

Chikugo-gawa

Map of River

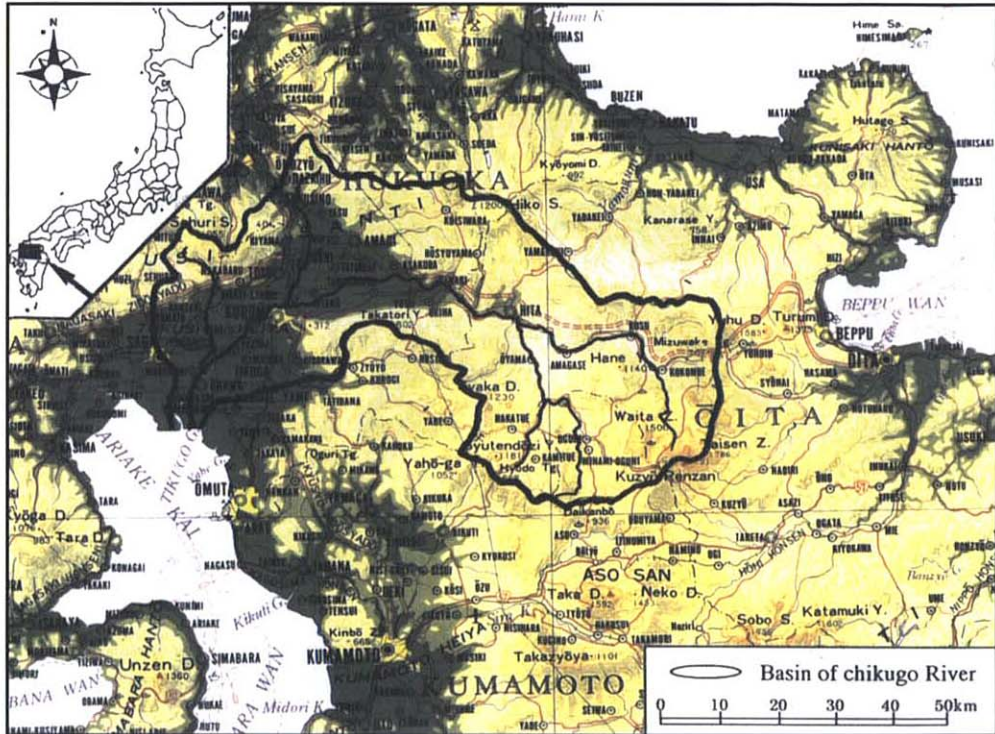
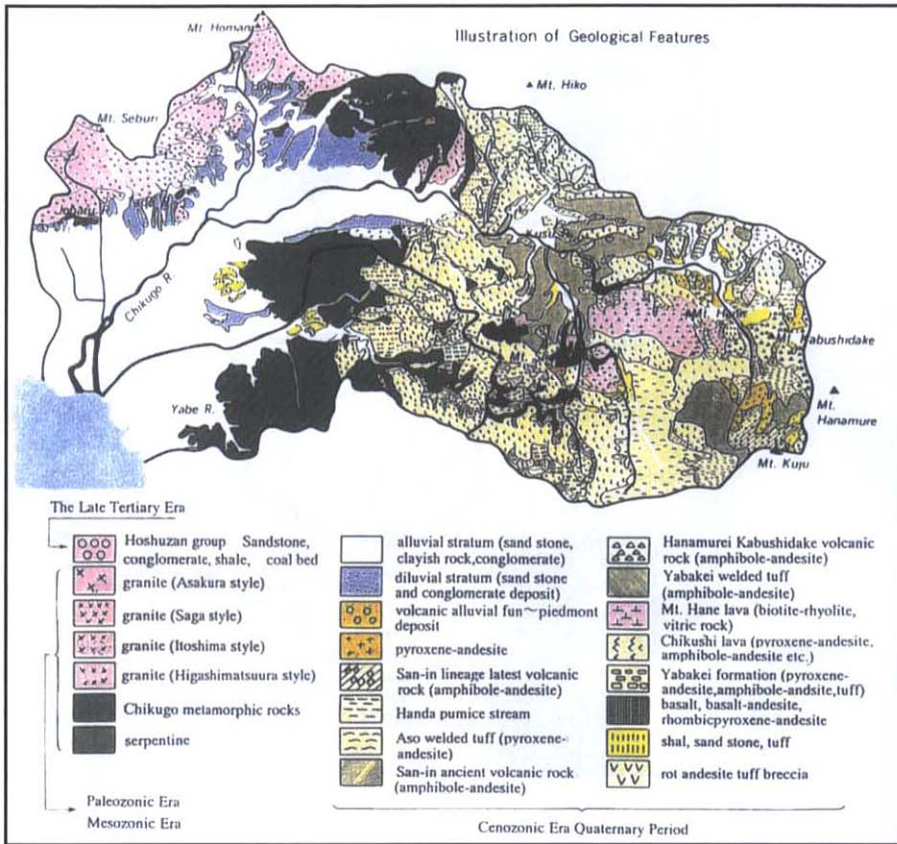


