

# **Flood Management in Japan**

**“Making space for water”  
in innovative ways under land limitation**

JICA River Management Advisor

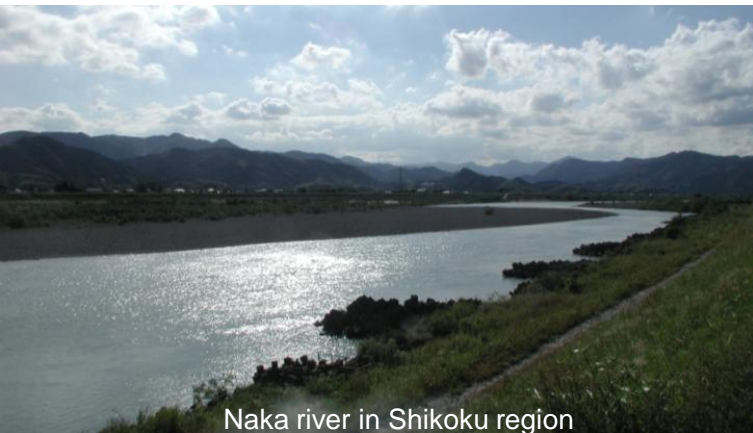
AKIHISA OKUDA

# Flood Management in Japan

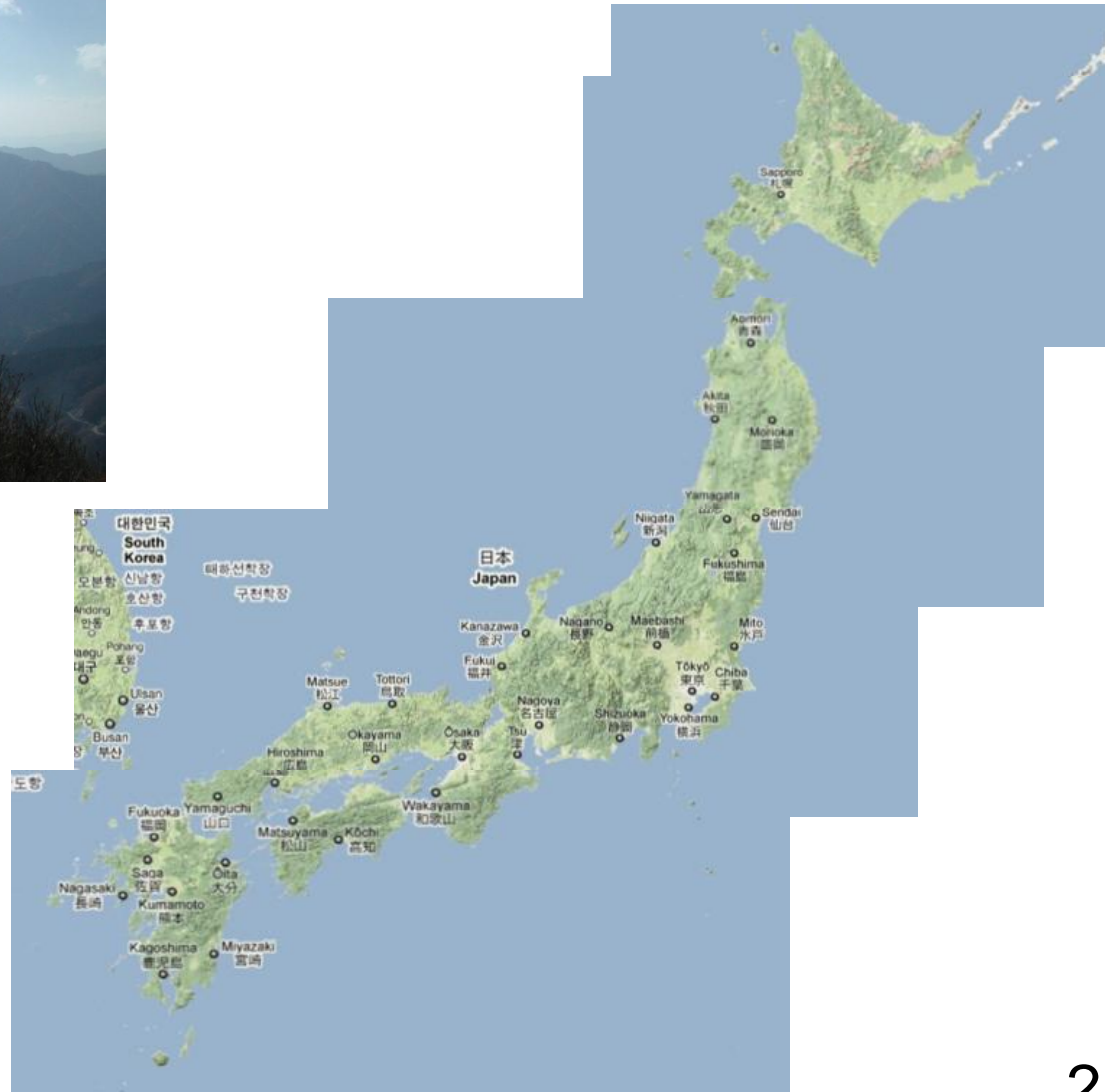
1. Japan's National Land Conditions
2. Comprehensive Flood Control Measures
  - River Measures
  - Basin Measures
  - Damage Reduction Measures
3. Recent Developments

# Japan, a country of mountains

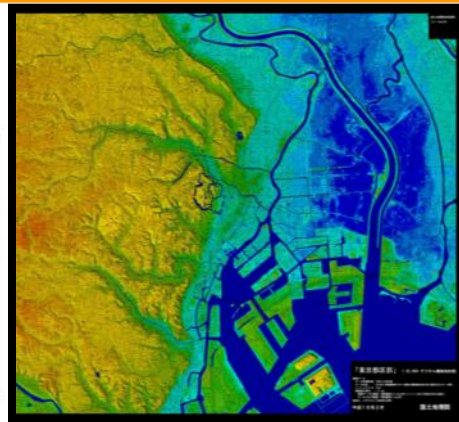
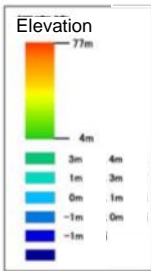
About 70% of its national land is mountainous.



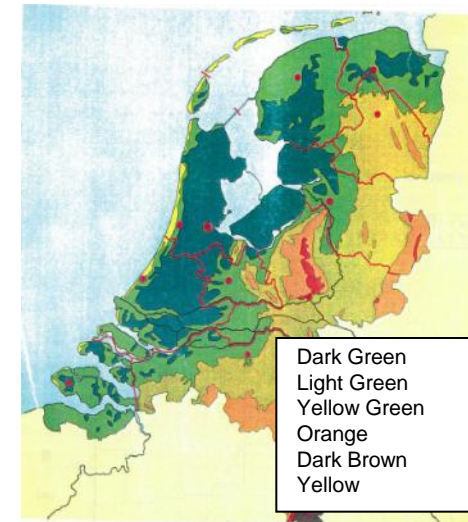
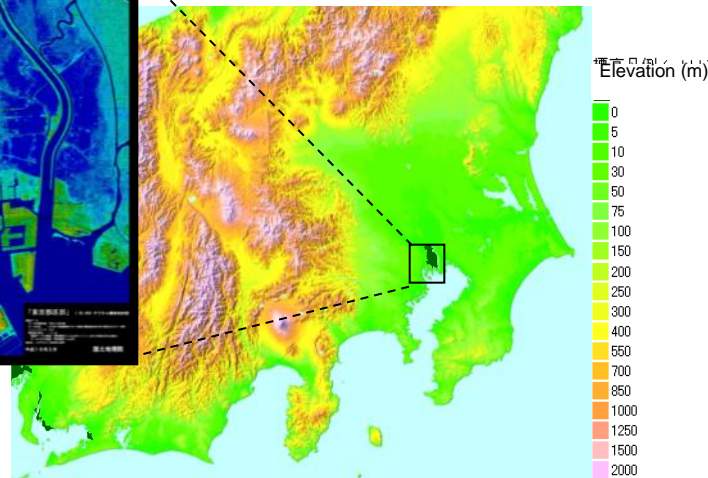
Naka river in Shikoku region



