation of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic



- 1 Uleinya A. Hose, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary who loves Japan conducted the interview in English and Spanish with Japanese translations.
- 2 Tile art portrays the daily life of the people. Green bananas appear in them.
- 3 Dolls made in the Dominican Republic are very colorful and stylish.
- 4 Art by the native inhabitants before Columbus' day called "semit".
- 5 Juan Pablo Duarte, known as The Father of the Dominican Republic. Data supplied by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic.



Columbus and the Island of Hispaniola

The Dominican Republic of Central America shares the island of Hispaniola with the Republic of Haiti we introduced to you in our last edition. We first asked Ambassador José Ureña A. about the history of the country. In the days of the Age of Geographical Discovery when Christopher Columbus, Vasco De Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan were active, Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the support of the Spanish Royal Family. He first landed in the Caribbean Islands before discovering the American continent. The island he landed on was the island of Hispaniola. Come to think about it, the discovery of the North American, Central American and South American continents was the beginning of change; it makes one think once more about how important the island of Hispaniola is in history. It declared its independence from Haiti in 1844, however threats continued from Haiti declared it's 2nd independence in 1865. The people of the Dominican Republic especially have strong feelings regarding freedom and human rights because of the days of colonization and battles fought with Haiti. The flag has an olive leaf, bay leaf the Bible and cross, with white, blue and red surrounding it. The ambassador explained to us that white symbolized peace and union, blue symbolized the sky and that the red represented the blood shed by the liberators .

Baseball Players and Green Bananas

More so than Columbus, baseball is what made this country famous. The Dominican Republic has one of the highest number of players in Major League Baseball including Sammy Sosa (1968-) who achieved 600 homeruns in the MLB and Alex Rodriguez (1975-) of the New York Yankees to name a few. The Ambassador told us that baseball was not just a mere sport to the people of the Dominican Republic. Children play with a ball and bat in their hands from when they are small and learn the fun of the game from a very young age. Many of the players who have been successful in the MLB grew up in a poor environment and these players who have earned fame and money contribute this back to their country folks through donations. These athletes are more than heroes which the people are proud of, they are truly admired by the children of the Dominican Republic.

Although we don't know where the secret of the exceptional physical athletic performance of the baseball players comes from, but, I did notice that green bananas were used as a key theme on the tiles of the folk art found in the Embassy. Green bananas are different from the bananas we eat, they are used as a cooking ingredient. I was told that a kind of stew using green bananas was a common dish eaten in Dominican households. Perhaps that is the base of the energy of the MLB players. Other eating habits are very similar with us, Japanese. I was surprised that white rice was their staple food and common to island countries, they have abundant seafood as well.

The Dominican Hospitality

Although agriculture is a huge industry, actually, tourism is the biggest industry of the Dominican Republic. There are 7 international airports in this country which has a population of approximately 10 million people. Tourists come from all over the world to this tropical island famous for its beautiful sea and beaches. According to the Ambassador, the secret of this popularity is not only the beaches but the friendly Dominicans. I remembered then that one of my colleagues in the past was a Dominican who was lively and fun to work with. Although Japan and the Dominican Republic have things in common such as eating habits and that both are island countries, I don't think us, Japanese, can be categorized as being outgoing. Maybe it's the tropical climate throughout the whole year and green bananas that have done this trick. No, I think the people are hospitable to those who come from abroad because of the country's history which has experienced turmoil over and over again.



(Interviewed and written by: Chie Kato, Akira Mori)

Azabu-nista

A report on foreigners working in Azabu



Gallery Owner
Hermann Strenger

To develop a renowned artist from Azabu

Hermann Strenger (50 yrs old) is a German who came to Japan in 1987. In addition to being the president of a pharmaceutical company, he finally achieved his long-cherished dream and passion for arts by opening Gallery Strenger in Sept. Last year in Azabu Jyuban.

The interior of the gallery is surrounded by white walls and looks very clean. The wooden floor is full of natural warmth and one feels very welcomed to walk into the gallery. Listening to the owners philosophy on fine arts, one is drawn into a silent flow of time and forgets that this is the middle of Tokyo close to Roppongi Hills. It seems like the residents living close by, walk in and enjoy a chat on arts with the owner.

