

# Local Citizens Participation in River Restoration - Japan

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## Looking back upon the start in 1993

Love River campaign in Malaysia started on Feb 20, 1993, in Kuala Lumpur. Japan strongly supported this campaign.



Cintarah Sungai kita Campaign  
Main stage of the opening



Rubbish collection at the confluence of gombak and batu river



commendation  
by the minister

Panels of Japanese rivers

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Love River campaign spread to all states in 1993.

The campaign closed in KL Feb 7, 1994, successfully.

The campaign restarted in 1994 as a national event.



Campaign site in Selangor State, May 20, 1993



Closing ceremony in KL, Feb 7 1994



Campaign activity in PJ, Sep 1 1994

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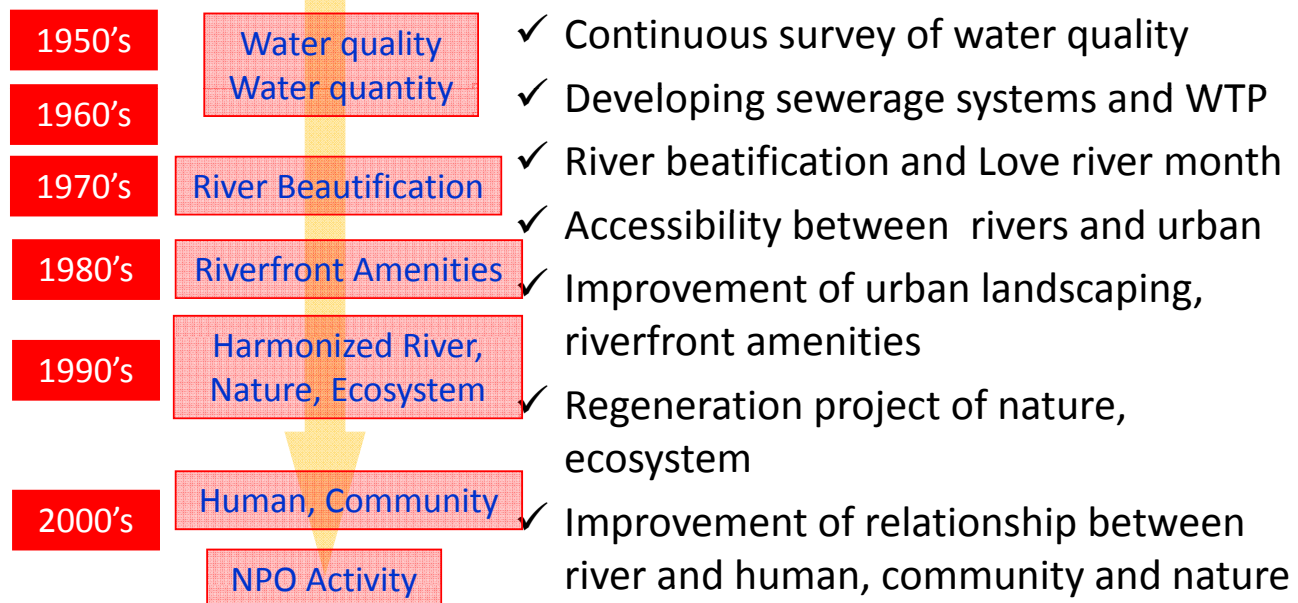


## Transition of river restoration in Japan focusing on partnership

## Historical steps for river restoration (Japan)

(Main Target)

(Main Measures)



## Transition of river restoration in Japan focusing on partnership

## Transition of Local Citizens Participation 1 (1960s-1980s)

Year	Social movement	Local Citizens Participation	River administration movement
1960s	<b><u>River deterioration by Rapid urbanization</u></b> 1964: Tokyo Olympics 1967: Environmental pollution prevention act	Keeping away from river Needs for open space use	1958: Water quality conservation act on public water 1964: New river law (Proper water use enhanced) 1965: River lot occupation permission rule (River Council Report)
1970s	1970: Water pollution control act <b><u>Needs for amenities in riverfront</u></b>	Participation in river cleaning activity Use of the riverfront	River purification projects Riverfront improvement projects 1971: River beautification month 1974: Love river month (July) 1975: Love river monitors institution
1980s	<b><u>Needs for local town planning</u></b> Activation of the civic meeting Diversification of life style Unified river and town planning Intensification of heat island	Participation in event of river and waterside Awareness of history, scenery, culture (Revival of fireworks and regatta event) Challenge for nature-oriented river restoration Participation in river and town planning	1980: Formulation of Basic Plan of River Environment management 1981: Proposal on River Environment Management (River Council Report) 1987: Hometown River Improvement Model Project 1988: Love river institution