Table of Basic Data

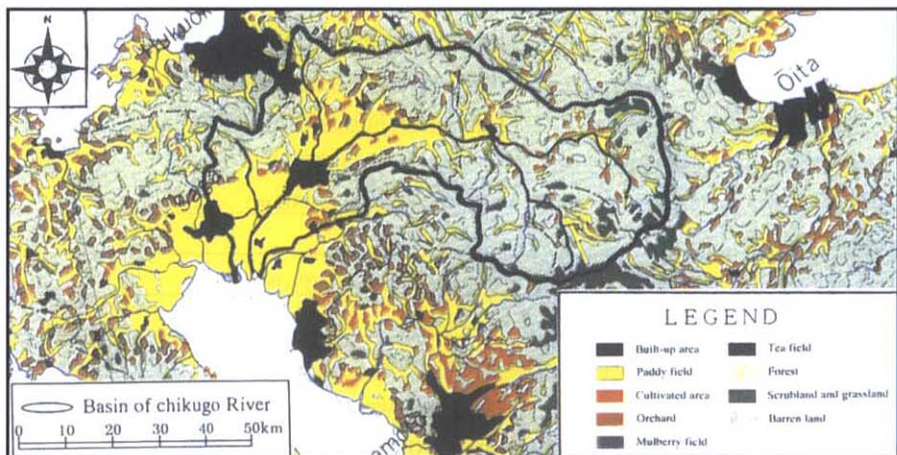
Name: Chikugo River		Serial No.: Japan-4
Location: Kyushu Island, Japan	N 32° 59' 00" ~ 33° 33' 10"	E 130° 16' 30" ~ 131° 18' 30"
Area: 2,860 km ²	Length of main stream: 143 km	
Origin: Outer rim of Mt. Aso	Highest point: Mt. Kujyu (1,791 m)	
Outlet: Sea of Ariake, Sea of Eastern China	Lowest point: River mouth (0 m)	
Main geological features: Cenozoic era (tuff, lava, andesite), Paleozoic era (granite)		
Main tributaries: Kusu River (530 km ³), Homan River (260 km ³), Sagae River (143 km ³)		
Main lakes: None		
Main reservoirs: Matsubara Reservoir (55x10 ⁶ m ³ , 1972) Shimouke Reservoir (59x10 ⁶ m ³ , 1972)		
Mean annual precipitation: 2,168 mm (1961~ 1990) (basin average)		
Mean annual runoff: 114.7m ³ /s at Senoshita (2,315 km ³) (1950~1994)		
Population: 1,079,000 (1990)	Main cities: Kurume, Saga, Hita	
Land use: Forest (49.7%), Rice paddy (22.1%), Other agriculture (10.8%), Urban (15.3%) (1990)		

2. Geographical Information

2.1 Geological Map



2.2 Land Use Map



1. General Description

The source of the Chikugo River is on the outside of the Aso caldron. It has tributaries in the mountains around Aso. It passes through the narrow valley along the lower stream of the Hita basin, named Yoake Ravine, where it is joined by the Kusu River which originates in the Kuju mountain range. At Hita City it gathers many tributaries and continues to flow through the fertile Chikushi Plain. The river finally flows out into the Ariake Sea, which is famous for land reclamation works and high tidal range.

The length of the main stream of Chikugo River is 143 km and the catchment area is 2,860 km², spreading over 4 prefectures, 12 cities, 37 towns and 7 villages. About 70% of the basin is made up of mountain ranges while the remaining 30% is plains, forming the Chikushi Plain, one of the largest rice producing areas in Japan. The population in the basin in 1990 was 1,079,000. The catchment receives an average annual precipitation of 2,168 mm (1961~1990), while the average discharge at Senoshita has been 115 m³/s (5.0 m³/s/km²) (1950~1994).

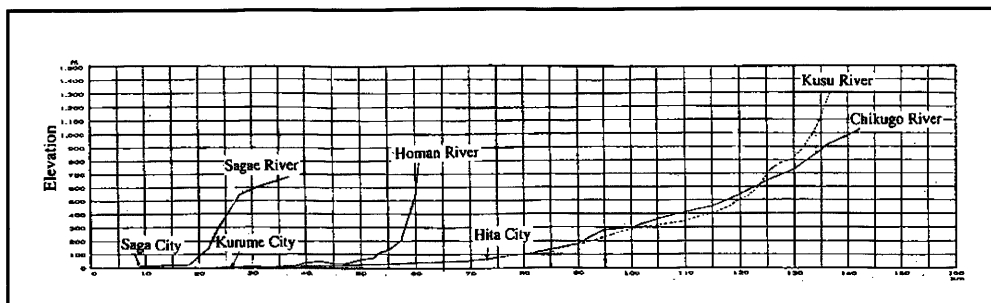
The main industries of the Chikugo River basin are forestry and lumber cutting around the upper stream, and agricultural activities such as rice and fruit production, food processing and fermentation and manufacturing of rubber products, along the middle and lower stream. In the brackish water area downstream, a well-known local specialty known as "Etsu fishing" is quite popular. At the seashore of the Ariake Sea, there is a prosperous seaweed cultivation area. There are many places to visit around the basin. Many national, quasi-national and prefectural parks, such as Aso-Kuju National Park, are located upstream. Besides, there are many hot springs, such as Amagase, Tsuetate, Harazuru, etc. in the basin. The presence of hot springs can be attributed to the active volcano, Mt. Aso, and the Kuju mountain range close to the basin.