# Japan and the Netherlands

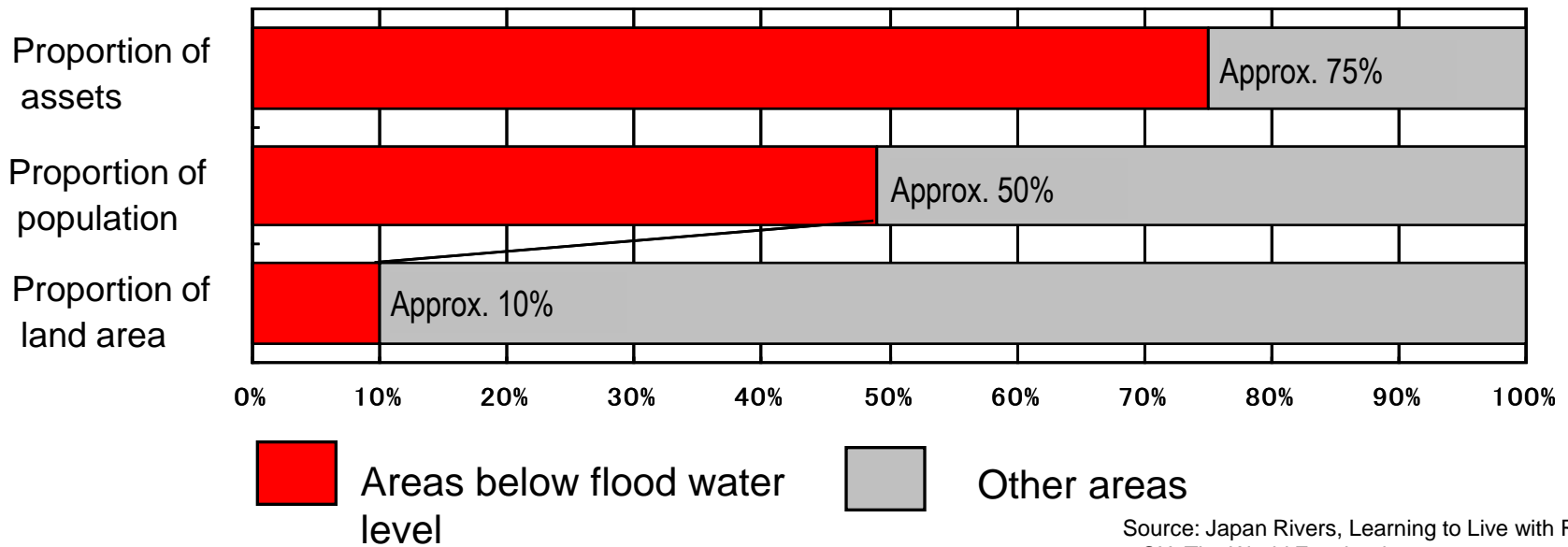


Tokyo

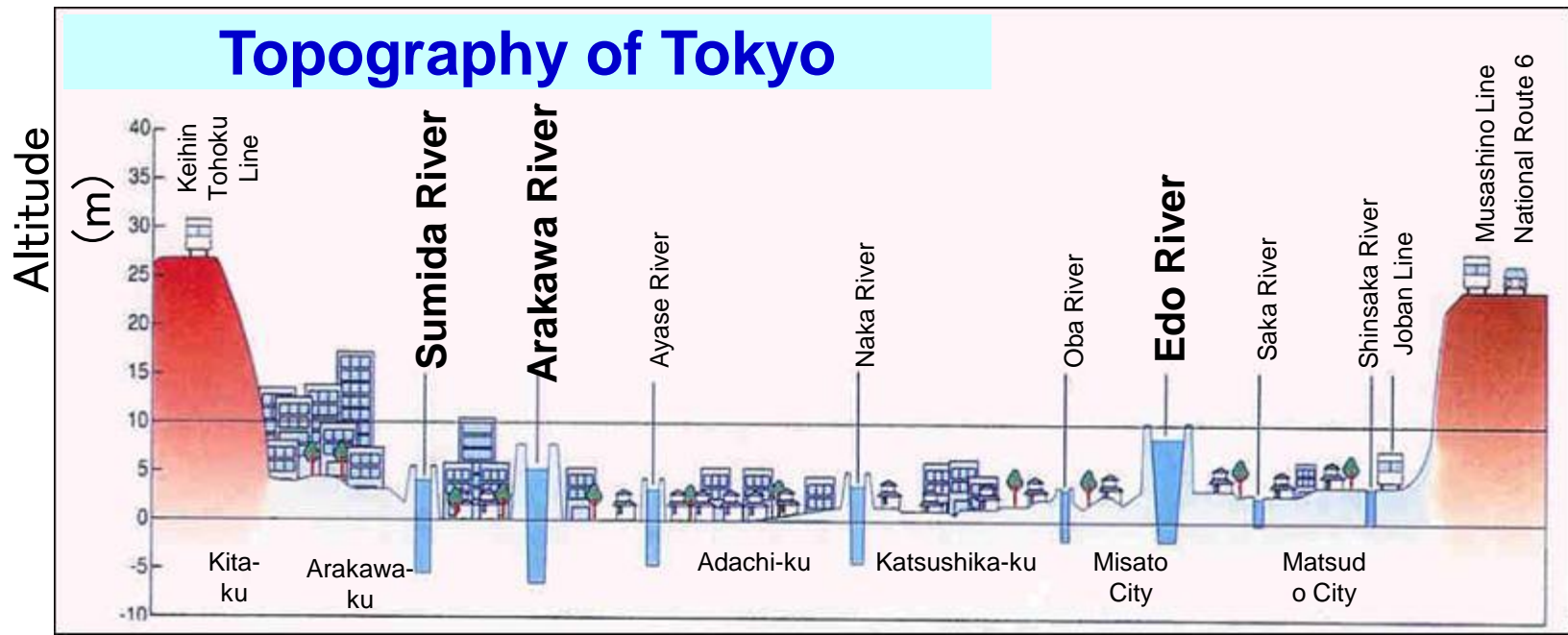


		Japan	The Netherlands
Geography		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area : 378,000km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Many short steep rivers.</li> <li>Sediment problems because of poor soil</li> <li>Flood plain area is located by alluvial fan and riverside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area : 42,000km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Rhine River, Maas River, Schelde River as mild slope international river</li> <li>Delta and low area</li> </ul>
		Population : 127.4 mil. (Density 337.1 /km <sup>2</sup> )	Population : 16.6 mil. (Density 400.4 /km <sup>2</sup> )
River	Name of River	Tone River	Rhine River
	Basin Area	About 17,000km <sup>2</sup>	About 185,000km <sup>2</sup>
	length of river	322km	1,320km
	Average bed slope	About 1/175	About 1/2,600
	largest flow discharge	17,000m <sup>3</sup> /s(1947)	13,000m <sup>3</sup> /s (1926)
Climate	annual mean rainfall	1,718mm	About 800mm
	100 year daily precipitation	376mm (Tokyo)	80mm (de Valdo)
	100 year hourly precipitation	94mm (Tokyo)	40mm ( de Valdo )

# Vulnerability to water hazards



Source: Japan Rivers, Learning to Live with River  
CIA The World Fact book



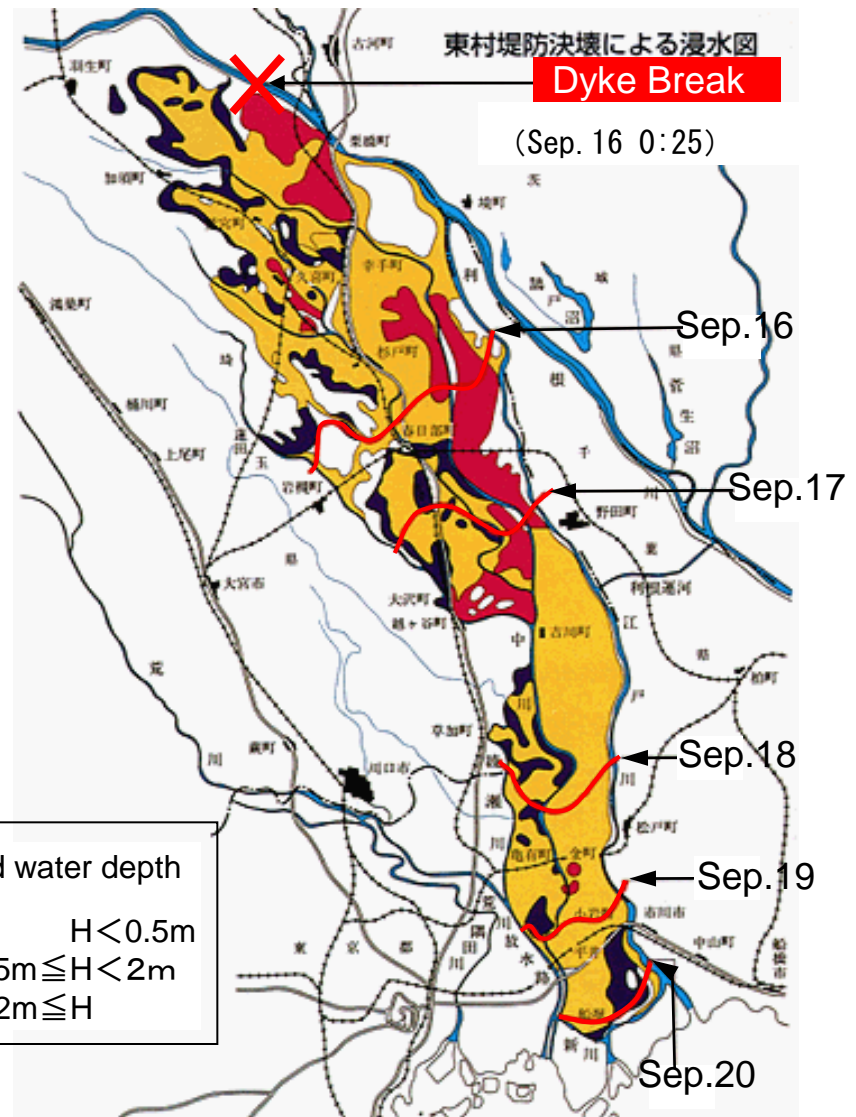


Typhoon Kathleen (1947) killed more than 1,100 people and submerged over 300,000 houses in Tokyo area.

A dike in Tone River collapsed and floods reached as far as Tokyo.



Areas inundated



# Typhoon Vera (Typhoon Ise Bay) in 1959 left 5,098 persons dead or missing, 38,921 injured, and some 1.2 million houses damaged.

\* Excluding figures for the Kyushu region

- Dikes collapsed because of storm surge and river flood. Drifting woods increased casualties.
- Low-lying areas continued to be covered with water for more than 120 days.

Search and rescue efforts using boats (Yoro Town, Gifu Prefecture)



