

(2) Genbegawa, Genbe river, or agricultural irrigation canal flows through the middle of Mishima City, that spreads out on the foot of Mt. Fuji. And the source of the canal is spring of this mountain. The picture of lower right is Kohamaike pond, the beginning of this canal.

源兵衛川は富士山麓の下流部にある三島市の中心を流れる農業用水で、その水源は富士山からの湧水です。右下の写真は源兵衛川の水源地である「楽寿園・小浜池」です。

(3) This is the map of Mishima city a few hundred years ago. Mishima was popular sightseeing spot at that era already as one of the postal town of Tokaido, the most important road that had connected Tokyo and Kyoto. It was also famous for Mishima shrine.

Its population and demand of food increased soon, so they decided to excavate the Genbe River to expand rice paddy fields and crops. Waterways were later built around the city like a mesh and Mishima became a charming city from the spring water.

これは2-300年前の三島市の地図です。当時から三島市は、東海道の宿場町、交通の要所として繁栄し、「三島大社」もあり、人気の観光地でした。人口が増え、食料需要も高まったことにより、源兵衛川を掘削し、水田を広げていくことになりました。その後、水路は網の目のよう造られ、三島を湧水に恵まれた豊かなまちへと成長させていきました。

When the Genbe River was excavated 400 years ago, the upstream area of the river was widened in order to increase the original low temperature of the spring water. Flow channels were also constructed meandering from one spring to another at high altitudes so as to prevent the muddy water from flowing into the river during raining. This natural waterway was easy to maintain and manage, and this is thought to be the reason why the river has continued to flow for so many centuries.

源兵衛川の掘削は400年前に開始され、低温の湧水を温めるために広く浅く掘られています。水路は湧水地を求めて蛇行し、雨季に泥水の流入を防ぐために高い位置に設けられています。川の自然な流れはメンテナンスや維持管理が楽なように造られており、数世紀に渡って川が存在してきた理由のひとつとなっています。

(4) Genbe River was constructed in between late 15th century to early 16th century, the era ruled by SAMURAI, by an influential figure Genbe TERAO. The region along the river was called "Nakazato" and waters from the Genbe River were drawn to irrigate and grow the rice paddy fields.

源兵衛川は、武士階級が支配していた15-16世紀に「寺尾源兵衛」によって建設され、源兵衛川沿いの集落は「中郷」と呼ばれ、源兵衛川からの水は中郷に広がる水田で利用されました。

Throughout the Edo period (from 17th to 19th century), the locals battled for the water supply continually until a water union was established by the 13 villages in the Nakazato area at the end of the 19th century to fairly distribute water supply. At the same time, a water management system governed by a council of regional communities was also established.

17-19世紀の江戸時代、地元農家で水を巡って争いが絶えず、ようやく19世紀後半、中郷地区13の村々で組合が設立され、同時期に地元のコミュニティーから成る水配人が、水の運営を任されました。

(5) After the World War 2, a public institution called the "Nakazato Water Union" was founded, and its name subsequently changed to "Nakazato Water Land Improvement District". The district was responsible for the maintenance and management of the river ever since then. Even it has been 400 years since the river canal was excavated; residents are still enjoying a stable supply of irrigation water for agricultural use only from the Genbe River.

戦後、組合は「中郷用土地改良区」に名称を変え、以後、源兵衛川のメンテナンスや運営の責任を担ってきました。開墾から 400 年経つ今なお、周辺の農家は安定した水供給を受け、農業用水としては源兵衛川からのサプライだけに依存しております。

(6)The watershed residents have been using the river for domestic purposes such as drinking or laundry. However, after the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, the upstream area of the river underwent industrialization and groundwater was pumped up, leading to a decrease in the amount of spring water. (8)

昔から川沿いの住民は源兵衛川の水を飲用水や洗濯といった用途で使用していましたが、64 年の東京オリンピック後は、上流地域での開発が進み、地下水が汲み上げられ、湧水が減少しました。

(7)In addition, the urbanization of cities was accompanied with domestic effluent and trash that were discharged and dumped into the river. The state of the river deteriorated to such an extent that in 1985, they considered to construct concrete river culverts.(8)

また、都市化は川への雑用水の流入やゴミの投棄を増長させ、環境悪化が進み、1985 年にはコンクリートで覆う事業化が検討されました。

(9)From the 1990s onwards, the Mishima residents decided to take action. In order to restore the asset of Mishima, the City of Water, the citizens, NPO, government and companies came together to establish Groundwork Mishima to improve the environment. Since then, over 200 discussions in a period of three years were held before they finally came up with a plan to turn cotaminated Genbe River into a water park.

90 年代以降、三島市民は、「水の都・三島」の財産である源兵衛川の水辺環境を取り戻すため、市民、NPO、行政や企業と協力して環境改善に取り組む市民組織、「グラウンドワーク三島」を立ち上げました。以来、3 年間で 200 回もの議論を重ね、汚れた源兵衛川を親水公園化する事業をスタートさせました。

(10)The river environment improvement works were mainly conducted by the people who had special knowledge each.

源兵衛川の環境改善活動は、専門的知識を持った多様な市民が行動力を集結し実施されました。

(11)Construction method by Groundwork Mishima that was paying attention to life's diversity has transformed the Genbe River into a clear stream where fireflies, dragonflies, and kingfishers abound. (12)

グラウンドワーク三島による生物多様性を大切に作る川づくり工法により、源兵衛川は清流を取り戻し、ホタルやトンボ、カワセミなどの生き物が増えました。

(13)And children now also play and catch fish in it. 子どもたちが川に入って魚を採れるような美しい水辺に戻りました。

(14)Mishima-baikamo, aqua plant in red list was once about to be extinct. Through the effort of people, they were planted in this river and now this waterweed with beautiful white flowers dancing on the surface of water is on the way of recovering the mass.

絶滅危惧種である三島バイカモも、一時は消滅手前でしたが、市民の努力により源兵衛川に移植され、今では水面に美しい白い花が咲き乱れています。

(15)The Genbe River of today has been restored to the river that is supposed to be. In order to carry on this value and tradition, Groundwork Mishima and the locals have started and continued many activities to preserve the river environment, and will. For example, more than 2,000 children visit this area every year to learn more about this river.

今の源兵衛川は、本来の原自然を取り戻しています。現在、源兵衛川の価値と文化、歴史を後世に残すために、グラウンドワーク三島や住民は今後とも環境再生への取り組みを進め、更に毎年2000人を超える子どもたちに源兵衛川についての環境教育を実施しております。

(16)The Genbe River has a history of over 400 years as an irrigation canal. Its natural waterside beauty, cultural and historical importance embrace the outstanding and universal values common to all human beings. The Genbe River is therefore a treasure of Mishima, the “City of Water” and worthy to be included into the “World Water System Heritage ” as a treasure of the world.

源兵衛川は農業かんがい運河として 400 年の歴史を持ち、その水辺自然環境や、文化的・歴史的な重要性、貴重性は全ての人類に共有されるべき価値を含んでいます。まさに源兵衛川は「水の都」三島の宝であり、「世界水遺産」に相応しい「世界の宝」でもあります。