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IMPROVING REGIONAL DISASTER-PREVENTION CAPABILITIES AND REGIONAL REVITALIZATION EFFORTS USING EXISTING SABO FACILITIES.

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IMPROVING REGIONAL DISASTER-PREVENTION CAPABILITIES AND REGIONAL REVITALIZATION EFFORTS USING EXISTING SABO FACILITIES

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INTRODUCTION

To maintain and improve regional safety as disasters become more frequent and severe due to climate change, it is important to continue installing efficient effective sabo facilities and prolong the lifespans of existing facilities. In addition, in the future it will be important to improve the attractiveness of the region and promote non-structural measures to revitalize it and enhance regional sediment-related disaster prevention capabilities.

DECLINING BIRTHRATE, AGING POPULATION, AND DECLINE IN DISASTER PREVENTION CAPABILITIES

Japan is experiencing a declining birthrate, and the population is aging at an unprecedented rate. As a result, social security-related costs will increase, and no increase in social capital development costs can be expected. In addition, the declining birthrate and aging population will lead to regional depopulation and community stagnation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly difficult to inherit traditional disaster-prevention techniques and traditions, leading to a decline in regional disaster-prevention capabilities.

Japan has continued to use “public assistance”, “mutual assistance”, and “self-help” to prevent sediment-related disasters. However, in modern Japan, there is insufficient “public assistance”, and “mutual assistance” has its limits. Consequently, Japan is now more susceptible to sediment-related disasters and has more difficulty rebuilding after such disasters.

COUNTERMEASURES THAT USE EXISTING SABO FACILITIES

To protect people from future sediment-related disasters, it is necessary to continue to develop sabo facilities and maintain existing facilities efficiently and effectively within a limited budget. It is also necessary to prolong the lifespan of existing sabo facilities. In addition to structural measures, effort is needed to improve local disaster-prevention capabilities by non-structural means using sabo facilities. Specifically, it is necessary to inform local people about the history of sediment-related disasters and the role of sabo projects through education on the effects and significance of sabo works, and to support local communities..

To implement these non-structural measures, it is necessary to have a mechanism to induce people both inside and outside the region to become involved in these measures. Example measures for this purpose include the following.

- ◇ Designation/registration and utilization as cultural property
- ◇ Conducting excursions to sabo facilities
- ◇ Utilization and creation of special sabo public relations media ... etc.



Figure 1: Excursions to sabo facilities



Figure 2: stone monuments

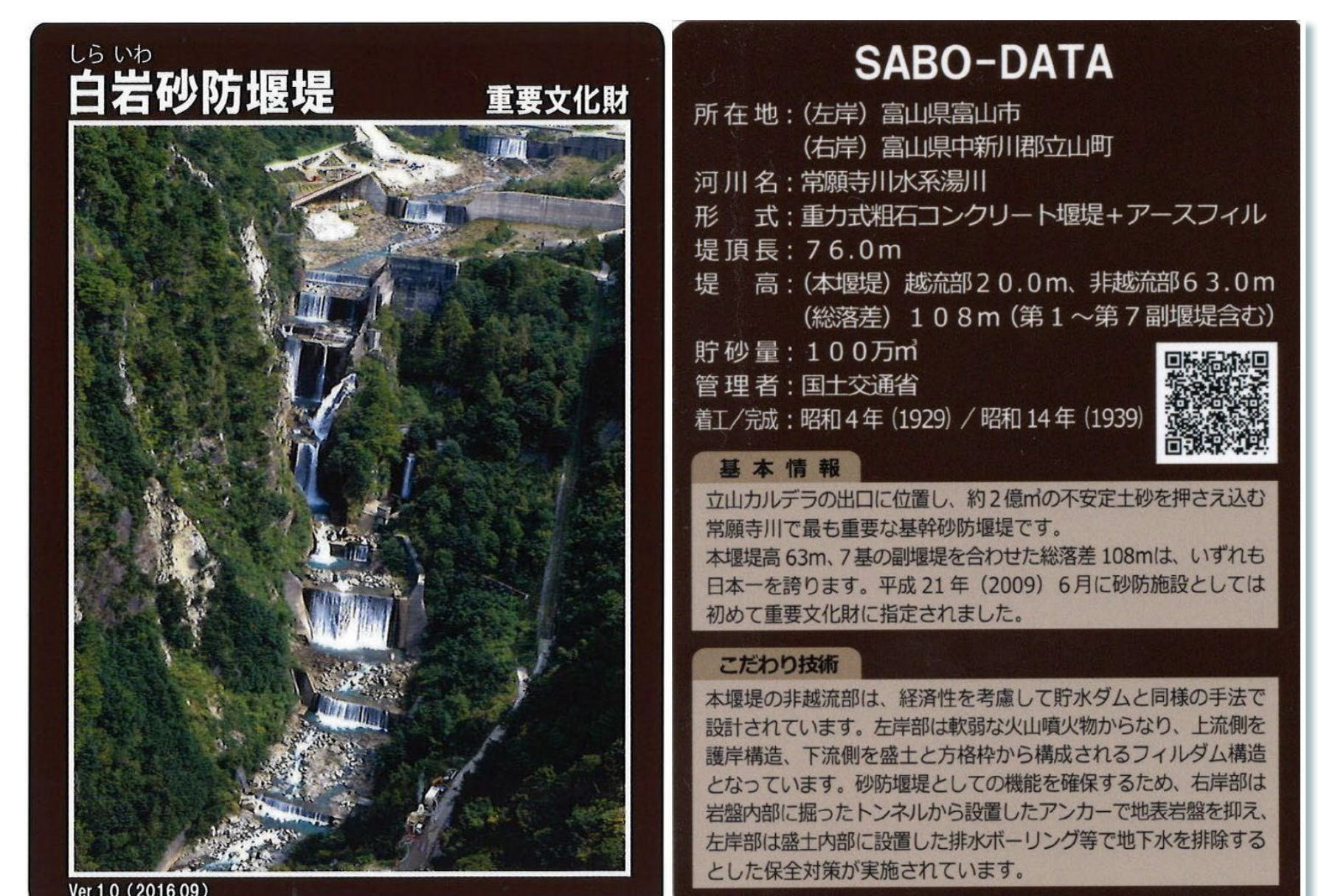


Figure 3: sabo card

MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM'S REGIONAL REVITALIZATION EFFORTS

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism has begun an initiative called infrastructure tourism to utilize tours of civil engineering facilities for regional revitalization. This initiative aims to revitalize the region by linking tours of civil engineering facilities with tours of surrounding tourist facilities and overnight stays.

In 2016, The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism launched a portal site introducing infrastructure tourism and are spreading the word about its appeal.



Figure 4: Image of collaboration

CONCLUSIONS

To maintain and improve regional safety as disasters become more frequent and severe due to climate change, it is important to continue installing efficient effective sabo facilities and prolong the lifespans of existing facilities. In addition, in the future it will be important to improve the attractiveness of the region and promote non-structural measures to revitalize it and enhance regional sediment-related disaster prevention capabilities.