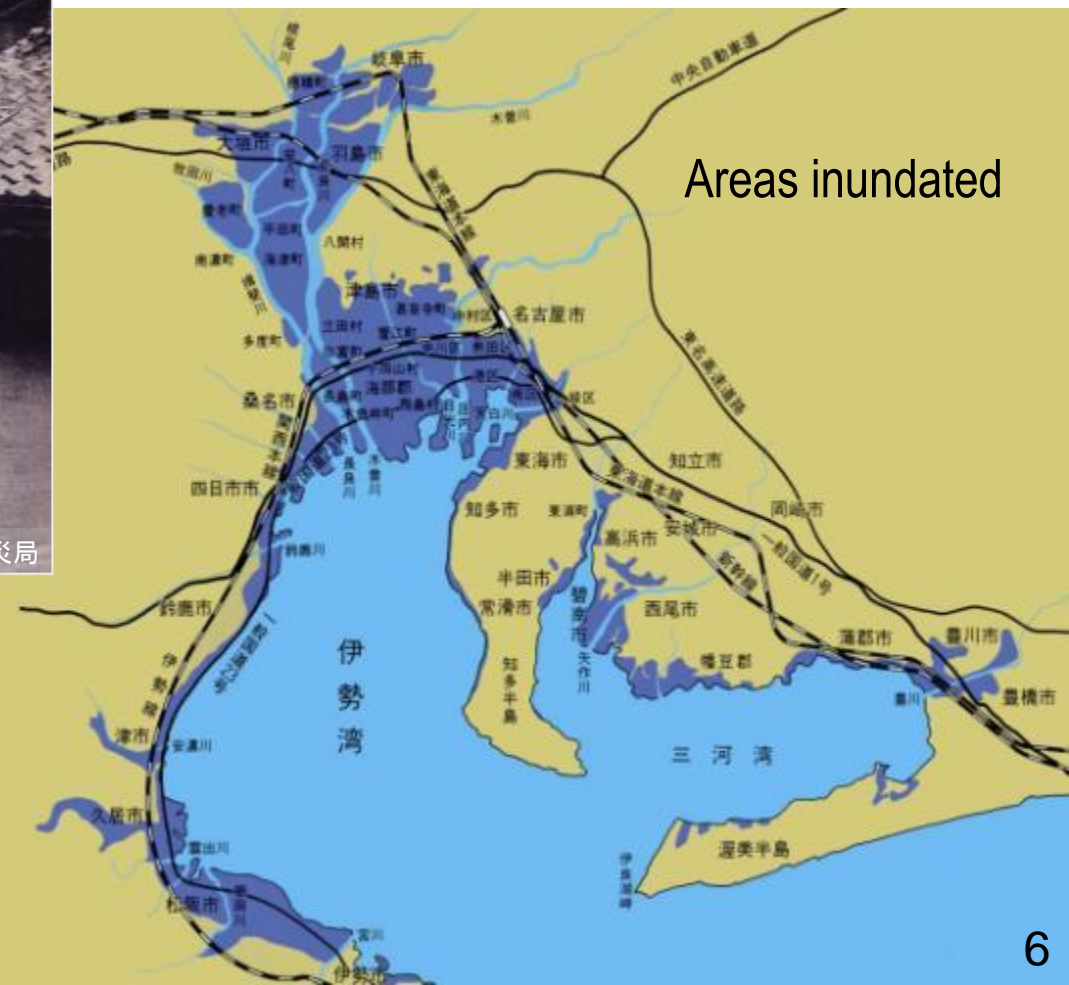
出典: 岐阜県防災局

Submerged and isolated houses

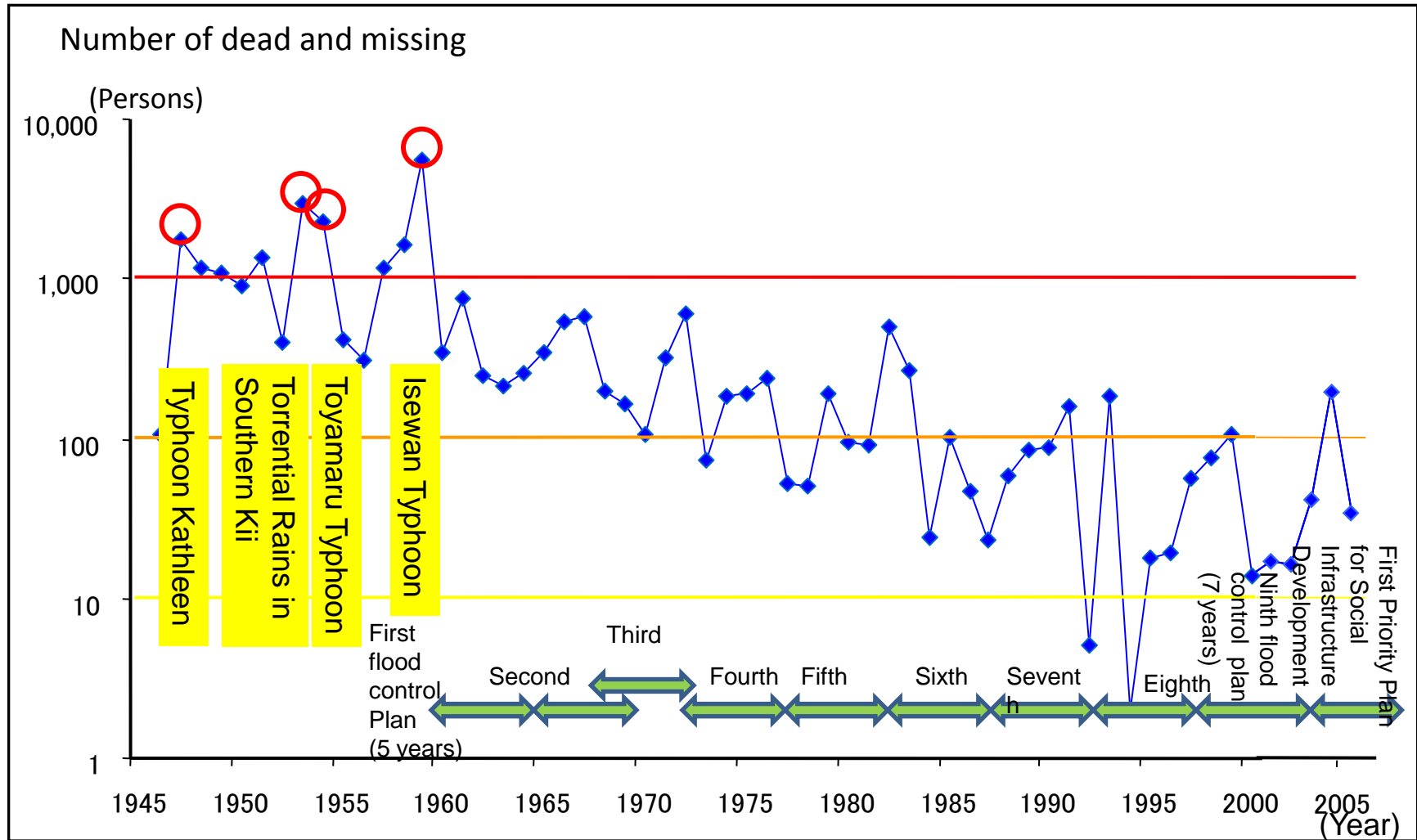


出典: 岐阜県防災局

Source: *Jidai ni Hikitsugu ano Kyokun Isewan Taifu* (Handing down the Lessons Learned from the Ise Bay Typhoon to the Next Generation) compiled by the Executive Committee of the 30-year Ise Bay Typhoon Project



# Significant Decrease in Number of Casualties Due to Implementation of Continuous Flood Control Measures





# Flood Management in Japan

1. Japan's National Land Conditions
2. Comprehensive Flood Control Measures
  - River Measures
  - Basin Measures
  - Damage Reduction Measures
3. Recent Developments

# Comprehensive Flood Control Measures

## River Measures

- Dams, retarding basins and discharge channels
- River improvement (embanking, dredging)

River Administrator

## Basin Measures

### Water retaining area

- Preservation of natural / agricultural lands
- Flood control ponds
- Rainwater storage facilities
- Permeable pavements and rainwater infiltration inlets

### Water retarding area

- Preservation of natural / agricultural lands,
- Restriction of constructing mounds

### Lowland area

- Drainage facilities
- Floodwater storage facilities
- Promotion of flood resistant buildings

Basin Authority  
(Prefectures, Municipalities)

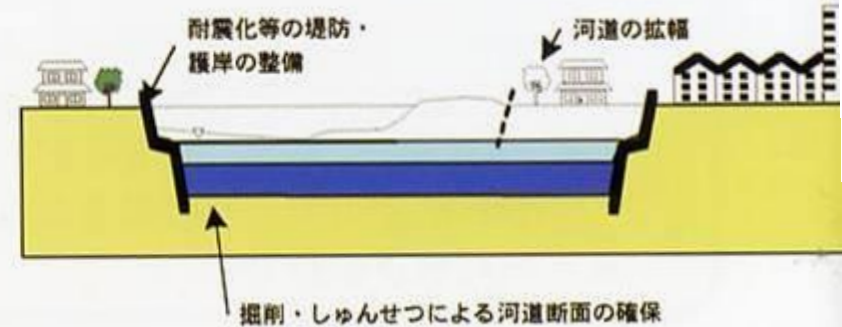
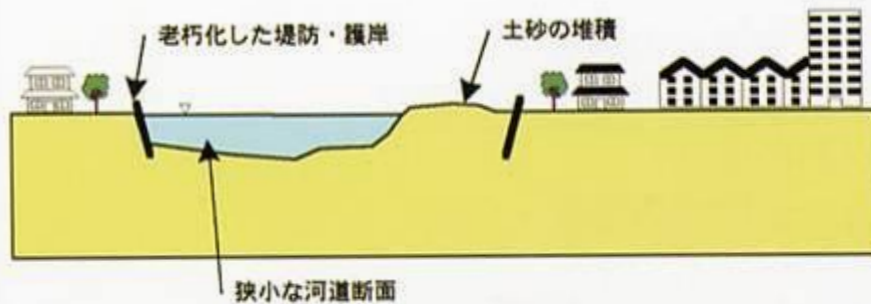
## Damage Reduction Measures

- Warning and evacuation systems
- Flood-fighting
- Announcement of inundation records and flood hazard areas
- Promotion of flood resistant buildings
- Awareness raising of local residents

River Administrator  
Basin authority

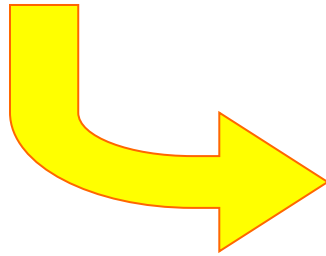
# River Measures

# River channel improvement





# Construction of levees

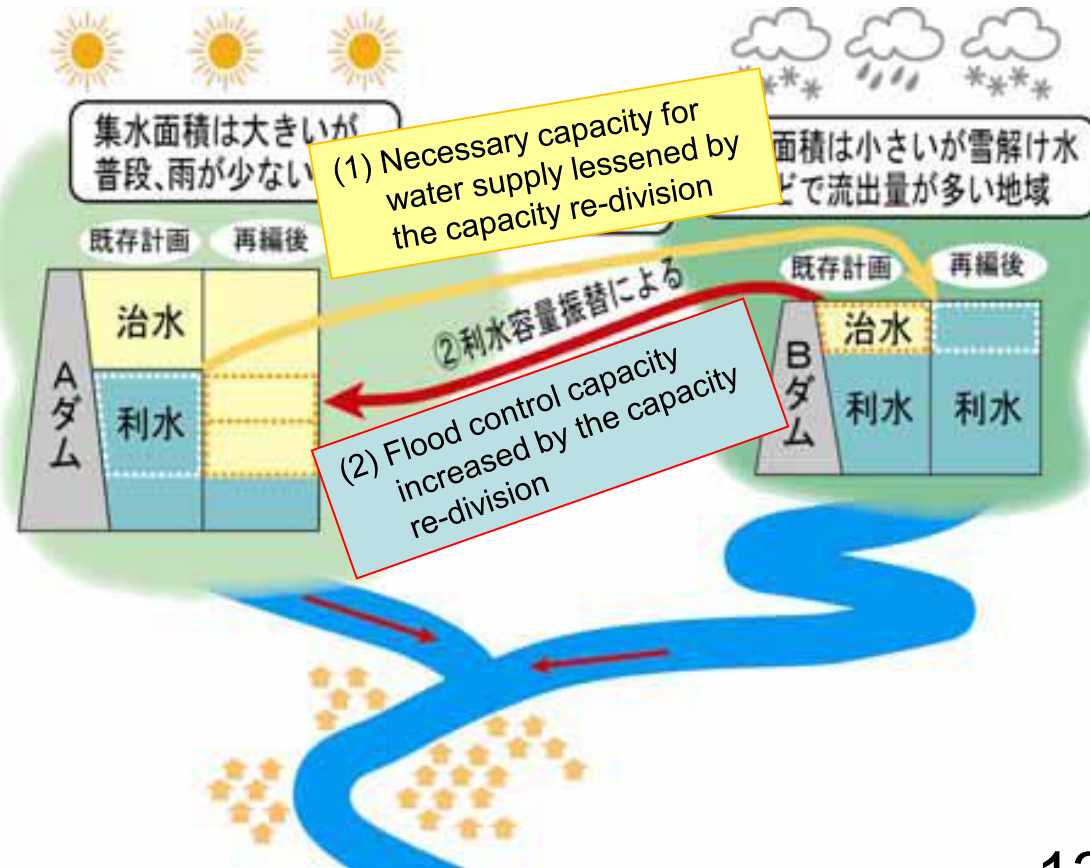


# Construction & Operation Improvement of Dams



## Integrated operation of existing dams

Optimum capacity re-division of related dams based on present situations of dam operation, precipitation and flow characteristics of each sub basin