2.3 Characteristics of River and Main Tributaries

No	Name of river	Length [km]	Highest point [m]	Main Cities population [1990]	Land use [%]
		Catchment area [km ²]	Lowest point [m]		
1	Chikugo (Main river)	143	Outer rim of Mt. Aso	Hita City, Kurume City (1,079,000)	A(10.8) F(49.7) L(2.1)
		2,860	1,028 0		
2	Kusu (Tributary)	56	Mt. Kuju 1,791	Hita City (41,140)	P(22.1) U(15.3)
		530	95		
3	Homan (Tributary)	35	Mt. Sangun 935	Tosu City (168,119)	
		260	6		
4	Sagae (Tributary)	29	Mt. Seburi 1,055	Saga City (105,626)	
		143	6		

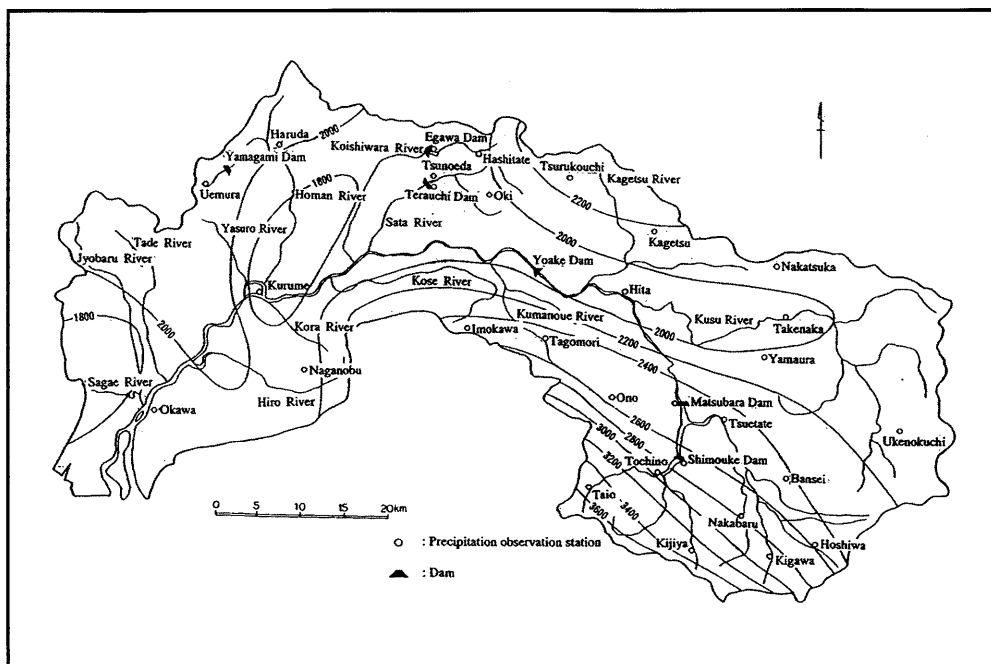
A : Other agricultural field ; F : Forest; L : Lake, River, and Marsh ; P : Paddy field; U : Urban

2.4 Longitudinal Profiles



3. Climatological Information

3.1 Annual Isohyetal Map and Observation Stations



Ministry of Construction, 1985~1994.

3.2 List of Meteorological Observation Stations

No.*	Station	Elevation [m]	Location	Observation period	Mean annual precipitation ¹⁾ [mm]	Mean annual evaporation	Observation items
90502	Kigawa	740	N 33°02'40" E 131°04'40"	1960~1994	2,782	N	P
90503	Kurokawa	660	N 33°04'27" E 131°08'32"	1960~1994	2,362	N	P
90508	Tsuetate	290	N 33°00'40" E 131°02'10"	1967~1994	2,395	N	P
90509	Taio	500	N 33°07'40" E 131°52'50"	1959~1994	3,335	N	P
90515	Teratoko	755	N 33°11'15" E 131°16'20"	1971~1994	2,338	N	P
90516	Nogami	450	N 33°11'16" E 131°12'22"	1958~1994	2,043	N	P
90517	Mori	322	N 33°09'00" E 131°17'03"	1946~1994	1,901	N	P
90521	Yokohata	180	N 33°19'40" E 131°02'00"	1959~1994	1,891	N	P
90528	Haruda	20	N 33°27'40" E 130°33'25"	1960~1994	1 988	N	P
**	Hita	4	N 33°15'00" E 130°18'00"	1893~1994	1,805 ²⁾	N	P

* Serial number by River Bureau, Ministry of Construction.

** Meteorological Observatory, Japan Meteorological Agency.

N : no data

P : Precipitation;

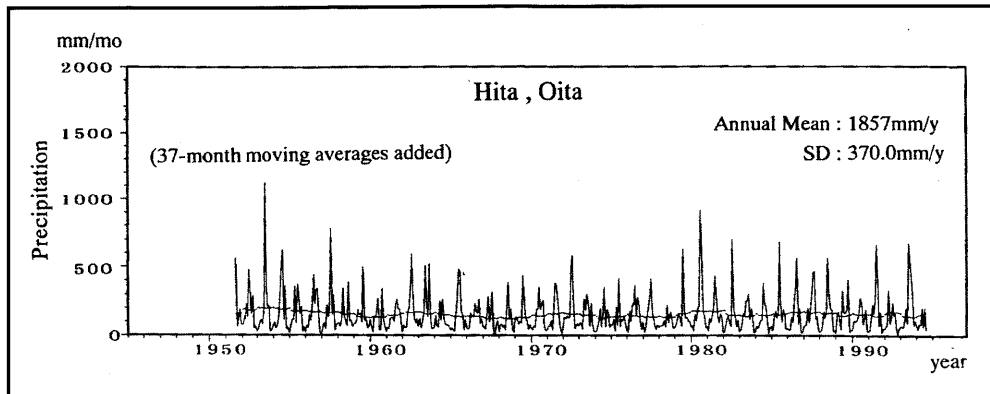
1) Period for the mean is from the beginning of the observation period to 1994.

2) Annual mean (1965~1994) in Hita.

