

The Sakasegawa River

When granite, which is brittle and fragile, was eroded, the sand flew into the Sakasegawa River. Until the Meiji era, it had accumulated near the meeting point of the two rivers, the Sakasegawa River and the Mukogawa River and raised the bottom of the river. Every time it rained heavily, the main stream Mukogawa River, flowed backwards to its branch stream the Sakasegawa River to cause flooding. So the Sakasegawa River, along with the Mukogawa river, was called “the Rampage.” The river is said to have been named after this countercurrent (saka = backwards, se = stream). Also the river, whose bank was covered with stones, was about 200 meters wide. It was called the “desert river.”

In 1892, Hyogo Prefecture was hit by many floods and suffered serious damage. As a result, in 1897, Hyogo started the erosion control works on the Sakasegawa River, which was the first ones in the Rokko Mountain System. These works continued until the Showa era. In 1934, Japan's first flowing watercourse, the present Sakasegawa River, was constructed. It is 18 m wide and 2 km long, from the entrance of Takarazuka Golf Course to the junction of the Mukogawa River.

The erosion control work originated in the Sakasegawa River and the river had got erosion control works many times in 120 years. The Sakasegawa basin now has a lot of structures to avoid erosion, as if it were a historical exhibition of erosion control. Thanks to the river system management, the Sakasegawa River is now a clear stream where many fireflies can live.