# Retarding basin (Ara river)

Flood Control in Aug. 2006



## Ara River First Retarding Basin

- location : Saitama City & Toda City, Saitama Pref.  
(28.8 - 37.2km from estuary of Arakawa river)
- Operation Start : Year 2003
- Area of Reservoir : 580 ha
- Total Capacity for Flood Control : 39 mil. m<sup>3</sup>
- Valid Capacity : 10.6 mil. m<sup>3</sup>
- Control volume : 850m<sup>3</sup>/sec

Photo by Arakawa Upstream River Office



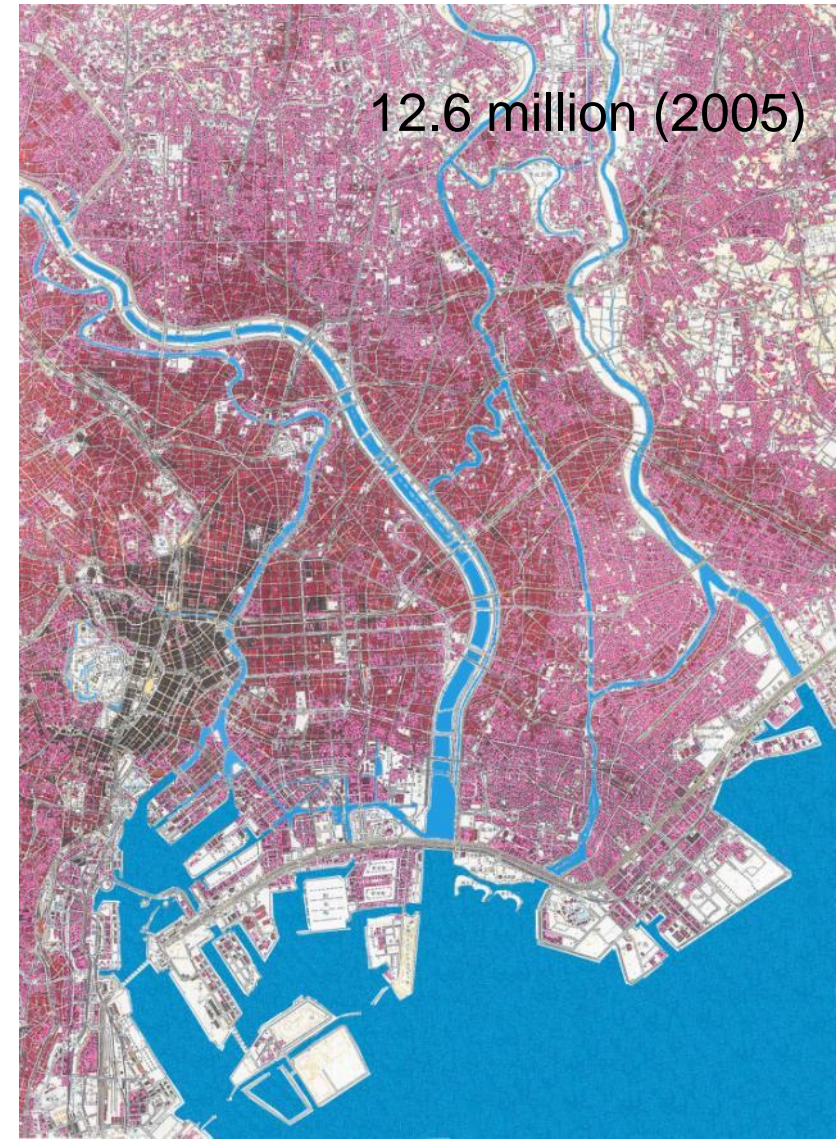
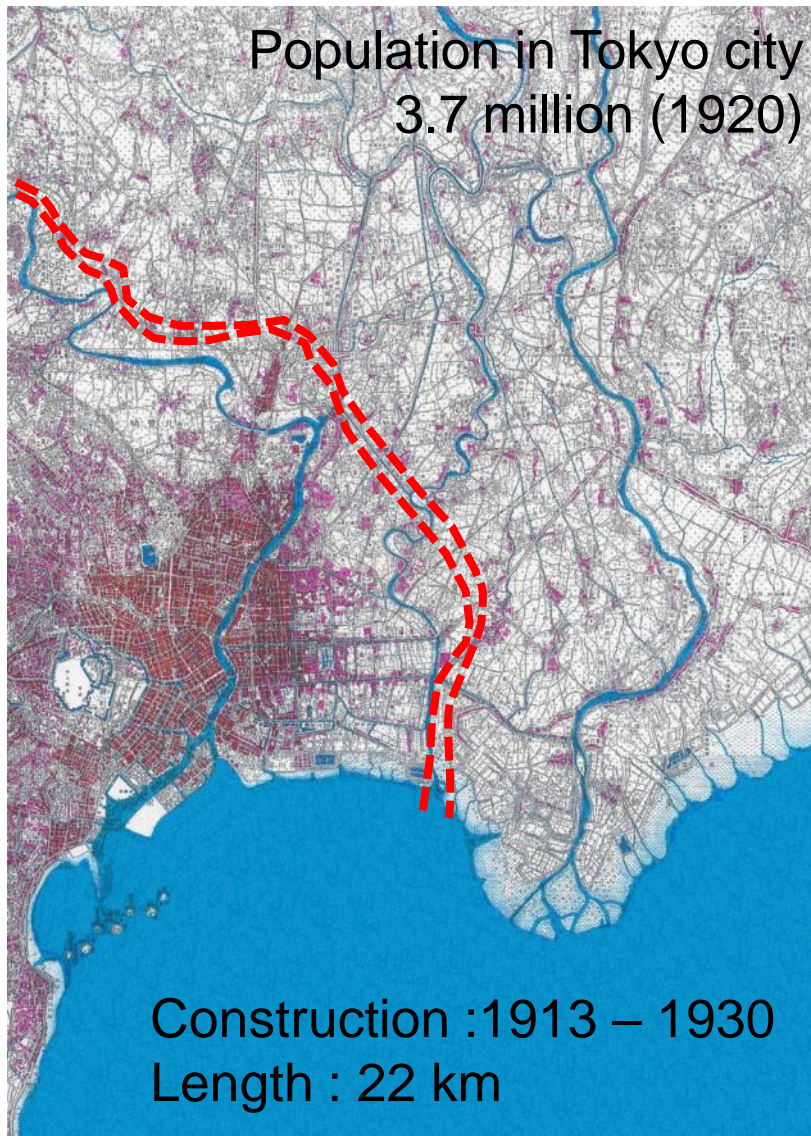
# Retarding basin (Kitakami river)





# Discharge channel (Ara river)

For the Ara River running through Tokyo, a floodway was constructed following the great flood of 1910.



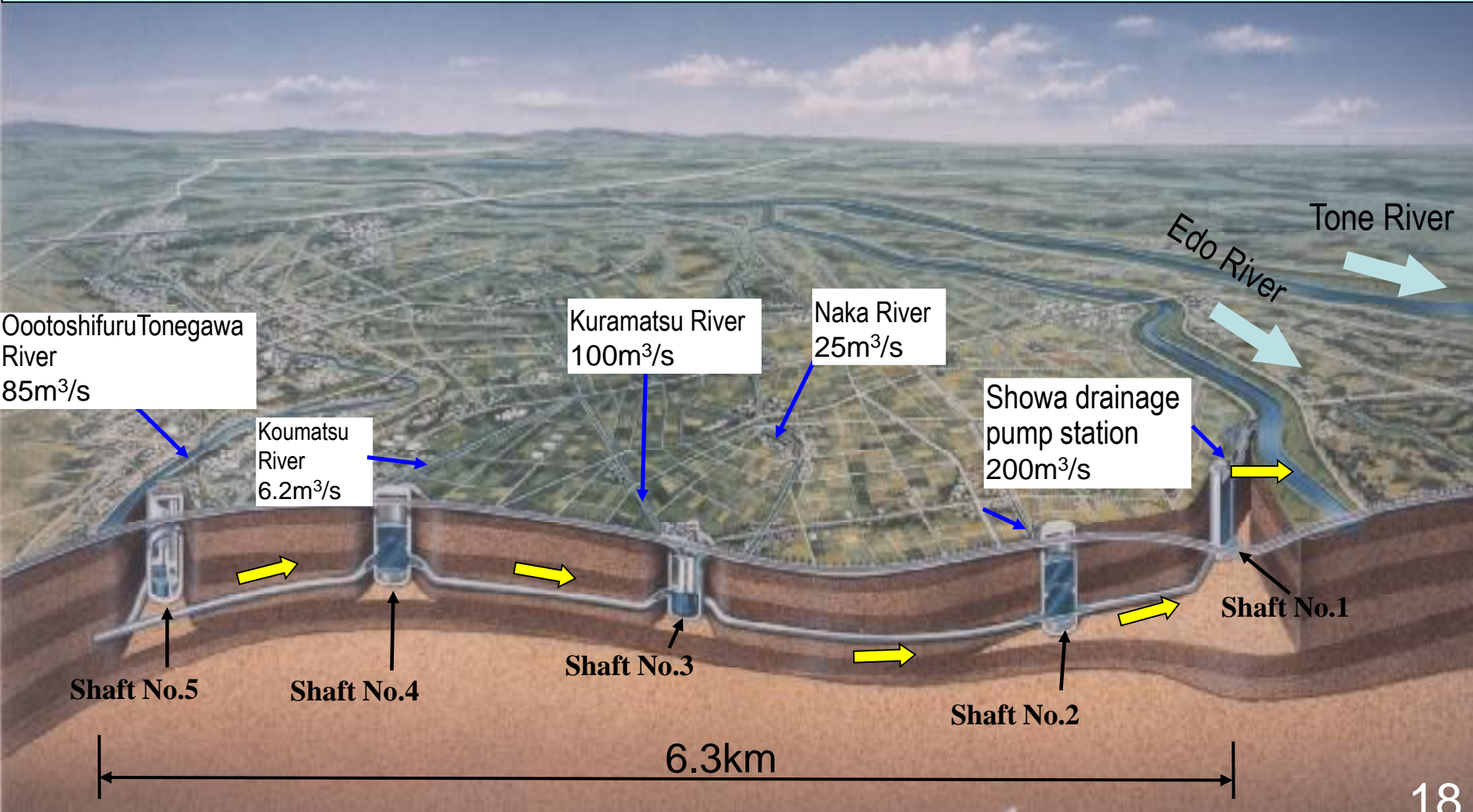


# Discharge Channel (Hii river)



# Underground discharge tunnel (Outer metropolitan area)

The floodway was constructed to drain floodwater in low-lying Naka river basin (suburban Tokyo), where frequent inundation caused severe damage. Due to the land restriction, the floodway was build underground.





