

Description: About the Teshima Case

Certified NPO Organization
Setouchi Olive Foundation



The Teshima Declaration

It is the responsibility incumbent upon all of us living today to pass on to our descendants, a prosperous and beautiful Teshima, which we have inherited from our predecessors, and the Seto Inland Sea, which is the shared property of the people.

It was with this desire in mind that we stood up twenty-five years ago, in order to stop the carried-in of industrial wastes to Teshima, and continued the long-term struggles for the complete removal of the large amount of illegally dumped industrial wastes out of Teshima.

It was also with this desire that we applied for a pollution conciliation, on November 11, 1993, which was the last remaining procedure in order to have Kagawa Prefecture, which had invited this serious situation, admit its responsibility and completely remove the wastes out of Teshima.

Since then, the road to the present day has been one of extreme hardships and sacrifices, but our cries for help have finally moved a broad swath of public opinion and expanded the circle of supports for our cause.

We believed in ourselves, and with the support of the public, we were able to move forward step by step in search of lights in the midst of darkness.

On May 26, 2000, at the 36th conciliation date, the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission presented a final agreement proposal that included the complete removal of the industrial wastes by the end of fiscal year 2016, with the involvement of residents and experts in the project.

Subsequently, Kagawa Prefecture explicitly acknowledged its responsibility to the people of Kagawa and Teshima, expressing its "sincere apology," and the Kagawa Prefectural Assembly approved the final agreement proposal on June 1.

We have hereby decided to accept it, and on June 6, the conciliation was concluded.

Kagawa Prefecture has acknowledged its mistake, apologized to us, would have to completely remove the industrial wastes.

The day has finally come when it is recognized that what we have cried out over and over again for was a reasonable and correct demand.

We are pleased to be given this recognition, for it was a long and arduous road we travelled to get here. We are, nevertheless, still determined to act based on the philosophy of "co-creation," that is working together with the administration and residents to create a new value, so that Teshima can return to its original state in harmony with the beautiful nature of the Seto Inland Sea.

We are now at the starting point of a new effort to pass on to our children "a hometown where they can continue to live with pride."

We take deeply to our hearts the valuable lessons and achievements of the past 25 years and pass them on to our children, and we hereby declare our determination to build a prosperous Teshima—the only one island in the world.

June 3, 2000

Teshima Residents Convention for a Prosperous Island

"The Teshima Declaration" by Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal, June 3, 2000

On May 26, 2000, at the 36th conciliation date, the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission presented a final agreement proposal that included the complete removal of the industrial wastes by the end of fiscal year 2016, with the involvement of residents and experts on the project. Subsequently, Kagawa Prefecture acknowledged its responsibility and expressed its "sincere

apology" for Teshima residents. The Kagawa Prefectural Assembly approved the final agreement proposal on June 1, and Teshima residents unanimously accepted it at the Residents Convention on June 3. On June 6, the final agreement was reached at Teshima and residents could get the path to recover their prosperous and beautiful hometown.



Agreement of the Pollution Conciliation June 6, 2000 Teshima Elementary School
Photo by Kei Kobayashi

Toshikazu Aki, chairperson of Teshima Residents Council, and Takeki Manabe, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture shake hands. Residents accept the governor's apology and agree to work together to remove the wastes and restore the site to its original state, in accordance with the terms of the conciliation agreement.

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(produced by Shozo Aki, a member of Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal)

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About Setouchi Olive Foundation — Preserving our Beautiful Hometown for the Next Generation

Certified NPO Organization Setouchi Olive Foundation was established to commemorate the conciliation agreement of the Teshima Case.

To pass on the beautiful hometown to the next generation, Setouchi Olive Foundation continues to subsidize tree planting activities around the Seto Inland Sea, enlightens the marine litter problems, grows olive trees and produces oils at Teshima island, restores the devastated national park to its original state, and holds forums to inform the significance and lessons learned from the Teshima Case.

"Our Message"



Setouchi Olive Foundation Chairperson Hiroshi Iwaki
Attorney, formerly of the Lawyers Association for Teshima

My heartfelt thanks for taking the time to come all the way to Teshima. As a chairperson of Setouchi Olive Foundation, I would like to share this message. The removal and detoxification of the industrial wastes out of Teshima, which is said to be one of the largest illegal dumping sites in Japan, has been funded entirely by public expenses from Kagawa Prefecture and financial support from the national government, and has so far cost over 80 billion yen (as of March 2023).

