

Koriyama City mascots:  
Gakuto-kun & Onpu-chan

## More info on Koriyama & the Asaka Canal



**Japan Heritage - Koriyama City & Inawashiro Town**  
[japan-heritage.inawashiroko.jp/en](http://japan-heritage.inawashiroko.jp/en)



**Koriyama City - Multilingual Information Page**  
[www.city.koriyama.lg.jp/multilingual](http://www.city.koriyama.lg.jp/multilingual)



**YouTube: Japan Heritage**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dACblmbHFw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dACblmbHFw)



# Koriyama City and the Asaka Canal

**JICA Tsukuba - Improvement of  
Rice Cultivation Techniques Tour**  
*28<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, Koriyama City*



Use this QR-code to see the Google Map of all of  
today's destinations and relevant locations in Koriyama





# Program

Use this QR-code to see the Google Map of all of today's destinations and relevant locations in Koriyama City.



## Time Place / Activity

- 10:50 - 11:20 ① **Jurokkyo Sluice**  
An inspection of the Jurokkyo Sluice, and an introduction to the story of the statue of Dutch civil engineer C.J. Van Doorn.

Before arriving at Joko Head Work, we will make a brief stop at a convenience store <sup>(WC)</sup> to buy lunch. We can have lunch inside the bus or at Joko, depending on the weather.

- 11:50 - 12:05 ② **Joko Head Work**  
Inspection of the facility that manages the outflow to the Asaka Canal.

- 12:30 - 13:00 ③ **Takonuma Watershed** <sup>(WC)</sup>  
One of the watersheds that diverts water to the local area for irrigation.

- 13:10 - 13:25 ④ **Numagami Hydro-electric Power Station** <sup>(WC)</sup>  
Inspection of one of the first power-stations to use the Asaka Canal.

- 14:00 - 14:40 ⑤ **Farm-visit in Ose, Koriyama**  
Visit to a rice- and vegetables producing farm in the Ouse area, one of the areas that benefits most from the irrigation of the Asaka Canal. Try the results of the Asaka Canal for yourself!

- 15:05 - 15:45 ⑥ **General Wholesale Market, Lecture Room** <sup>(WC)</sup>  
A brief lecture on the current use and management system of the Asaka Canal and an opportunity for Q&A.



Koriyama City is home to the 4<sup>th</sup> largest lake in all of Japan, **Lake Inawashiro**. A majestic, awe-inspiring lake, it is located on the foot of Mt. Bandai, surrounded by the Ōu mountains that separate Koriyama City and Aizu-Wakamatsu City. Formed by volcanic activity, it has a surface area of 103.3 km<sup>2</sup> and a maximum depth of 94.6 m. The water is of an exceptional quality and clarity, resulting in the name 'Tenkyōko' or 'Heavens-Mirroring Lake.'

Lake Inawashiro provides water for consumption, hydro-electric power and agriculture to Koriyama through the Asaka Canal, as well as to surrounding cities. During the summer, the many beaches are a popular destination for water sports, the road around the lake lends itself perfectly for cycling, and the lake looks amazing as seen from the many nearby ski slopes. It is not just popular with people. Every year, swans from Siberia flock to the lake in large numbers to spend the winter months on the relatively temperate water.

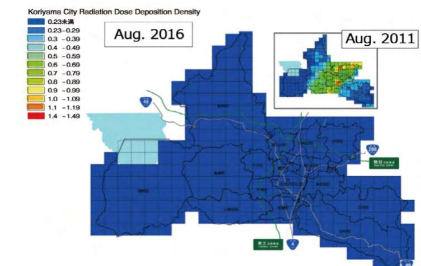


# Revitalization and Creation

Nine years have passed since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and the city has steadily moved forward from 'restoration and recovery' to 'recovery and creation.'



Information about the decontamination works and radiation are presented at a permanent information booth at city hall, as well as online.



Steadily revitalizing from the disaster, Koriyama is garnering international attention thanks to a number of high-profile initiatives and collaborations with excellent partners in the fields of academia and industry.



Collaboration with the Fukushima Renewable Energy Institute, AIST (FREA) hub for R&D on renewables.



The city operates a Hydrogen Refueling Station and a Fuel Cell Vehicle (FCV), a front-runner in hydrogen as a power source.



Koriyama City hosted the International Symposium for Resilient Communities with the Fukushima Renewable Energy Institute, AIST (FREA), Nihon University, Fukushima University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in 2016.



Koriyama was certified as a International Safe Community (a WHO-program) in Feb. 2018 as the 15<sup>th</sup> city in Japan, aiming at realizing a safe and secure community.

Despite adversity, Koriyama City remains a vital and energetic city where people actively participate in local events, with a vibrant music culture and night life, as well as strong foundation for economic activity. The whole city turning out for the Uneme Matsuri festival in August is a sight to behold, as seen on the photo on the left.



