

Theme1-3

Public Participation and Decision-Making Process

Meeting Diverse Needs by Building Water Governance



Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Transparency in the Public Works Progress**
- 3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects**
- 4. Community and Private Sector Participation**
- 5. Lessons Learned**

1. Introduction

What is Water Governance?

- The water governance includes ;
- Water management for flood protection and water utilization, and
- Basic values and visions of the organizations and communities such as the idea of respecting the will and human rights of people, legality, reliability, and transparency.

Theme 1-3 describes:

- Movement against dams by residents
- Laws, policies, and systems related to public involvement
- Necessity of project's transparency (information disclosure, project re-evaluation)
- Environmental conservation activities in cooperate with the government and the people

2. Transparency in the Public Works Progress

(1) Public Works Projects that affected Water Governance Reform

- Three major projects became a turning point of water governance in Japan.

1953 to 1973 Matsubara and Shimouke Dams

- Act on Special Measures for Water Source Area
- Effected the rebuilding and restoration of residents' lives in the construction of the Kawabegawa and Yanba Dams

1968 to 1995 Nagaragawa River Mouth Barrage

- Improvement of the transparency and accountability of public works projects
- Effected residents' participation, such as the River Basin Committee

1970 to 2020 Yanba Dam

- Controversy on Policy, Science, and Technology
- Special measures bill to promote specific areas accompanying the abolition of dam projects
- Project re-evaluation involving experts

**Three Major Public Works Projects
Affected on Water Governance**

Source: Project Research Team (PRT)

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(1) Public Works Projects that affected Water Governance Reform

1) Opposition Movement against Matsubara and Shimouke Dams

<1958> The explanation of **compensation** was insufficient. The residents came to have **doubts for the construction project.**



<1973> Dam was completed through the **13 years of protest movement.**



<1973> **The Act on Special Measures for Water Sources Areas**

Emphasized importance of measures for water resource areas



Shimouke Dam



Matsubara Dam

Source: Chikugo River Dams Integrated Management Office

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(1) Public Works Projects that affected Water Governance Reform

2) Problems of Nagaragawa River Mouth Barrage

<1968> construction plan was decided.



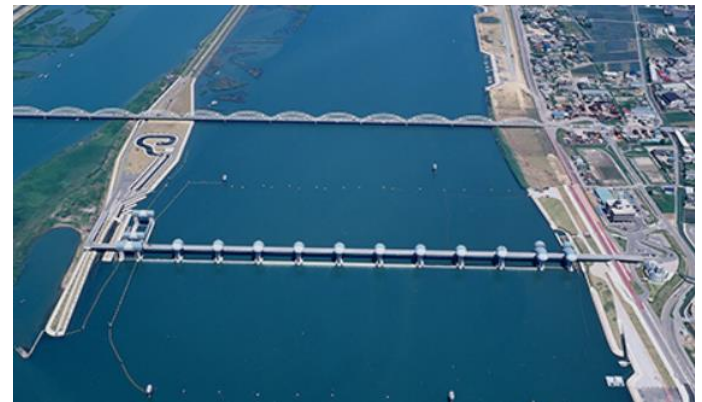
Nationwide opposition movement by **various stakeholders**



<1995> Construction completed.



Necessity of **information disclosure** and building consensus **at the planning stage**



Source: Japan Water Agency (JWA)

Nagaragawa River Mouth Barrage

<1997> **Revision of River Law**

Public opinions started to be reflected in the formulation of river improvement plans.

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(1) Public Works Projects that affected Water Governance Reform

3) Political and Scientific Argument on Yanba Dam Project

<1949> Construction plan was decided.



<1985> Residents accepted the project with **Reconstruction Plan of Livelihood**.



<2009> The construction of the main body was **suspended** due to the change of government.



<2010> **Re-examination** of Yanba Dam started **in terms of science**.



Source: Gunma prefecture

Yanba Dam

The MLIT concluded **the most advantageous plan is Yanba Dam** in terms of science.



<2020> Construction completed.

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(1) Public Works Projects that affected Water Governance Reform

4) Rebuilding Livelihood Measures of Yanba Dam Project

Submerged area is supported in various ways.