What was the necessity to spend such an enormous amount of public expenses to dispose of the wastes at a small island in the Seto Inland Sea? And what was the significance of doing so?

① The need to speak out, as a depopulated island

Massive amounts of garbage generated in urban areas flowed into depopulated areas where resistance was weak, in the form of illegal dumping. Urban residents were indifferent to the fate of the garbage, and the suffering of depopulated areas did not reach the urban areas. The society finally noticed of the severe waste problem when Teshima, a depopulated island, desperately raised its voice.

② Restoring devastated nature requires enormous cost and effort

Teshima is a part of the Seto Inland Sea National Park, and the island, the sea, and the landscape are all invaluable natural treasures. We have learned that restoring a once destroyed nature, which is also a national asset, entails tremendous expense.

In addition, a large numbers of scholars and experts were involved over a long period of time and with devotion in order to properly dispose of the wastes at Teshima. Teshima's waste removal would not have been possible without the efforts of these individuals.

We have come to understand that it takes a monumental amount of work and effort to restore once destroyed nature. Such a similar incident must never happen again.

③ Transition from a mass-waste society to a circular-society of resources

The Teshima Case became a significant factor, leading to several amendments to the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing. Not only were the penalties for illegal dumping strengthened, but it was also stipulated that the ultimate responsibility for the industrial waste lies with the waste generating companies. The waste generating companies have become unable to ignore the whereabouts of the waste they generate. Additionally, due to enactments of various recycling laws for home appliances, automobiles, construction wastes, etc., the recycling of the industrial wastes has advanced, significantly reducing the amount ultimately disposed of as wastes.

The Teshima Case served as a catalyst for Japan to transit to a circular-society with the action goals of reducing waste production (=reduce), reusing (=reuse), and recycling resources (=recycle).

If each person who learns about Teshima Case thinks about what they can do to create a sustainable society, the purpose of this booklet would have been achieved. Thank you for reading.

March 2023

What is Teshima Case ?

Since around 1980, a large amount of industrial wastes began to be carried into the coastline at the west end of Teshima, and open-air burning started on the site. Under the guise of earthworm farming, the waste disposal operator obtained permission to dispose harmless industrial wastes that would be used as food for earthworms. But in reality, the operator was illegally dumping shredded automobile dust, drums filled with waste oil containing harmful substances, and toxic sludge on the site.

Teshima residents appealed to the Kagawa Prefecture, which was in a position to guide and supervise the operator, to crack down on the operator's illegal dumping. However, Kagawa Prefecture certified that the operator was bringing in "raw materials for metal recovery," not wastes, and allowed his illegal dumping for approximately seven years. Later, Kagawa Prefecture's responsible official told at the police investigation, "I was scared of his violent repercussions and couldn't respond appropriately."

In November 1990, the Hyogo Prefectural Police Office compulsorily investigated and exposed the operator for violating the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing. At last the illegal dumping was over, but a massive amount of wastes were left at the site. Kagawa Prefecture asserted that "there are no mistake in the classification of wastes at that time," and "there were no significant influences on the surrounding environment," indicating their policy to leave the illegally dumped wastes there without proper treatments.

In November 1993, almost all of the Teshima residents applied for a pollution conciliation to demand the removal of the wastes against Kagawa Prefecture, the operator, and the waste generating companies that outsourced the waste disposals to the operator. They also launched various resident movements to have the wastes removed.

In June 2000, the conciliation was concluded between the residents and Kagawa Prefecture, with Kagawa Prefecture promising to completely remove the wastes from Teshima by the end of March 2017, and to render the wastes harmless. In March 2017, Kagawa Prefecture completed the removal of wastes and contaminated soil out of Teshima. However, more wastes were found afterwards, and the process was not completely finished until July 2019.

In March 2023, the financial support under the Industrial Waste Special Measures Act was over, and the groundwater purification measures and the leveling of the disposal site were completed. We are now waiting for the environmental standards (water quality safe enough to drink continuously) to be achieved through natural purification by rainwater and tidal changes, but we do not know when that will be. After the achievement of environmental standards is confirmed, the site will be handed over to the residents.