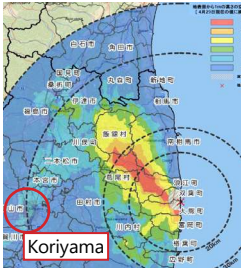


# 3.11 Disaster

The triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident) of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 was unprecedented, and left a deep mark on Koriyama City. The earthquake caused heavy damage in all areas of the city. The region and the nation at large faced tremendous adversity and had to come to grips with the catastrophic events. Many efforts were implemented for the restoration in the fight against an invisible threat: radiation. Today, Koriyama continues to move forward for the future of its citizens.



Photos: A building with its 1<sup>st</sup> floor totally collapsed (in the central area of the city, no casualties), books fallen off the shelves at the local library, and huge road cracks caused by the earthquake.



Aircraft monitoring of radiation conducted by MEXT and DOE, the U.S. (April 29th 2011).



The city set up 105 evacuation centers and accommodated 10,013 citizens at its peak, as well as 7,748 displaced citizens from the coastal area.



Photo: Scraping off and removing contaminated topsoil of school grounds, voluntary decontamination work by citizens.



Four whole body counters were provided at Public Health Center, examining approximately 135,542 citizens in total as of March 2018 for internal exposure. Rice and agricultural produce from Fukushima are all checked strictly for radioactivity.



After the disaster, an indoor-playground was set up to provide a place for children to play without worry. Although nowadays kids play outside again, the center is still very popular.

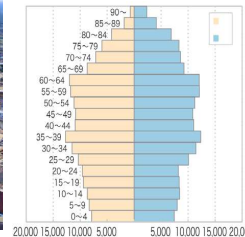
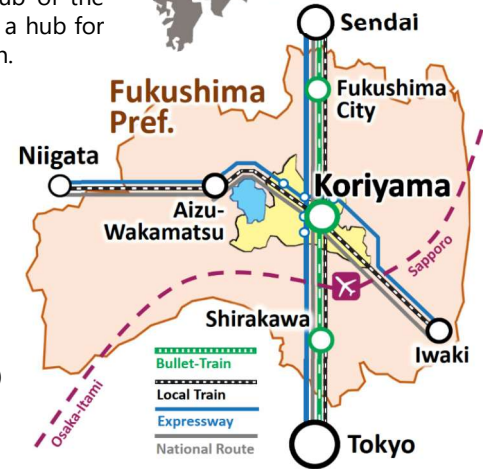
# About Koriyama City

Koriyama City is located in the center of Fukushima Prefecture and offers excellent access to the Tokyo Metropolitan Area in approx. 80 min. by the Tohoku Shinkansen bullet-train. Koriyama City also offers great convenience for all other transportation means, including local railways and the Tohoku- and Ban-Etsu Expressways that intersect in the city. As the economic hub of the prefecture, Koriyama City is a vibrant city, and a hub for the exchange of people, goods and information.



## Statistics

Area size:	757,2 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	330,910 (August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020)
Density:	438/km <sup>2</sup>
Established:	1924
Mayor:	Shinagawa Masato
Manufactured goods shipment:	7,07 billion yen (2 <sup>nd</sup> in Pref.)
Goods sales:	1,252 trillion yen (1 <sup>st</sup> in Pref.)
Total rice prod.:	44,000 ton



Like most areas in Japan, Koriyama is facing a declining birthrate and aging population, which is one of the city's main challenges for the years to come.

## ■ Profile of Koriyama City

- Koriyama City is the crossing point of the Tohoku region, with the intersecting Tohoku and Ban-Etsu Expressways (the only major expressway connecting the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan).
- The Tohoku Shinkansen (bullet train) makes 96 stops per day at Koriyama Station.
- As a hub for exchange between industry, academia, finance and government, Koriyama City ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Tohoku region in population, production volume and the total sum of product sales.
- Koriyama has strong medical facilities, with the number of hospitals and doctors far outnumbering the national average.
- Koriyama has an ample supply of fresh ingredients such as vegetables, rice and sea foods for both Japanese and Western cuisine.
- Koriyama is rich in sports facilities, e.g. indoor pools, soccer fields and sports centers.
- Koriyama is home to cutting-edge technological institutes, like the Fukushima Renewable Energy Institute, AIST (FREA) and the Fukushima Medical Device Development Support Center, as well as the College of Engineering of Nihon University.



## Dreams of the waters of Lake Inawashiro

Asaka-area marked as 'barren'

but lacked a source of water for agriculture and were left barren.

In 1873, local merchants established the company **Kaiseisha**. These pioneers started the 'Kuwano Development,' using Western agriculture methods and constructed an irrigation pond for the nearby fields. Around it they planted more than 3,900 trees incl. cherry trees to which they dedicated the words: "What were small seedlings in our time, will eventually become large trees, and their beautiful blossoms will soothe people's hearts and minds." A more revolutionary plan was necessary to provide the wider area with water. The key lay in **Lake Inawashiro**, 25 km to the west. Long had people dreamed of irrigating the fields with the water of Japan's 4<sup>th</sup> largest lake, but it only had an outflow to the west. The Ōu mountain range between the lake and Asaka separated the dreams of the people from their realization.



