

みなとふ

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Cover art: Paper cut-out "Sukeroku Hanami-no-zu (Sukeroku's cherry-blossom viewing)" Artist: Mr. Shoichi Iseki (residing in Takanawa)

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“People’s Lives Seen from the Names of Slopes”

I was told that if I wanted to know the city of Edo (around the center of Tokyo in former times), I had better learn the names of slopes and bridges. There are many famous slopes (zaka) around Edo Castle, and some of them immediately come to my mind, such as Kudanzaka and Miyakezaka, as well as Kagurazaka which is well-known nationwide. There are nationally famous slopes in Minato City, including Nogizaka, though it is not clear which slope Akasaka is named after.

There are also many slopes in the Takanawa district, where “Minatop” is distributed. Most of their names have a historical atmosphere, such as Gyoranzaka, Isaragozaka, Katsurazaka, Zakurozaka, and Hiyoshizaka. Among them, Hijirizaka is a nostalgic name which is said to come from a monk (Hijiri Takano) who worked for Koyasan Tokyo Betsuin Temple. I don’t have much knowledge about bridges and will not pick up any story about them in this article. However, there will be many stories about bridges as well because the Furukawa River flows in the district.

I don’t know why, but apparently, people in other countries do not have a strong attachment to slopes. I’m not particularly familiar with foreign affairs, but I

often find a name derived from a hill, while it is rare to find a name derived from a slope. In the case of China, I understand that there is no slope because Beijing is located on flatland, and there are few names derived from slopes even in the literature. Although I don’t have the whole picture in Asia, it seems that there are many names derived from hills instead of slopes in other Asian countries, too. In Indonesia and Malaysia, we often see geographic names derived from hills (bukit). My guess is that it is a culture unique to Japan to give a name to slope.

Nowadays, it is no longer necessary to use slopes and bridges as landmarks when we are looking for a shop or visiting a friend’s house for the first time. With the spread of smartphones which bring the world’s information to your fingertips, you can easily and reliably know how to get to the destination simply by entering and searching the street address. The names of slopes and bridges appear to recede from our daily life. However, it excites us to hear that the name of Katsurazaka can be derived from the meaning, “a monk wearing a wig fell ill on the slope”.

It does not seem futile to look back on history focusing on slopes.

(Written by Abe)

Changing community To be a disaster-free and livable community

The Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area will change dramatically.

In the Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area, large-scale urban redevelopment projects are underway. The main project is the construction of high-rise and medium-rise condominiums with 1,247 dwelling units in total, which is “one of the largest housing projects currently underway inside the JR Yamanote Line circle” (Shirokane 1-chome Northeastern Area Urban Redevelopment Association). The initial purpose of this project was the need to develop a disaster-resistant community. It is driven by a desire to build houses which can withstand overflows of the Furukawa River flowing in the district.

The district has been damaged by overflows of the Furukawa River in the past. The project started in 2004 in response to the fact that the prevention of inundation damage and rebuilding of dilapidated houses became an issue. The organization first involved in the project was the “Association for the Future of the Shirokane District” by volunteers. After the reforms of the organization, a public notice of the city planning decision was issued in 2013, and the establishment of an urban redevelopment association was approved in 2015. In order to build a disaster-resistant community, the project needs to cover a wide area, and accordingly the project scale is large.

The acreage of the planning district is approximately 1.7ha, where high-rise and medium-rise condominium buildings with 45 stories and 19 stories above the ground, respectively, as well as a four-story factory and hospital buildings, will be constructed. The maximum height of buildings is about 156m. The project is focused on measures against overflows, and therefore, the ground level in the entire redevelopment area has been heightened by 1m or more. In addition, water barrier panels have been installed, and the installation of

automatic water barrier panels, a substantial cost, is under consideration.



