

ARAKAWA GAKKAI (The Society of Arakawa River)

The ARAKAWA GAKKAI was created in 1996 with its members consisting of 400 Arakawa River lovers. And it was reorganized as a registered non-profit organization in 2003.

The non-profit organization, "ARAKAWA GAKKAI" was established in order to achieve the various aims of; encouraging respect for the Arakawa River; promoting awareness of its historical and present-day roles; and considering the relationship between the river and those who live in the Arakawa River basin, nature and culture in general. Our desire is to receive participation from all those who are as enthusiastic as we in our hope to promote the well-being of the Arakawa River.

1. General Areas of non-profit Activity

- (1) To protect nature
- (2) To promote culture, the arts and sports
- (3) To promote healthy children's education
- (4) To promote social education
- (5) To promote health and social welfare
- (6) To support organizations that promote the above (1)-(5)

2. General Areas of Activity of ARAKAWA GAKKAI

- (1) To study the Arakawa River
- (2) To hold research meetings, study meetings and/or lectures
- (3) To hold meetings & events in order to draw positive attention to the Arakawa River, including visits to historical sites and arts & photography exhibitions
- (4) To promote the creation and publishing of books and/or newsletters about the Arakawa River
- (5) To communicate and cooperate in the sharing of information with other domestic and international organizations involved in work related to river renewal
- (6) To participate in other activities in order to achieve our various purposes

3. Reasons and Purpose of Establishment

The Arakawa River is one of the largest rivers in Japan. Its source is in Otaki town, Saitama Prefecture, and traditionally it has served, not only Saitama, but also urban and suburban Tokyo, and before that, Edo. It has always played a major role in terms of serving agriculture, providing transportation, and, of course, supplying water to Tokyo.

However, it has also caused great harm due to flooding over the years. Therefore, about 100 years ago, to prevent more damage, a 22 km floodway was started to create. The Lower Reaches of the Arakawa River was diverted via floodway through the Kita and Koto wards of Tokyo. Henceforth, it has contributed greatly to flood control.

Nowadays, the Arakawa River is increasingly being recognized as an important natural space, which has also played a vital historical role within the city. We can call it cultural landscape of modern Tokyo.

4. Primary Activity

(1) ARAKAWA GAKKAI Annual Information Sharing Event

The annual information sharing event is a chance for those associated with the ARAKAWA GAKKAI to come together and share ideas and information. For those who have research projects, it is an opportunity to discuss results. By means of presenting, their research and thoughts to the group, members engage in conversation and sharing of information.

Taking place every year, this is the most important annual event for the organization, as it promotes communication and learning about the Arakawa River. We invite any person, whether a member or not, to participate and share with us your feelings, ideas or knowledge about the Arakawa river.

(2) Arakawa Explorer's Club Web Project (AECWP)

The AECWP is project designed to educate children about nature, with the Arakawa River as a starting point. Based on actual in-the-field projects, experiences are related via the internet, and to be used as a learning tool.

One example of a memorable field activity took place in 2003, when fisherman taught children about some traditional styles of fishing native to the Arakawa River. Through this exiting experience, children learned about and enjoyed the Arakawa River. In addition, details and things learned through this activity are related on the website for anyone interested in learning the Arakawa River.

We plan to carry out them similar explorations in the future.

(3) Planning Arakawa River seminar and symposium

We are planning a seminar on citizen participation, nature, education and the history of the Arakawa River. We also aim to express our opinions and findings to citizens and local and national governments.

(4) Publishing the News letter and Website

To share information on the Arakawa River the organization publishes the

ARAKAWA GAKKAI News Letters. Recently most of the information appears on the homepage of the website of the ARAKAWA GAKKAI (<http://www.arakawa-gakkai.jp>).

(5) Each Committees Activity

Currently, 6 committees - history, nature, photography, painting, sports and think for maintain and management - are registered and active in Arakawa Gakkai. Members of Arakawa Gakkai can organize new committees, in accord with Arakawa Gakkai committee regulations. Each committee is subsidized by Arakawa Gakkai.

(As of September, 2011)

by Motoko.Mitsui (vice-chairpaerson of The society of Arakawa River)



1. Books and Proceedings published by Arakawa Gakkai.



2. An open air school on the Arakawa River bed for children.



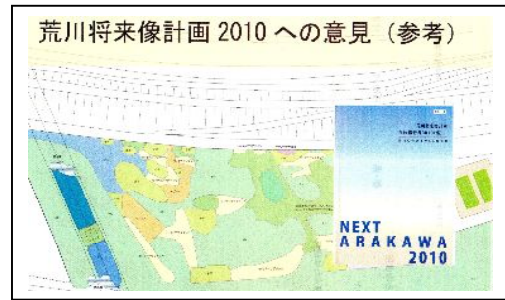
3. Nature observation around a manmade biotope on the riverbed.



4. A canoeing school for learning safety river recreation.



5. Investigations of life



6. Proposal for the next Arakawa.



7. Symposium and panel session



8. Support for Annoucement and Exchange among Organizations.

