Era	Year	Events and Disasters	Events related to Water Resources
Yayoi	B.C.300–A.D.250	Beginning of economic development based on agriculture	Beginning of agricultural irrigation system (Agricultural Development)
			Small V-shaped drainage channels installed in the village (sewerage)
Kohun	313		Construction of the Manda Levee flood control project on the Yodo River (the oldest one recorded in Japan)
	4th century		Rainfall ditches appeared around the 4th century (sewerage)
Asuka	701	Taiho legal codes	Construction of irrigation ponds and canals for agriculture development by the Buddhist monk Gyoki and other monks
Nara	710	Transfer of capital to Nara(Heijyo kyo)	In Heijo-kyo, the drainage system was considered and built at the planning stage, and such a systematic drainage network was inherited in Heian-kyo (sewerage)
	743	Act for the Privatization of Reclaimed Lands in Perpetuity	Construction of floodway and flood levees for flood control (left bank downstream of the Yodogawa River)
Heian	821		Improvement works of the Mannou Pond by a priest named Kukai (agricultural development); construction of Japanese type flushing toilet (Nogen-siki toilet) in a temple on Mt. Koya (sewerage)
Civil Wars	1467–1603	Flood control and irrigation development by Warriors	Odawara Hayakawa waterworks (domestic and industrial water)
			Kouhu basin development (agricultural development); construction of Shingen Levee at Kamanashi River and protection of forests against flood damage (Manriki forest) (flood control) by Shingen Takeda
			Development of Toyama plain (agricultural development) and construction of Levee for flood control (Sasa Levee) by Narimasa Sasa
			Construction of irrigation facilities for (agricultural development) and flood control of Shirakawa R., Kikuchi R., Midorikawa R., and Kuma R. (flood control) by Kiyomasa Kato
			Development of the Tikushi plain (agricultural development) and construction of Levee (Chiriku Levee) on the Chikugo River (flood control) by Hyougo Naridomi
			Developing new fields surrounding the Osaka castle (agricultural development); construction of Taikou Levee and Bunroku Levee (flood control) by Hideyoshi Toyotomi
	1583		Construction of the Taikou Sewer Canal (sewer canal system was built in Osaka Castle Town) (sewerage)
	1590	Hideyoshi Toyotomi unified the country (Japan)	Construction of the Koishikawa waterworks (from Kanda R. to Edo Castle) (domestic and industrial water)
	1594–1654		Realignment of the Tone River in the eastern direction (boat transportation, developing new fields, and flood control systems) (agricultural development, flood control, and others)
Edo	1619		Construction of sand embankment (Construction of levee to protect flood damage at Fukuyama Castle) (Flood Control)
	1621–1674		Construction of the Karigane Levee in the Fuji River (flood control)
	1629		The Kanda waterworks (origin of the Inokashira pond, expansion of the Koishikawa water works) (domestic and industrial Water)
	1654		The Tamagawa waterworks (from the Tama River to Yotsuya) (domestic and industrial water)
	1660		Construction of the Kasai Irrigation Canal (agricultural development)
	1663		The Gousen waterworks (the oldest waterworks currently in use today) (Udo City, Kumamoto Prefecture) (domestic and industrial water)
	1704		Realignment of the Yamato River in the southern direction (flood control)
	1708		Utilization of old river course of Yamato River and old ponds to develop new field (Agricultural Development)
	1728		Construction of the Minumadai Irrigation Canal (agricultural development)
	1742	Flood during the Kanpou Period (more than 10,000 people were estimated killed in Japan)	
	1753		Flood control project along three rivers in Kiso (construction by feudal retainers of the Satsuma Domain (presently Kagoshima Prefecture) (flood control)
	1786	Flood during the Tenmei Period (about 30,000 people estimated to have been killed in Japan)	
	1828	The Siebold Typhoon(more than 10,000 people estimated to have been killed and missing in Saga)	
	1846	Flood during the Kouka Period (duration of flood damage: more than 1 month)	
	1872		After the Great Fire of Ginza, sewer/drainage facilities were constructed on streets (sewerage), rivers, and ports, and the Road Repair Regulation (Law System) was enacted
	1875	Establishment of Tokyo Meteorological Observatory	
	1877	Cholera epidemic that started in Yokohama and Nagasaki, spread nationwide	