Residents believe that in order for the site to return to its original state suitable for the Seto Inland Sea National Park, it is desirable to return the north coast to a natural state, where cover stones are currently installed.



March 1977, from Takamatsu Port to Kagawa Prefectural Office
Demonstration against the construction of a hazardous industrial waste disposal site



December 1990
Piles of Wastes left unattended after compulsory investigation
(Above two photos provided by Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal)



September 1996, Demonstration at Ginza, Tokyo
Photo by Kei Kobayashi



June 2000, Conciliation concluded
Photo by Kei Kobayashi



March 2023, Mizugaura Inlet after Leveling
Photo by Hiroshi Fujii

Chronology : Beginning for the end of a long struggle

Teshima Industrial Waste Illegal Dumping Case — a 48-years Struggle

Produced by Shozo Aki, a member of Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal, 2023

Phase 1: Resident's Defeat (Kagawa Prefecture Sides with Waste Disposal Operator) 【15 years】

1975 December	The operator applies to Kagawa Prefecture for the permission to construct a hazardous industrial waste disposal site (on a deserted quarry in a National Park).
1976 February	Teshima residents take a stand in protest against the construction (1,425 signatures in opposition, petitions, etc.). The governor remarks, "The sky and the sea at Teshima are blue and beautiful, but the hearts of the residents are grey."
1977 February	Formation of the "Teshima Residents Council for Absolutely Refusing Industrial Wastes."
March	The governor reveals a policy of approval, residents host a rally and charter a ferry to Takamatsu Port and march to Kagawa Prefectural Office in protest (515 people).
June	Residents file an injunction lawsuit at Takamatsu District Court to halt the construction of the disposal site (584 people).
June	Residents buy lands on both sides of the road where the operator's dump trucks illegally pass through and drive stakes to prevent them (259 people).
1978 February	Kagawa prefecture grants the operator permission under the pretext of soil improvement through earthworm farming.
October	Residents and the operator reach a settlement at Takamatsu District Court; Kagawa Prefecture (the governor is the same as who granted permission) promises to monitor the operator for residents, stating, "We will not let anything illegal happen."
1983	The operator begins illegal dumping of a mass amounts of toxic industrial wastes, not farming earthworms as promised. A lot of complaints about open-air burning.
1984 June	Kagawa prefecture legitimizes the operator's illegal dumpings as "legal."
1990 November	The Hyogo Prefectural Police Office compulsorily investigates the operator, bringing the illegal dumpings to an end.

Phase 2: Residents Victory (Fierce Struggle) 【10 years】

1990 November	Residents re-establish Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal (continuing to today).
December	Kagawa Prefecture revokes the operator's license.
1991 January	The Hyogo Prefectural Police Office arrests the operator.
July	The Kobe District Court, Himeji Branch, sentences the operator to 10 month's imprisonment with a 5-years' suspended sentence.
1993 April	Residents obtain criminal trial records. "The essence of the case is beginning to be seen."
November	Residents apply for a pollution conciliation to the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission (Kohei Nakabo as a leading attorney), promising to "fight to the end to protect Teshima, our ancestral hometown."
December	Residents initiate a standing demonstration action in front of the Kagawa prefectural office (which continues until the end of May the following year).
December	Kagawa Prefecture's "safety declaration" to the disposal site.
1994 December	The cabinet meeting decides the Environmental Dispute Coordination Committee will conduct a factual investigation of the wastes by the expert advisors ,which will cost 236 million yen.
1995 May	The expert advisors issue an interim report, revealing a clear discrepancy between the results of the factual investigation and Kagawa Prefecture's "safety declaration."
1996 February	Residents file a lawsuit to the Takamatsu District Court for the removal of wastes and claims for damages against the operator (245 people as plaintiff).
June	The Ministry of Health and Welfare criticizes Kagawa Prefecture.
August	Minister of Health and Welfare, Kan inspects the site, commenting on its "unimaginably horrible!"
September	Residents carry wastes to Ginza, Tokyo by night bus as a protest.
October	Prime Minister Hashimoto announces governmental financial support.
December	At Takamatsu District Court, residents win the lawsuit against the operator.
1997 June	A local member of Kagawa Prefectural Assembly criticizes residents movement as "grass-rootless."
July	Residents begin to distribute flyers to all 6,000 households in the town of Tonosho Town.
July	An interim agreement is reached, and the Technical Review Committee is established.
1998 July	Residents start a round-table discussion in 100 locations in Kagawa Prefecture (continuing until March 1999).
1999 January	Residents bankrupt the operator and acquire the disposal site from the bankruptcy trustee.
April	A Teshima resident runs for a prefectural assembly seat in Shozu Constituency and wins.
2000 June	Pollution conciliation is concluded (including the setup of the Waste Disposal Council and the Technical Committee and so on).