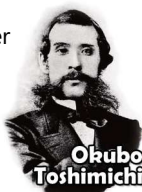
Founders of the Kaiseisha Company

## The Asaka Land Development and Asaka Canal



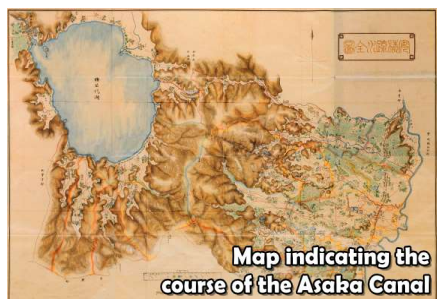
Asaka Land Development Headquarters

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of upheaval in Japan. With the new Meiji government in place, the samurai warrior class was abolished and the new government sought to modernize the nation in a Western fashion. Home Affairs Minister **Toshimichi Okubo** firmly believed in the need for Japan to modernize. In 1876, he went on an inspection tour of Tohoku



Okubo Toshimichi

with the Meiji Emperor. Their first destination was in Koriyama, and during their stay at the town hall, now known as '**Kaiseikan**,' Okubo saw the potential of the fields. He decided to allocate a third of the national civil works budget to realize the Meiji government's first national project: the **Asaka Land Development**. The idea was developed to use modern technology to draw a canal from Inawashiro through the mountains to Asaka. Under the supervision of Dutch engineer **C.J. van Doorn** new hydrological technology was used. But the construction would prove tough. The hardest feat would be digging the 585-meter-long tunnel through the mountains. It would require the labor of legions of workers, with the spirit of pioneers.



Map indicating the course of the Asaka Canal

Okubo saw the abolishment of the samurai warrior class as a chance to kill two birds with one stone. By encouraging former samurai to settle in Koriyama for the Asaka Land Development, they would be prevented from falling into poverty and possibly revolting. At the same time, the development project would be supplied with strong workers. Around 2,000 former samurai and their families from 9 regions all over the nation — as far as Kurume Domain in Kyushu — responded to the call, sparking a massive growth in the local population.

## Dreams of the pioneers come to fruition

Through the labor of around 850,000 workers over four years, the Asaka Canal was completed in 1882. Never before had these fields seen a steady flow of water. The canal supplied 10,000ha of fields with water at its peak, and by regulating the outflow of water from the lake using the Jurokkyo Sluice, the people near the lake were saved from the formerly-frequent flooding. The completion was celebrated in the presence of government dignitaries at Hayama Park, where a waterfall marked its final point.

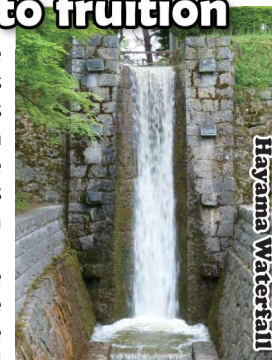
### Jurokkyo Sluice



Thanks to the canal agriculture became bountiful, and with the production of carp the food culture was greatly enriched. But the canal was not just a blessing for agriculture. The canal's height difference was also employed to facilitate hydroelectric power. This new source of energy powered the spinning industry, and enabled the first long-distance high-voltage electricity

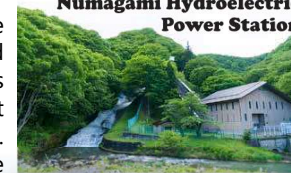
transmission in Japan, all the way to Tokyo.

This way, the Asaka Canal contributed to the development of the area and Japan as a whole. Unfortunately Okubo himself would not see the result, as he was assassinated in 1878. Yet his envisioned Asaka Canal became a symbol of the pioneering spirit of people with a dedication to the realization of their dream. Thanks to the canal a large, lively city was born, with a diverse population living in harmony. The spirit of the pioneers can be felt most strongly at Kaiseizan Park, especially when the cherry trees planted over 140 years ago are in full bloom, soothing the hearts and minds of the people of Koriyama.



Hayama Waterfall

### Numagami Hydroelectric Power Station



The story of the Asaka Land Development and the Asaka Canal was designated in 2016 as Japan Heritage by the Japan Agency of Cultural Affairs, under the title:

'the Single Canal that Opened Up the Future.'



### Mihota-Aquaduct

### Kaiseizan Daijingu

Kaiseizan Daijingu (Daijingu means 'Grand Shrine') is located across from the west-side of Kaiseizan Park. The shrine was established in 1876 and became the joint place of worship for the new settlers from all over the country. It enshrines a *bunrei* (a divided spirit of a Shinto diety) of the famous Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Pref., and remains the only one in Japan to do so.



### Kaiseikan Museum

The Kaiseikan Museum, located at a five minute walk from Kaiseizan Park was formerly used as a town hall, an agricultural school, and the headquarters of the Asaka Land Development. It currently houses the most comprehensive exhibition of the history of the Asaka Land Development, including original maps, photos and material of the canal.