3.3 Monthly Climate Data

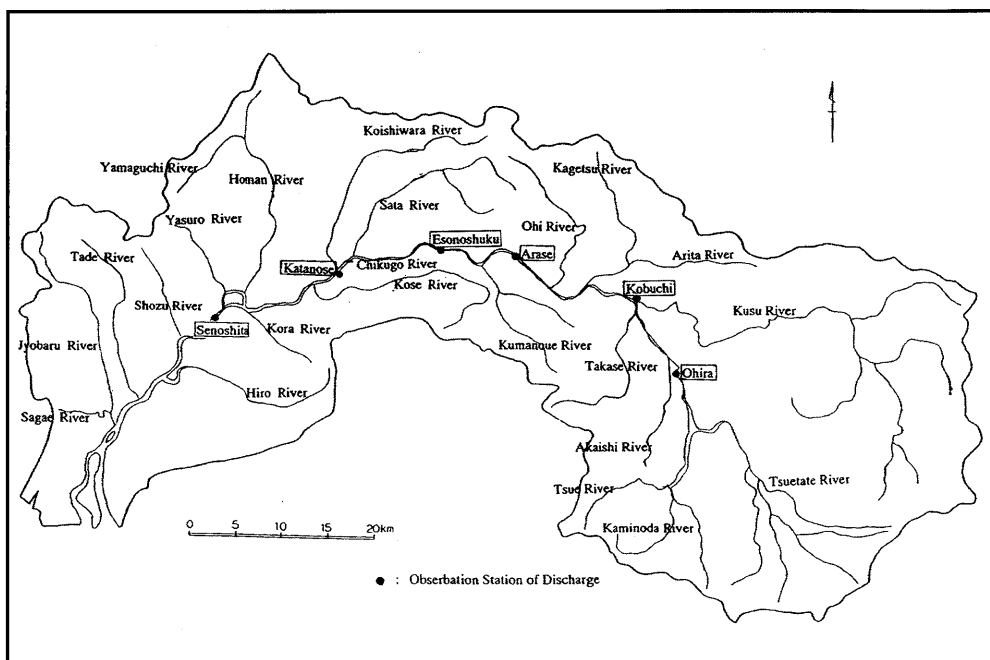
Observation item	Observation station	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	Period for the mean
Temperature [°C]	Hita	3.5	4.6	8.1	13.7	18.1	22.0	26.2	26.5	22.5	16.2	10.6	5.4	14.8	1950~1995
Precipitation [mm]	Hita	70.2	84.6	119.2	160.2	173.1	348.0	329.9	187.6	183.2	82.7	65.9	52.3	1,856.9	1950~1995
Solar radiation [MJ/m ² /d]	Saga	7.9	10.1	12.4	15.8	16.9	15.5	17.2	18.1	14.2	12.5	9.1	7.5	13.1	1981~1995
Duration of sunshine[hr]	Hita	111.0	119.7	155.1	170.2	187.7	150.8	172.5	202.2	152.9	162.1	133.1	116.0	1,833	1950~1995

3.4 Long-term Variation of Monthly Precipitation



4. Hydrological Information

4.1 Map of Streamflow Observation Stations



4.2 List of Hydrological Observation Stations

No. *	Station	Location [km] from river mouth	Catchment area A [km ²]	Observation period	Observation items ¹⁾ [frequency]
90504	Ohira	84.6	533	1958 ~ present	Q (h)
90505	Kobuchi	76.6	1,137	1955 ~ present	Q (h)
90510	Arase	62.0	1,443	1976 ~ present	Q (h)
90515	Esonoshuku	53.0	1,546	1953 ~ present	Q (h)
90519	Katanose	41.3	1,727	1956 ~ present	Q (h)
90526	Senoshita	25.9	2,315	1950 ~ present	Q (h)WQ (m)

* Serial number used by River Bureau, Ministry of Construction.
1) Q : Discharge; WQ : Water quality; h : Hourly; m : Monthly

No.	\bar{Q} ²⁾ [m ³ /s]	Q max ³⁾ [m ³ /s]	\bar{Q} max ⁴⁾ [m ³ /s]	\bar{Q} min ⁵⁾ [m ³ /s]	\bar{Q} /A [m ³ /s/100km ²]	Q max/A [m ³ /s/100km ²]	Period of Statistics
90504	13.7	2,256	965	1.1	2.57	423	1958~1994
90505	59.3	3,879	1,928	13.5	5.22	341	1955~~1994
90510	83.3	4,529	2,526	19.9	5.77	314	1976~~1994
90515	78.8	6,225	2,356	13.2	5.10	403	1953~~1994
90519	84.1	5,785	2,402	12.6	4.87	335	1956~~1994
90526	114.7	6,070	2,744	22.0	4.95	262	1950~~1994