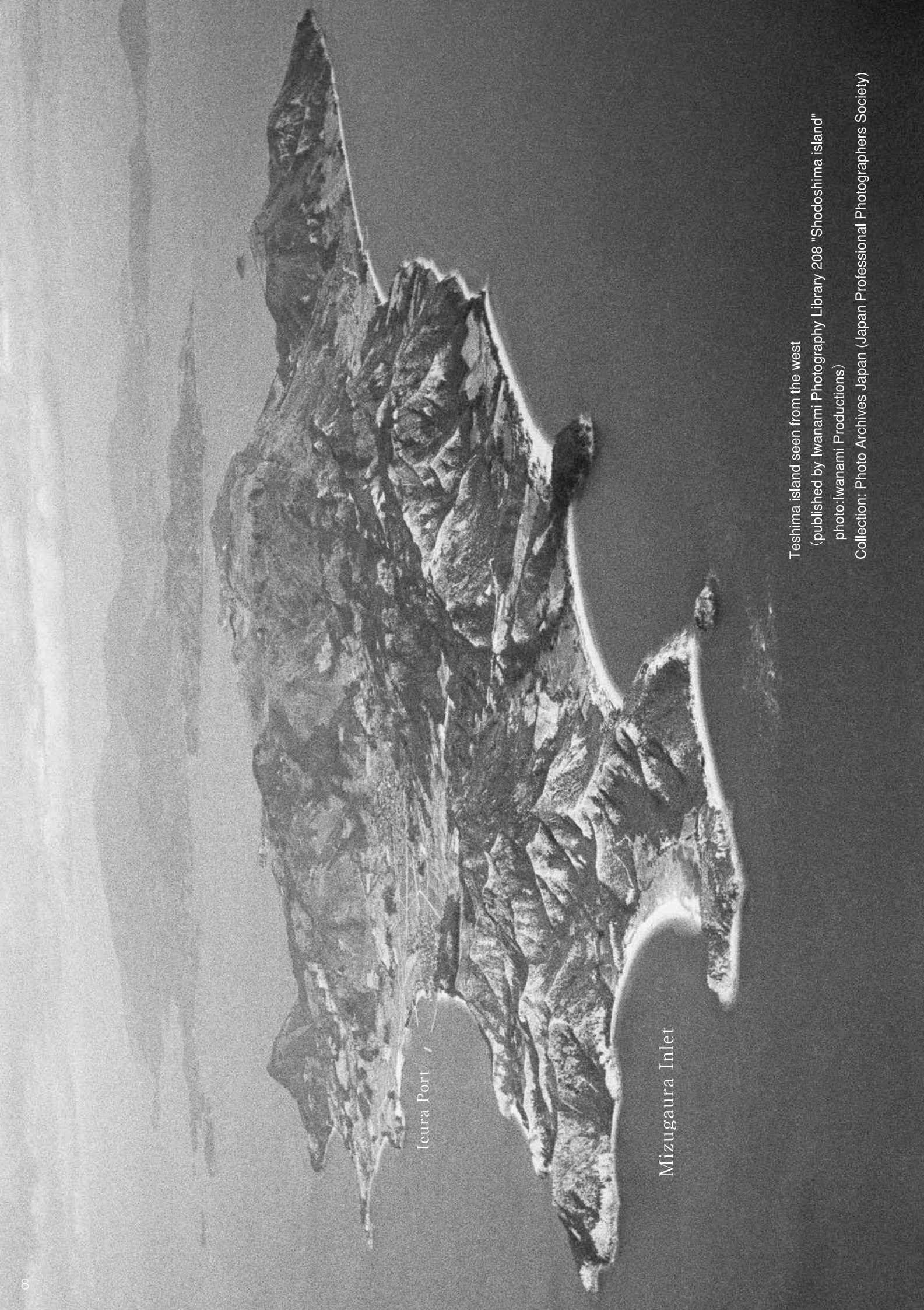
Phase 3: Collaboration Between Kagawa Prefecture and Residents (Struggle Against Wastes) 【23Years】