## Transition of river restoration in Japan focusing on partnership

## Transition of Local Citizens Participation 2 (1990s)

Year	Social movement	Local Citizens Participation	River administration movement
1990s	<p><b><u>Needs for conservation of nature</u></b></p> <p>1992: Convention on endangered species of wild fauna and flora 1993: Basic Environment Law 1994: fundamental principles on the environment</p> <p><b><u>Activation of volunteer activity</u></b> Opposition movement for public works project  1998: Promotion of specified non-profit activities act</p>	<p>Participation in nature conservation</p> <p>Activation of establishment of citizen network</p> <p>Activation of basin scaled activity</p> <p>Cooperation with administration into river management</p> <p>1998: River's day workshop</p> <p>Establishment of NPO of river</p>	<p>1990: Nature-oriented river work 1990: National census on river environments 1993: River environment conservation monitor program 1993: Stream renaissance project 1995: Proposal on future river environment (River Council Report)</p> <p>1996: Waterfront joyful school</p> <p>1997: Revision of river law (River environment improvement and river improvement enhanced)</p> <p>1999: Proposal on river management by partnership approach</p>

## Transition of river restoration in Japan focusing on partnership

## Transition of Local Citizens Participation 3 (2000s-2010s)

Year	Social movement	Local Citizens Participation	River administration movement
2000s	<p><b><u>Expand of symbiosis thought with nature</u></b></p> <p>2002: Promotion of nature restoration act 2003: Law for enhancing motivation on environmental conservation and promoting of environmental education</p> <p><b><u>Needs for biodiversity</u></b> 2004: Invasive alien species act 2004: Landscape act</p>	<p>Participation in river management activity Participation in education activity in river Participation in nature restoration project</p> <p>Collaboration with administration from planning stage</p> <p>2007: Good river symposium 2008: Good river/good project workshop (expanding 8 regions and Korea)</p>	<p>2000: Proposal on cooperation policies with citizen's groups in river (River Council Report) 2002: Nature restoration project 2003: Report card of the river 2006: Basic guideline for Nature-oriented River Management 2007: Policy of "Building up and preserving river environments" reviewed 2008: A technical standard of river channel planning for medium and small-sized rivers 2009: System to support "rivers and city planning"</p>
2010s	<p><b><u>Surge of expectation to new public commons</u></b></p> <p>2011: Revision of Promotion of specified non-profit activities act (Number of NPO: 40,000)</p>	<p>Civic proposal on river and town planning</p>	<p>2011: Deregulation to make river spaces more accessible</p> <p>2011: Establishment of "Water and Disaster Management Bureau" MLIT</p>

## Importance of Partnership

### Success factors of river restoration cases in Japan

About 240 river restoration case examples were collected, then 24 famous examples were selected from respective regions.



## Importance of Partnership

### Before and after of river restorations in Japan





## Importance of Partnership

### Success factor analysis in river restorations

11 Success factors having aided in river restoration were analyzed in terms of the characteristics of the 24 examples.

No.	Success factors		River No. *	Total
(1)	Establishment of clear targets	The environment and time targeted in restoration are clearly defined and shared by all concerned parties.	1, 11,14,19,23	5
(2)	Creation of a good system	Projects have been realized by flexibly applying existing regulations or creating new ones.	1,2,4,9,10,12,13,15,16,17,18,20,21	13
(3)	Participation of various parties	The opportunity to discuss matters is created; not only for river administrators, but also for concerned administrative bodies, local government, citizens, NPOs, scholars, companies, etc. They jointly cooperate by bearing adequate roles according to ability.	1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,23,24	20
(4)	Voluntary participation of citizens	Neighbors and citizens highly interested in restoration voluntarily participate in activities and continue daily actions.	2,3,4,5,6,9,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23	14
(5)	Introduction of the PDCA cycle	Accommodative management is conducted; targets/methods are flexibly reviewed in the intermediate stages of a project.	11,23	2
(6)	Effort to share information and reach a consensus	Information is shared among all concerned parties and a consensus is striven for.	1, 3, 5, 12, 14	5