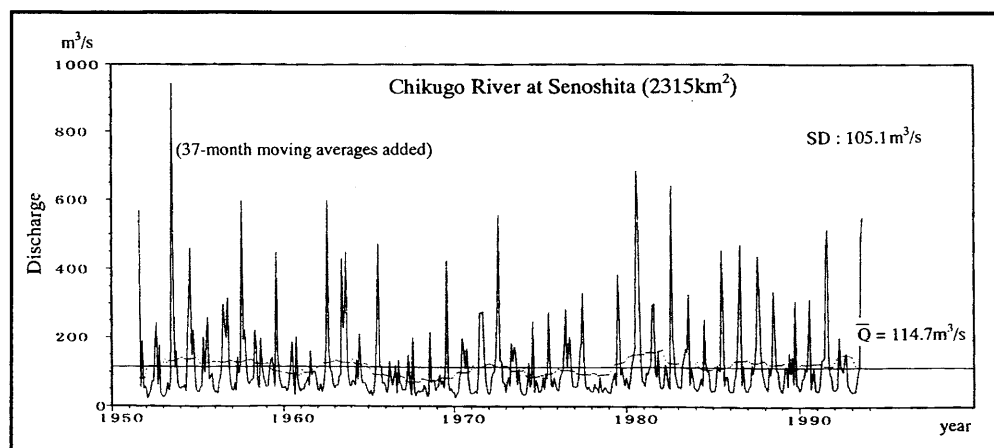
2) Mean annual discharge

4) Mean annual maximum discharge

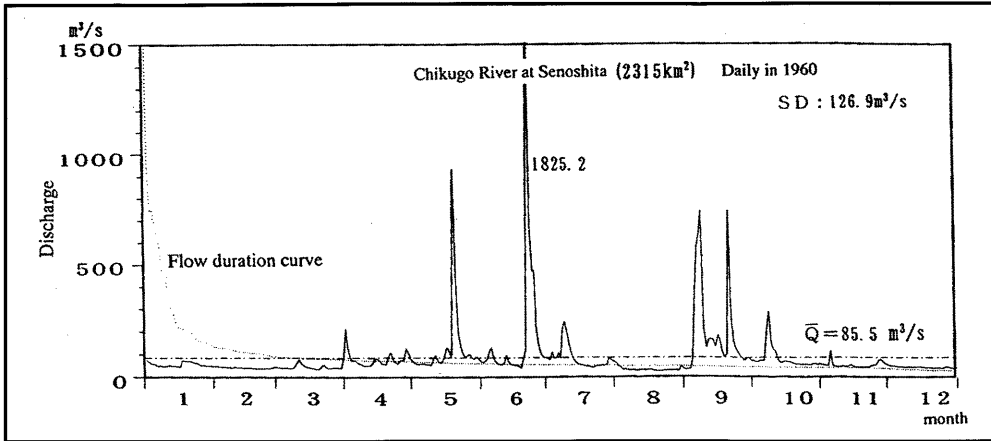
3) Maximum discharge

5) Mean annual minimum discharge

4.3 Long-term Variation of Monthly Discharge



4.4 Annual Pattern of Discharge



4.5 Unique Hydrological Features

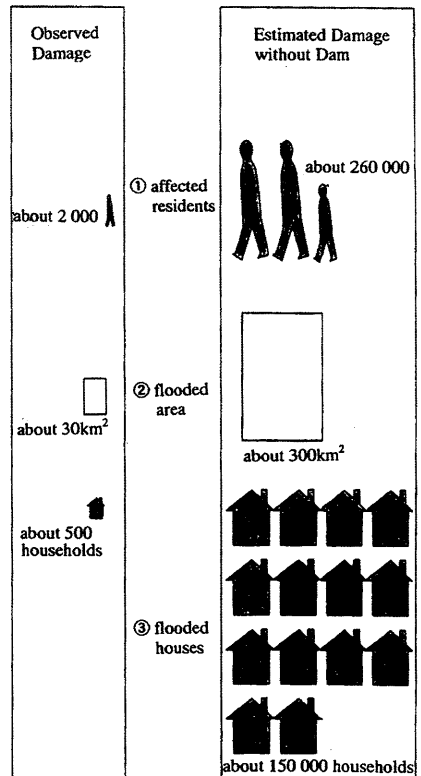
The mean annual precipitation of the Chikugo River basin is 2,168 mm, some 40% of which comes during the rainy season from June to July. The rainy season and the typhoon season from August to September account for about 65%. According to observation data at Senoshita, Reference Point of the Chikugo River (Ministry of Construction), the average annual total discharge has been approximately $36 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3$ from 1951 to 1994, while the mean daily discharge has been nearly $10^7 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ on average. From the long-term variation of annual mean discharge from 1975~1994, the minimum annual mean discharge is $52.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (1978) and the maximum is $209.7 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (1980), four times as much as the minimum.

As the figures above show, the Chikugo River is an unstable river difficult for control and utilization of water.

The Chikugo River flooded in July 1982, and calamity was avoided as a result of flood control by Mastsubara Dam and Shimouke Dam built in 1972. If there were no dams, the flooded area would have been 10 times larger, and the number of people affected would have been more than 100 times. This makes clear how effective the flood control was.

There are three flood diversion channels in the middle reach of the Chikugo River. One is Oishi Diversion Channel built in the feudal age in Japan (pre~1868), another is Chitose Diversion Channel built in the Meiji Era (1868~1912), and the other is Harazuru Diversion Channel completed in 1979 in the wake of a devastating flood that occurred in the Chikugo River basin in 1953. These have been useful in flood control, and are used as open spaces with water and greenery.

The effect of the flood control by Mastsubara Dam and Shimouke Dam in 1982.



4.6 Annual Maximum and Minimum Discharges

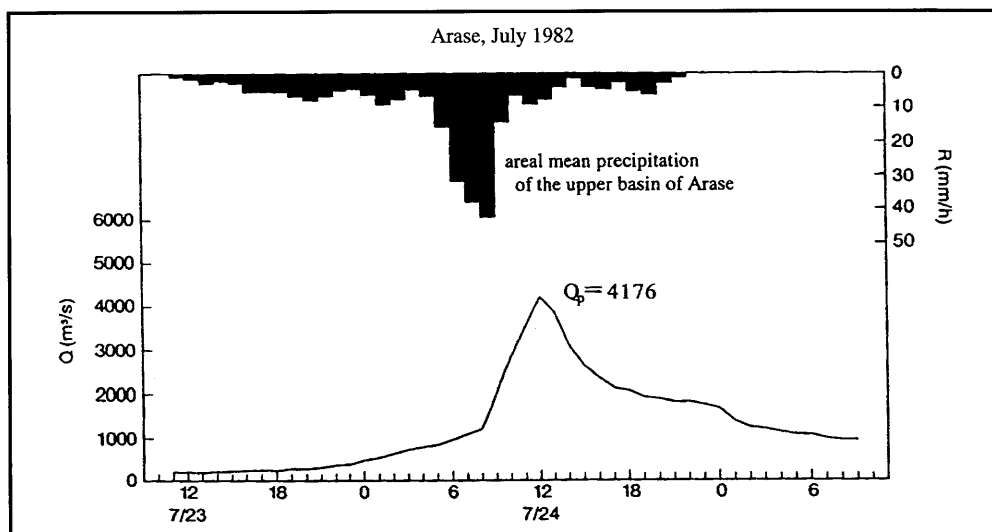
At Senoshita (2,315 km²)

