

A Story
Narrated in Stacked Stone:
The Achievements of Our Ancestors

Sediment Control

on the Dodo River

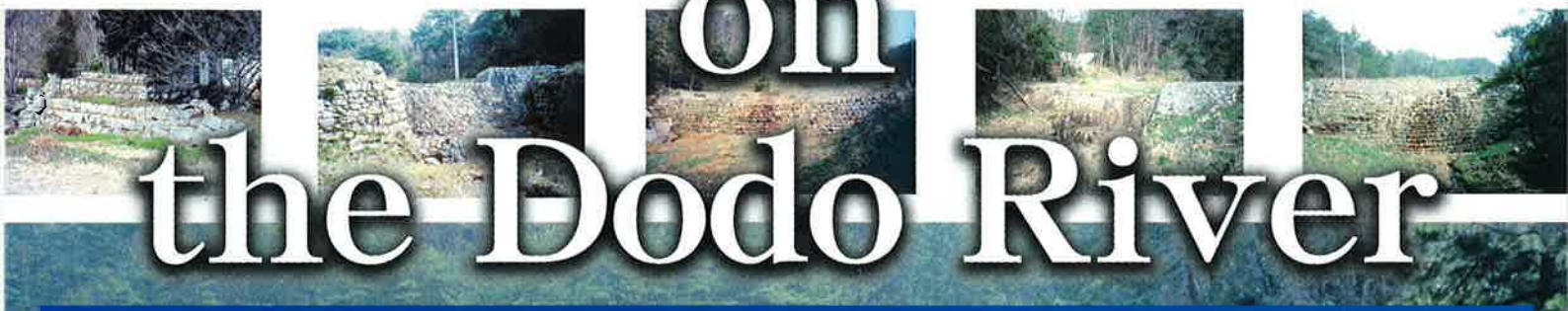


Photo: Official Plaque Certifying the Site a Registered Tangible Cultural Property



Hiroshima Prefectural Government

Japanese Sediment Control in the Preserving

18th and 19th Centuries : Our Historic Dams for the Future

Check dams, called "sunadome" ("sand guards" in Japanese), were built on the Dodo River in the late civil engineering structures as well as historic cultural properties. They are in fact still in operation, playing and their historic and cultural value, environmentally consistent sediment control projects

Edo Period¹ (between the 1700's and the 1860's). Today these dams remain as both as important an important sediment control role in the modern Fukuyama region. While continuing to cherish and continue on the Dodo River. ¹ The Edo Period is a division of Japanese history: 1603-1868.

Sediment Control Project (The Present Check Dams of the Dodo River)

Registration as a Cultural Landmark



Dodo Park and Check Dam No. 6

Check dams are permanent or temporary barriers designed to promote sedimentation by slowing flow velocity and then smoothing flows. Check dams can be constructed from a variety of materials. The Dodo River's check dams are constructed from rock. Built as early as the 1700's, some of the dams continue to serve important sediment control roles. Others have changed, shifting from protecting the citizenry to becoming historic sites of cultural significance to the surrounding community.

Dodo Park was built in 1976 on sediment accumulated at Dodo River Check Dam No.6. Designed in the style of a traditional Japanese garden, the Park contains numerous waterways built of stone from nearby fields. Visitors are encouraged, while enjoying the seasonal flowers of spring, playing in the waters of summer, or collecting the colored leaves of autumn, to recall the legacies and achievements of people living many years ago. The park is alive with visitors year-round.

In 2006, in recognition of the technical and historic value of the sediment control system, 8 check dams (Check dams No.1~No.6, Tobigasako, and Uchihiro check dams) on the Dodo River were registered as Tangible Cultural Properties by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Check Dam No.4 and the Accompanying Tangible Cultural Property Plaque



No.5 Check Dam and the Accompanying Tangible Cultural Property Plaque

Tobigasako and Uchihiro check dams are built on tributaries of the Dodo River. Portions of them had collapsed but were rebuilt to match the stonework seen in remaining parts of the dams. New stone frameworks were constructed as seen those days.

Community Use and Involvement



Newly-repaired Tobigasako Check Dam



Stone Frameworks



Dodo River Dike



"GIANT" Okonomiyaki Cook-out (Japanese-style Pancake)

The annual "Kannabe Wood Festival" is held at the Park in the fall. Additionally, local community groups conduct river clean-up and woodland conservation activities, sometimes releasing marsh snails into the river for the fireflies. The protection of this precious place is deeply engrained in the surrounding community.



Kannabe Wood Festival



Releasing Marsh Snails into the River



Firefly



Exhibition of Fireflies Living in the Dodo River