2000 October	Setouchi Olive Foundation is launched.
November	Olive trees planting ceremony commemorating the establishment of Setouchi Olive Foundation (1,002 trees).
2001 July	water insulating walls are installed to prevent the outflow of toxic wastewater.
2003 May	Restoration of eelgrass in the tidal flats along the north coast of Mizugaura Inlet, which brings green carpets to appear.
August	"Teshima Island School" starts (scheduled to continue until 2013 when waste disposal completes).
September	Kagawa Prefecture starts waste removal operation.
2004 January	Prime Minister Koizumi inspects the site and plants olive trees (10 trees).
May	Environment Minister Koike also inspects the site and plants olive trees (2 trees).
June	Sand crabs (commonly called as "shiomaneki" in Teshima) return to the sandy beach of the north coast of Mizugaura Inlet.
2005 March	The terms of conciliation amended. The agreement is reached regarding dioxin-contaminated soil in Takamatsu City (Shinkainishi Park).
2010 June	A 10-years commemorative meeting for the conciliation agreement, Governor Manabe plants olive trees (2 trees). "An environmentally-conscious prefecture from Teshima."
August	The terms of conciliation amends. The agreement is reached regarding the purification treatment of contaminated soil.
2011 August	For an estimated total of 905,000 tons of wastes, treatment period extended by 3 years and a half.
2012 October	The terms of conciliation amended, additional discussion on the treatment of contaminated soil into cement raw material, agreement reaches.
2013 January	Minister of Environment Ishihara agrees to revise "the execution plan" based on the Industrial Waste Special Measures Act.
2015 October	Residents resolve to remove the north embankment at the site and aim for a natural coastline.
2017 March	Kagawa Prefecture finishes the removal of wastes. Governor Hamada plants olive trees (2 trees) declaring aim of “Pursuing a circular-society."
June	Completion of waste detoxification. "Burn, Melt, Detoxify, and Reuse," "Never allow a second or third Teshima to happen."
July	Exhibition held in Takamatsu, "Seeking for a Prosperous Island; Teshima's 42-Years Struggles Against Industrial Wastes."
November	Exhibition held in Toshima Ward, Tokyo, "Messages from Two Prosperous Islands to the Future; Aiming for a Sustainable-Society."
2018 January	Residual wastes are discovered. March : Minister of Environment agrees to revise the "Execution Plan Related to Teshima Wastes" based on the Industrial Waste Special Measures Act (the 4th time).
March	Rhododendron reticulatum grown at Teshima are planted on the south side of the site as part of the restoration project.
October	Exhibition held at Ehime University in Matsuyama (until December) , "Message from Teshima to the Future; Aiming for a Sustainable-Society."
2019 July	Completion of removal and treatment of 616 tons of residual wastes. July : At the 43rd Disposal Council meeting, residents request specific discussion on both "water insulating wall related construction" and "disposal site leveling construction."
2020 February	Karato Residents Association withdraws from Teshima Residents Association Federation.
August	At the 9th Follow-up Committee, a plan is proposed to complete groundwater purification by March 2023.
November	Exhibition held at Okayama University, "Seeking for a Prosperous Island; Teshima's 45-Years Struggles Against Industrial Wastes."
2021 February	Groundwater pollution rebound occurs in 8 places (drainage standard).
March	As part of the restoration project, rhododendron reticulatum grown at Teshima are planted on the south side of the site.
November	Expanded meeting between Kagawa Prefecture and residents ; discuss "water insulating wall related construction" and "disposal site leveling construction" (until December).
2022 March	Completion of the removal of water insulating wall steel panels(1,087 panels) from the north coast embankment. Mizugaura Inlet is once again connected to the Seto Inland Sea. Expanded meeting between Kagawa Prefecture and residents discusses prefectural management and transfer of the disposal site. The 48th Disposal Council Meeting ; agrees on detailed plans for the disposal site during prefectural management.
August	The 49th Disposal Council Meeting ; agrees on detailed plans for the transfer of the disposal site.
October	Start of the disposal site leveling.
2023 March	Industrial Waste Special Measures Act provisions meet their deadline, completion of leveling during prefectural management of the disposal site.