# Underground discharge tunnel (Outer metropolitan area)

## [Shafts] Shafts Nos. 1 to 5

- Shaft No.1: Inside diameter 31.6m, Depth 71m
- Shaft No.2: Inside diameter 31.6m, Depth 63m
- Shaft No.4: Inside diameter 25.1m, Depth 63m
- Shaft No.5: Inside diameter 15m, Depth 65m

Shaft No.3: Inside diameter 31.6m, depth: 68m

## [Tunnel]

- Length : 6.3km
- Inside diameter : About 11m
- Depth : About 50m

Tunnel in Construction Section No. 4: Inside diameter 10.9m

## [Pumps]

- Maximum discharge 200m<sup>3</sup>/s

Gas Turbines x 4  
(discharge 50m<sup>3</sup>/s)

Wheel

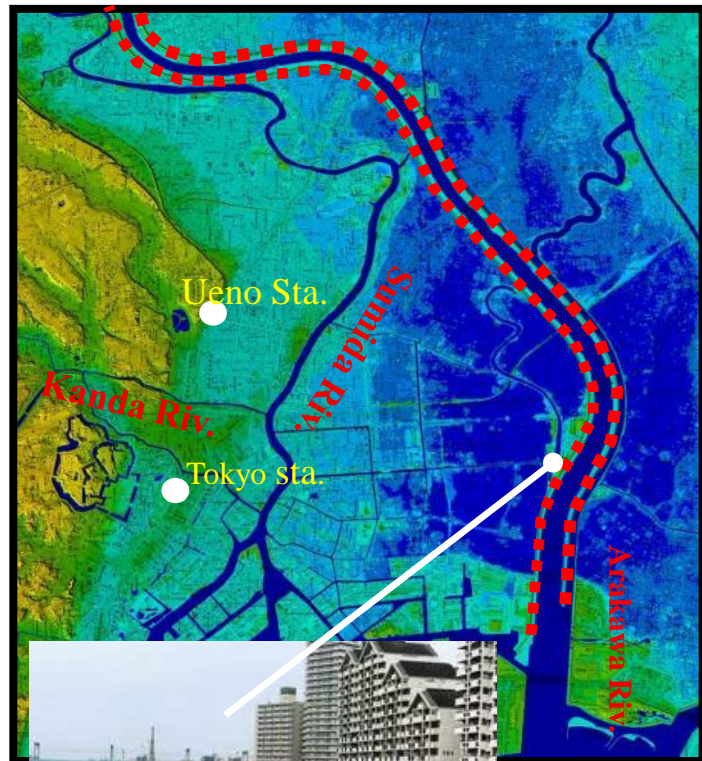
## [Surge tank]

- Length 177m • Width 78m
- Height 25.4m
- Pillar (Number 59, Height 18m)

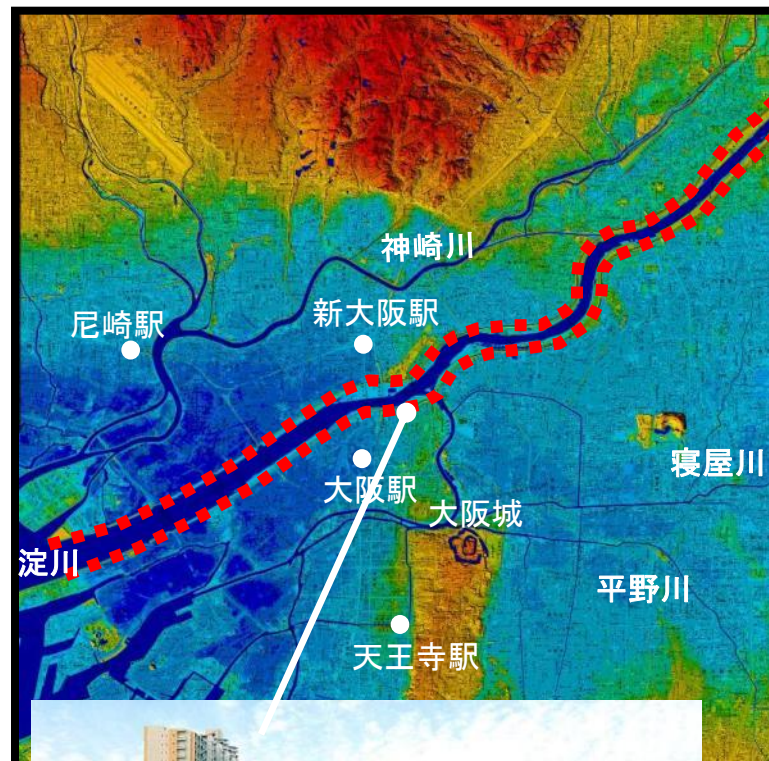


# Super Levees to avoid a catastrophic disaster

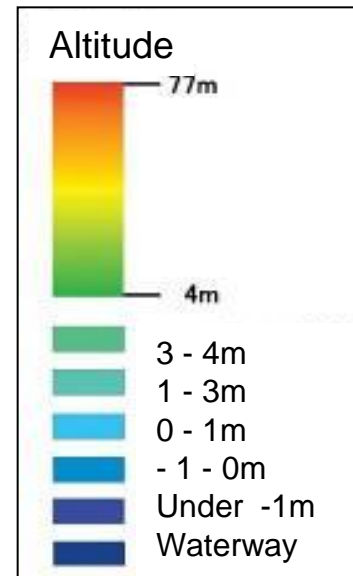
High-standard levees are built in order to prevent catastrophic damage due to dyke breach in low-lying highly urbanized areas, such as Tokyo and Osaka.



Komatugawa Area, Arakawa



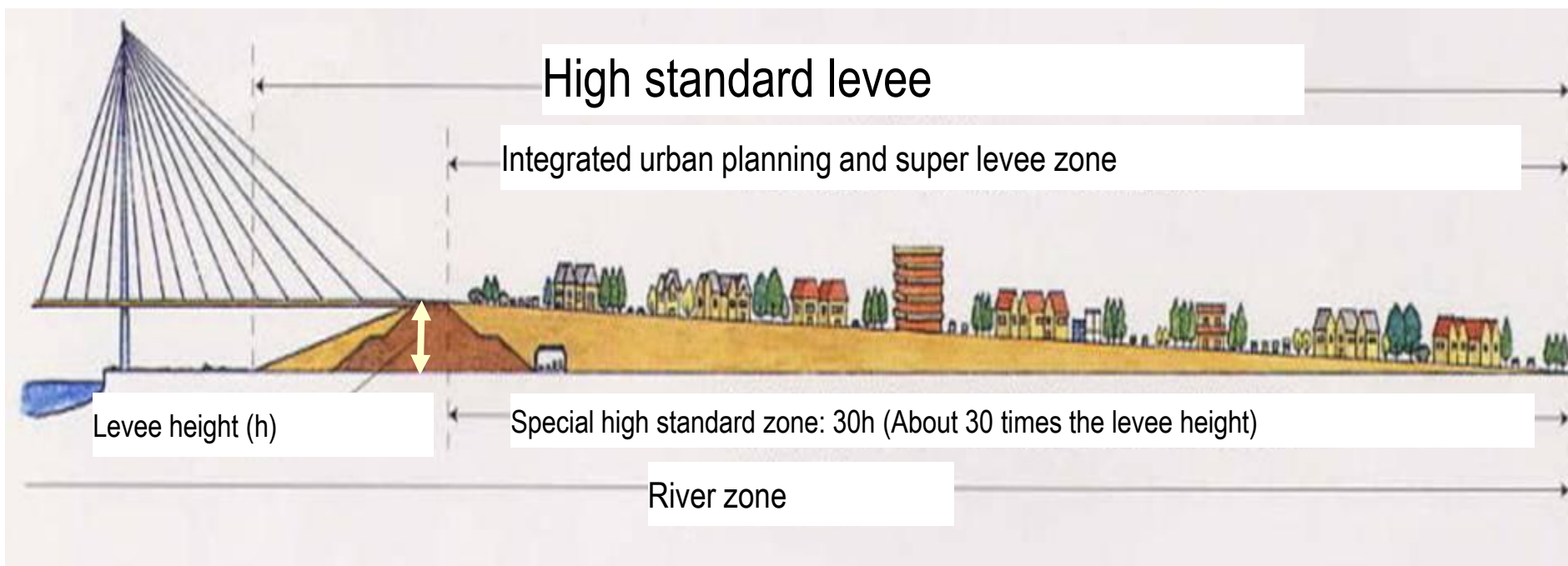
Iganishi Town, Yodo



# Super Levees (effects of disaster reduction)

With their extreme width, built in tandem with urban renovation projects, super levees can withstand

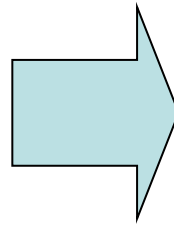
- 1) Overtopping flow,
- 2) Seepage during floods,
- 3) Earthquake (liquefaction and landslides).





# Super Levees (effects of urban landscape, environment)

Super levees can enrich urban environment by creating open public spaces along the river.



Arakawa River and Shinden districts in Adachi City

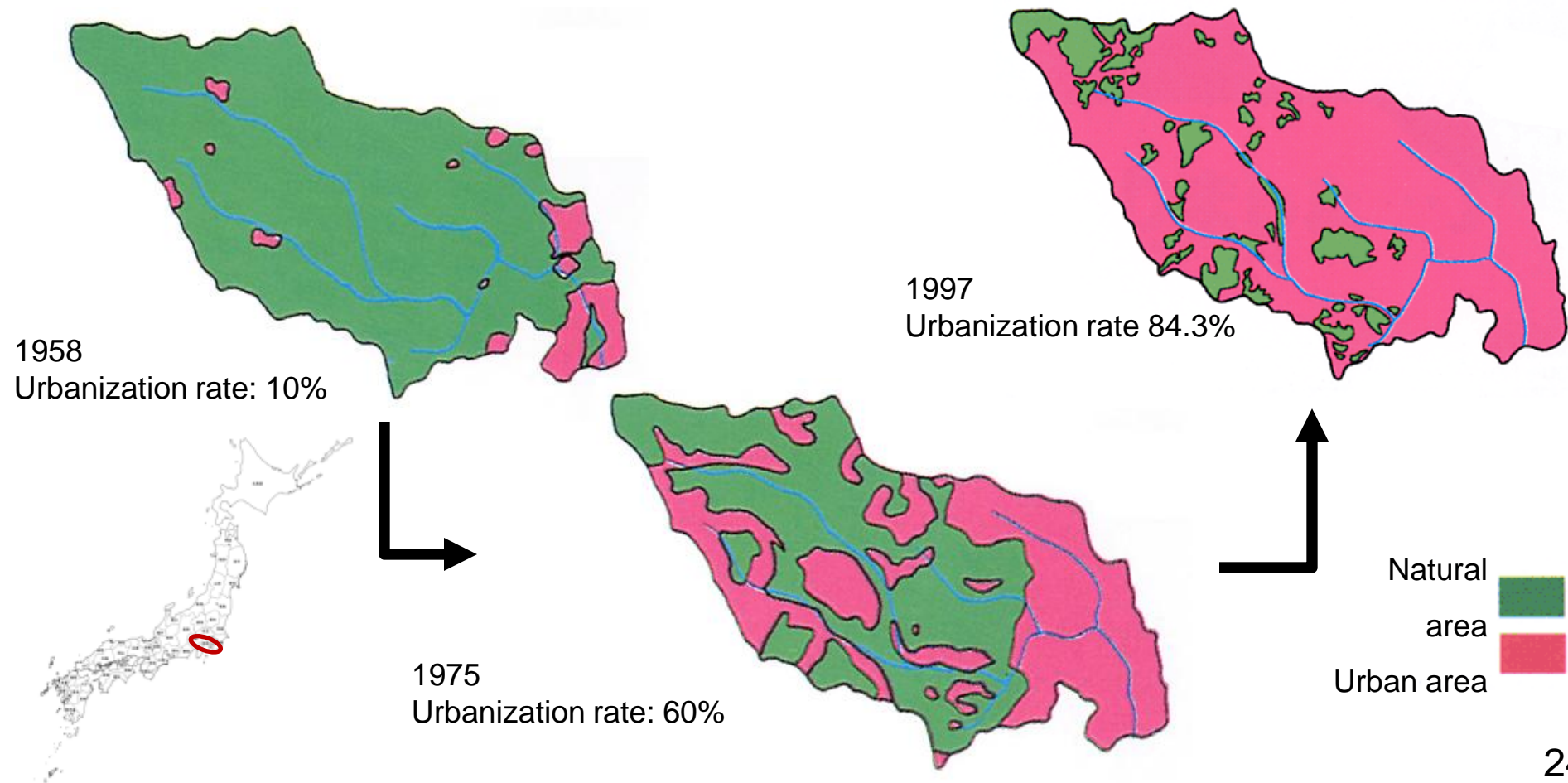
# Basin Measures



# The background for the introduction of “Basin Measures”

Due to the rapid increase of population, plateaus and hilly areas near large cities were developed rapidly on a large scale.