Location map (provided by the Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area Urban Redevelopment Association)

A park and an “open space” built as a place of interaction

For large-scale housing, the relationship with neighbors is a key concept. For that reason, a park with an area of about 500m², which can be used anyone will be created. In addition, an “open space” with an area of about 800 m², which is managed by each condominium owner, is planned, and it has been considered whether it can be used for local events, etc. The construction of a pedestrian walkway with a width of approx. 6meters is planned so that anyone will be able to walk along the Furukawa River whose riverbanks

have been closed. It is expected that the construction of buildings will be completed by the end of 2022, and residents will start moving into condominiums in April 2023. The surrounding area of the eastern part of the redevelopment district, where redevelopment work has already been completed, has changed its landscape. The start of construction in the northern part of the district is likely to accelerate change in the landscape.



Exterior (provided by the Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area Urban Redevelopment Association)



Layout map (provided by the Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area Urban Redevelopment Association)

Interview with Yuji Oshimi, Chairman of the Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area Urban Redevelopment Association



Shirokane 1-chome Eastern Northern Area Urban Redevelopment Association

Yuji Oshimi, Chairman

Urban development that resists flooding Fostering interaction with community residents

The eastern northern area has been damaged by overflows of the Furukawa River in the past. Given the situation, the local community started to work together to launch a redevelopment project with the aim of building a disaster-resistant community. The reason why I took over as chairman is that I have been a local resident since my father’s generation and involved in planning since early on, and that the former chairman had resigned due to health reasons. To promote urban development, I think it is important that community residents get along well. It is a large-scale project with more than 1,200 dwelling units, and a large percentage (about one-third) of residents who will move in are those who have originally lived in the district. In addition, there is a wide variety of unit sizes in order to respond to the needs of residents. We will also support events in the district.

One of the issues in redevelopment is how to deal with the existing plotting, or in other words, traditional ties in the local community. For example, there are two neighborhood associations in this district: Shin-Hiroo-Furukawa Neighborhood Association and Hakutaka Neighborhood Association. It is necessary to think about whether we should leave those two associations even after the birth of a new residential zone. We would like to discuss such issues and to find a convincing solution in the future. Redevelopment work in the eastern district has already been completed, and that in the north-east district will be finished in two years. As our activities expand even further, our community will change significantly.

Prominent Person in Our Community

Composer & Survival Producer

Ichinen Yamazaki

Promotion of disaster prevention with laughs and songs!

We interviewed Ichinen Yamazaki, a famous composer in the popular music world and a resident of the Takanawa district, who is enthusiastically involved in community activities such as disaster prevention.

Takanawa District

I hear you are from the Kansai region. How long have you lived in the Takanawa district? What made you start living in the district?

It has been 23 or 24 years since I came to the Takanawa district. There are many TV stations and other media companies in Minato City. In view of my work, it is convenient for me to live here.

People coming from other local regions may be attracted to a place where Tokyo Tower can be seen up close.

Disaster prevention

How did you become interested in disaster prevention?

At the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, I was not in contact with my parents in Osaka, and it took me three days to finally get in contact with them. As a result, I have come to think that I should become more conscious of disaster prevention in daily life.

You are involved in the community activities of your neighborhood association and the Mita Subdistrict Disaster Prevention Council.

It seems to me that many of those who are working in the entertainment industry do not like to have contact with community people.

I try to actively interact with community people so that I could cooperate with them in the event of a disaster. In community activities, I accept the role of appearing in public and producing events.

What do you keep in mind when you are involved in disaster prevention activities in your local community?

I think that the term "disaster prevention" gives a stiff impression, so I called myself a survival producer.

When our neighborhood association conducted disaster preparedness drills, there were too few participants. I thought that it was necessary to make an entertaining and interesting plan in order to get many people to participate in the drills.

Then, we created a funny comedy skit on the theme of disaster prevention, and asked a comedy circle of Keio University to perform it at an event. Since then, the number of participants in disaster prevention events has gradually increased.

In disaster preparedness drills, there are many things to learn, such as how to use fire extinguishers, how to use fire extinguishing equipment, how to provide lifesaving aid, and how to evacuate.