One can come in touch with contemporary art from within and abroad of Japan. Lithuanian Contemporary on until Oct. 11th, features works by young promising artists from Lithuania and the evolution of current Lithuanian art. The person in-charge of this plan from the Lithuanian Embassy quoted, "It's the first time this artist held his exhibition in Japan. Although the Lithuanian Embassy transferred to this location a year ago, we have been active with our neighbors and feel that we have found an important friend. We feel that we were fortunate to have met Mr. Strenger and given the opportunity to introduce current Lithuania.

Mr. Strenger said that he was so busy with his professional work that he had less time to use for his gallery but on the other hand said, "As a business, so as I didn't lose money it would be okay. I'm more interested in developing young promising artists. I want to aggressively introduce their work and give them opportunities. My wish is that a world renowned artists is born from Azabu." he quoted passionately.

We asked Mr. Strenger who has been living in Azabu for 12 years about what he thought was the attractive point about this city. "The Azabu community has many international schools and supermarkets which sell imported goods so; it's a convenient place for foreigners to live in. The Azabu Jyuban area is especially interesting because of the many embassies and shopping arcade. The city is very diverse. The people of the shopping arcade are friendly and I enjoy talking about daily life with the owners of the soba shop and Chinese medicine while eating yakitori. I feel so relieved when I come back to the Azabu area after a hard days work in the bustling business district." Azabu seems to have become the home for Mr. Strenger.

(Interviewed and written by: Mayumi Okano, Ryoza Yamashita)



K's Nursing Care Memo ③

I don't know what to do.....

Let me tell you about the past years before the last hospitalization.

K was having trouble eating and swallowing things smoothly and was diagnosed with having aspiration pneumonia. She was taking medication but her fever would go up and then come down and she wasn't getting well. The home doctor advised us that she should be hospitalized. I called Hospital A which K had gone for heart treatment and talked to her doctor requesting that she be hospitalized. We arrived at the hospital at 10 the next morning but ended waiting for one hour in the lobby and finally got her to her bed past 11 o'clock but her bed was a few stories away from the doctor's office of the cardiovascular disease division.

A young doctor told us that they would be conducting a blood test, urine test, electrocardiogram and ultra sound. The tests took some time to start but K didn't have any lunch or I.V so I asked a nurse around 3 p.m. if I could let her have some water. She said that the doctor had not approved this so I wasn't allowed to even give her water. She finally had her dinner around 6 p.m. Since she had trouble swallowing, she was only able to get special food which was only 294 calories but could only eat 1/4 of it. K was so weak because she only had water in the morning. Fortunately, her fever starting to go down and she was able to take medicine.

I went home, went to bed and woke up suddenly in the middle of night thinking that how could a 95 yrs old person live long without even being given any water but going through all these tests. They were giving her these tests but were the doctors seriously thinking about letting her live. If she were to say "good-bye" to her life, then why not bring her back home so she could

be with the family. That K would probably be so much happier if she was able to wave good-bye to her family when the time came instead of being in the hospital. The whole family thought this was a good idea so we went to the hospital early the next day, told them that we had a home doctor and fetched her home.

However, of course, she wasn't cured so there was another drama which unfolded one week later.

We were taking care of her under the directions of the home doctor and having her take the prescribed medicine but her fever went up to 39 degrees C around 10 at night. We didn't know what to do.....So we called for an ambulance. The paramedics asked us which hospital she was commuting to so we told them about what happened at Hospital A. Then the paramedics gave us the names of 5 hospitals including Hospital A which has vacant beds.

We told them that she had once gone to Hospital B and so paramedics called the hospital and they asked us what her illness was, how serious this was and how old she was. We said she was 95 years old then the hospital refused her as no doctor available. We also said that she had gone to Hospital C before as well.; They asked us the same question and how old she was. Then we said that she was 95 years old. She had never been to Hospital C,D nor E but were refused by three hospitals due to the same reason. Mid way through, the paramedic said that her breathing was stopping. We had been at this with the hospitals for 30 minutes already and I thought maybe Hospital A is the only hospital we could go to...

Anyway, she had a very high fever and her breathing kept stopping...so we decided to take her to Hospital A which said would accept her. The doctor who came out was the same young doctor. I said to him, "Please don't only look at her illness but try to save her life." He then immediately gave her several tests, medication and I.V. A few days later this young doctor told me, "It was a good experience for me." I told him I was sorry for how rude I was to him but we made up after that. K eventually recovered.

Many people say you should nurse elders at home. But I got to thinking, that if you do nurse elders at home and they get sick, finding a hospital for them isn't easy.