	1883		Irrigation water supply launched from the Asaka canal (agricultural development)
	1884–85		A modern sewerage system was built in Kanda (sewerage)
	1885		Construction of the Nasu Canal (agricultural development)
	1887	Establishment of the Imperial University (Tokyo University)	A modern water supply system was started in the foreign settlements in Yokohama (domestic and industrial water)
	1888		Japan's first private hydroelectric power plant was established at the Miyagi Spinning Mills (hydropower)
Meiji	1889	Promulgation of the Meiji Constitution; enforcement of city and town system	
	1890	First Imperial Diet	Enactment of an ordinance for water supply (Legal System)
	1891	The Ashio Copper Mine poisoning problem	Operations begin at the Keriage power station of No.1 Biwa Lake Waterway (Japan's first hydroelectric power plant for industry) (hydropower)
	1896		Old River Law (Law System); completion of water supply system in Osaka city (domestic and industrial)
	1897		Forest Law and Erosion Control Law (Law System)
	1898	Establishment of Civil Law; formation of the First Party Cabinet	Completion of water distribution facilities from the Tama River via the Yodobashi Water Treatment Plant (domestic and industrial water)
	1899		Completion of Water Supply System in Tokyo (domestic and industrial water)
	1900		Old Sewerage Law (Law System)
	1908		Water supply to Koriyama using the Asaka Waterway (domestic and industrial water), Water Users' Association Law (Law System)
	1910		Excavation project of a new Yodo River channel (starting 1896, Japan's first full-scale flood control work) (flood control)
	1911		Electricity Business Law (Law System)
Taisyo	1912		Output of hydroelectric power generation exceeds that of thermal power generation(hydropower); securing Kyoto water resources using Biwa Lake No.2 waterway (domestic and industrial water)
	1914		Establishment of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (organization)
	1922		Operations start at Mikawashima Water Treatment Plant (Japan's first treatment plant) and sprinkling filter process(sewerage)
	1927		Revision of Japan's Electricity Business Law(Law System)
	1930		Starting of Nagoya's first activated sludge process (sewerage)
	1934		First pumped storage generation begins in Japan (Hokuriku Electric Power Company Oguchi River No.3 Power Station, Tohoku Electric Power Company Ikejiri River Power) Station) (hydropower)
	1945	Typhoon Ida (Makurazaki Typhoon) (estimated death toll/missing people: 4,429)	Chlorine disinfection(domestic and industrial water)
	1946	Promulgation of the Constitution of Japan; the Showa Nankai earthquake (estimated death poll/missing people: 1,443)	
	1947	Amendment of Civil Law, Agrarian Reform, Typhoon Kathleen(estimated death toll/missing people: 1,930)	Local Autonomy Law, Agricultural Cooperation Law (Law System)
	1948	The Fukui earthquake (estimated death toll/missing people: 3,769)	Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law (Law System)
	1949		Land Improvement Law （Law System）
	1950		Comprehensive National Land Development Law (Law System)
	1951	Japan–U.S. Peace Treaty and Japan–U.S. Security Treaty were signed.	Cropland Law (Law System)

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Showa	1952		Establishment of Electric Power Development Co., Ltd.(hydropower), Power Resources Development Law (Law System)
	1953	Heavy rainfall in Kitakyusu (estimated death toll/missing people: 1,028); heavy rainfall in Wakayama Prefecture(estimated death toll/missing people: 1,015); outbreak of Minamata disease	
	1955	Outbreak of Itai-itai disease	Establishment of Aichi Irrigation Public Corporation (agricultural development), Industrial Water Law (Law System), First Arch Dam, and operations start at Kyusyu Electric Power Company at the Kamishiba Power Station (hydropower)
	1956	Japan becomes a member of the United Nations	Operations start at the Sakuma Power Station (beginning of large-scale power development) (hydropower)
	1957		Establishment of Water Supply Act, Specified Multipurpose Dams Act, Professional Engineer Act (Law System)
	1958	Typhoon Ida (Karino River Typhoon) (estimated death toll/missing people: 1,269)	Starting of River Purification Projects (environment), Industrial Water Supply Business Law, Clean Water Law, Factory Effluent Control Law, New Sewerage Law (Law System)
	1959	Typhoon Vera (Isewan Typhoon)(estimated death toll/missing people: 5,177)	