As I am a composer, I became able to learn basic knowledge about disaster prevention by singing disaster prevention songs. I composed 30 songs.

When a great earthquake occurs, we will probably not be able to obtain information due to power outages, etc., and will fall into chaos.

To prepare for an earthquake, I proposed that each neighborhood association had a transceiver, which can be used for communication between neighborhood association members, as well as between neighborhood associations. Currently, Minato City recommends each neighborhood association to prepare transceivers. If transceivers were used only in the event of a disaster, they might be useless because no one knows how to use them. It is important that people get used to transceivers in normal times, such as at a festival. I teach elementary and junior high school students how to use them. Children are quick to understand how to use them. Disaster prevention in Minato City needs "helpful youth power".

What do you think about stockpiling of emergency food and supplies?

A neighborhood association is not expected to stockpile enough food and supplies due to space and budget limitations.

It is also difficult to summarize residents' opinions about stockpiling by condominium association board members. We have no choice but to ask individual households to stockpile food and supplies, in principle.

In the event of a major epicentral earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7 (on the Japanese scale), it is said that more than a week worth's of food should be stockpiled.

What do you think about disaster prevention measures for high-rise condominiums?

I think that there is little risk of collapse in new high-rise condominiums, but

there are many issues.

Evacuation centers do not have capacity to accommodate high-rise condominium residents. Minato City basically assumes that condominium residents will "stay at home" during a disaster.

The problem is how to respond to a "power outage". Our life depends on electricity, such as in heating, cooling and cooking.

Because pumps drawing water require electricity, water supply would be cut off.

The means of getting information through mobile phones and the Internet would be unusable.

The elevator would stop and would be unavailable.

Even in the case of buildings in which emergency electrical equipment is installed, most of them store fuel for only about 3 days. If it is installed in the basement, it may be unusable due to being waterlogged.

Even after power is restored, elevators cannot be used immediately until a technician comes from the elevator management company.

We need to think in advance about how to overcome those problems, or we will have difficult staying at home during a disaster.

Disaster prevention measures are important for high-rise condominiums.

Activities as a singer and composer

What kind of activities have you been doing as a singer?

I started musical activities playing in a band in junior high and high schools, and formed a folk band called "Sanrinsha (tricycle)" with two fellow students in the university, which made a debut.

Our debut song "Mizuiro-no-machi (light blue town)" happened to become a hit. Then I came to Tokyo and appeared on TV almost every day.

I was supposed to take over the family business after graduating from university. However, I didn't want to do it and started a career as a composer in order to stay in the entertainment world. I undertook to compose the theme music for the TV programs produced by Yoshimoto and Shochikugeino in Osaka, and as a result, I was called "the second Taro Kida". However, there could only be one person who could act as Taro Kida (laugh), and I returned to Tokyo.

Have you been affected by the COVID-19 Catastrophe?

The music industry itself has experienced a downturn due to the cancellation of music events, resulting that the number of job offers has decreased.

Online meetings using LINE, ZOOM, etc., have become normal.

The reunion party of my high school (Osaka Ibaraki High School) was also held on ZOOM. As an aside, attendees agreed on making a reunion song, and we registered the song in a karaoke system. You can sing the song on the karaoke system all over Japan and the world while attending a reunion party. This may be the first service in the world (laugh).



[Profile] Ichinen Yamazaki

A lyricist, composer and arranger from Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture. Born in 1954. Started his career as a member of the folk band called Sanrinsha while studying at Kwansai Gakuin University. Continued music activities as an arranger and producer. Received an album planning award for "Gaki -- Aku Yu Tribute" by the 50th Japan Record Awards, and again received an album planning award for "Moshimo Ashita Ga -- Miki Takashi Tribute" by the 54th Japan Record Award Committee. Served as the deputy disaster prevention leader of the Mita-Toyooka Neighborhood Association, a member of the Mita Subdistrict Disaster Management Council, a disaster prevention expert, and a regular member of the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC).