But, don't worry. There are ways. I was in touch with our home doctor quite closely last year and would like to share with you a successful case. She got aspiration pneumonia again and had to put her on medication but our home doctor gave her a blood test. He got the results by 10:30 a.m. and said that she had to be hospitalized. He said that I can introduce you to Hospital F which I am affiliated with. I said thank you and we called hospital F and they said call an ambulance and come to the hospital by noon. They said they would give her a check up. I was so happy.

would like to recommend that when you are deciding on who to the care manager or home doctor, don't forget to ask them about their connection with hospitals in case of emergency situations. You should discuss this beforehand, to be prepared.

It was during the early days of the Showa era, right after Japan had gone through the Meiji Restoration period and the country was in a bad economic state. People were starting to become interested in a new modern style of living and becoming attracted to modern design. People's houses were being designed differently, when all of a sudden; Spanish Housing was built in Iikura Katamachi, as it was called during those times.

Azabu-dai 3 chome (formerly known as Iikura Katamachi) An American Styled Spanish House

麻布の軌跡

"The Phenomena of Azabu"



the 4th building



The lion shaped ornament at the 1st and 2nd building.

A modern house which was built 70 years ago

The Iikura Katamachi crossing. As one walks down the tunnel which is underneath the highway, one ends up in a beautiful and silent neighborhood known as the Spanish Village district of Azabu-dai 3 chome. It's as if one has gone through a travel in times from the Heisei era back to the Showa era. The sky above is blue; the houses are 2 storied white foreign styled houses. The wooden window frame surrounding the glass is painted white, the wooden arched door has been painted brown and one can't go without noticing the retro looking brazen door knob. Although these houses were built 70 years ago, they all look very modern and time flows very slowly and quiet. These houses must have been admired when they were built during the early days of the Showa era. There are 4 American styled Spanish houses which still exist and unlike concrete buildings, you can feel the warmth of the people living in the houses and can feel that the residents are enjoying their life in the houses.



The door of the 4th building (painted over in 1983) The window and rail were newly built in 2007.



the 4th building



the 2nd building

the U.S. came back and became very active. (note 4) These students who studied in the U.S must have seen and heard about the Spanish designs which were popular at that time and must have been influenced as well. It was through the changes in society and these designers that the Spanish designs came to Japan via the United States and not directly from Spain.



the 1st and 2nd building

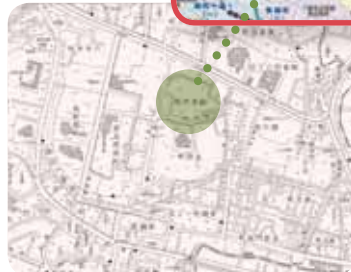
The Spanish Houses which came to Japan via the United States

Let me first explain why I am saying American styled Spanish houses when I first wrote Spanish Village. There was a wave of immigrants from the countryside heading towards the city during the end of the Taisho era to the early Showa era. They became salaried workers and then, manuals were created based on the systematic science and technological knowledge of modern day large corporate entities on what they did and therefore, born from that were office workers. (note 1) The people of those days who had gone through the economic turmoil of the Showa era who were reminiscing the days gone by as well as hanging on to the unknown hope towards the unseen future probably remembered their country side from the small windows and the wooden doors of these American styled Spanish houses.

The current Azabu-dai 3 chome area



Azabu-dai 3 chome in 1941



The people of those days felt an attraction to the white walls which reflected the suns rays and the modern, functional yet simply designed beautiful houses with only a few ornaments was soothing to them. (note 2) The European style of architecture using various ornaments which was introduced by western architects such as Josiah Conder who came to Japan in the early Meiji Era and also famous designing the Rokumei-Kan was coming to its period of completion in the early days of the Showa era. During the end of the Meiji era, a company called "Amerikaya" was established and started to design and build American style colonial bungalows with verandas in the country side. (note 3) American styled architecture became an influence from the Taisho to the Showa era and many American architects became active in Japan such as Frank Lloyd Wright who designed the Imperial Hotel (1923), the Yoshiharu Oda residence with the observatory in Azabu designed by James Gardiner in 1924, Antonin Raymond who designed the former Fujisawa Golf Club House (1932) and William Vories who designed the Toyo Eiwa Jyogakuin (1933). In addition to this, Japanese architects such as Tamisuke Yokokawa started to study in

The design concept was "an atmosphere of friendliness and cheerfulness"

