Welcome!
Participants in the World Water Forum

Upper Chikugo
River Excursion

Tour the Waters of
“Riverside” Hita City

Understand the Past, Experience the Present and Meet the Future of Watersheds in Japan - Come to Riverside Hita!

Since ancient times, resource competition and other water issues in Japan have often arisen and been solved first here in the Chikugo River watershed, which now exemplifies water resource modernization and rapid economic growth in Asia. Meantime, local communities and natural habitats have sustained impacts from a variety of factors - flood damage, water disputes, dam construction.

The Chikugo is Kyushu’s largest river; it flows through Kumamoto, Oita, Fukuoka and Saga prefectures in the north and debouches into the Ariake Sea. A variety of citizens’ movements are active throughout the region, crossing prefectural borders and involving the Fukuoka metropolitan area to build a watershed-wide cooperative network.

Hita City is located in the central portion of the watershed, and has always been called “Riverside Hita.”

History and culture developed on and around the river, while economic growth led to the construction of flood control and hydroelectric dams, throwing into sharp relief various problems involving local citizens and the government and other developers intending to utilize the river.

Discussions have now been initiated to reach consensus among citizens, developers and government with the aim of making the region a model for river revitalization that features its uniquely appealing aspects.

In addition, watershed-wide environmental measures such as for water quality are under way, as are river environment education programs for children.

We would most sincerely like to invite water specialists from around the world to come to Hita City to enjoy a look into its history. We also hope that they will apply their international perspectives on the co-existence of rivers and local communities to what they learn here about how Japan’s local citizens are re-discovering their relationship with nature, and share their ideas with the World Water Forum.

Place: Hita City, Oita Prefecture, Kyushu, Japan (on the upper Chikugo River)
Dates: April 9th (Thu) to 10th (Fri), 2015
Tour Course Options: Three options, detailed below.
For all 3 courses, the minimum number of participants will be 15 & the maximum 20
Price per person: JPY 54,000 (includes accommodation, riverboat cruise, transportation including round trip to/from Fukuoka and meals)
First reservation deadline: End of February, 2015
Excursion operator: Kinki Nippon Tourist Kyusyu
Information and applications
Hita Tourist
Email: hirota-t@amail.plala.or.jp
Tour the Waters of Riverside Hita

Course 1 Program
Culture and history nurtured by the river’s rich waters and watershed forests
We will visit the water management structures and facilities built to utilize the Chikugo River’s abundant waters for agriculture and drinking water, and exchange ideas with high school students in Hita City.

Locations
Chikugo Ohseki Weir
San-ren Triple Water Wheels & Yamada Weir
Idea exchange with high school students
Mastubara Dam

Course 2 Program
Comprehensive Water Resource Management of the Fukuoka Metropolitan Area and the Chikugo River Watershed
We will exchange ideas with citizens’ groups in Hita City that are working to protect the Chikugo River environment and carrying out programs linking its upper and lower watershed areas, etc., and view dams built to provide electricity and secure drinking water supplies to the watershed area.

Locations
Idea exchange with local citizens’ groups
Matsubara Dam
Ohyama Dam
Water Treatment Center

Course 3 Program
Environmental measures that put local resources to work
Small canals were built to run through the historic Mameda-machi district, which we will visit to see how people use water in their everyday lives, as well as how local resources are put to use by local industries, for example by using small streams to power mortars and wood to produce electricity.

Locations
Home of Ontayaki ceramic ware
Wood biomass electricity generation facility
Mameda-machi and its small canals

Accommodations will be at a Japanese-style hot spring hotel in Hita City.
We will board traditional roofed pleasure boats, an elegant way to fully enjoy the river.