Disaster prevention activities carried out in 2019

Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita moving into the temporary Sento Imperial Palace



On the afternoon of March 31, 2020, Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita arrived at the temporary Sento Imperial Palace.

They were wearing a mask, and waved their hands from the car window to people standing on the road.

Minato City Office and surrounding neighborhood associations presented them with bunches of welcome flowers.

Their majesties are scheduled to stay at the temporary Sento Imperial Palace for about a year and a half, and then move to the Akasaka Imperial Palace.

Roses named Princess Michiko are planted in sidewalk planters in front of the temporary Sento Imperial Palace, and they are in full bloom around May and October, pleasing the eyes of passing pedestrians.



Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita arrived at the temporary Sento Imperial Palace
Provided by: Imperial Household Agency



Lantern still hung in neighboring shopping streets

Regional Historical Sites History before the establishment of the temporary Sento Imperial Palace

On March 31, 2020, Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita moved to the temporary Sento Imperial Palace located in the Takanawa district. In Minatoppu No.42, we would like to express our warmest welcome by introducing the palace, including the history of the surrounding area up to this point.

After World War II, the site area of the Residence of Prince Takamatsu, which was about 60,000m², decreased to 10,000m², and the part of the site which was no longer the residence was granted to establish the Takamatsu Junior High School, Takanawa 1-chome Apartment buildings, Matsugaoka Residential Area, Takanawa Civic Center, staff dormitories for the Imperial Household Agency, etc.



Rose "Princess Michiko" planted in front of the temporary Sento Imperial Palace

④ Kuromon

This had been familiarly known as a symbol of the Imperial Palace right through the Meiji, Taisho and Showa eras. In 1954, it was designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan and transferred to the Tokyo National Museum.



*Expanded edition: Utsusareta Minato-ku (Photos of Minato City) Takanawa District Version" from the Minato City Local History Museum's collection



Provided by: Tokyo Metropolitan Education Agency

⑥ Shii tree of the former Hosokawa Residence

The 400-year-old shii tree standing on the premises of the former Hosokawa Residence has been designated as a natural treasure by Tokyo Prefecture, and was relocated to a hill behind the Takanawa Regional City Office.



⑤ Front gate of Oishi Yoshio Hoka Jurokunin Churetsu no Ato (a place to memorize the unwavering loyalty of Oishi Yoshio and the 16 partisans)

Oishi Yoshio Hoka Jurokunin Churetsu no Ato (not usually open to the public)



① Residence of Prince Takamatsu and Korinkaku

This story was told by Mr. Hiroyuki Nishihiro, who is 78 and had operated a liquor shop called Kadoya in Tenjinzaka for the second straight generation since the early Showa era.

"In 1946, the main building of the Residence of Prince Takamatsu had been used as a guest house, "Korinkaku", by the Trade Agency at that time. Mr. Hiroshi Kawazoe, the former Special Secretary for International Relations to Prince Nobuhito, was appointed as the manager, and the building was diverted to a facility to entertain foreign VIPs, including senior officers of the General Headquarters of the Allied Powers, ambassadors and minister-counselors, as well as to hold wedding receptions. Kadoya received an order for alcoholic beverages from Korinkaku.

We visited a factory in Ebisu to purchase draft beer. At that time, it was difficult for us to purchase high-end whiskeys due to limited supplies.

I delivered alcoholic beverages to Korinkaku by car with my father. We parked our car in the underground parking lot, and carried them to the banquet hall. There were some parties in the garden".



Exterior of Korinkaku of that time (no longer exists)

② Memories of the opening of Takamatsu Junior High School

Matao Horino, a member of the inaugural class

Takamatsu Junior High School was inaugurated in 1949, and we initially took classes in the temporary classrooms in the building of Shirokane Elementary School.