The American styled Spanish House in Azabu-dai was not designed by the architects. It goes back to 1928 when no highway existed and when this area was called Iikura Katamachi. The client of this house, Bunzaburo Ueda and his son, Kazushige, who was then a student, participated in a U.S Tour which cost 2,000 yen per person (in those days, this amounted to building a house and was very expensive) and went by ship to the United States and toured various areas. Bunzaburo and Kazushige was involved in the design based on their knowledge from abroad and designed 5 houses, 4 were built around 1935. The concept was that they have an "atmosphere of friendliness and cheerfulness" (note 5) and this housing complex was called "friendly and cheerful" flat (waroh in Japanese). The 1st, 2nd and 4th building still remains as of today. The style was one that reflected an influence of American styled Spanish houses and thought to be very modern. 70 years has passed and now you know why they were called the Spanish Village but are now a unique and beautiful feature of the town to this day.

Interview cooperation by:
Yasuko Ueda and Office of the 4th building of the Waroh Flat.

(Note 1) Shigeru Harada - Seso de tadoru nihon keizai pg.171 (Nikkei Business Jinbun)

(Note 2) Terunobu Fujimori/hon kindai kenchiku (1st edition) pg.72-73 (Iwanami Shinsho)

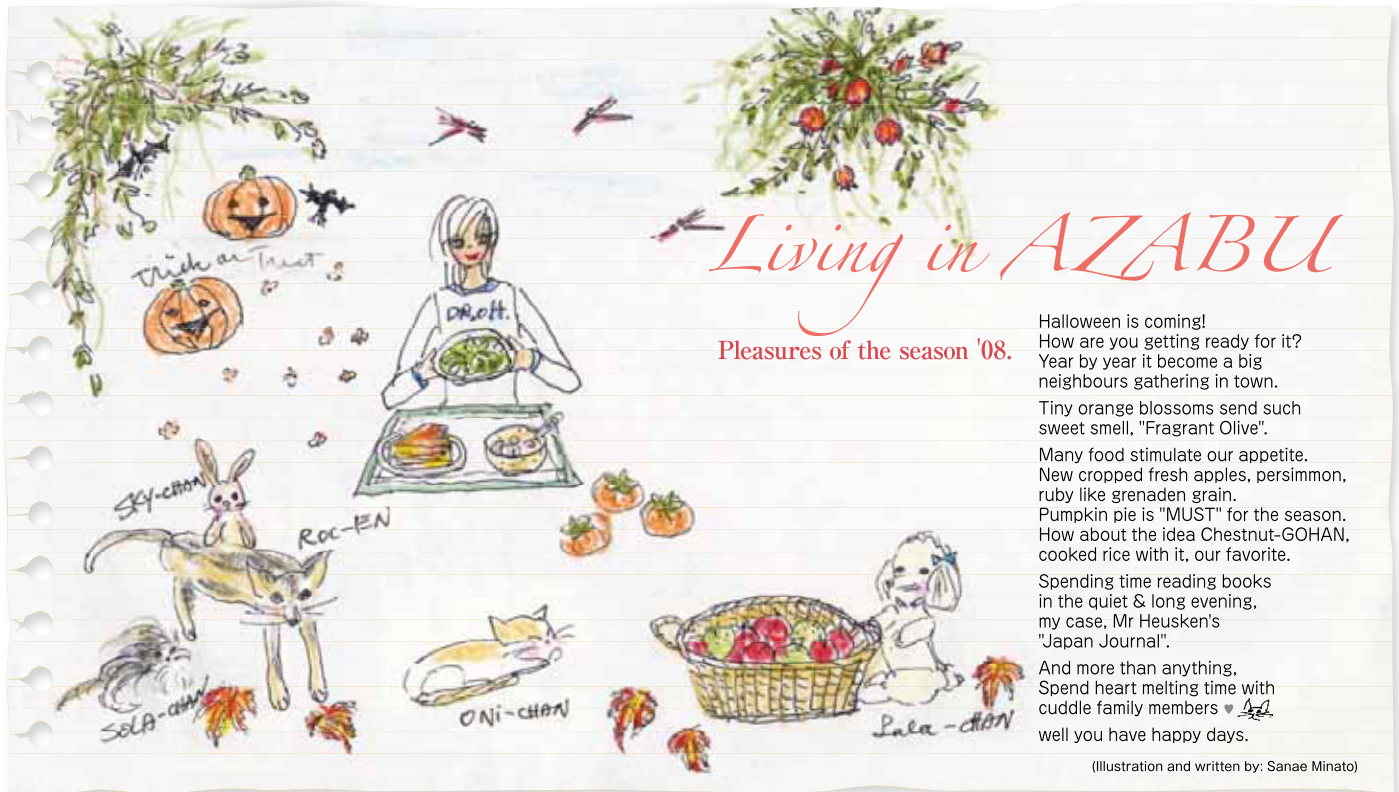
(Note 3) pg.76

(Note 4) pg.58, pg.69

(Note 5) Waroh Flat House Nbr. 4 Manager's Office

<http://www.warohflat.com/> [Toru Yamashita Azabu Spain Village Story] pg.148-156 (Tokyojin No. 186)

(Interviewed by: Tsuneko Ishiyama, Akiko Hashimoto, Akira Mori
Written by: Akira Mori, Akiko Hashimoto Title by: Hikaru Takahashi)



Halloween is coming!
How are you getting ready for it?
Year by year it become a big
neighbours gathering in town.

Tiny orange blossoms send such
sweet smell, "Fragrant Olive".

Many food stimulate our appetite.
New cropped fresh apples, persimmon,
ruby like grenaden grain.
Pumpkin pie is "MUST" for the season.
How about the idea Chestnut-GOHAN,
cooked rice with it, our favorite.

Spending time reading books
in the quiet & long evening,
my case, Mr Heusken's
"Japan Journal".

And more than anything,
Spend heart melting time with
cuddle family members ♡ Azabu
well you have happy days.

(Illustration and written by: Sanae Minato)

The Azabu Region Elementary School Children's Fishing Contest" Was Held

A fishing contest was held for the children of the Azabu region at the Azabu Fishing Pond which uses the natural springs of Azabu-san between Aug. 1st to the 20th.

Under the clear blue skies, children and their parents gathered and the children challenged "herabuna fishing" surrounded by trees.