- Relocation Lands for Submerged Residents
- Regional Development Facilities
- Infrastructure Tourism Initiatives

Relocation land and financial source are described in Themes 3 and 9.



Souvenir Shop



Roadside Station

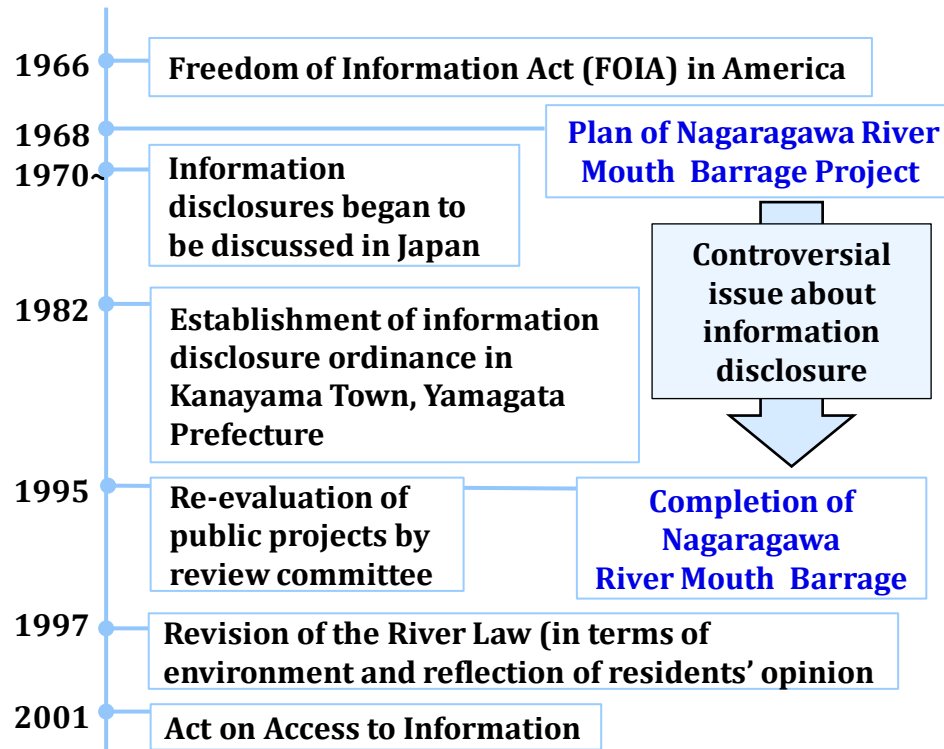


Amphibious Bus

Source: Visit Gunma, Gunma prefecture

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(2) Information Disclosure

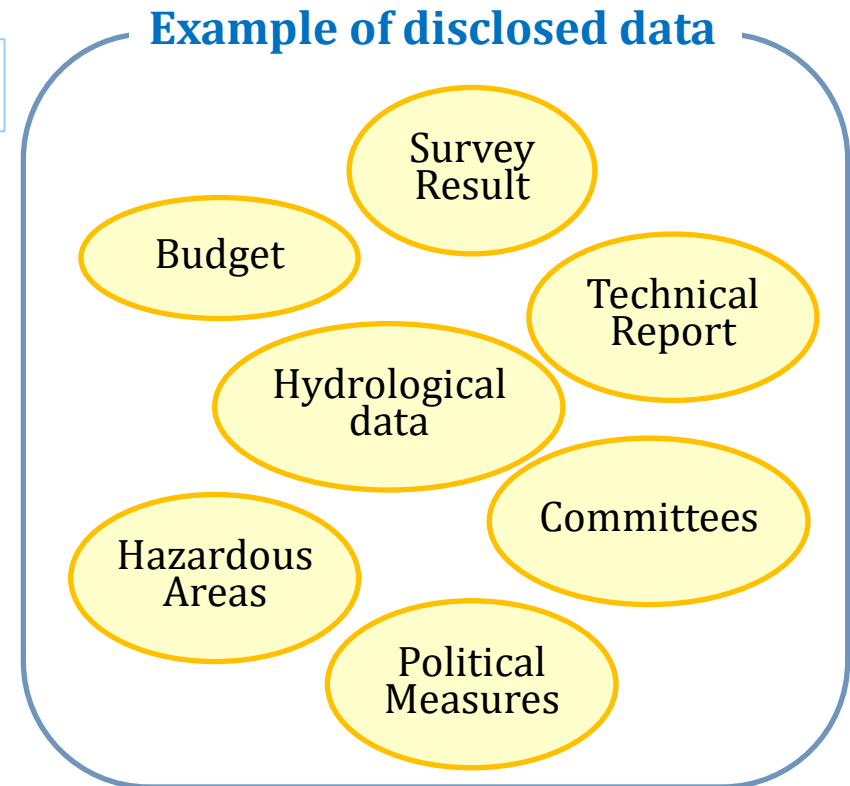


Source: PRT

Background of Information Disclosure

Various information are disclosed to the public in a various way.

Example of disclosed data



Source: PRT

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

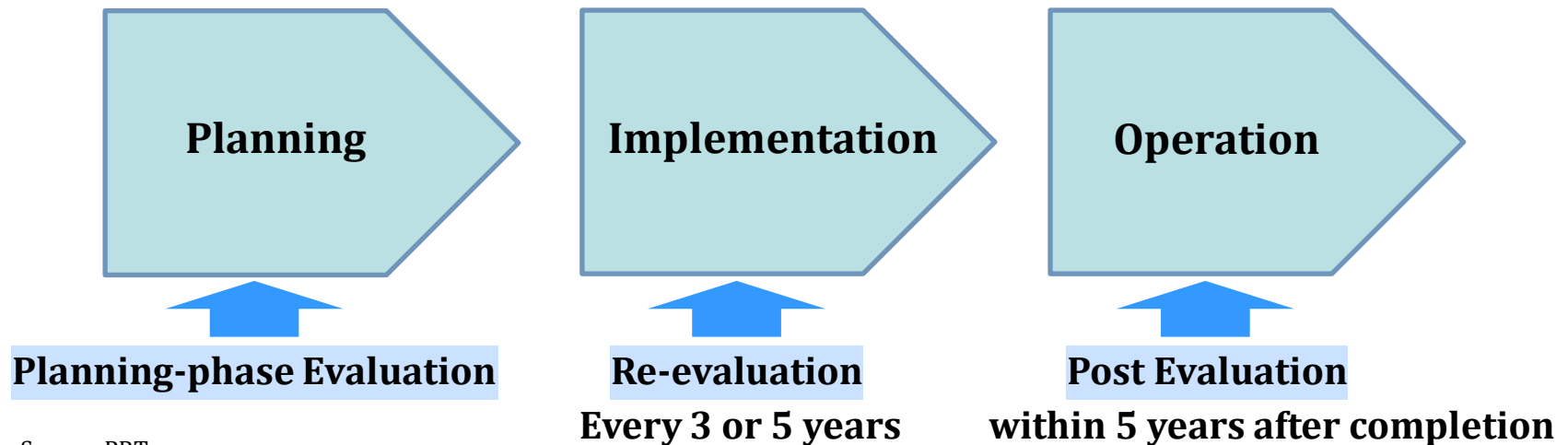
(3) Evaluation of Policies and Projects

1) System of Project Re-evaluation

- Through project re-evaluation, projects with high effectiveness and efficiency are implemented.
- Projects are to be re-evaluated to decide whether to “continue” or “stop”.

The viewpoints in re-evaluating are:

- 1) project necessity
- 2) project progress forecast
- 3) possibility of cost reduction and alternative planning



Source: PRT

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(3) Evaluation of Policies and Projects

2) Reigniting the Debate on the Kawabe River Dam

Strong **opposition movement** by residents on compensation, necessity, flood, water utilization, environment

<2001~2017> Project Re-evaluation was conducted **5 times**.

<2008> Policy change to **dam-free flood protection**

<2009> Construction of dam body was **suspended**.

<2020> The Flood in Kuma River caused serious damage.

Requested to construct a dam of water-flowing type.



