

Let's plant CHIGAYA together

Osaka Yodogawa River ecosystem restoration project

Microsoft x Neya River Waterside Club x NAREC

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:30-12:20

Location: Yodogawa River Park, Shimeno Wando Area

Organizer: River Cooperation Organization Neya River Waterside Club

Osaka Project

Association for Nature Restoration and Conservation

Supported by: Microsoft Corporation

Program

Moderator; Kanae Sakai (Director, Association for Nature Restoration and Conservation)

1. Opening Ceremony 9:30

Opening speech . . . Takahide Takei, Representative of Neya River Waterside Club

Greeting . . . Tadashi Takahata, Director, Association for Nature Restoration and Conservation

Greeting . . . Randy Kim, Microsoft Corporation

About the Shimeno Wando area - History of maintenance, etc. . . .

Takeshi Ueda, Neya River Waterside Club

2. Chigaya Ogi planting 9:55

Explanation of planting method . . . Shinjiro Ueno, Representative of Toranomom Corporation

Work begins! 10:00

Break 10:40 ~ 10:50

Canoeing experience 11:30



3. Closing ceremony 12:10

Greeting of guest . . . Yoshimitsu Tsubaki, Director, Kinki Regional Development Bureau

Closing speech . . . Shiro Aya, Neya River Waterside Club

***We will continue to work in the afternoon. If you can help, we would appreciate it.**

About the Shimeno Wando area · · Takeshi Ueda, Shinjiro Ueno Neyagawa River Waterside Club

The deterioration of the natural environment of urban rivers has been very serious since the period of rapid economic growth. The Yodo River is no exception. Watersides and riverbeds, which originally played an important role as a stage for a rich ecosystem, have been developed by humans into golf courses, parking lots, etc. Furthermore, in many of the remaining green spaces, vining weeds (climbing plants) that did not originally grow in Japanese riverbeds and highly fertile foreign weeds (naturalized plants) continue to expand their influence. And to protect the lives of citizens from natural disasters such as floods, river administrators have built sturdy concrete banks and changed the flow of the river to a straight line to improve the flow capacity. In return, the rich natural environment that should have been inherent to the waterside of the Yodo River has been destroyed. For about 20 years, our "Neyagawa Waterside Club" has been working on various activities to restore the good natural environment of the Yodo River. For example, we have been eradicating invasive species, protecting native plants, and cleaning up trash. We have been actively planning various events (canoeing etc.) to encourage participants to become familiar with the waterside. We are also working hard to contribute to local exchange and regional development in cooperation with "Yodogawa River Rangers", local organizations, neighboring university students, companies and the local government. The workshops have been held for five years to discuss these development plans that aim to restore the natural environment and revitalize the river as one place where people can relax and enjoy. As a result of our accumulated activities, the first citizen-proposed natural environment redevelopment project on the Yodo River in the Shimeno area will be carried out. Specifically, we proposed to the local government, which manages the river, to regenerate the inlet (backwater), reduce the slope of the bank, and cover the exposed concrete bank with soil, and the construction was completed in March 2024.

In this situation, with the support of **Microsoft**, we decided to take on a project to plant native plants to maintain the original flora on the slope of the bank leading to the inlet (backwater) and in the green belt of the riverbed. The green space in this area is currently covered with many invasive plants and vining weeds (climbing plants). It is difficult to call it a green space with biodiversity. Since April 2024, we have been preparing to restore the original flora of the riverbed to this green space with low biodiversity. We have been removing invasive plants that are highly prolific, cultivating the soil, and leveling the land. Now we are finally ready to plant native plants on the Yodo River riverbed. Over the next month or so, we will plant a total of about 24,000 seedlings of three types of herbaceous plants (Cogongrass "Chigaya", Amursilvergrass "Ogi" and Phragmites karka "Seitakayoshi") and about 20 trees of five types (Japanese walnut "Onigurumi", Japanese hackberry "Enoki" and Muku Tree "Mukunoki", etc). These plantings are very important, but the maintenance after planting is just as important. We will continue to monitor the situation and work on the necessary tasks to ensure these plants continue to grow healthily here. Our activities are still only halfway there. We will continue to work to restore green spaces and natural environments with rich biodiversity that we can confidently pass on to the next generation. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Microsoft** for their great support in our activities and this plant's restoration project. **Thank you** so much.