It was the first experience for some of the children whom participated but all of the children were successful in catching the fish.

A "fureai meeting" was held at the Honmura Elementary School after the fishing contest.

Many of the participants made comments on their experience at the "fureai meeting". Some of the comments were, "it was my first time but I was able to catch fish" and "I'm so happy I caught so much!"

After this, a representative of the Azabu Regional City Office talked about the 7 Wonders of Azabu. Many of the participants said that it was the first time to hear about such a story and it turned out to be a good gathering where people were able to come in touch with the region's culture and history.



The 2 Big Events Of Autumn

We will be holding the 21st Azabu Civic Center "Fureai Festival"

The Fureai Festival will be held on
Oct. 25th (Sat) and 26th (Sun), 2008
From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Location: Azabu Civic Center)

This year will be the 21st Fureai Festival. We will be providing a place for the community people to meet, get connected and communicate with each other.

We have a lot to offer such as stage performances (dances, chorus, ceramics, rhythmic exercises), exhibitions (paintings, photography, security and emergencies supplies), corner to experience activities (health exercise, tea ceremony, creating brooches from silk, origami-), exhibition of paintings and stalls by elementary school children, lotteries, and lectures by the police department. Please look forward to it.
(Sponsored by: The Fureai Festival Executive Committee)

For inquiries please contact the Azabu Civic Center
Tel: 03-3583-5487

We will be holding the Azabu Festa 2008.

The Azabu Festa 2008 will be held on Nov. 9th (Sun), 2008
from 09:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
(Location: Azabu Civic Center/Azabu Nursery School Garden others)

The theme will be safety and assurance of the town. There will be keynote lectures, concerts by the community people, a talk show and exercise by Kobayashi Onisan known for gymnastics, a jazz concert by Nobuo Hara and the # & b and more. We are thinking of many fun events.

Please come participate to enjoy a nice autumn day.
(Please refer to the Minato Bulletin Oct. 11th edition for details)

For inquiries please contact Minato Call (Minato Ward Call Center)
Tel: 03-5472-3710
Azabu Regional City Office, Community Policy Subsection, Suzuki in-charge of the Voice of the Residents
Tel: 03-5114-8811

Let us hear what you have to say.

We are collecting information on Azabu



The Azabu communicates fun and rich information to those residing in the Azabu area of Minato City. We would like to hear comments and suggestions from the readers so we can create a more interesting and attractive newsletter for everyone to read.