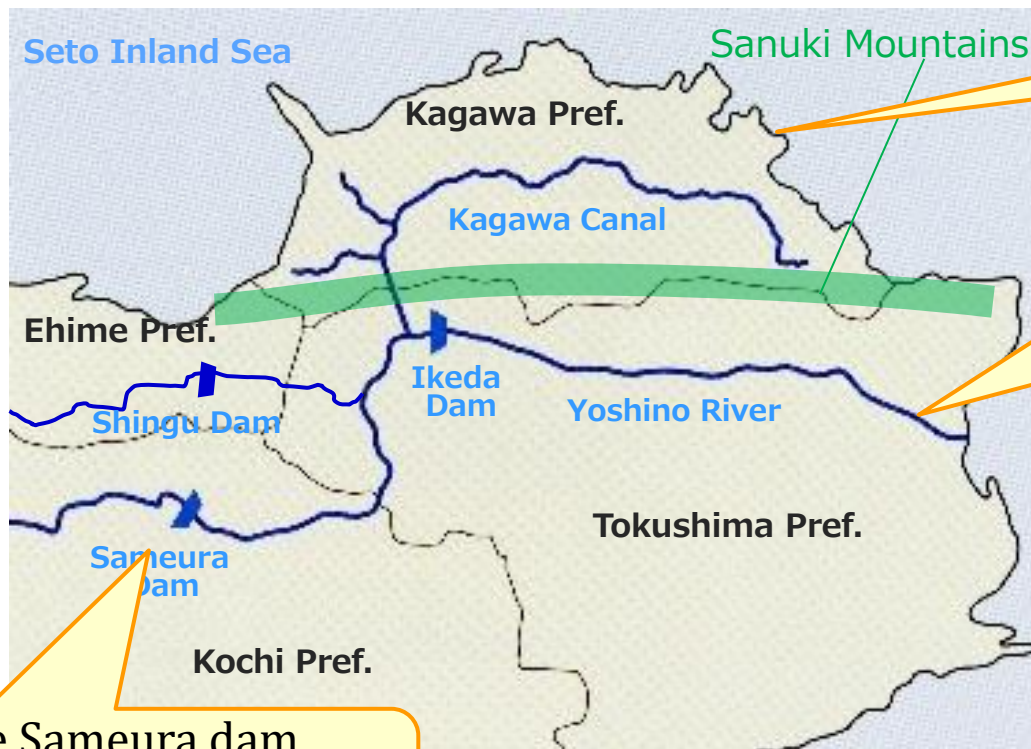
Source: Japan Dam Foundation

Completion Image of Kawabe River Dam

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(4) Turning Conflict to Cooperation: Consensus Building in Inter-basin Water Supply

1) Conflict among Prefectures over Water Diversion Project



Kagawa Pref. had suffered from water shortages.

Water diversion from Yoshino River running through Tokushima Pref. was required to Kagawa Pref.

The Sameura dam required resettlement in Kochi Pref.

The Kagawa Water Canal Project

Conflicts between prefectures

Source: Kagawa Canal Management Office, JWA

Yoshino River Comprehensive Development Plan

2. Transparency of Public Works Progress

(4) Turning Conflict to Cooperation: Consensus Building in Inter-basin Water Supply

2) Issues for the Realization of Kagawa Canal Construction Project

Agreement for the construction of the Sameura Dam

- Tokushima Pref. agreed with the construction of the Sameura Dam because Tokushima Pref. was designated to locate New Industrial City and required abundant water resources.
- The **compensation negotiation by Kochi Pref took over ten years**. The agreement was finally reached by replacement of roads, construct. of resettlement land, compensation, financial supporting measures, etc.

Some farmers in Kagawa Pref. didn't require the Project because they had ponds.

Farmers' agreement in Kagawa Pref. to the Project

- Kagawa Prefecture explained to the farmers and irrigation associations about **400 times over a period of about two years** to **obtain their consent**.

3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects

(1) Establishment of Water Governance for Each River Basin

Water governance should be built according to the local conditions for each river basin and river system.



Source: Japan Water Forum

- Water governance should be built **depending on the region.**
- No single model exists because circumstances differ from river basin to basin .