The school site had been a part of the premises of the Residence of Prince Takamatsu, and had been originally planned to be used as a farm to supply food. However, Prince Takamatsu expressed his strong desire to provide a place for education, and then it became a site for Takamatsu Junior High School.

When the school building was completed, we carried our own chairs from Shirokane Elementary School to Takamatsu Junior High School.

There are 329 students in total, but the first school building was small. Therefore, students were divided into 6 classes on a two-shift system.

The school building was built of wood and not equipped with heaters, so it was cold in winter. Later, an extension to the school building was added twice.

Since there was no school gymnasium, the first graduation ceremony was held in the playground outside.

Prince Takamatsu was present at the first graduation ceremony, and a red carpet was laid on the road along which the prince passed.

When any big meeting or ceremony was held in school, the partitions dividing classroom space were removed, and three classrooms were merged into one big room.

Although there was a pine tree in the center of the schoolyard, its long rectangular shape made it possible to build a 100-meter straight running track.

For swimming lessons, we used the pool in the former Residence of Prince Takamatsu by favor of the Prince.

A school janitor used to walk around with a bell to inform us of the start of school. Since the school building was long on one side, there was a difference in the start time between classrooms at one end and at the other end.



School emblem designed by Prince Takamatsu

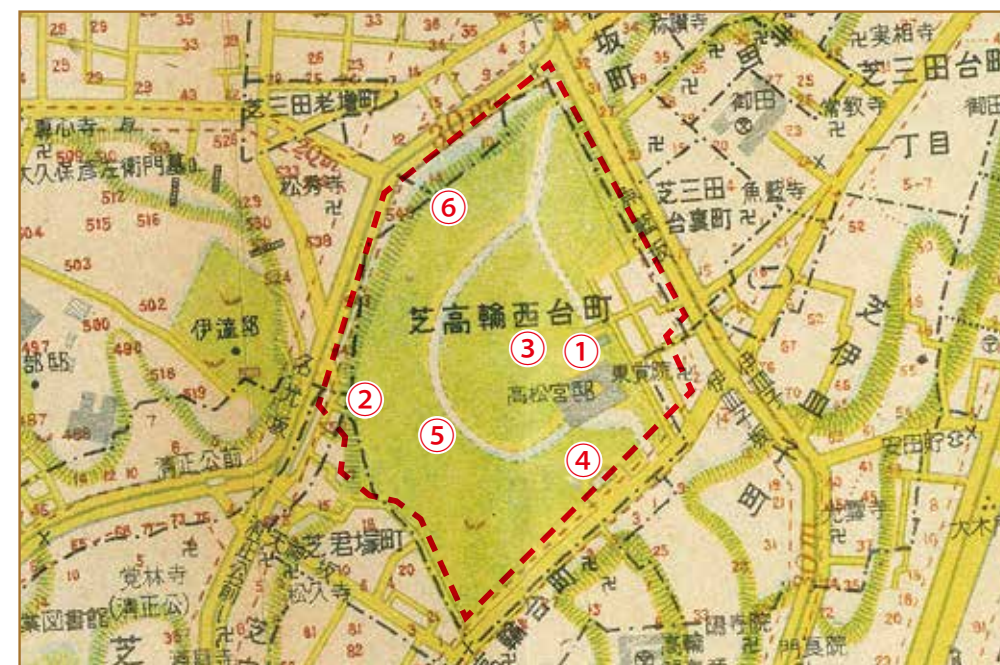


Swimming lesson using the pool in the Residence of Prince Takamatsu (Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamatsu observed the lesson)



The first graduation ceremony held at the playground
Provided by Takamatsu Junior High School Alumni Association

▼ The area inside the vermilion line is the Hosokawa family residence. I had many mansions in the area.



