

## 5 Cultural Activities

### Opening of "Higo Satoyama Gallery" (1st floor of the Higo Bank main branch)

It was established in 2015 as a place to deepen understanding and familiarity with the cultural products and natural climate of Kumamoto, and as a base of disseminating cultural information.



Exterior view of Higo Satoyama Gallery

The gallery is used for various seminars, lectures on cultural studies, and exhibitions focusing on historical and cultural heritage and assets associated with Kumamoto Prefecture. In addition, a digital museum of the entire Eisei Bunko collection of "Ryonai Meisho Zukan (collection of illustrated scrolls of scenic views in the Kumamoto territory)" and other important cultural properties in Kumamoto Prefecture are displayed for visitors to enjoy viewing them in high-resolution images at any time.



Reception



Digital museum



Our Facebook account



Our Twitter account



## Award history

- 1996年 「水資源功績者 国土庁長官賞」
- 2005年 「ふるさとづくり賞 内閣総理大臣賞」
- 2006年 「地域環境保全功労表彰」
- 2006年 「緑化推進運動功労者 内閣総理大臣表彰」
- 2007年 「日本水大賞 審査部会特別賞」
- 2013年 「日本地下水学会 技術賞」
- 2014年 「日本水大賞 厚生労働大臣賞」
- 2014年 くまもと地下水財団認定「ゴールド団体」
- 2016年 くまもと地下水財団認定「審査員特別グランプリ」
- 2017年 「日本水環境学会九州沖縄支部 水環境貢献賞」
- 2018年 「くまもと景観賞 緑と水の景観賞」
- 2019年 「くまもと景観賞 30回記念大賞」
- 2021年 第1回「グリーンインフラ大賞 優秀賞」
- 2022年 つなぐ棚田遺産に選定



Name	The Foundation for the Preservation of Green and Water Resources of Higo
Chairman	Takahiro Kai (The HigoBank, Ltd. Chairman and Representative Director)
Endowment	¥210 million (donated by Higo Bank and its group companies)
Date of Establishment	September 28, 1992
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# Kumamoto's groundwater to be protected and nurtured by our hands



Aso Mizukake no Tanada

Purpose: To protect both the quality and quantity of local water resources, contribute to green promotion and the preservation of greenery, and create a rich local culture



The Foundation for the Preservation of  
Green and Water Resources of Higo



## 1 Commendation of the Higo Water and Greenery Protection Award



### ● Purpose of this award

Purpose of the award is to support and subsidize the activities of water and greenery conservation in Kumamoto region, with the aim of increasing interest in such activities and expanding ongoing practical actions.

### Sponsors:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Green and Water Resources of Higo  
KUMAMOTO NICHINICHI SHIMBUN,  
The Higo Bank, Ltd.,

Co-sponsored by Kumamoto Prefecture



### ● Award criteria

#### General category

Individuals, groups, organizations and institutions that have been active in the following areas for at least 3 years

1. Recharge, preservation, and conservation of water resources
2. Water Pollution Prevention
3. Green promotion
4. Water resources research and surveys that have had a direct effect on pragmatic actions

#### Continuing activities category

Past recipients of the award who have continued their activities for 10 years or more after receiving the award

# We strive for sustainable groundwater recharge in the Kumamoto area.

## 3 Forest conservation and cultivation projects

Forest operation and management projects for water resources recharge

**“Aso Taikan no Mori (Aso grand view forest)”:**  
planted trees covering approximately 59 hectares  
of outer rim of the crater

Since 2006, we have been working to recharge groundwater through tree planting, mowing undergrowth, and other activities by volunteers. Every year, wooden benches made from thinned cedar wood are donated to elementary and junior high schools in the prefecture.



Annual ground water recharge One to two million m<sup>3</sup>

## 4 Paddy field flooding project

We work on a paddy field flooding project for groundwater recharge.

**“Aso Mizukake no Tanada (Aso terraced paddy fields in water):**  
68 terraced paddy fields in the Yamada district of Aso City,  
covering an area of 1.85 hectares.

In 2011, the abandoned land for 25 years was revived and named "Aso Mizukake no Tanada". Since 2017, "Aso Mizukake no Tanada Rice", rice produced in those terraced paddies, has been certified under the first category of Kumamoto Prefecture's "Ordinance on promoting agriculture that nurtures groundwater and soil", as an agricultural produce that meets the production standards that contribute to the quantity and quality of groundwater. In February 2022, it was selected as "Tsunagu Tanada Isan (bridging Tanada heritage)" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

**Annual ground water recharge 460,000m<sup>3</sup>**

We conduct surveys using water level gauges. The groundwater recharge rate for 174 days of rice cultivation period is approximately 460,000m<sup>3</sup>

## 2 Activities to promote awareness

- Organize annual lectures and symposiums on the conservation of water and greenery in Kumamoto
- Hold a lecture "The Story of Water for the Future" as part of the Kumamoto Prefecture educational tour program
- Conduct an annual series of three "environmental lectures" focused on the environment in Kumamoto
- Conduct environmental surveys of Kumamoto Prefecture's spring water quality and temperature, etc. and introduce the activities on Instagram
- Conduct study sessions on water quality survey with elementary and junior high schools as an educational legacy at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit



Our Instagram account



Ezu Lake



Water level gauge



Aso Mizukake no Tanada