Tsurumi River (Tokyo and Kanagawa Pref.)



# The background for the introduction of “Basin Measures”

Progress of urbanization heighten the risk of flood on low grounds

## ■ After Development

Since the surface has been covered by concrete or asphalt, and forests and paddy fields have disappeared, the water flow to the downstream has increased.



## ■ Before Development

Most of rainwater is infiltrated into the ground or reserved in paddy fields: the flow into the downstream is controlled.





# Flood control ponds

normally



Kirigaoka reservoirs  
(Tsurumi river)



flooded

# Rainwater storage facilities

Storing rainwater in a schoolyard



normally

flooded



# Permeable pavements

permeable pavement



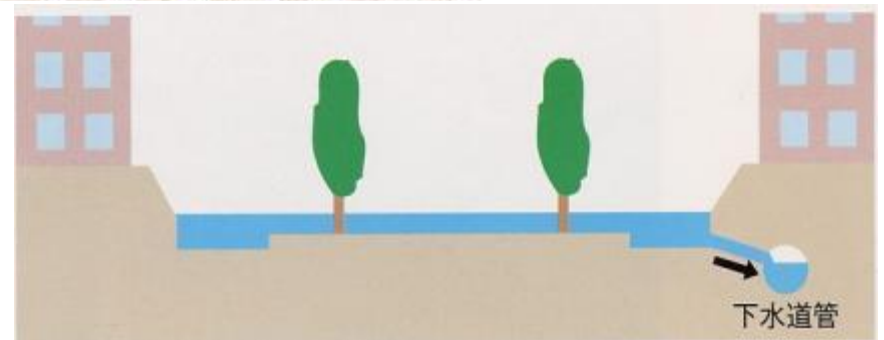
permeable tile pavement



Tokyo



# Rainwater storage between buildings in apartment complexes



# Infiltration facilities

## Seepage pits • Seepage trench



# Damage Reduction Measures



# Increase of Damage Potential due to Urbanization

Flood damage in Fukuoka City (June, 1999)

A city with approximately 1.5 million people.



**Urban area were flooded with some 1 meter high**



# Submergence at the underground facilities in urban areas



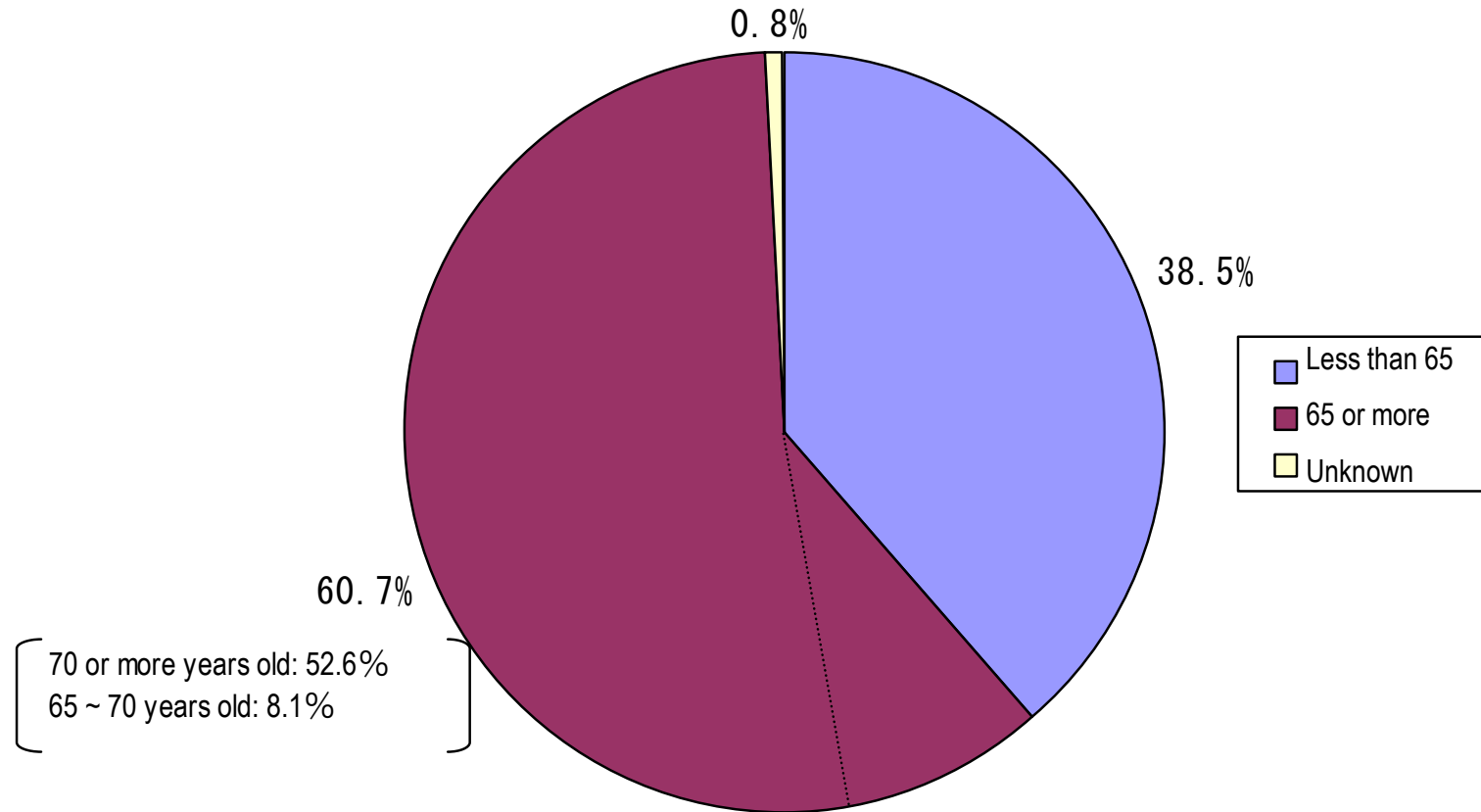
Oct.2004  
Azabu-juban Sta.  
(Tokyo metro)



Jul. 2003  
Hakata Sta.  
(Fukuoka municipal subway)

# Increase of vulnerability due to the aging population

## Most of fatalities and missing (60%) are aged persons

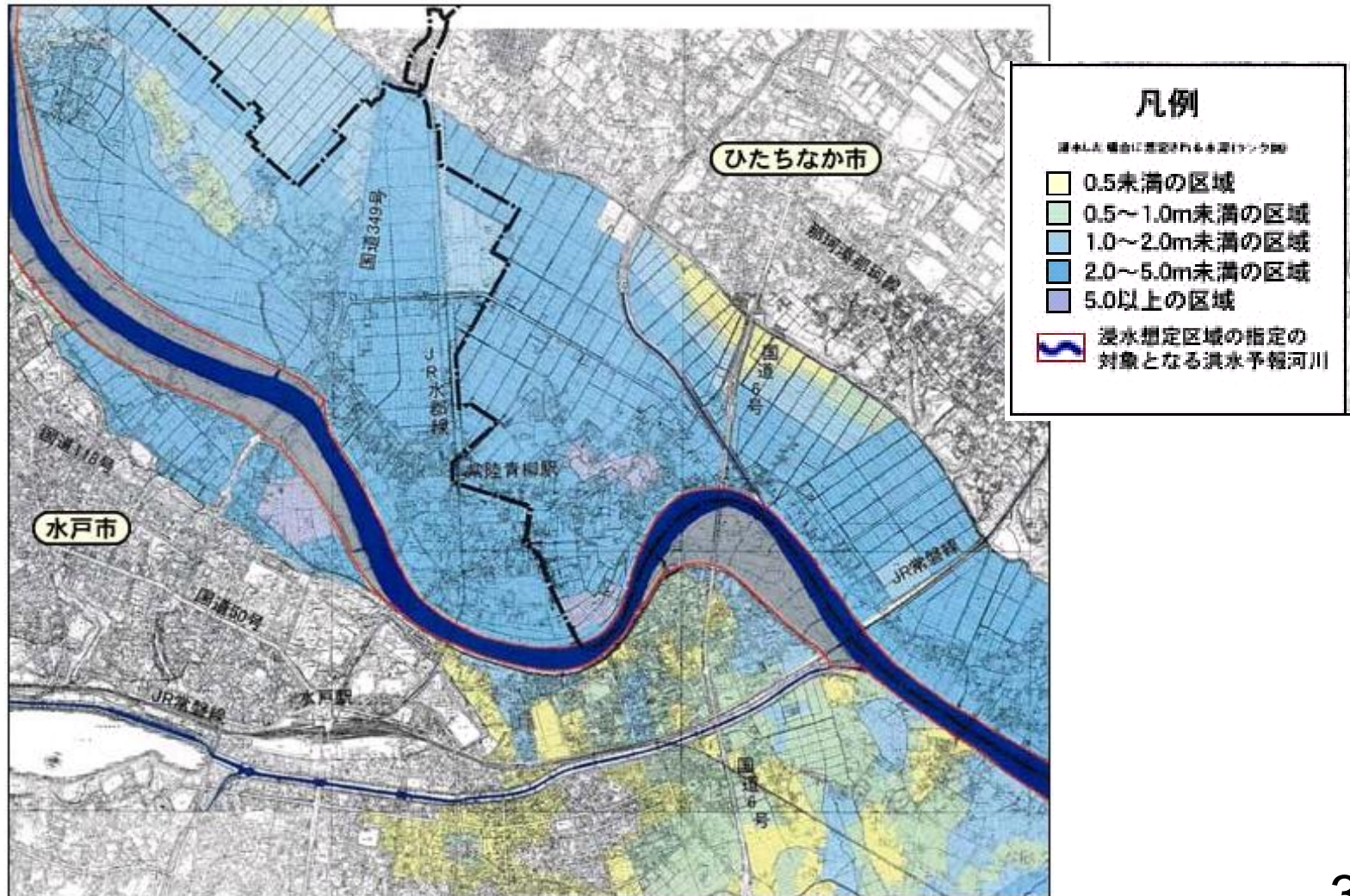


- Notes: 1. The graph above totals the 145 fatalities and missing caused by the flood and landslide disasters out of the 232 fatalities and missing caused by main typhoons and flood disasters.
2. We classified the victims according to the ages and main causes of death or missing based on the Fire Agency disaster information. For the unknown parts, we refer to the newspapers and the results of the hearing survey conducted by the government research group, some explanations are added by the River bureau and classified.