▲ Takanawa Imperial Residence in 1947. At that time, there was a gate near the current Gyoran-zakashita, and the road continued from there to the house. ("Minato Ward Modern History Map Collection Takanawa / Shirokane / Konan / Daiba" (Minato Ward Local History Museum))

▼ As of Reiwa 2 (2020)



③ Matsugaoka Residential Area

In March 1946, the Tokyoto Doho Engokai, Social Welfare Corp. was established, and Prince Nobuhito Takamatsu served as the president. In 1948, the Tokyoto Doho Engokai established the Matsugaoka Residential Area to provide housing sites to families who lost their houses during the war, and repatriates. Eighty-seven wooden single-story houses with the same room layout were built on the area that was divided into plots in a grid by roads. The dirt roads remained unpaved at that time.

Prince Takamatsu used to enjoy going for a walk in the residential area without any bodyguard. There were some facilities in the area, such as a meeting place, an open space and a children's playground, which were often used by community residents.

Because most community residents had suffered damage from the war and experienced a similar situation, they were tightly knit. When a fire occurred, I remember that community residents put out the fire by relaying a bucket.

(Yoichi Ando, age 77)



Prince Takamatsu strolling around the Matsugaoka Residential Area (The houses of those days no longer exist)

New Normal Way of Life in the “With COVID-19” Era

The effects of the spread of COVID-19 have made a big difference in our daily lives.

Due to the diffusion of teleworking, working styles have changed. Schools have been closed. People have voluntarily refrained from having mass-gathering meetings and events. Unnecessary contact between people is avoided. Non-urgent outings are strictly limited.

We interviewed those who do business or live in our district about a new normal way of life to overcome this difficult situation.

In times like this, we realize the importance of family unities, and mutual cooperation in the community.

Telework – Changes in the way we work

Telework has been disseminated rapidly in the past six months, and the way we work has changed. We interviewed a worker who is actually doing telework.

● How is your work going recently?

I started working from home since the state of emergency was declared. After termination of the declaration, I have continued working from home, in principle, and go to the office when necessary. At present, some departments require workers to come to the office frequently, but I go to the office about once a month, and work from home most of the time. Because I can attend online meetings and can perform accounting procedures through a computer network, there is not much need to go to the office.

● What has changed since you started working from home?

First, I set up a Wi-Fi network. If my computer is connected to the Internet, I can attend an online meeting. Then, I created a workspace. There were unexpected expenses for monitors, cables, etc.

I hear many workers who have a small child say they cannot concentrate on work, especially when school was closed. During an online meeting, we often feel comforted when we hear the voice of an attendee's child behind him/her, or when a delivery service worker comes to an attendee's house.

● What is good about teleworking?

I no longer need to spend a total of an hour and a half a day commuting for work, and have come to be able to use time effectively. I became a morning person, waking up a little early and taking a walk. I hear that some workers can afford the time to care for a child or other family member. Online meetings are almost the same as face-to-face meetings, so there is no major obstacle in the course of our work. Rather, I am no longer late for a meeting. (laugh)

In addition, online drinking parties have rapidly become popular, allowing conversations with friends living far away, even from overseas, beyond time and space. Our reunion party was held online this year. That may be proof that teleworking has become popular, and everyone has got used to teleworking.

● In contrast, what is the problem in teleworking?

As I often have meetings in front of my computer all day, I haven't had much exercise. I feel that working hours have increased. I get eye strain, too. If I worked at the office, I would have a small talk with colleagues around me, and a casual conversation might be useful for my work. However, it is a problem that we cannot have such communications. In particular, employee education is a source of concern. If I see junior staff face-to-face, I can recognize their changes and conditions from their face color or complexion. In the case of teleworking, it is difficult to do so. I try to communicate with them by calling frequently and having online meetings.

● What do you think will happen in the future?

I do not think teleworking will become obsolete after the COVID-19 is controlled. I think many people have become aware of the benefit of teleworking: painstaking commuting is a waste of time; online sessions are sufficient for debriefing; business trips are unnecessary; and time can be used more freely. However, I hear that teleworking has not yet been promoted in some companies, where PCs are not rented to employees or where employees are forced to go to the office.