	1961		Completion of Aichi Water Supply Project (agricultural development), operations start at the Miboro Hydropower Station (Japan's highest fill type dam), Okutadami Hydropower Station (largest effective storage volume in Japan), Tagokura No.4 Hydropower Station (largest embankment volume in Japan) (hydropower), Water Resources Development Promotion Law, Water Resources Development Corporation Law, Basic Law on Disaster Management, Basic Law on Agriculture(Law System)
	1962	Preparation of Comprehensive National Development Plan; Tokyo's population surpasses 10 million for the first time	Laws on regulating pumping of groundwater for use in buildings (Law System)
	1963		Construction of Toyokawa Water Supply Canal (agricultural development, domestic and industrial water); starting First Five-Year Plan for Sewerage Development (Sewerage), thermal power output exceeds hydropower output. Completion of No.4 Kurobe River Power Station (highest arch dam in Japan) (hydropower)
	1964	Occurrence of water shortage in Tokyo (Olympic drought); outbreak of Niigata Minamata disease	New River Law, Electricity Business Law (Law System)
	1965		Proceedings for regional sewerage system (Neyagawa City, Osaka Prefecture) (sewerage)
	1966	Japan's population surpasses 100 million	Implementation of riverside parks (environment)
	1967	Drought in Nagasaki; pollution-related diseases became more serious	Basic Law for Environmental Pollution (Law System)
	1968	Japan's gross national product (GNP) becomes the second largest in the world; officially recognized that itai-itai disease is induced by environmental pollution	
	1969	Preparation of the New Comprehensive National Development Plan	Second Agricultural Structure Improvement Project (agricultural development)
	1970	Pollution Diet	Water Pollution Prevention Law, Revision of Basic Law for Environmental Pollution, Partial Amendment of Sewerage Law, Waste Management, Public Cleaning Law, Law to Prevent Soil Contamination of Agricultural Land (Law System)
	1972		Natural Conservation Law (Law System)
	1973	Drought in Takamatsu	Law on Special Measures for Up-stream Area Development (Law System)
	1974		Law on Compensation for Pollutant-related Health Damage (Law System), Establishment of Public Sewerage Business for Specific Environmental Preservation (Sewerage)
	1975		Report on River Environmental Management (River Council) (environment); completion of the Okutatara Hydropower Station (the biggest pumped storage power station at that time) (hydropower)
	1977	Preparation of 3rd Comprehensive National Development Plan	Announcement of "Comprehensive Flood Control Measures" for Urban Rivers (River Council) (flood control)
	1978	Long-term water demand and supply plan; drought in Fukuoka, the Love Canal incident (U.S.); Wrecker Kerk Case (Netherland)	Revision of Water Pollution Prevention Law (total column control) (Law System)
	1980		Notice on Comprehensive Flood Control Measures (flood control)
	1981	Silicon Valley's groundwater contamination problem(U.S.)	Promotion of measures to prevent land subsidence (decision of the Ministerial Conference on Measures to Prevention Land Subsidence) (domestic and industrial water); implementation of comprehensive flood control measures on the Tsurumi River ahead of any other river in Japan (flood control); completion of the New Takase River Hydropower Station (highest installed capacity (1,280 thousand kW) of hydropower station) (hydropower)
	1982	Heavy rainfall in Nagasaki (death and missing: 299Persons)	Groundwater contamination survey (Environment Agency) (environment)
	1983		Rural Sewerage Projects (sewerage), formulation of the "Basic River Environment Management Plan" (environment), and Purification Tank Law (Law System)
	1984		A law on Special Measures concerning Conservation of Lake Water Quality (Law System)
	1985		Decision on the Guideline of Measures to Prevent Land Subsidence in the Nobi Plain, Chikugo, and Saga Plain (domestic and industrial water)
	1986		Basic Direction of Agricultural Policy for the 21st Century (Report by the Council for Agricultural Policy) (agricultural development)
	1987	Preparation of 3rd Comprehensive National Development Plan, National Water Resource Plan (Water Plan), and establishment of Liaison Council for drought related Ministries and Agencies	
Heisei	1990	Asset price bubble burst	Promotion of the River Restoration Program; National Census on River Environment (environment)