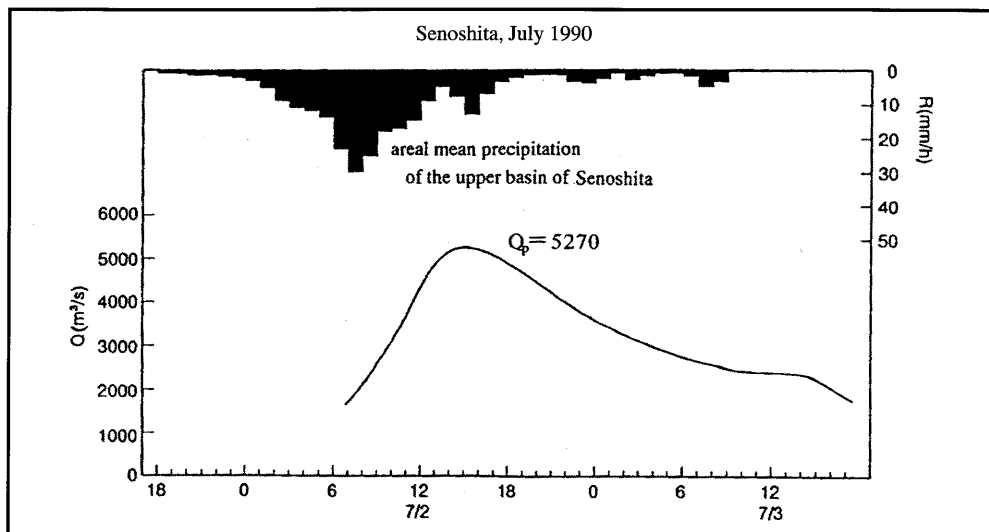
Year	Maximum ¹⁾		Minimum ²⁾		Year	Maximum ¹⁾		Minimum ²⁾	
	Date	[m ³ /s]	Date	[m ³ /s]		Date	[m ³ /s]	Date	[m ³ /s]
1975	6.21	2,284	8.5	20.7	1985	6.28	4,118	3.22	26.5
1976	6.23	2,300	1.1	35.4	1986	7.8	3,273	6.13	33.1
1977	6.16	1,656	9.21	35.1	1987	7.19	2,834	1.2	38.4
1978	6.11	702	6.19	10.1	1988	6.24	3,341	2.17	32.9
1979	6.29	5,055	6.17	20.2	1989	9.3	3,082	8.13	35.1
1980	8.30	4,007	2.13	42.3	1990	7.2	5,270	6.14	32.6
1981	6.27	2,562	6.19	21.9	1991	7.1	3,547	1.23	39.9
1982	7.24	5,127	7.2	18.1	1992	8.8	1,061	6.19	11.0
1983	7.5	2,670	2.23	34.4	1993	9.4	4,248	6.12	33.4
1984	6.27	1,553	8.19	34.1	1994	6.18	583	8.6	12.8

1), 2) Instantaneous observation by recording chart

4.7 Hyetographs and Hydrographs of Major Floods

Arase, July 1982





5. Water Resources

5.1 General Description

In the past, the Chikugo River water has been used for irrigation since the four weirs, Fukurono, Oishi, Yamada and Eri were constructed during the 1,600s. Nowadays river water is used for power generation, industrial needs, domestic needs among others.

To cope with these demands for water, a plan for water resources development has been executed since Chikugo River was designated as one of the systems based on the Water Resources Development Promotion Act in 1964. Chikugo River was the third to be designated as such following the Tone and the Yodo rivers.

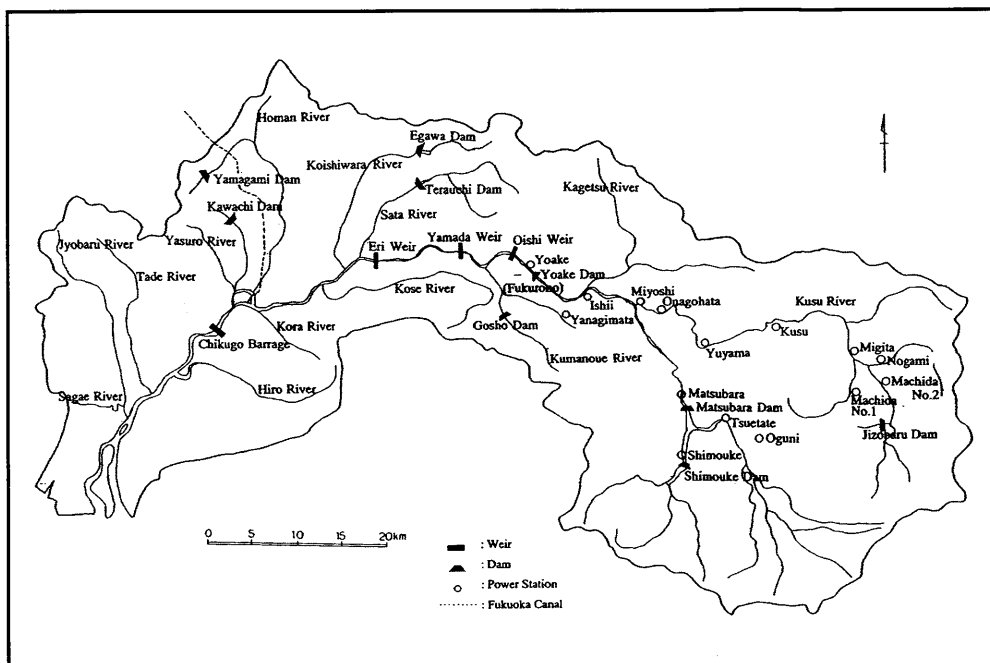
In terms of agricultural use, Chikugo water has been used to irrigate one of the largest rice-producing areas of Japan, about 52,000 ha of the river basin. Farmers take water from weirs or by pumps. Around the river mouth, irrigation water is abstracted by "Ao Intake", making use of the tidal oscillation peculiar to the Ariake Sea and Creek.

