

Community Design around Kobe City to live with Water

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Kobe is a city in Hyogo Prefecture, which lies in western Japan near both Kyoto and Osaka. The Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake struck this area in 1995, killing more than 6400 people in Kobe and neighboring cities. Kobe is a city with the Rokko Mountains to the north and the sea to the south. The water that flows from there is used for drinking and daily use. After the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, with the cooperation of the national government, Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe and other cities, a Green Belt Strategy was planned to comprehensively manage sand defense dams, forestation, forest recreation and ecological conservation.

In the urban area, along with projects that deal with cleaning rivers, artificial streams and biotopes were made on neighborhood community level. Many of these projects have been conducted with citizen participation, and I have been involved in a number of them.

Finally, for the seashore, we are discussing the view of the new waterfront, including the view from the mountain and the view from the seaside. In particular, community design using historical warehouses is being promoted to create an important landscape point along the seashore. The artificial stream from Matsumoto flows into the nearby Hyogo Canal. The canal has been restored with cleaner water, and it now hosts a canoe regatta competition. We are conducting community design in many places dealing with water through cooperation between citizens and governments.