Phase 4: Beginning for the end of a long struggle (toward a prosperous and beautiful island).

1975 : Population around 2,300 people.	⇒ In April 2022 : Population around 760 people.
1993 : 549 conciliation applicants.	⇒ By 2023 : approximately 410 deceased.
2022 : Achievement of drainage standard for groundwater in prefecture-managed disposal site.	⇒Sometime after 2032 (TBD) : After confirmation of the achievement of groundwater environmental standards, transfer to residents.

<Remaining Issues>	As stated in the preamble of conciliation terms, "Teshima will take on a form that is worthy of its location within the beautiful natural surroundings of the Seto Inland Sea National Park." Issues include groundwater purification, restoration of the disposal site to its original state, and an overall review and documentation of the struggle.
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Teshima island seen from the west
(published by Iwanami Photography Library 208 "Shodoshima island"
photo:Iwanami Productions)
Collection: Photo Archives Japan (Japan Professional Photographers Society)

Teshima Waste Treatment Project System and Terms of Conciliation

Final Agreement Document, "The Terms of Conciliation" June 6, 2000

2 (Basic Principles)

Kagawa Prefecture, in implementing the projects defined in these terms of conciliation, shall follow the results of the deliberations and findings of the Technical Review Committee.

6 (Cooperation between Applicants and Kagawa Prefecture, Teshima Waste Disposal Council)

(1) Kagawa Prefecture shall carry out the removal, transportation of wastes etc., the purification of groundwater, etc., the installation and operation of facilities at Teshima, and the incineration, melting treatment of wastes (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") with the understanding and cooperation of the applicants.

(2) Kagawa Prefecture, in accordance with the results of the deliberations of the Technical Review Committee, shall take sufficient care to prevent environmental pollution when carrying out the Project.

(3) The applicants and Kagawa Prefecture, in order to discuss the implementation of the Project, shall establish a council composed of representatives of the applicants, etc., and responsible officials of Kagawa Prefecture, etc., in accordance with separately stipulated provisions (hereinafter referred to as "Teshima Waste Disposal Council").

7 (Involvement of Experts)

Kagawa Prefecture, in accordance with the results of the deliberations of the Technical Review Committee, shall carry out the Project under the guidance and advices of experts with knowledge in related fields, as provided for separately.

Article 1 of the Conciliation is "An Apology from Kagawa Prefecture."

"Kagawa Prefecture acknowledges that, as a result of mistakenly certifying wastes and neglecting to provide appropriate guidance and supervision to Teshima General Tourism Development Company (a disposal company at Teshima) , serious situations such as soil contamination and water pollution were caused at the disposal site in question, causing long-term anxiety and pains to the residents of Teshima, including the applicants. Kagawa Prefecture expresses its sincere apology to the applicants."

This is the apology what the residents of Teshima had long sought for.

From Article 1 "Apology" and the courses of the pollution conciliation, in order to "return Teshima to its original state (Preamble 4) " based on the principle of "co-creation" requested by the Technical Review Committee, **Article 2 "Basic Principle"** is stipulated as follows:

"Kagawa Prefecture, in implementing the projects defined in the terms of conciliation, shall follow the results of the deliberations of the Technical Review Committee."

Such a system for the Teshima Waste Treatment Project is the first of its kind attempt in Japan. The Technical Review Committee positions the Teshima Waste Management Project as "Japan's first national effort to remediate a polluted site" in its report (1998-99).

Also, Article 6 of the Conciliation, "Cooperation between Applicants and Kagawa Prefecture, Teshima Waste Disposal Council," Mr. Hiromasa Minami, the first chairperson of the Disposal Council and also a conciliation committee member stated as follows in the first meeting of the Disposal Council:

"This council is unprecedented nationwide. The government and private sector will work together, and moreover, on an equal footing, to bring forth wisdom for the environmental restoration and creation of Teshima, and discuss implementation. I strongly hope being a pioneer for forming a circular-society in the 21st century that Japan aims for."