The Chikugo River has generated hydroelectric-power since the beginning of this century. Since Ishii Power Station at Hita City started operating in 1907, many hydropower stations have been built upstream of the Chikugo River or along the Kusu River. Twenty-two power plants such as the one at Onagohata generate a total of about 216 MW (installed capacity).

As for municipal water supply (domestic and industrial), Kurume City was the first to utilize river water in 1930. Afterward its use spread to every municipality in the basin. In industrial usage, water has been used for rubber and food industries among others.

One very important point of water use in the Chikugo River is that the water has been conveyed outside the basin. The development of the Japanese economy after World War II, as well as the urbanization around Fukuoka City and the improvement of the standard of living, caused increased water demand in the municipal sector. To deal with this problem, a Master Plan for Water Resources Development of the Chikugo River was established by the national government and water resource management facilities (Chikugo Barrage, Fukuoka Canal, etc.) were built.

5.2 Map of Water Resources Systems



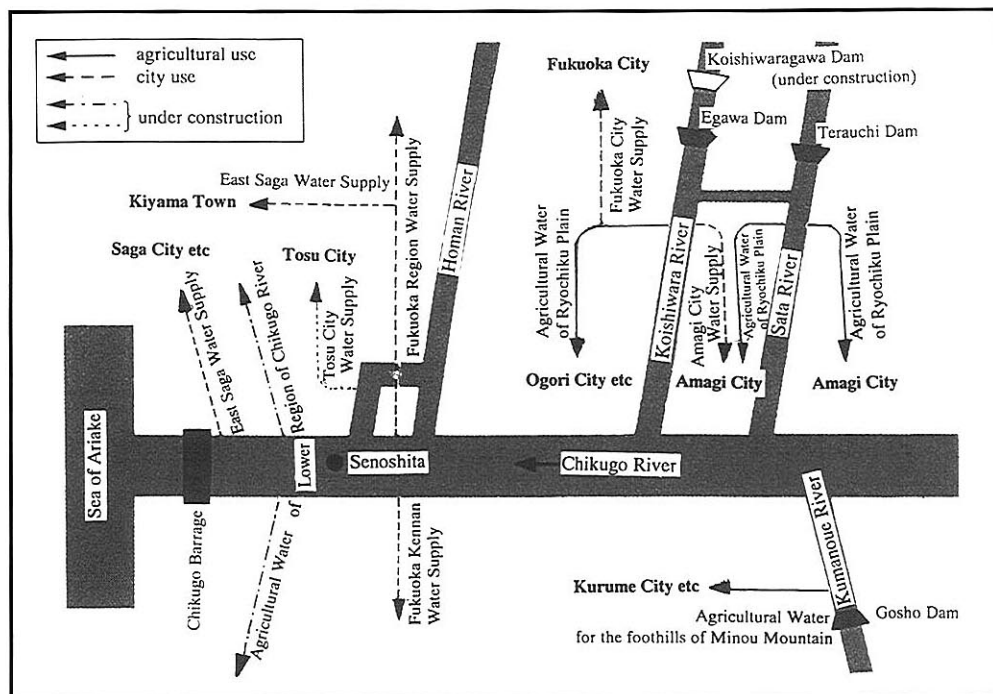
5.3 List of Major Water Resources Facilities

Major Reservoirs

Name of river	Name of dam	Catchment area [km ²]	Gross capacity [10 ⁶ m ³]	Effective capacity [10 ⁶ m ³]	Purpose ¹⁾	Year of completion
Chikugo	Matsubara	491.0	54,600	47,100	F,N,P,W	1972
	Yoake	1,440.0	4,050	790	P	1954
	Chikugo Barrage	2,315.0	5,500	930	F,N,W	1984
Tsue	Shimouke	185.0	59,300	52,300	F,N,P,W	1972
Jizobaru	Jizobaru	6.1	1,858	1,846	P	1922
Kumanoue	Gosho	42.0	7,660	6,700	A,W	1990
Sata	Terauchi	51.0	18,000	16,000	F,N,A,W	1979
Koishiwara	Egawa	30.0	25,326	24,054	A,W,I	1972
Yamaguchi	Yamagami	9.1	2,980	2,800	F,N,W	1979
Yasuro	Kawachi	4.5	1,995	1,102	F,A	1968

1) A: Agricultural use; F: Flood control; I: Industrial use; N: Maintenance of normal flows
P: Hydro-power; W: Municipal water supply