\* 1)Kushiro, 2)Moizari, 3)Yukiya, 4)Komaki, 5)Kurome, 6)Ono, 7)Ochiai, 8)Sumida, 9)Izumi, 10)Ichijoudani, 11)Chikuma, 12)Genbei, 13)Doutonbori, 14)Maruyama, 15)Tsuwano, 16)Ichinosaka, 17)shinmatch, 18)Oda, 19)Shimanto, 20)Murasaki, 21)Itabitsu, 22)Yanagawa, 23)Matsuura, 24)Kita

## Importance of Partnership

### Success factor analysis in river restorations

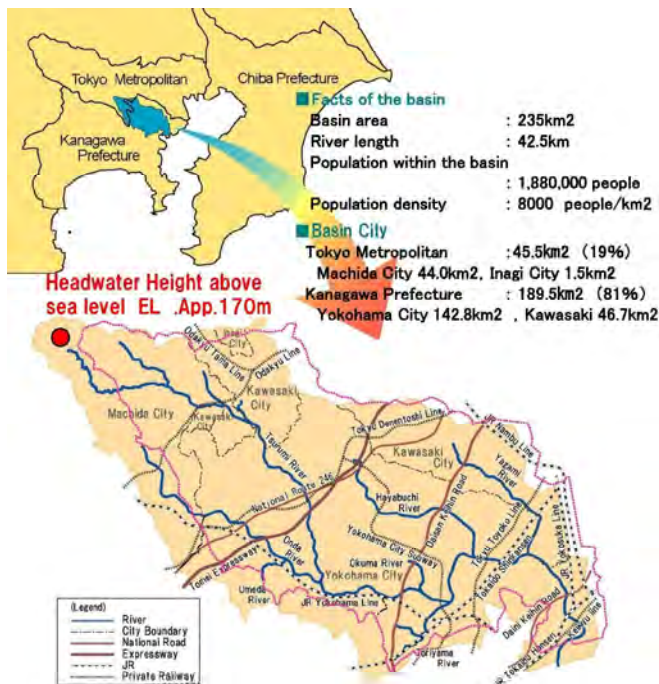
No.	Success factors		River No. *	Total
(7)	Demonstration of leadership	There are leaders or leading groups who lead the project earnestly.	2, 17, 18, 22	4
(8)	Continuity	A system or organization has been developed to ensure continuous maintenance and monitoring after restoration, continuous use of waterfront space, etc.	2,3,4,5,9,11,13,16,17,21,22,23,24	13
(9)	Motive for restoration	There is a rich environment, culture, history, or others, of which all concerned parties can be proud in the context of restoration.	1,6,7,8,10,12,13,14,15,16,19,22	12
(10)	Sources of funding	There are sources of funding which enable the implementation of the project and continuous maintenance.	6,17,18	3
(11)	External evaluation	The project is focused on by many external parties, and continually evaluated by the same.	1,6,7,8,10,15,22	7

1)Kushiro, 2)Moizari, 3)Yukiya, 4)Komaki, 5)Kurome, 6)Ono, 7)Ochiai, 8)Sumida, 9)Izumi, 10)Ichijoudani, 11)Chikuma, 12)Genbei, 13)Doutonbori, 14)Maruyama, 15)Tsuwano, 16)Ichinosaka, 17)shinmatch, 18)Oda, 19)Shimanto, 20)Murasaki, 21)Itabitsu, 22)Yanagawa, 23)Matsuura, 24)Kita

✓ Key factors include the **participation of various parties (partnership)**, **voluntary participation of citizens (ownership)**, creation of a good system (framework), continuity (monitoring) and motivation for restoration (incentive) etc.

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# Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (1) Tsurumi River



## Key Efforts for restoration

- Waste water regulation against factories
- Construction of sewers
- Comprehensive Flood Control Measures (reservoir, retarding basin, land conservation)
- Tsurumi River Basin master plan establishment with partnership approach**
- Networking of citizen groups**

Source: Keihin Branch Work Office, Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism

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# Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (1) Tsurumi River

**Before**



**After**



Source: Kohoku Ward Administration Office, City of YOKOHAMA

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (1) Tsurumi River

**Tsurumi River Basin master plan establishment with partnership approach  
(Since 2004)**



Source: Keihin Branch Work Office, Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (1) Tsurumi River

**Promotion structure of Tsurumi River Basin master plan (Since 2004)**



Source: Keihin Branch Work Office, Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (1) Tsurumi River

Various activities by networked citizen groups (over 40 groups)