	1991		Decision on the guideline of measures to prevent land subsidence in the northern part of the Kanto Plain (domestic and industrial water), environmental standards related to soil contamination (25 items) (environment)
	1992		Revision of the Water Quality Standards for tapped water (from 26 to 45 items) (domestic and industrial water); revision of Environmental Standards related to water quality (from 9 to 23 items and required monitoring of 25 items) (environment)
	1993		Establishment of Stream Renaissance 21 (environment)
	1994	Drought in Japan	Standards for permission to install structure (flood control)
	1995	The Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake disaster (estimated death toll: 6,308)	Promotion of measures for preventing illegal mooring (flood control); report on the future of river environment (River Council) (environment)
	1997		Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, Revision of River Laws (Law System), Environmental Standards related to Water Pollution of Groundwater (23 Items) (Environment)
	1998	Grand design for the 21st century; starting of operations of New Technology Information System (NETIS)	Agricultural Reform Principle (agricultural development)
	1999	Water Plan 21, Establishment of Liaison Council for Building Healthy Water Cycle related Ministries and Agencies	
	2000		Future Hometown 21 (proposal for social gatherings related to the vision for Future Communities in the 21st Century) (agricultural development); prohibition of single treatment septic tanks (sewerage); environmental standards for dioxins (environment)
	2001		Establishment of the Construction Technology Research and Development Subsidy Program (Technology Development)
	2002	Confirmation of soil contamination at the planned site of the new Toyosu market in Tokyo	Construction of the Toyokawa Water Supply Canal (phase 2) (agricultural development, domestic and industrial water); establishment of Nature Restoration Projects and Stream Renaissance 2 (environment)
	2003		Law on Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development, Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law, Law on Promotion of Nature Restoration (Law System)
	2004		Formulation of Water Supply Vision (domestic and industrial water), National Spatial Planning Law (name changed due to revision of the Comprehensive National Land Development Law) (Law System)
	2005	The Kyoto Protocol was officially adopted	Establishment of a Comprehensive River System Environment Improvement Project and Integrated River Environment Improvement Project (environment)

Era	Year	Events and Disasters	Events related to Water Resources
	2006		Promotion of a River Restoration Program (environment)
	2009		Establishment of supporting system for urban development related to rivers (Environment)
	2010		Review of Tapped Water Quality Standards (basic items 50, management target-setting items 27, required consideration items 44) (domestic and industrial water), revision of Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law (soil contamination of natural origin is also included) (Law System)
	2011	The Great East Japan Earthquake (estimated death toll: 15,735 people)	
	2012	Torrential rainfall in the northern part of Kyusyu（estimated death toll: 30 people)	Preparation project for Local Agriculture Master Plan (agricultural development)
	2013	Establishment of a river cooperation organization system	Formulation of New Water Supply Vision (domestic and industrial water)
	2014	Grand Design for 2050; heavy rainfall in August (estimated death toll: 6 people)	Basic Law on the Water Cycle, Law related to Promotion of Rainwater Utilization (Law System)
	2015	Torrential rainfall in Kantou and Tohoku (estimated death toll: 14 people); decision on the preparation of the Basic Plan on Water Cycle	Basic Plan of Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas (agricultural development)
	2016	Drought in Heisei 28; earthquake in Kumamoto（estimated death toll and injured: 267 people, including related deaths)	
	2017	Heavy rainfall in the northern part of Kyusyu (estimated death toll: 40 persons)	
	2018	Heavy rainfall in July (Nishi–Nippon heavy rainfall) (estimated death toll: 263 people)	Climate Change Adaption Law (Law System)
Reiwa	2019	Typhoon Hagibis (Higashi Nihon Typhoon) (Death 105 Persons)	
	2020	Heavy rainfall in July (Death 84 Persons)	