

Dr. Masao Akagi's Design Guidance

Upon returning from studying abroad from Europe in Taisho 14 (1925), Dr. Akagi has started his work in the civil engineering department of the Ministry of Home Affairs and worked as the supervisor of the sabo work (sediment control work). Since then, he has personally investigated torrential rivers across the country. Categorizing the cause of damage, form, the geological features. Then created a revised sabo plan (sediment control plan) that fits the characteristics of each rivers.

Dr. Akagi has planned and instructed the project for the channels for Yomase River as well as for its tributaries; Yokoyu River and Kakuma River. Due to the results achieved by the work under the Nagano prefecture during the Meiji era and the work done under the Ministry of Home Affairs during the Taisho to early Showa era, sabo work has started under Nagano prefecture in Showa 7(1932), the sabo work was done following Dr. Akagi's plan.

The Picture on the upper right is a monument commemorating Dr. Akagi's accomplishments.



Dr.Masao Akagi's Monument

Dr. Agagi has put in effort in preventative works against flooding and other disasters caused by the Yomase River running behind the hot spring town in Yudanaka-shibu when he was young. In order to do so, he implemented techniques widely unknown to people at the time centered around channel work in 1932. After 25 years of work, the project was completed brilliantly.

During that period, while Dr. Akagi was walking up and down the river, he tumbled down a valley and sprained his arm. Despite his injury, he pushed on with his arm in a cloth sling and took Toshiki Karasawa (chief of the Ministry of Home Affairs Civil Engineering Devision) across the Japan Alps. This was a glowing example of the way young Dr. Akagi was.

Since then, the location of this valley has been called "Akagi-otoshi" (Akagi falls), and the locals still refer to it by that name. All prefectures provided stones to Dr. Akagi's statue in front of Sabo Kaikan. The stone given from Nagano prefecture laid by Dr. Akagi's statue is from this valley, Akagi-otoshi.

Source: Japan Sabo Association, *Sabo to Chisui* Vol.8, Republished 1971



Dr.Akagi's statue (in front of Sabo Kaikan)



Stone from Nagano prefecture