Teshima Case Q&A

Q1: What is Teshima case ?

It is one of the worst cases of illegal dumping of hazardous industrial wastes in Japan, which took place at Teshima Island in the town of Tonosho Town, Kagawa Prefecture. In 1990, the Hyogo Prefecture Police Office tracked a garbage ship from Himeji Port and, after undercover investigation, compulsorily investigated and exposed it. It was suspected of illegally dumping massive amounts of industrial wastes under the pretense of "earthworm farming." Industrial wastes like shredder dust, were illegally dumped over an area of approximately 69,000 square meters on a 28.5-hectares land on the west end of Teshima, and was left in piles and burnt in the open-air.

Although the illegal dumping and open-air burning were halted by the compulsory investigation, a large amount of wastes were left at the site. Water containing harmful substances that leaked from the wastes were contaminating the Seto Inland Sea, a human habitat and also a national park.

Q2: What kind of island is Teshima ?

Teshima is an island of about 20 km in circumference, located about 4 km west of another island called Shodoshima in Kagawa Prefecture. At the time of the compulsory investigation, 1990, the population was about 1,600 people, with the main industries being fishing, agriculture, and stonemasonry. There are clusters of settlements called Ieura, Suzuri, Karato, and Ko, and three community associations. As of April 2022, the population is about 760 people, and the ratio of elderly residents exceeds 50%. Although the island is facing depopulation and aging, in recent years, it attracts many tourists from abroad as one of the art islands of the Seto Inland Sea.

Q3: What kind of wastes were brought in ?

Shredded dust from scrapped automobiles, paper mill sludge, gypsum board, slag and mineral wastes from copper refining, oil, acid, paint, and volatile organic solvents from factories, and so on. All wastes were discharged from urban and industrial areas.

Q4: Why were the wastes brought to Teshima ?

Teshima is a depopulated island located on the prefectural border, and it was difficult for the people to recognize what was happening. The waste disposal operator had been extracting soil and sand for some time, so he could bring in a large amount of wastes to the site.

Behind the case lies the problem of our social system of mass-production, mass-consumption, and mass-disposal.

Q5: Why couldn't the illegal dumping be stopped ?

Kagawa Prefecture's officials, who were in a position to supervise and guide the waste disposal operator, were fearful of his violent repercussions from the operator. Kagawa Prefecture explained to the residents that what the operator was doing was not a final disposal of wastes, but a metal recycling business, and instructed the operator to register a filing as a secondhand dealer. Thus, the operator was openly able to continue illegal dumping for many years.

Q6: Why did they file for pollution conciliation ?

Residents filed for a pollution conciliation based on the Act on the Settlement of Environmental Pollution Disputes. If they choose to file a lawsuit, the plaintiff would need to prove the total amount and the toxicity of the wastes, but they couldn't afford to conduct such investigations. By using the conciliation system, they could have national government investigate at government's expense. Kagawa Prefecture had declared the wastes safe, and in order to overturn it, a detailed investigation by the government was necessary.

Q7: How was the legal defense team formed ?

On October 10, 1993, attorneys Kohei Nakabo and Hiroshi Iwaki visited the site for the first time after being consulted by Teshima residents. Nakabo was surprised at the horrible situation and felt a strong resentment toward Kagawa Prefecture. He also thought that resolving the case would be incredibly difficult. Nakabo asked the residents, "How far are you willing to go?" After discussing, residents promised to fight to the end with Nakabo. First, Nakabo formed a legal defense team of five attorneys in Osaka, and later expanded it to 13 members.

Q8: How did residents finance for their struggle ?

The three community associations organized Teshima Residents Council for Waste Disposal, in which all households participated, in order to resolve the Teshima Case. A large amount of expenses, such as transportation fees and administrative expenses, were incurred over 25 years until the pollution conciliation was concluded, which were borne by the community associations according to the number of people ratio. The cost borne by Teshima

over seven years until the conciliation was reached was approximately 100 million yen.

Q9: What was the condition of the disposal site ?