It is difficult to meet all needs for vertically divided administrative functions.

Vertically Divided Administrative Functions

3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects

(1) Establishment of Water Governance for Each River Basin

Water governance should be built according to the regional condition.

- The River Law was revised.
 - ✓ To reflect feedback of opinions of the people concerned and others to the River Improvement Plan.
 - ✓ To hear the opinions of experts and residents.
 - ✓ To hold public hearings.



- **River Basin Committees** are established.

3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects

(1) Establishment of Water Governance for Each River Basin

1) Yodo River Basin Committee — Catchment area: 8,240 km²

- Involved various parties concerned from the early stage of drafting river improvement plan.
- Kept transparency and objectivity.
- Adopted approach for the participants to recognize issues in the basin and consider and discuss potential solutions.



- The opinions were in conflict especially on the dam construction.
- Even six years after the start of the deliberation, the policy and plan were **not formulated**.

Source: Yodo River Basin Committee

The 85th Committee

3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects

(1) Establishment of Water Governance for Each River Basin

2) Muko River Basin Committee Catchment area: 496km²

- Discussed **from the beginning stage** of formulating **the basic policy** including the **Muko River dam** construction.
- Established with academic experts and publicly recruited residents as the members.
- Held committee meetings **49 times** in total.



- In the end, a part of the plan were **not accepted completely** and alternative one was prepared.
- Through the continuous discussion, **a great majority of participants agreed.**

Source: Muko River Basin Committee News 32

The 68th Committee

3. Reflecting the Will of the Residents in Projects

(2) Trial and Error to Improve Decision-making

Various consultation systems and methods should be pursued to achieve better water resources management.

(1) Points of Consensus Building

- Pursue a consensus that everybody can accept.
- Ask people to think about the benefit of whole region

(2) Consultation Methods

Explanatory
Meeting

Public
Hearing

Committee

Workshop

Task
Force

Orientation

Mediation

4. Community and Private Sector Participation

(1) Water Environment Conservation Activities

The public and private sectors should cooperate in water environment conservation activities.

- Designation of Private organizations as **River Partner Organization**
- **Citizen Participation** through Workshops such as Good-river and River-improving Workshop
- **CSR Activities** by Private Companies such as Water Stewardship (water environment conservation activities)



Source: MLIT

Logo of River Partner Organizations



Source: Alliance for Water Stewardship

Logo of Water Stewardship

4. Community and Private Sector Participation

(2) Recent Notable Activities for Water-Environment Conservation

- **Forest-Village-River-Sea Project** contributes to local society and economy by promoting the **conservation and restoration of the natural environment**.