Observing creatures



Waterside Event



Lecture on the Tsurumi River



Enlightenment activities at Tsurumi River Basin Center

Source: Kohoku Ward Administration Office, City of YOKOHAMA

Source: Keihin Branch Work Office, Kanto Regional Development Bureau, MLIT

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (2) Sumida River



### Key Efforts for restoration

- Waste water regulation against factories
- Construction of sewers  
(Sewer connection rate 100% in 2010)
- Waterfront amenity improvement coexisted with flood prevention  
(Gently sloping levees, Super levee )
- River terraces construction
- Cleanup and enlightenment activities by local residents**
- Regional activation by tourism, festival etc.**

River Length:23.5km, Area: 690km<sup>2</sup>, Population: 3 mil.  
Operating Body: Tokyo Metropolitan Government  
The entire river is a tidal river, which is influenced by tides.

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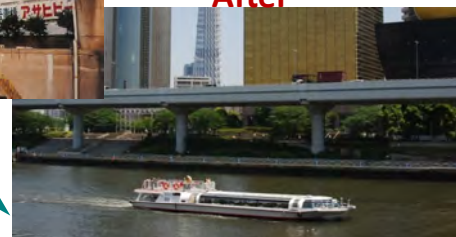
## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (2) Sumida River

**Before**

BOD reached 40mg/l (1950 to 1960s)

**After**

BOD 1.5-2.5mg/l (2010)

**Before****After****Before****After**JRRN  
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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (2) Sumida River

**Cleanup and enlightenment activities by local residents**  
**- Examples: Activities by citizens' group "Sumida Link"**



Cleanup activity



Planting and fish release at river terraces



Field Study Tour (History, Culture, Nature etc.)

*Source: Sumida Link*JRRN  
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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (2) Sumida River

### Cleanup and enlightenment activities by local residents

#### - Examples: Major activities by citizens' group "Sumida Link"



Publications



Annual Symposium &amp; Seminar



Friendship river associations



Exchange with river rise area

Source: Sumida Link

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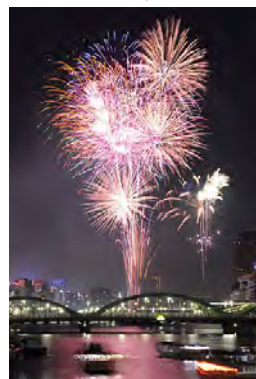
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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (2) Sumida River

### Regional activation by tourism, festival etc.



Water-bus shuttle

Fireworks  
FestivalIllumination Festival  
(Tokyo Hotal 2012)

Open cafe



Regatta



Student's participation

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (3) Murasaki River



### Key Efforts for restoration

Under the operation of Kitakyushu City, projects aimed as follows carried out.

- Flood control
- Water quality improvement (Construction of sewers )
- Land use (remove illegal residences)
- Waterfront development
- Improve conjunction of River and Urban area with partnership approach

## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (3) Murasaki River



Water quality improvement



Remove illegal residences

Source: City of Kitakyushu



## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (3) Murasaki River

	•Flood control	•Water quality	•Land use and etc.
1953	Severe damage to urban areas in the flood.		
1963			River cleaning action had started by the citizen volunteers.
1966 ~ 1980		Illegally constructed residences in river bank were removed.	
1967			Drainage maintenance begun.
1969	River improvement works had started.		
1988	The Ministry of Construction specified Murasaki River as the location for "My town, My river Development Project (MMDP)".	"Kitakyushu Renaissance Plan" begins, and enhanced the functionality of the city of along the Murasaki river.	
1988			
1992	"MMDP" received certification from the Ministry of Construction.		
2005			Sewage penetration rate became up to 99.8%.

## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (3) Murasaki River

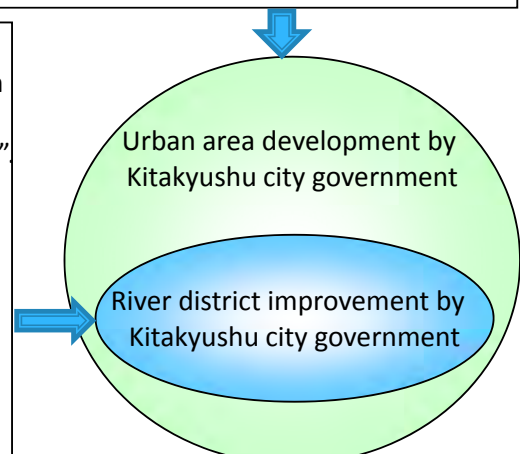
### "Kitakyushu Renaissance plan"

- Urban redevelopment plan to renewal Kitakyushu city central waterfront in the theme of "International technology city".