I think that we should incorporate what is beneficial to the whole society, and work together on a new way of working that helps reduce infection risks and facilitates communication.



10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster prevention measures in preparation for the Tokyo inland earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred at approximately 2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011, was a catastrophe that resulted in 22,000 or more people dead or missing. March 2021, and ten years have passed since the earthquake. At present, we have continued to coexist with COVID-19. However, natural disasters do not wait for COVID-19 to be controlled. It is the 10-year milestone since the earthquake occurred, and we should start to take measures to be ready for an earthquake that is directly under Tokyo, which is likely to occur.

Reduction of damage from disasters through self-help, mutual assistance and public assistance

In order to reduce the damage caused by disasters, it is important to promote three efforts: "self-help" a voluntarily effort by each and every one of us; "mutual assistance", an effort by community people in cooperation with each other; and "public assistance", an effort by the government. However, the limit of "public assistance" has been pointed out in large-scale disasters over a wide area. In the event of emergency, it is you who protect yourself. Let's start with taking steps that you can do at home.

Step ① Prevent furniture from toppling over

According to an investigation on the causes of injuries induced by earthquakes that occurred in recent years, 30-50% are due to tip-overs, falls and moves of furniture. The Minato City provides anti-toppling devices for furniture free of charge.

Step ② Stockpiling

In the event of a large-scale earthquake, logistics functions and lifeline utilities may be damaged. In preparation for disasters, it is effective to carry out "daily stockpiling" by purchasing a little more food and daily necessities that we use in everyday life.

Step ③ Toilets

It is likely that sewer conduits and in-building drainage pipes would be damaged, and toilets in each house would become unavailable. In past earthquakes, there were long queues of people who were waiting to use a toilet at an evacuation shelter, and mass infections occurred at a shelter where toilets were the source of infection.

Prepare portable toilets with human waste disposal bags (bags for storing human waste), and coagulants to process waste.

Disaster prevention measures for condominiums

In the Takanawa district, where there had been many detached houses, the recent redevelopment project has led to the increase of large-scale high-rise residential buildings. In Minato City, because high-rise residential buildings have little risk of collapse due to earthquakes, residents are recommended to "stay at home during a disaster" instead of going to a shelter, in principle. In addition to the above-mentioned steps, such as furniture tip-over prevention and stockpiling, necessary steps for those living in high-rise residential buildings are shown below.

Step ① Establish rules for safety confirmation.

In high-rise residential buildings, it may take a long time to receive outside aid. In the event of a disaster, a condo association board and a disaster prevention organization may work together to visit each dwelling unit to confirm the safety of residents. It is recommended that you should display the rules to be followed by residents of the condominium, including putting a safety confirmation card on the door which informs other residents of your safety.

Step ② Do not run water until it is confirmed that drainage pipes can be safely used.

Do not run water until it is confirmed that drainage pipes can be safely used.

Drainage pipes may have been damaged by an earthquake. When water runs through the damaged pipes, there is a risk of water leaking downstairs. Do not run water until the administrator confirms that they can be used safely.

Step ③ Do not use an elevator.

Immediately after a disaster occurs, there is a risk of being locked in an elevator due to an aftershock, power outage, breakdown, etc., even if the elevator moves. Thus, move using stairs instead of an elevator.

Overview of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred at approximately 2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011, was an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0, whose epicenter was about 130 km east-southeast of the Oshika Peninsula in Miyagi Prefecture off Sanriku Coast and about 24 km deep. In this great earthquake, a huge tsunami hit coastal areas facing the Pacific coast. The height of the tsunami that hit each place has been confirmed by traces, for example, 9.3 meters or more in Soma, Fukushima Prefecture, and 14.8 meters at the Onagawa Fishing Port in Miyagi Prefecture (Port and Airport Research Institute).

