

げん べ え がわ  
源 兵 衛 川 Genbegawa

三島の宝が 世界の宝に！ 「世界かんがい施設遺産」  
Heritage Irrigation Structure

「水の都・三島」の原風景

Original View of Mishima, "The City of Water"



源兵衛川は、富士山からの湧水を水源とする 全長 1.5km の農業用水路です。

かつて、川沿いの多くの家々には、カワバタ(川端)が備わり、洗濯物や茶碗などを洗いました。共同のカワバタは洗い物をする主婦たちの社交場にもなり、三島市民の心の拠り所でした。

夏には、フネ(ブリキの蓋付き容器)に食べ物を入れ、天然の冷蔵庫として使いました。子どもたちは、泳いだり、魚取りに興ずるなど、川は、三島っ子の遊び場でした。

The River Genbe, Genbegawa, flows 1.5 km through Mishima, "The City of Water". Its source is in Rakujen Park, where water which has flowed underground from the slopes of Mount Fuji bubbles up.

For hundreds of years, houses along the Genbegawa had their own *kawabata*, river bank, allowing them access to the river. Housewives used these *kawabata* when they washed their clothes and dishes. Communal *kawabata* allowed locals to do their chores while chatting and enhanced the sense of community. The River Genbe was the heart and soul of the community.

In summertime, locals floated small tin boats loaded with fruits and vegetables on the river, the cold water working as a natural refrigerator. The river and its banks were also a playground for the local children. They enjoyed swimming and fishing in the crisp and clear Mt. Fuji water.

環境悪化の進行

The river became neglected and polluted



前の東京オリンピックが開催された昭和39(1964)年以降、上流地域での産業活動の活発化により地下水が汲み上げられ、雑排水の流入やゴミの投棄も加わり、源兵衛川の環境悪化が進みました。

川はますます汚れていき、抜本的な解決策を見出せないままの状態が25年以上も続いていました。

昭和58(1983)年頃には、暗渠化して汚れを隠してしまう計画も検討されるなど、環境破壊の危機が迫っていました。

Environmental deterioration of the Genbegawa became noticeable when economic activities intensified at the foot of Mt. Fuji, particularly from the 1960s. Factories began pumping the groundwater, which previously fed the river and the once healthy and vibrant river began suffering a major decrease in water volume.

The river started to become stagnant. Its ecology suffered and it became unattractive. Aggravating this, people began dumping their garbage and even discharging their sewage into the once great symbol of their community.

The Genbegawa was neglected for more than 25 years. Environmental pollution became so severe that locals couldn't even devise a feasible way to approach the problem. In 1983, plans to cover up and build over the river were discussed as a solution.

よみがえった清流

The Revitalization of the Genbegawa



「水の都・三島」の原風景と原体験を再生しようと、平成4(1992)年にグラウンドワーク三島が結成され、市民・NPO・行政・企業との地域協働の仕組みを創り上げ、課題解決の調整役を担いました。

川づくりには、多様な生き物たちが生息できる、多自然型のエコロジーアップの手法や市民のアイデアを取り入れ、地道な環境改善活動を続けました。今では絶滅危惧種のホトケドジョウやミシマバイカモが生息し、ゲンジボタルが舞う豊かな水辺がよみがえりました。

Groundwork Mishima was founded in 1992 with the aim of revitalizing the local landscape and ecosystem which were so vital to the community and vibrant in history and tradition. The group became a coordinator of local volunteer, public, and private sectors. Cooperation and partnerships were fostered to solve some of the environmental and social challenges facing the city.

Since the implementation, programs and activities designed to promote biodiversity and enhance the locals' participation have been the hallmark of Groundwork Mishima. Endangered species such as the Japanese eight-barbel loach, a fresh-water fish, and Mishima Balkamo, a white-flowered plant which grows in fast-flowing, clean water, have been given a second chance and Genji Fireflies have also returned to the river.

「世界かんがい施設遺産」登録

The Genbegawa was recognized as a World Heritage Site



源兵衛川は平成28(2016)年11月8日、国際かんがい排水委員会(ICID)の「世界かんがい施設遺産」に登録されました。

築造から400年以上が経過した現在も、中郷地域の農業を支える重要なかんがい施設で、地域総参加による維持管理体制によって水辺環境を再生した仕組みと価値が評価されました。

The Genbegawa was registered as a Heritage Irrigation Structure by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage on November 8th, 2016. The value of the history of more than 400 years' service to irrigate Nakazato district, the system of maintenance and the broad partnership within the community combined with the exercise of reviving the waterfront environment led to this recognition.

Mishima City Council, Nakazato Canal District and Groundwork Mishima cooperated together to ensure the Genbegawa received this important honour.

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