### "My town, My river Development Project"

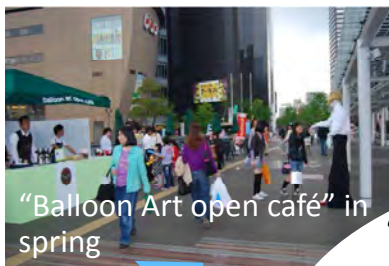
- The project aims "to improve flood control" and "to form an attractive urban space by linking the river with urban area".
- The plan positioned in part of "Kitakyushu Renaissance plan"
- The plan such as facility development was created to recruit citizen opinions, ideas.



Source: Japan Riverfront Research Center

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (3) Murasaki River



“See you in Murasaki River” are festivals thorough the year that takes place in Murasakigawa by city government, private sector, civil society organizations to operate in cooperation.



Source: City of Kitakyushu

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (4) “River Day” Workshop in Japan

### 1. Objective

Experience/Knowledge sharing by local citizen groups in all Japan with experts

### 2. Achievements

- 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop was held in 1998. (Once a year since 1998)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop will be held this September 2012.  
(Name was changed in 2008; “likawa & likawa-zukuri” Workshop)
- About 900 groups were applied so far since 1998.
- 8 regional workshop in Japan are held now.
- It was spread in Korea, and annual interchange is continued.



### 3. Organization Structure

- Organized by “National Association for Local Water Environment Groups”
- Supported by “Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism”
- Cosponsored by the River Fund, private company etc.

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## Introduction of local citizen's participation in river restoration – (4) “River Day” Workshop in Japan

### 4. Screening Procedure (case in 2011)



Presentation(3min./38 applicants)

1<sup>st</sup> stage screening(to 14 applicants)2<sup>nd</sup> stage screening(to 9 applicants)

Commendation ceremony



Final stage screening (Champion etc.)

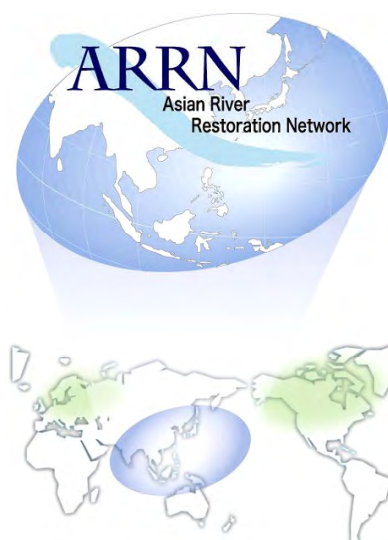
## Conclusions

- “Love Our River Campaign” was started in the 1970s in Japan with the value of the waterfront recognized, and this campaign was also introduced into Malaysia around 1990 and widely spread in both countries.
- Many kinds of partnership activities to improve river environment for the next generation by keeping flood control and water usage functions, and consolidating the relation with ecosystems and human lives have been implemented since 1970s in Japan.
- Key factors for success of river restoration are “Participation of various parties (partnership), voluntary participation of citizens (ownership)”.
- Cases of the Tsurumi River, the Sumida River, the Murasaki River and River Day Workshop were introduced as example of local citizens participation in river restoration in Japan.

# Asian River Restoration Network (ARRN)

For further information on river restoration in Asia,

**Please join the ARRN! (free)** <http://www.a-rr.net/>



ARRN is a non-political organization established in 2006 for **exchanging knowledge and technical information on the restoration of rivers and watersheds in Asia**. The primary objective is to provide various opportunities for river restoration related organizations and individuals to share and exchange knowledge and experiences through this network, aiming to enrich the participants' knowledge and scientific technology through mutual and multilateral cooperation.

## Current Members

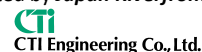
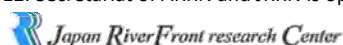
- National River Restoration Network (National-RRN)



- Non-RRN (Individual Organization)

Department of Water Resource, Thailand etc.

JRRN has a role of ARRN secretariat from Nov. 2006 to Oct. 2012. Secretariat of ARRN and JRRN is operated by **Japan Riverfront Research Center** and **CTI Engineering Co., Ltd.** as joint study on development of Asian River Restoration network.



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