# Designation and publication of flood-prone areas

Based on the article 14 of the flood-fighting Act, river administrators (MLIT and prefectural governments) designate areas that may be inundated in the event of flooding as **flood-prone areas**.



Based on the article 15 of the flood-fighting Act, municipalities prepare and disseminate flood **hazard maps** to residents on the basis of flood-prone area maps.





# Indication of Flood Hazards in Town

## Flood-related symbols

JIS Z8210:2006

[Flood]



This symbol indicates that the area concerned may be affected by floods.

[Evacuation site (building)]



This symbol shows a safe building that provides a shelter when a disaster occurs.



# Provision of river information

Provision of river information by MLIT in real time, 24hours a day, 365 days a year.

Nationwide data are measured and sent by telemetry

Data are collected, processed and edited into an easy-to-use form and transmitted

Sent to users

## Collection

Data from 17,300 stations nationwide every 10 minutes.

## Processing • Editing

Into easily understood tables, graphs, maps, diagrams etc.

**Transmission**  
(Information by time/location provided as needed)



River manager



Municipalities



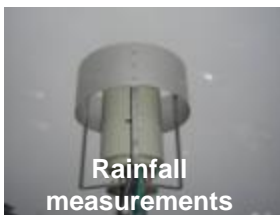
State depts.



Radar rainfall data



River water level/flow rate



Rainfall measurements



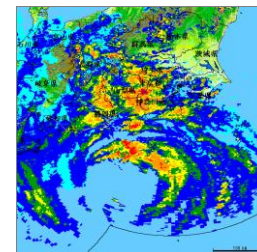
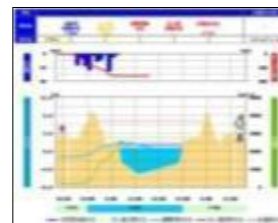
Dam influx/discharge



Flood



Landslides





# Provision of River information by mobile phone

## Information provided to mobile phones

### Contents

- Precipitation by hyeto meter
- Precipitation by radar rain gages
- Water level etc.



## Information provided on the internet

### 観測所別水位グラフ

計画高水位	10.0
危険水位	—
特別警戒水位	—
警戒水位	—
指定水位	—

水系名	吉野川
河川名	吉野川
観測所名	高瀬橋
所在地	徳島県名西郡石井町藍畑

水位(m)

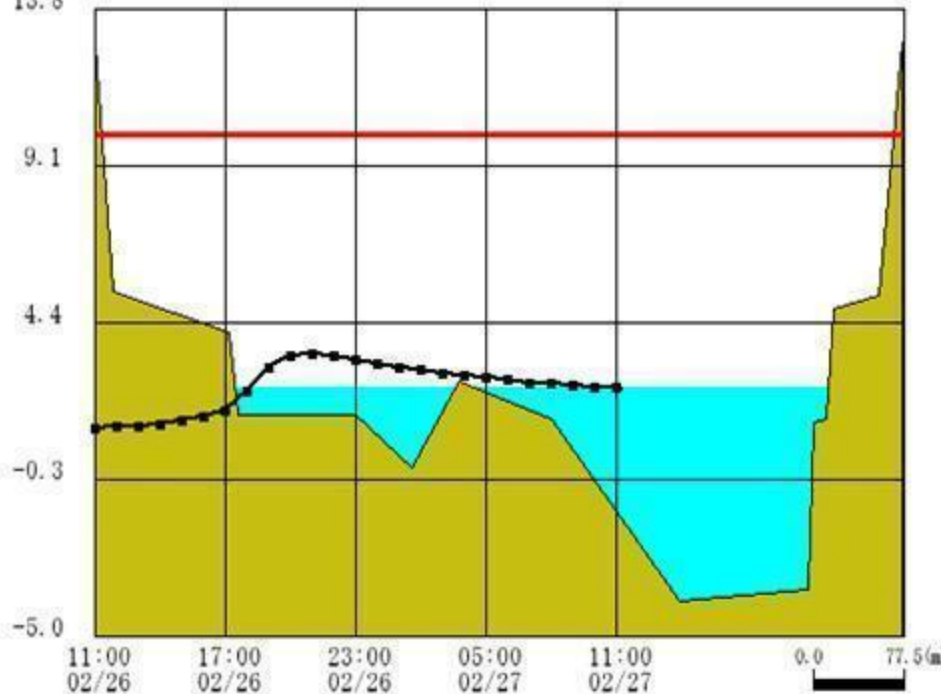
13.8

9.1

4.4

-0.3

-5.0



※この情報は通報値であり 検定済データではありません。

# Flood Management in Japan

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# Occurrence of Heavy Rain with Hourly Rainfall of over 100 mm

## Damage caused by torrential downpour in Chugoku and Northern Kyushu districts in July 2009

- Hourly rainfall of 116 mm (Fukuoka city, Fukuoka pref. (Hakata))
- Hourly rainfall of 72.5 mm (Hofu city, Yamaguchi pref. (Hofu))
- Damage caused by debris flow, etc. in Northern Kyushu and Chugoku districts
- Deaths: 31
- Houses flooded above floor level: 2,152, Below floor level: 9,285



※H21.9.3現在(消防庁発表)

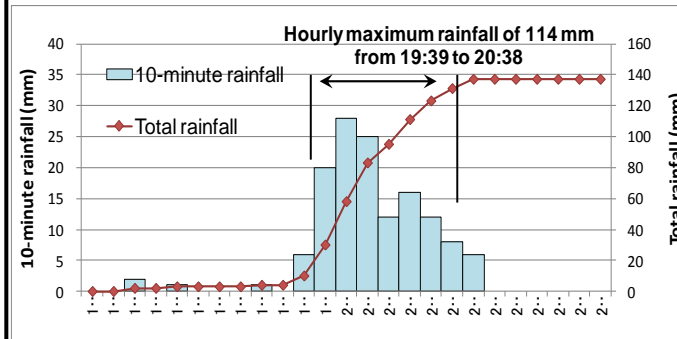
福岡県大野城市乙金  
(九州縦貫自動車道)  
被災状況



山口県防府市  
(特別養護老人ホーム)  
被災状況

## Damage caused by "guerrilla downpour" in Itabashi Ward, Tokyo on July 5, 2010

- Hourly rainfall of 114 mm (Itabashi Observation Station (Shakujii River Basin))
- Hourly rainfall of 82 mm (Aogishi Bridge Observation Station (Zanbori River Basin))
- Shakujii River flooded, causing inundation damage in Itabashi.
- Houses flooded above floor level: 58, Below floor level: 50 ※数値は速報値



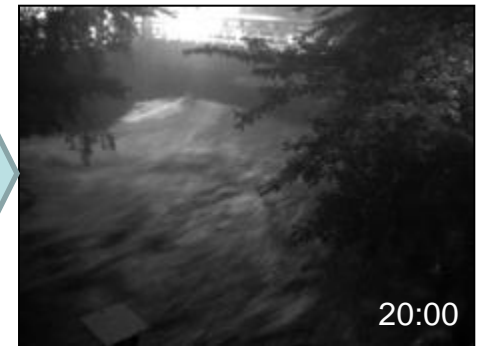
Itabashi  
Observation Station



Water level rose by 3.45 m in 10 minutes from 19:50 to 20:00.



19:00



20:00

Change of water level in Shakujii River

提供: 日本気象協会、板橋区ホームページ

# Occurrence of Heavy Rain with Total Rainfall of over 1,000 mm

2005

- Total rainfall of over 1,000 mm due to Typhoon No.14 (Southern Kyushu)
- Oyodo and Gokase Rivers overflowed their banks

	Chugoku Region	Kyushu Region
Deaths	4	19
Houses flooded above floor level	1,678	3,960
Houses flooded below floor level	2,969	5,085



2006

	Torrential downpour in July
Deaths	5
Houses flooded above floor level	899
Houses flooded below floor level	2,674



- Total rainfall of over 1,200 mm due to torrential downpour in July
- Sendai and Komenotsu Rivers overflowed their banks



2007

- Total rainfall of over 1,000 mm due to Typhoon No.4
- Midori River caused inundation damage

	Typhoon No.4
Deaths	3
Houses flooded above floor level	169
Houses flooded below floor level	1,152



2010

- Total rainfall of over 1,200 mm due to torrential downpour on seasonal rain front in July
- Slope failure occurred in Kagoshima Prefecture, etc.

	Seasonal rain front, etc
Deaths	12
Houses flooded above floor level	1,921
Houses flooded below floor level	3,821