Source: The Ministry of the Environment

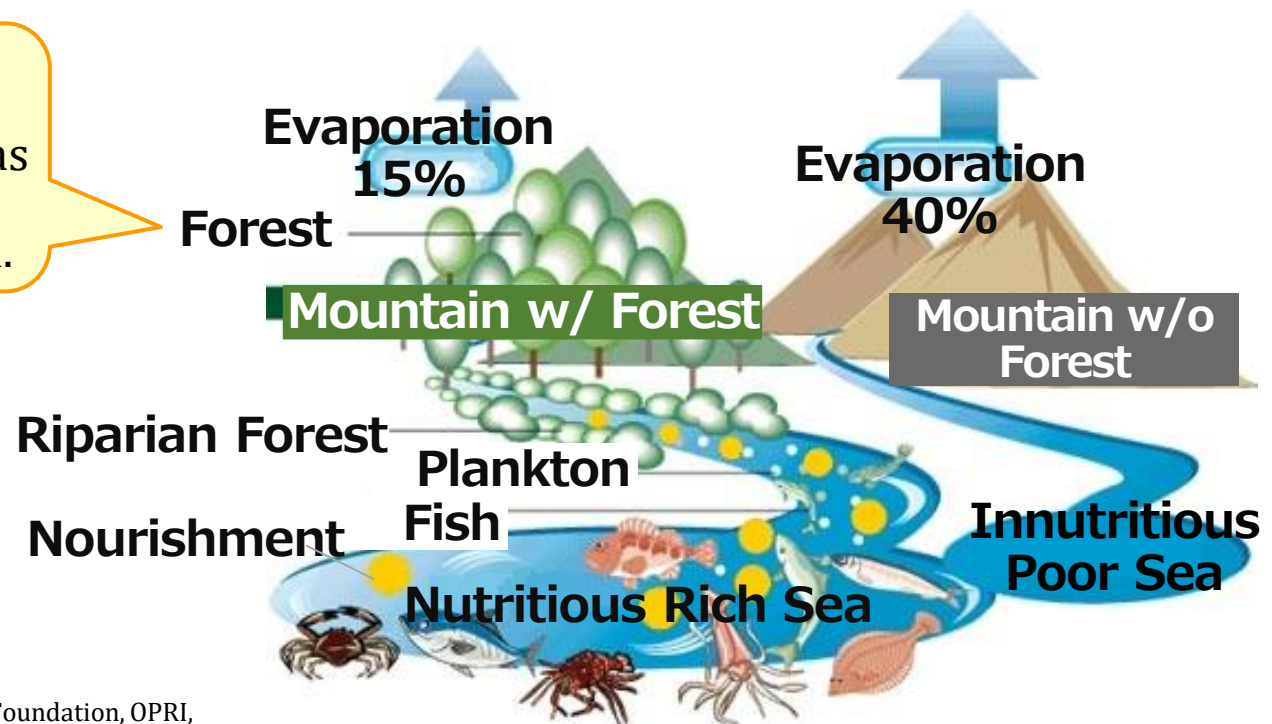
Forest-Village-River-Sea Project

4. Community and Private Sector Participation

(2) Recent Notable Activities for Water-Environment Conservation

- **Forest for Fish Breeding** is one of the protection forests designated in accordance with the Forest Act.

Forests of about 60,000 ha have been designated as Forest for Fish Breeding in Japan.



Source: UMI & NAGISA Foundation, OPRI,
Ocean Newsletter No.23 (July 2001)

Fish Breeding Functions of Forest

4. Community and Private Sector Participation

(3) Roles of Individuals and Companies in Disaster Measures

It is important to promote efforts so that every single citizen can regard the disaster as “my own event” and make action voluntarily.

- Rebuilding Flood-Conscious Societies through making **My Timeline**
- Disaster Prevention Activity by **Flood Fighting Teams**

The individual disaster prevention plan



Source: MLIT

My Timeline Preparation Course



Source: MLIT

Flood Protection Activities and Drill

4. Community and Private Sector Participation

(4) Establishment of an Award System

It is expected to increase the motivation by giving commendations to the activities of private organizations and individuals.

- Flood-fighting-related Awards
- River Contributor Awards
- Japan Water Prize and Japan Stockholm Junior Water Prize



Source: MLIT

The Vice Minister Presenting the Award

5. Lessons Learned (1)

- (1) Water resources could be managed by establishing water governance that involves local communities and stakeholders from the planning stage.

Japanese experience shows that a top-down approach driven by government organizations cannot respond to various needs of local communities. A legal framework also needs to be established to arrange governance. The River Act was revised to promote public participation in the decision-making processes of policies and plans for river basin improvement in Japan. Access to information through a variety of means is a prerequisite for the consensus building process.

5. Lessons Learned (2)

- (2) Governance should be established in each river basin according to local conditions.

To reflect a wide range of opinions from academic experts and residents, a committee or forum should be formulated. It may take a long time to reach a consensus among a wide range of stakeholders. There is no single right answer for how to reach a consensus. The Yodo River Basin Committee and other river committees took innovative approaches. A comprehensive understanding of the situation and issues is needed.

5. Lessons Learned (3)

- (3) Mechanism of reviewing projects may improve transparency and accountability.

Changes in socioeconomic conditions may reduce the necessity of projects. Governments need to review and revise project activities according to changes.

- (4) It is important to strengthen cooperation among the public and private sectors and local communities for environmental conservation and disaster management.

Local communities and residents need to prepare for disasters in accordance with local conditions. The private sector may provide solutions to various issues by utilizing its resources. The government may support these activities through financial support, training, and awards.