In the Tokyo metropolitan area, where a seismic intensity of upper 5 was observed, public transportation became unavailable, and a large number of people at their workplaces or outing destinations were affected by the disaster, and had trouble returning home. They were called obstructed homeward commuters, and many of them attempted to return home on foot, so the sidewalks were filled to overflowing with streams of such people. Besides, liquidation phenomena were observed over a wide area of the Kanto Region, and caused damage that temporarily stopped lifeline utilities, such as water, electricity and gas.



A road near the Shinjuku Station on the day of the 3.11 Earthquake

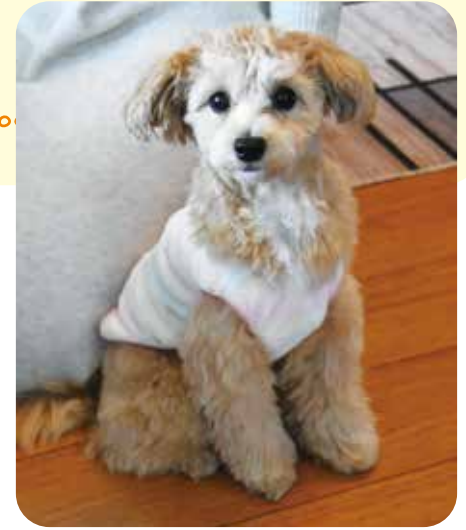
pet I am a member of the community!

“Smiling at everyone” Emma, a Maltese-Poodle

Owner: Yukari Naito (Residing in Takanawa, Minato City)

My name is Emma. I am a girl born on March 4, 2020. My dad is a Toy Poodle and my mom is Maltese. People often say, “You look like a stuffed toy!” I came to my master’s house two months after my birth. I spend every day having fun and a day passes in a flash!

I can sit down and give my paw, and am particularly good at walking on my hind legs. When I smell my recent favorite, sweet potato, I can’t help begging standing on my hind legs!



Which do I look like, my mom or dad?



My special skill, walking on my hind legs.



I also love ball playing.

There are a lot of cars and bicycles running around my house, so at first I was afraid of going for a walk. But when I got used to it, it was fun! Recently, when I see my leash, I jumped on my master and encouraged her to get ready for a walk, saying “Let’s go early!”

When I go for a walk, I greet both people and dogs passing by. I also greet a fire fighter, postman and delivery service worker, shaking my long tail and saying hello. Then everyone smiles. A little kid stops crying. I am glad to see it, and I shake my tail faster.

My master always says to me, “Don’t get too excited. Say hello gently”. But when I see everyone’s smiling, I get too excited.

When I meet you during a walk, I will surely greet you. Please look at me and smile.

(Written by Matsushima and Takigawa)

Notice from the Regional City Office

What is Minatop?

This is a community-based information paper that has been published in the Takanawa area since 2006, and is created in collaboration with the local people and the ward.

The contents are diverse, such as “local events and community activities,” “local history and resources,” and “people who are active in the community,” and you’re sure to discover something new. Read Minatop and become attached to the area.

I hope that this information paper will help some people to become interested in or like the area called “Takanawa”.



Local people and the ward having an editorial meeting.



Why don't you learn “Easy Japanese” ?

Foreign residents from 130 or more countries reside in Minato City.

For this reason, we are actively promoting the use of “easy Japanese” which consists of rather simple Japanese expressions so that both Japanese and foreign residents can have conversations with other residents from any country, and can participate in local activities in cooperation with other community residents.

If you have any problems in your neighborhood, such as “I don’t know how to use ‘easy Japanese,’” “I don’t know how to communicate with people from other countries”, or “I cannot interact with other people due to a language barrier”, please contact the Internationalization Promotion Section of the Regional Promotion Division.

[Contact] Global Community Planning Subsection, Community Promotion Section, Industry and Community Promotion Support Department TEL : 3578-2565

Open until 7:00 p.m. on every Wednesday. * Services handled are limited. Please check in advance.

Counter Service Subsection , Residents Support Section : ☎ 5421 - 7612 / Health and Welfare Subsection : ☎ 5421 - 7085