- What you are most interested in (anything happening within the Azabu area)
- Anything you want us to write about in the newsletter or comments and opinions
- A scenic area of the Azabu area (a place where one would like to take photos)

We accept the above by phone, fax or post. The address is available on the side of the title lettering.



We have a token of appreciation (an original stuffed doll with the old town name on it) for those who send us information.

From the Azabu Regional City Office



Announcement from the Azabu Fire Department

We will be collecting slogans for disaster prevention and emergencies.

Slogan and Theme

① Slogan for fire prevention in daily life
To call out to the residents to be conscious about preventing household fires and installing sprinklers and fire alarms.

② Slogan which will save your life
To call out to have residents of Tokyo gain knowledge and experience on first aid which will help save one's life and to solicit the proper use of ambulances.

How to apply:

1. E mail

Please apply from the homepage of the Tokyo Fire Department.
<http://www.tfd.metro.tokyo.jp/>

2. Submitting to the Fire Department.

Please download the application form from the Tokyo Fire Department homepage and fill out the necessary information and submit your slogans to the fire departments within the Tokyo Fire Department area. Application forms are also available at each of the fire departments.

3. Postcard

Please fill out your slogan and necessary information (post code, address, name, age, occupation, residency, company name or school name, and telephone number) and mail it to (Tokyo Fire Department Public Relations, Otemachi 1-3-5, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (100-8119) - Telephone number: 03-3212-2111)

Applicants eligibility: Those residing, working or going to school within the control of the Tokyo Fire Department (however, excluding family members, those residing with and employees of the Tokyo Fire Department)

Requirement of Applications: Applications must be slogans which have not been published and one thought by yourself. Applicants can only send in one slogan each for disaster prevention and emergencies.

The most outstanding work will be chosen at the end of March, 2009, and the writer will get an extra prize of 50,000 yen's worth of travel coupons.

Deadline: To be submitted by Nov. 15, 2008 (with postal seal of this day)

Please contact the Azabu Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, Arson Control
Tel: 03-3470-0119



Announcement from the Regional City Office

A guide on proper manners for riding bicycles has been created.

The committee on community safety and protection of the environment (Chairman Masahiro Minagawa) for the Azabu area has recently created a guide to introduce proper manners on riding your bicycle safely.

This guide is available at the reception desk of the Azabu Regional City Office. Please use this an opportunity to review how you ride your bicycle and to ride it safely.

The manners promoted by the committee on community safety and protection of the environment of the Azabu area are.....

- Let's walk if it is close by
- Don't park your bicycle if it's far away
- Do not illegal park your bicycles

Please contact the committee on community safety and protection of the environment of the Azabu area for inquiries. (Committee Office)-Azabu Regional City Office, Community Activities Promotion Section
Tel: 03-5114-8802



Information from the Minato Tax Office

Please let us know if you have any information regarding illegal diesel oil.

Illegal diesel oil sales has been reported to take place under the purpose of . This is sold as diesel oil but is mixed with heavy fuel oil. The Tokyo Metropolitan government has started investigations to gather evidence.

Please contact the illegal diesel oil 110 if you have the following information:

1. Vendors or locations which are making illegal diesel oil
2. Vendors or locations which are selling illegal diesel oil.
3. Vendors or locations which are pumping heavy fuel oil or kerosene into diesel cars.
4. Information regarding distribution of illegal diesel oil.



Illegal diesel oil 110 0120-231-793
Toll free number which is open 24 hours

FAX: 03-5388-1309

E mail: 000707@section.metro.tokyo.jp

Please contact the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation, Taxation Department, Diesel Oil Investigation Division for inquiries.
Tel: 03-5388-2958



Announcement from the Azabu Tax Office

The "National Tax Agency Homepage" is open 24 hours and convenient for those who want to know about taxes.

The National Tax Agency Homepage provides various information.

- "A" tax answer" page which provides most updated information on tax
- The "Web-TAX TV" which explains tax information

The National Tax Agency Homepage is the point of contact for tax payers which utilizes IT.

- "e-Tax" which one can access from their computer for declaration and tax payments and a corner to create final tax returns.

National Tax Agency Homepage:
<http://www.nta.go.jp/>



One can declare and pay taxes using the internet from your home, office or certified tax accountant office if you use e-Tax.

- If you declare your income using e-Tax ↓

One can easily declare from the homepage
One can directly declare taxes electronically from the corner to create final tax returns available on the National Tax Agency Homepage.