Major Interbasin Transfer



5.4 Major Floods and Droughts

Major Floods at Senoshita [2,315 km²

Date	Peak discharge [m ³ /s]	Rainfall [mm] Duration	Meteorological cause	Dead and Missing	Major damages (Districts affected)
1953.6	not available	122.5 6.24 ~ 6.28	Baiu Front	147	entire basin
1979.6	5,055	1,119.6 6.25 ~ 6.29	Baiu Front	0	lower stream
1980.8	4,007	663.0 8.28 ~ 8.30	Autumn rain	0	Saga City
1982.7	5,127	480.5 7.22 ~ 7.24	Baiu Front	0	Oguni Town
1985.6	4,118	1,164.7 6.21 ~ 6.28	Baiu Front	0	lower stream
1990.7	5,270	486.5 6.29 ~ 7.2	Baiu Front	0	Saga City

Major Droughts

Period	Precipitation	Number of days of restricted water supply (Fukuoka City)
1978	1,331.7 mm (61.4%) ¹⁾	287 days
1994	1,055.0 mm (48.7%) ¹⁾	295 days

1) The ratio to the average annual precipitation (1961~1990) at Senoshita upstream (CA = 2, 315 km²).

5.5 Groundwater and River Water Quality

River Water Quality¹⁾ Senoshita²⁾ in 1992

Date	Jan 7	Feb 12	Mar 3	Apr 23	May 12	Jun 9	Jul 8	Aug 6	Sep 8	Oct 8	Nov 6	Dec 7
pH	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.3	7.4	7.7
BOD[mg/l]	1.1	1.1	2.2	1.8	0.9	1.7	1.1	1.7	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.9
COD[mg/l]	3.1	1.9	4.3	3.2	2.6	3.4	3.4	4.3	5.0	2.5	2.4	3.0
SS[mg/l]	6	5	24	14	12	10	11	9	8	8	7	7
Coliform group ³⁾ [MPN/100ml]	1.3x10 ⁰	7.9x10 ⁰	7.0x10 ⁰	7.0x10 ⁰	3.3x10 ⁰	4.9x10 ⁰	7.9x10 ⁰	1.3x10 ⁰	3.3x10 ⁰	3.3x10 ⁰	7.9x10 ⁰	1.7x10 ⁰
Discharge ⁴⁾ [m ³ /s]	65.45	57.50	107.10	108.62	131.59	64.55	95.90	55.90	59.35	58.41	41.25	57.86

1) Observed once a month after several dry days.

2) Located near Kurume City 25.9 km upstream from the river mouth.

3) Measurement method: BGLB(brilliant green lactose bile) culture MPN (most probable number)method.

4) Discharge on the water quality observation date.

5.6 Other Notable Features of Water Resources

The tidal amplitude in the Ariake Sea is very high (about 6 m). When flood tide reaches Kurume City (25 km upstream of the estuary), it pushes the wedge of fresh water upstream. The lower reach of the Chikugo River consists of low, flat land 0-5 m above sea level, which was formed by sedimentation of the Chikugo River and reclamation. Farmers in these districts have used these special features for irrigation since olden times. They take in fresh water pushed up by the tide and store it in creeks to irrigate paddy fields. They call it "Ao Intake". There are facilities such as pumps, sluice pipes and sluice gates, etc. to take in fresh water. They are used to take in a great deal of water in a short time, limited by tidal level or salinity. There are innumerable creeks in these districts. This has brought about problems such as poor drainage or restrictions of land use, and has become a retarding factor in the improvement of agricultural productivity, community development and so on. A project which will convey agricultural water from the Chikugo Great Weir to Ao Intake districts in order to eliminate the reliance on unstable intake methods is being arranged or is in progress.

In September 1991, typhoon No.19 hit Kyushu Island, passing through the northern coast of Saga and Fukuoka prefectures, then engulfing the entire north in a storm zone. At Mt. Aso, the maximum instantaneous wind speed reached 60.9 m/s, and many other weather stations reported winds as strong. Mountain forests were terribly damaged with "Futoboku" (trees blown down by typhoons). The total damaged area in Fukuoka, Saga, Kumakoto and Oita prefectures was 37,000 ha, and the total number of Futoboku was about 15 million. In June 1993, a flood caused by the record-breaking Baiu front brought in a large number of floodwoods to the river, yet the storage capacity for an anticipated 77,000 m³ of floodwoods at Matsubara and Shimouke Dams prevented damage downstream.

6. Socio-cultural Characteristics

There are a lot of archaic remains in Kyushu Island, especially concentrated in the north, which is close to continental Asia and known as the birthplace of the rice crop kingdom in Japan, which is also related to water. Many remains are spread along the Chikugo River. One of them, the Yayoi Era Yoshinogari remains which consisted of many burial articles were found in May 1986 in the hilly regions adjacent to the Tade River, which is a tributary on the right bank of the Chikugo lower stream. It was one of the most important archeological findings in Japan. Suitengu Shrine, the head Suitengu Shrine in Japan, is the main cultural legacy of the basin, located in the middle reach of the river. It is said that it is propitious for easy delivery of babies or for the guardian angel of children and for protection against water imps.

The Chikugo River has about 30 weirs to irrigate the Chikugo Plain, which is rich in rice production. Among them, the Oishi, Yamada and Eri weirs are known as "the Three Great Weirs" because they are historical structures, built in the feudal ages of Japan. Three water wheels connected together can also be found on the right bank of the Hori River, which receives water from Yamada weir. This has been designated as a national historic site and a folk cultural asset of the prefecture for being the greatest set of waterwheels in existence. The elevated railway bridge across the lower stream of the river is the longest railway bridge in East Asia, completed in 1935 and later converted to a pedestrian overpass.

7. References, Databooks and Bibliography (In Japanese)

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