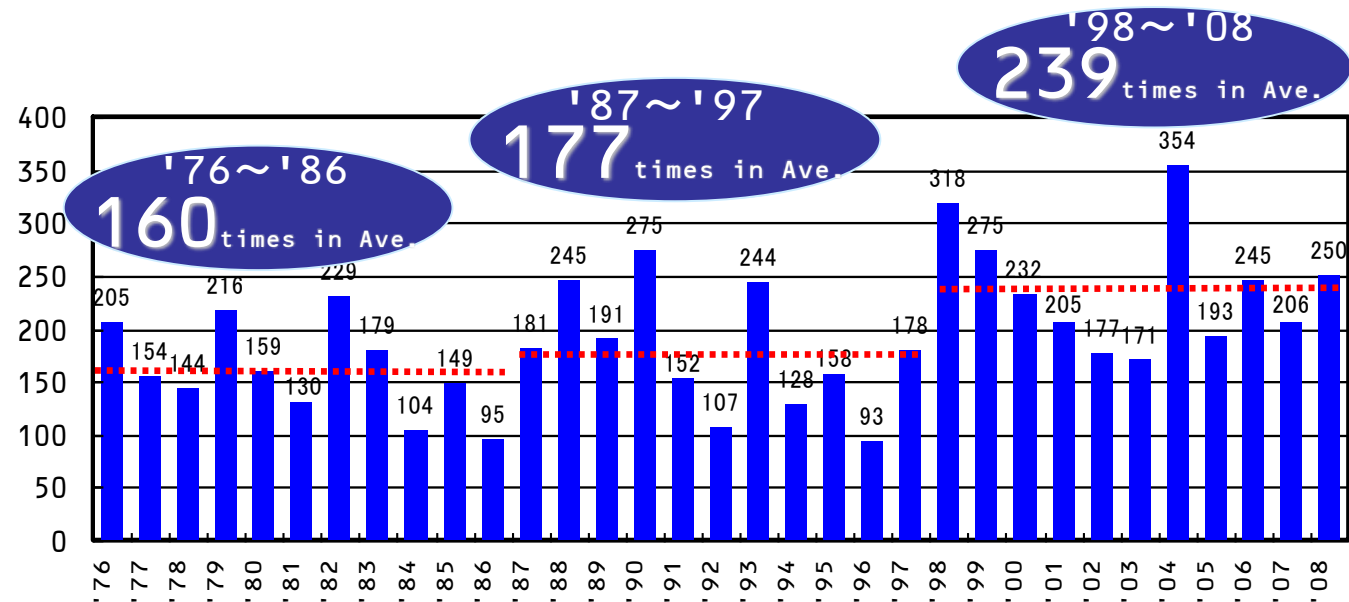


# Increase of intense rainfall

Occurrence of hourly rainfall over 50mm is significantly increasing

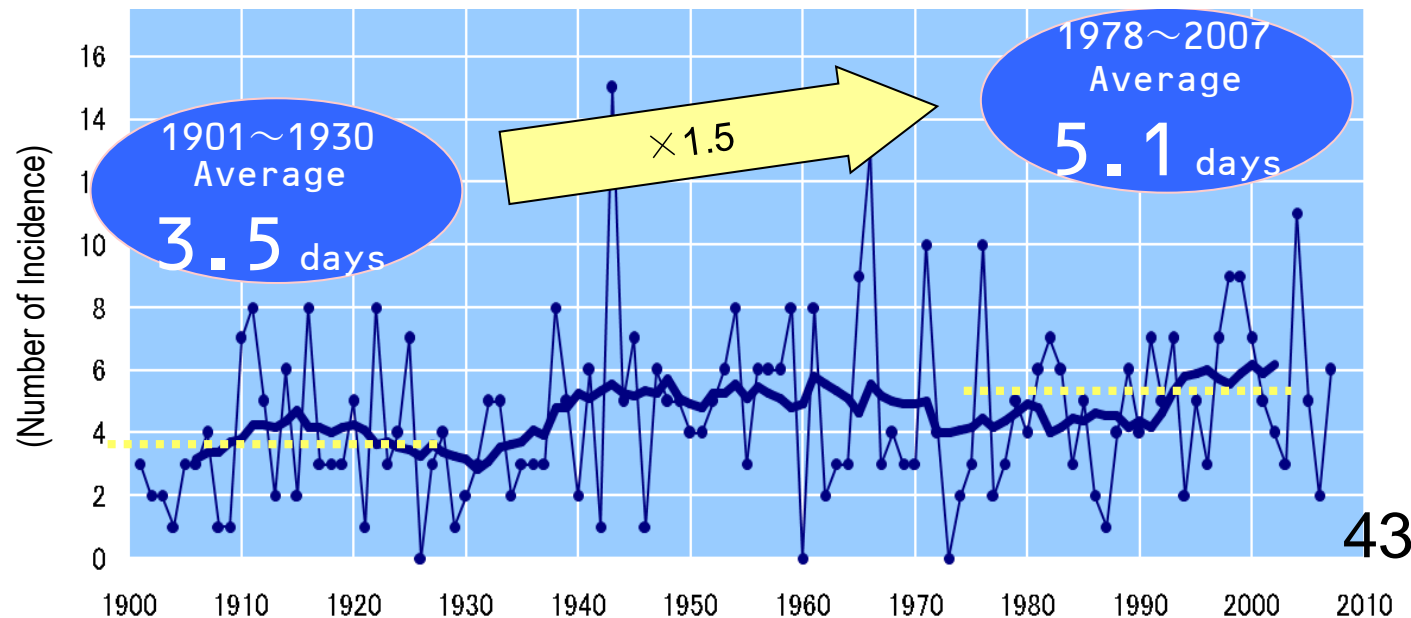
- The annual number of occurrence of over 50mm/hr precipitation
- Analyzed with 1,300 national AMEDAS spot data
- Per 1000 spots

Source: JMA



Number of days with rainfall over 200mm is increasing

(observation value of 51 spots nationwide)



Source: JMA

# "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies to Cope with Water-Related Disasters Due to Global Warming"

Policy Report by the Panel on Infrastructure Development,  
MLIT, June, 2008

## Recommendation

**Multiple implementation** of **"Basin Measures"** to counteract the growing external forces in addition to **"River Measures"** where the principal emphasis is placed on coping with a certain design discharge through river channel improvement and the construction of flood control facilities.

Those policies in river basins involve

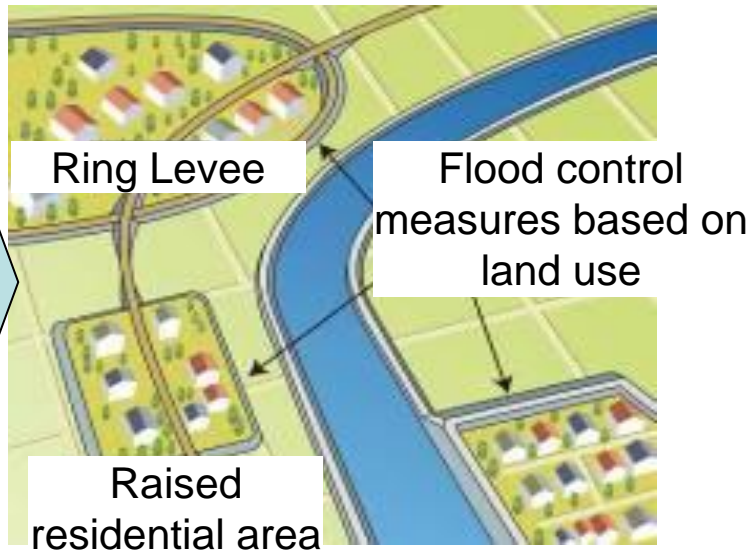
- (i) flood control facilities such as retarding basins,
  - (ii) runoff control facilities such as regulating reservoirs and rainwater storage and infiltration facilities,
  - (iii) the use of setback (secondary) levees, ring dikes, roads and railroad embankments to prevent the spread of flood water
- and should be applied **with proper consideration of the mode of local land use**.



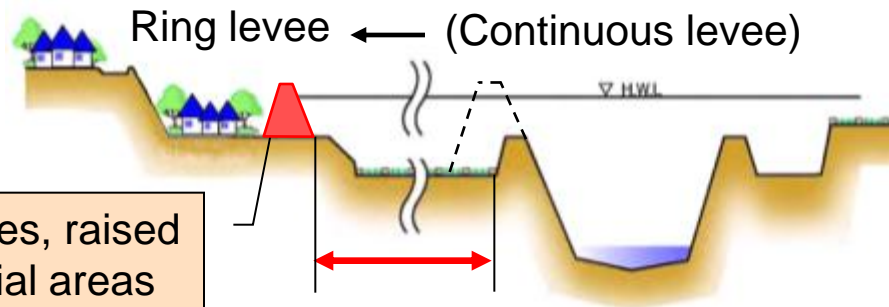
# Flood control measures in concert with land use



An ordinary method  
(takes long time to complete)



Application of more flexible methods



Designated as "disaster hazard zone"  
(bylaw based on the Building Standards Act)

Example (Ring Levee along Omono River)





# “Basic guidelines for Nature-oriented river works”

October 2006



1) Preserve or create the environment for the inhabitation, growth, breeding of natural life, which rivers inherently have.

2) Preserve or create the diversity of river landscapes



3) Consideration for harmonization with lives, history and cultures of each region



# “Basic guidelines for Nature-oriented river works”

October 2006

## Utilization of the characteristics and mechanism of river environment

### 1. Preserve or create the environment for Inhabitation, growth, breeding of natural life, which rivers inherently have.

e.g. creation of the transition zone (ecotone)



### 2. Preserve or create intricate geomorphologic features by utilizing works of rivers themselves.

e.g. riffles and pools, riverside forest



# “Basic guidelines for Nature-oriented river works”

October 2006

## Utilization of the characteristics and mechanism of river environment

### 3. Ensure space to allow for the works of rivers.

e.g. Large river width to promote formation of a good water route  
Disturbance of river and land by floods



### 4. Preserve and restore river continuity

e.g. fish ways

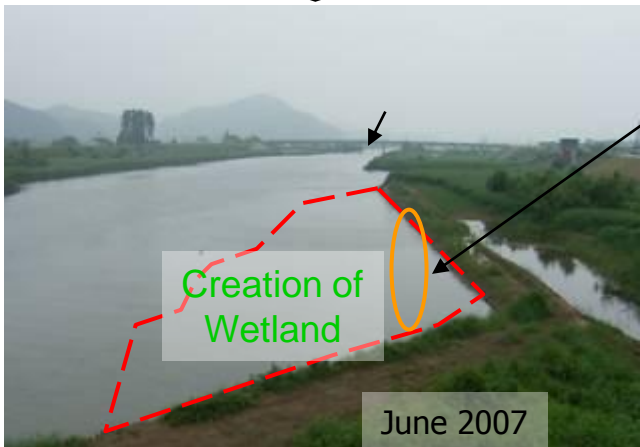
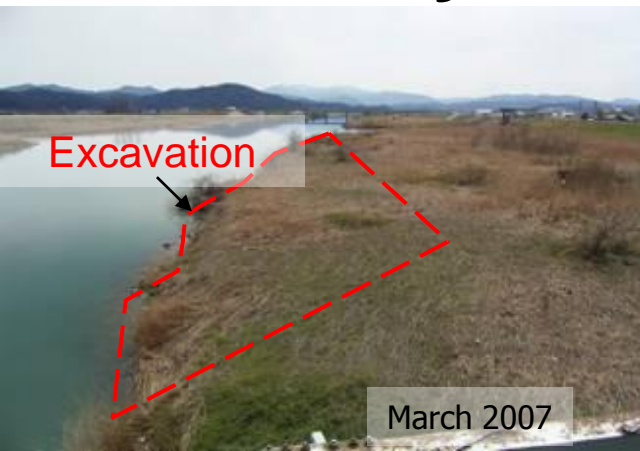


### 5. Enrich river landscape





# Maruyama river in Hyogo Prefecture



## Combination of flood control works and creation of wetland

After a devastating flood in 2004, river excavation was implemented. The work contributes to both increase flow capacity and creation of wetlands for storks.



# Umeda river in Yokohama City



When the river was widened to increase flood capacity, a meandering channel alongside a hill was preserved.





# Flood Management in Japan

## Characteristics

- Consistent Basin- based comprehensive flood management plans, according to respective characteristics of basins
- Combination of various “Hard (structural)” and “Soft (non-structural)” measures
- Innovative measures to under the constraints due to the land limitation

## In the face of the Climate Change...

- Further development is needed to “make space for water” through the utilization of limited land.

# Dank u zeer veel.



*Kereppu* (Krib) groyne in Kiso river,  
Introduced by Johannis de Rijke in Meiji era