



Ishiki Dam, Ishiki River, Nagasaki

FLOODING OUT A HOME TO 13 HOUSEHOLDS, 60 PEOPLE AND DIVERSE WILDLIFE

On September 5, 2014, the governments of Nagasaki Prefecture and Sasebo City filed for a determination to authorize them to execute a forcible expropriation of lands owned by anti-dam residents in order to build the Ishiki Dam on the Ishiki River, which runs through Kawatana-cho, Higashi-Sonogi-gun, Nagasaki. The total area of farmland subject to this recent application is approximately 5,000m², however the remaining land of 145,000m² to be targeted next is home to 13 households and 60 people. The construction of Ishiki dam will destroy the lives of these residents as well as the precious ecosystem of Ishiki River which includes the endangered fish called Yamato Japanese Spined Loach, other freshwater fish and Genji Fireflies. Furthermore, the water quality of Ishiki River will decline, causing extreme concerns regarding the impact it will have on the mainstream called Kawatana River and onto Omura Bay.

1. Project Overview

The proposed dam site is located at Kawatana-cho, Higashi-Sonogi-gun. The governments of Nagasaki Prefecture and Sasebo City plan to build the Ishiki Dam on the upper part of Ishiki River, a small stream with a total river length of about 4.6 km which joins Kawatana River which flows into Omura Bay about 2 km upstream of the river mouth.

- Purpose: multi-purpose of 1) Access to municipal water, 2) Flood control, 3) Maintenance and improvement of river functions

- Height: 55.4 m Length: 234 m

- Construction Cost: 28.5 billion yen

※ The total project cost is expected to increase up to 53.8 billion yen including construction cost of water supply facilities such as conveyance structures and water treatment plant. Out of this amount, 29.9 billion yen is the contribution of Sasebo City. Budget execution rate as of fiscal 2013 is 51.8%.



2. History

- 1962: Dam construction plan surfaces
- 1972: The plans start to get carried out. The government of Nagasaki Prefecture and local residents exchanged a memorandum stating "Do not move the plan forward without local residents' consent"
- 1975: Local residents established an union that opposes the construction of Ishiki dam.
- 1982: The government of Nagasaki Prefecture dispatched the riot police and enforced the survey of lands.
- 2009: The government of Nagasaki Prefecture filed an application for project recognition based on Land Expropriation Law to execute a forcible expropriation of land of anti-dam landowners with the Japanese government.
- September 2013: The project receives official recognition as a business.
- September 2014: The governments of Nagasaki Prefecture and Sasebo City filed the 1st application for determination on expropriation to authorize them to execute a forcible expropriation of lands where 13 families and 60 people who have been protesting against the dam construction live. ※81% of the proposed dam construction site has been acquired from 105 households. However, the actual construction of the road and dam structure has not commenced.
- December 24, 2014 The government of Nagasaki Prefecture announced the implementation of on-site investigation to conduct surveys and measurements of houses as early as the middle of January to calculate the amount of compensation toward the 2nd application for determination on a forcible expropriation.
- January 13 -15, 2015 The government of Nagasaki Prefecture executed an on-site investigation, however the residents prevented it from being carried out.

3. Problems pertaining to Ishiki dam project

- Necessity of the Ishiki dam is lacking in grounds
- ✓ Water Supply purpose : Story of water shortage has been fabricated out of made-up predictions of water demand and underestimated secured sources of water.
- ✓ Flood Control purpose : Once the river channel improvement measures are completed, the required degree of safety against flood will be secured, making the Ishiki dam unnecessary.
- ✓ Environmental Impact : Lack of proper conservation measures
- The response of the government of Nagasaki Prefecture can be said to be an abuse of human rights

4. Key Schedules

- Current - September 2017 (validity period of project recognition up to 4 years)
- In order to construct the dam without the consent of landowners, the government of Nagasaki Prefecture shall file the application for determination on expropriation of land not yet acquired with the prefectural expropriation committee. If a landowner does not vacate the property and building by the due date after the decision of determination is made, the government shall demolish the building by the way of administrative subrogation
- April - May. 2015 : The prefectural expropriation committee will decide on the case pertaining to the 5,000m2 of farmland owned by 4 families.

5. Local Organizations

- The Alliance Absolutely Against the Ishiki Dam Construction (Kawatana-cho / Contact: Kazuo Iwashita)
This alliance consists of landowners of the proposed dam construction site and is dedicated to stop the forcible expropriation and the dam project.
- Friends of Ishiki River (Sasebo-shi / President: Michie Matsumoto)
This citizen group is dedicated to support the Alliance Absolutely Against the Ishiki Dam Construction by promoting the understanding of the issues pertaining to this dam project and getting the voices of the citizens of Nagasaki Prefecture and Sasebo City's against the dam project heard.
- The Townsperson's Society Protecting Ishiki River and Examining the Flood Control of Kawatana River (Kawatana-cho / President: Masaaki Morita)
- The Citizen's Group to Protect Ishiki River and Fireflies (Nagasaki-shi / Executive Director: Keisuke Tashiro)
- The Citizen's Group to Examine Water Issues (Sasebo-shi / President: Masato Shinozaki)

Actual and Projections of daily maximum water-consumption of Sasebo City water (Sasebo area)