Maximum 5,000 yen tax exemption

For those who use e-Tax from Jan. 15th to Mar. 16th, 2009 to declare their income tax for fiscal year 2008. You can get up to maximum 5,000 yen tax exemption by submitting your tax returns through electronic signatures and authentication using your IC smart card. *This excludes those who received tax exemption on their 2007 tax returns.

Unnecessary to attach documents

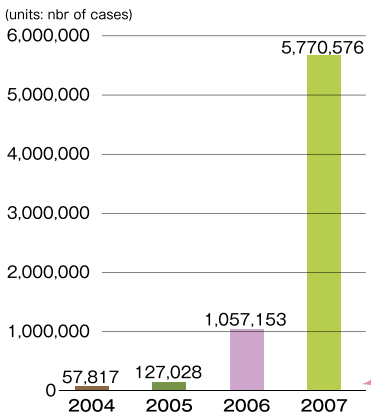
If you declare your income tax through e-Tax, you will not be required to attach the receipt of your medical fee nor your certificate of income and withholding tax. All you need to do is fill out this information in the required column. *Please be aware that you may be requested or instructed to submit documentation for tax returns within 3 years.

Repayment money can be handled quickly

Repayment money applications declared through e-Tax is handled very quickly. (within approximately 3 weeks).

One needs to apply for electronic authentication prior to using e-Tax. *Please access the e-Tax homepage for details. (<http://www.e-tax.nta.go.jp/>)

● Trend of declarations filed using e-Tax



*The number of cases quoted is the total of the number of online usage declarations based off of the "action plan".
(Reference: National Tax Agency Report 2008)

The Tokyo International Film Festival will be held from Oct. 18th (Sat.) to the 26th (Sun). Screening sessions will be held to provide opportunities for the residents of Minato City to come in contact with image culture and arts during the period of the film festival.

The Tokyo International Film Festival

Outdoors screening (entrance fee free, no need to apply)

Date: Oct. 25th (Sat.) 14:30

Location: TIFF Park (Roppongi Hills Arena)

Film Titles: The First Snow of Winter and Noddy of Toyland will be held by voice over with the actors reading the script at site. There will be 2 other short films.

Please contact the Tokyo International Film Festival Minato Executive Committee (in the Kiss Port Foundation) Tel: 03-5770-6837
Tokyo International Film Festival Secretary General

Hello Dial: 03-5777-8600
E mail: tiffinfo@tiff-jp.net

Tokyo International Film Festival Minato Clean Up

We want to contribute to the environment by cleaning and picking up waste around the Roppongi Hills vicinity where the Tokyo Film Festival will be held as well as by doing this to greet the guests from abroad and Japan so they can have a good time in Tokyo.

Date: Oct. 11th (Sat.) 09:30

Place: Roppongi Hills 66 Plaza

Cleaning zones: Roppongi Hills Site, vicinity around Roppongi Station and Azabu Juban Station and the road with leads to the film festival site.

Give-away: A special bag of the Tokyo International Film Festival Minato Executive Committee, a cap (limited number) and drinks will be available.

For application and inquiries please contact: the Tokyo International Film Festival Minato Executive Committee (in the Kiss Port Foundation)
Tel: 03-5770-6837
Deadline: Oct. 8th (Weds)

AZABU

● Information on area of distribution
Roppongi 1 chome, each subway station of Roppongi, Hiroo, and Azabu Juban, inside the mini bus (Chi-bus), Minato Library, Azabu Library, Azabu Welfare Hall, Nishi Azabu Welfare Hall, Honmura Welfare Hall, Ohiradai Minato So Apartments, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, others.
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Ryozo Yamashita

Minato City promotes preservation of greenery and waste reduction.

Editor's Note

There are various sounds you hear in the city. The sound of a speeding bicycle, sounds of someone hitting the keyboard, the sound of someone sending text mails on their cell phone inside the train... These are "scenery of sounds" which have become familiar. So I was thinking was is the sound of Azabu? The sound of the water fall resonating inside the Arisugawa Park, is it the sound of the helicopter taking off from the US military base located at Nishi Azabu or is it the sound of communication taking place by multiple languages as mothers go to pick up their children at Nishimachi International School and many others. You might come across something quite interesting if you followed the "scenery of sound" in the city.
(Yasuhiko Ozaki)

"Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a new city information service, available in English every day from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

*English speakers are also available

Visit Minato Call at
Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752
E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp