

Study on the Formulation of a Long-term Concept for the Sakai City Sewage Works

Whole term

2004.1 ~ 2007.3

(Purpose)

This study involves consolidating the present situation and plans concerning the sewage works in Sakai City, and reviewing ways of promoting future works, and also receiving recommendations from the Forum for Formulation of a Long-term Concept for the Sakai City Sewage Works (Chairman: Shuhei Koyama, Professor at Osaka Prefectural University, founded by: Sakai City) composed of academic experts, and so on. It also involves the study on the long-term concept, which will become the basic policy of the future sewage works reflecting the needs of the citizens, by carrying out questionnaire surveys, and so on.

(Results)

1 . Results of questionnaire survey of the citizens

A questionnaire survey was carried out on 498 monitors for the municipal government. The collection rate of the questionnaire was a very high 96.4%, indicating that the citizens of Sakai have a high awareness of their water environment. The questions were divided into three categories (water environment, sewage works, and free opinions). The trends of the replies are as follows.

Water environment

Many citizens feel that the water environment has deteriorated, and there were many opinions to the effect that they wanted the nearby, clean and safe waters.

Sewerage business

Questions were asked concerning the degree of awareness of the conventional role and the future role of the sewerage system, the extent of the demand for the implementation of the sewage works, and also the volume of information available and the method of promoting the works. As a result, it was found that many citizens strongly demand effective utilization of resources and anti-earthquake measures, in addition to sewage collection and treatment and inundation control.

Issuing of information

The results indicated that many citizens feel that there is a lack of information. Also, there were many opinions to the effect that when promoting the works in the future, citizens should participate in some form or other from the design stage.

2 . Basic concept

Based on the results of the citizens' questionnaire and also the opinions of the Forum, it was proposed to make collaboration between the citizens and the administrations on the basic concept of the sewage works, thus keeping alive the essence of Sakai as a city that has a high awareness of citizen participation. It was also proposed to establish a "sewerage assemblage" for realizing this concept.

3 . Investigation of Countermeasures against Liquefaction

Regarding definitions in the "Guide to seismic measures for sewerage facilities and commentary, 1997 edition", it is proposed that pipelines currently defined as "other pipelines" which are located in areas where they might affect relief activities and disaster recovery activities be classified as "important trunk lines, etc.". Construction methods that provide countermeasures against liquefaction were also proposed.



Basic framework of the long-term concept for the Sakai City sewage works

Revitalization of a town governed by its citizens ~ Sakai as a free city ~



④Concept and background thereof④

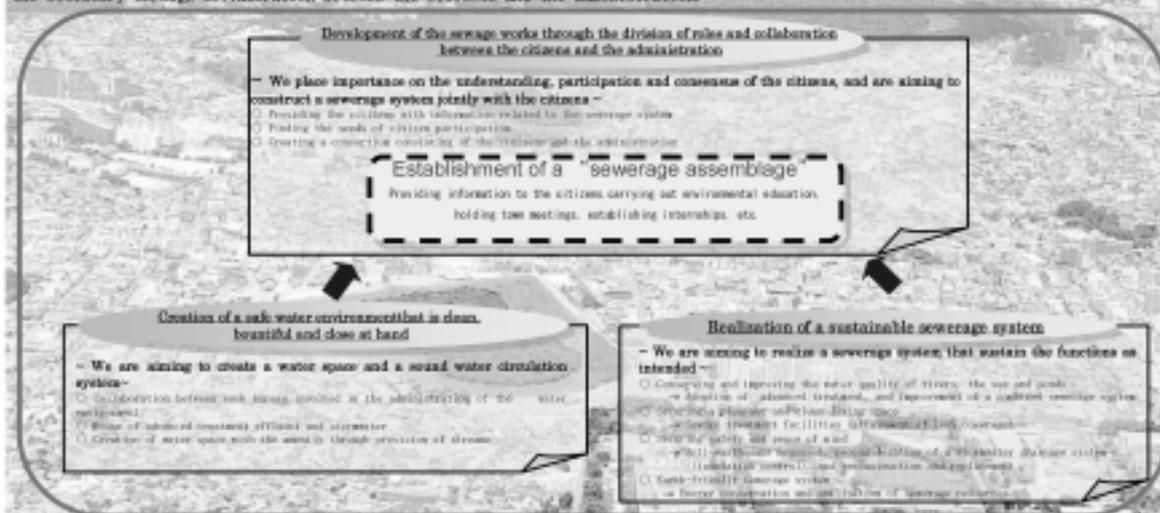
Previously, Sakai was governed mainly by merchants under a so-called "assemblage". These people built the waterways in the town, and used them as canals for trading vessels, and also as means for preventing the intrusion of enemies. Because of these aspects of Sakai in the Middle Ages as a free city governed by the citizens and one with a network of waterways, it was known as the "Venice of the East".

These days, however, there are issues such as the fact that it is difficult for the citizens to obtain a grasp of the situation regarding the sewerage administration in the city, and also the water environment as represented by the Doi River, Uchi River and Ishizu River in the city area are not felt to be close to the daily lives of the citizens. Thus, it has become difficult to feel the atmosphere of the former free government of Sakai.

In Sakai City in the future, we are aiming to increase the amount of information concerning the sewerage system to be made available to the citizens, to enable them to have a better understanding of the sewerage system, and also to accept their opinions and proposals, so that the citizens and the local administration can jointly establish a sewerage system and thus create a better water environment for Sakai City.

We are aiming to reestablish Sakai as the free city of yore, in which the citizens themselves were involved in administrative affairs, and to create and develop a self-governance culture that is appropriate for the era of decentralization, and thereby contribute to the creation of Sakai as a new government-decree city.

④Concept of action ④ We intend to keep alive the tradition of "freedom and self-governance", and implement self-governance by the citizenry through collaboration between the citizens and the administration.



(Future schedule)

The following items are to be studied, taking into account the opinions of the Forum and a preliminary report concerning a long-term concept prepared.

Creation of a scenario for establishing a "sewerage assemblage" for realizing the basic concept

Priority among policies

Preparation of a work schedule

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Researchers : Nobuyuki Horie, Akihiko Ito, Toshimitsu Watanabe, Katsuya Kinoshita

key words

Citizen collaboration, long-term concept