According to the governmental investigation, the total amount of wastes was estimated to be 480,000 cubic meters, and was found that harmful substances such as lead and trichloroethylene greatly exceeded the standards. High concentrations of dioxins were also detected. Harmful substances mixed with rainwater and flowed out to the Seto Inland Sea from the north coast. Expert advisors who investigated concluded that it was not permissible to leave the disposal site as it was.

Q10: What kind of agreement was achieved by the conciliation ?

Kagawa Prefecture admitted that they made a mistake in certifying the wastes and failed to properly supervise and guide the waste disposal operator, resulting in illegal dumping and environmental pollution, and duly apologized to Teshima residents. Kagawa Prefecture promised to remove the illegally dumped wastes and the contaminated soil out of Teshima by the end of fiscal 2016 and purify the groundwater. The removed wastes were to be incinerated and melted at a treatment facility at Naoshima Island.

The waste generating companies contributed to the resolution funds (totaling 325 million yen), of which 170 million yen was used for waste disposal costs. The preamble of the conciliation terms evaluates, "Among preceding cases involving illegal waste dumping, there has been no example where the waste generating companies contributed to the resolution of the dispute. In this regard, this conciliation is groundbreaking."

Q11: Why does Kagawa Prefecture have to remove the wastes ?

Because Kagawa Prefecture made a mistake in certifying the wastes and failed to provide proper guidance and supervision to the operator, resulting in massive illegal dumping and serious environmental pollution.

Q12: How is the removal work progressing ?

The influence to the surrounding environment was to a certain extent blocked by a construction project called temporary environmental conservation measures. The removal work, which was completed in March 2017, did not go smoothly. Various types of wastes were mixed together, which made pre-processing difficult, and the melting and solidifying process at Naoshima Island was also very challenging. As the removal works progressed, the amount of wastes and contaminated soil that needed to be dealt with increased significantly more than initially anticipated, and it was announced that approximately 912,000 tons had been processed after completion (as of March 2018). However, more wastes were subsequently found left behind, and additional 616 tons wastes were processed by July 2019. The project cost, borne by the national government and Kagawa Prefecture, exceeded 80 billion yen (as of March 2023).

Q13: What will the site become of after the wastes were removed ?

The three community associations of Teshima acquired ownership of the disposal site from the operator through another civil lawsuit, apart from the pollution conciliation. The terms of conciliation make clear that "the disposal site will be leveled into a safe condition at a height that prevents seawater from infiltrating," and groundwater purification measures and site leveling work were completed in March 2023.

Going forward, residents will watch and wait for the natural purification of the groundwater to achieve the quality of groundwater that is safe to drink. After the environmental standards are met, the site will be returned to the residents. Residents wish to restore the north coast, where at present cover stones are installed, to be a natural beach.

Considering that Teshima Case was resolved with public supports and that a huge amount of public expense was spent on the restoration, it is necessary to make the site the one that can withstand historical evaluation. Around the disposal site, a project to restore the devastated vegetation is already underway by citizens.

Q14: How has the laws changed because of Teshima Case ?

Because of the Teshima Case, the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing was significantly revised. Regulations on waste disposal facilities were strengthened, and the fine for illegal dumping was raised from 3 million yen to 300 million yen. In addition, conditions for revoking the permission of waste disposal businesses were added, and regulations to the waste generating companies were also strengthened. Apart from the Act on Waste Management and Public Cleansing, new laws were also enacted. The Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society and various recycling laws were enacted. Teshima Case is a tipping point to transform Japan's waste administrations.

Protecting Island and Forests

The 100-year project for a Prosperous Island



Protecting the Prosperity of Oceans and Rivers

Project for the Prosperity of the Oceans

SETOUCHI OLIVE FOUNDATION

Join Us in Protecting Setouchi's Natural Beauty

The Setouchi Olive Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by architect **Tadao Ando** and **Kohei Nakabo**, the leader of the defense team for the Teshima case, after the mediation of the "**Teshima Case**". Since its establishment in 2000, the organization has been working to protect and restore the beautiful nature of the Seto Inland Sea area.

Environmental Education

Teshima Case Telling Live Lessons Project



The beautiful nature of the Seto Inland Sea For the Next Generation



Grants for environmental activities in the Seto Inland Sea

Grant Program



Support Us

Our activities at the Setouchi Olive Fund are made possible through your generous support. Join us in preserving the natural beauty of the Seto Inland Sea for future generations. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

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