

Hamaguchi Goryo and the Story of Inamura-no-Hi

Hamaguchi Goryo set fire to his bundles of "inamura" (rice sheaves) to show villagers the way to safety when the tsunami triggered by the Ansei Nankai Earthquake struck Hiromura (present Town of Hirogawa) on November 5, 1854.



Goryo then came up with the plan to build a seawall to protect the village. It is more than 600 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 5 meters tall. Goryo led Hiromura's recovery from disaster by spending his own money to hire villagers for the construction. Since that time, the seawall has minimized damage to the town from tsunamis.

The story of Goryo's actions has spread around the world as a lesson for tsunami preparedness. In 2015, the United Nations designated November 5th as Tsunami Awareness Day based on the power of Goryo's story.

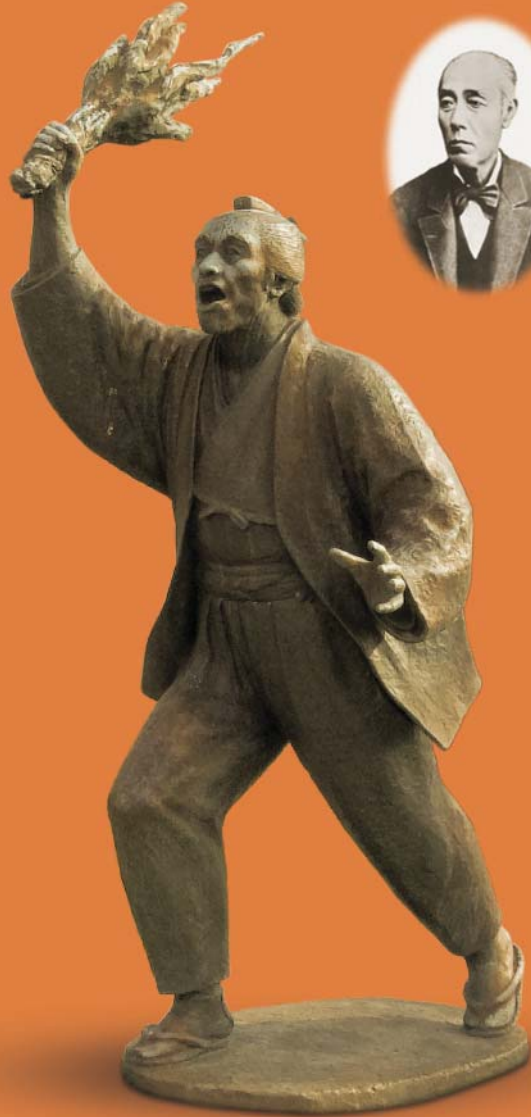


Hamaguchi Goryo (1820-1885)



Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata

Hamaguchi Goryo Archives

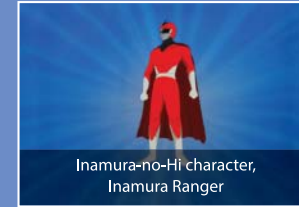


Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata

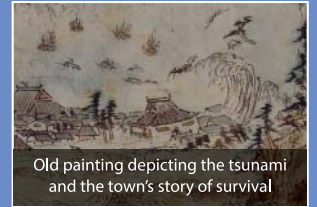
Tsunami Educational Center



The Hamaguchi Goryo Archives and Tsunami Educational Center play a critical role in teaching people about the importance of disaster preparedness



Inamura-no-Hi character, Inamura Ranger



Old painting depicting the tsunami and the town's story of survival



People march with torches in the Inamura-no-Hi Festival



Children work on craft projects at a tsunami preparedness event



Goryo Hamaguchi's plan to build a seawall has protected the town from tsunami disasters

Hamaguchi Goryo Archives

The Hamaguchi Goryo Archives are a great place to learn about the life and achievements of Goryo. Pieces in the galleries describe important events in his life. Through his own words, you can learn about his determination and the reasoning behind his actions. Valuable historical pieces are on display, including paintings, maps of historical sites. Fine art created by Hamaguchi Yozo, great-grandson of Hamaguchi Goryo, is on display. In the archives, you'll find copies of Goryo's letters displayed as well as scale models depicting work on the seawall.



Movie Theater in Old-Style Japanese Kitchen

There is a restored "Okudo-san," old-style Japanese kitchen that's built on the bare ground. In this space, you can get a real sense of what life was like in Goryo's lifetime. You can also enjoy a movie about the life of Hamaguchi Goryo.



Japanese Garden with Stone Lantern

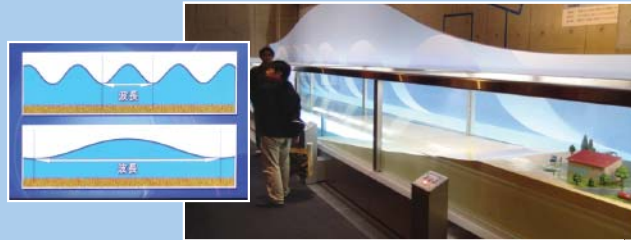
Enjoy your time in this tranquil Japanese garden. Then go inside to see the traditional Japanese architecture in the beautifully preserved home of Hamaguchi Goryo. Inside, you'll learn more about his life and story.

Tsunami Educational Center



3D Tsunami Movie Theater

Get a sense of what really happens when a tsunami strikes. This sophisticated 3D projection system and movie presentation puts you in the middle of the experience.



Tsunami Simulator

Learn what's happening inside a tsunami. The 16-meter-long simulator explains how a tsunami wave is formed. It is equipped with laser-guided lights along the top of the tank and has a small camera to show the impact at ground level in the town.



Disaster Learning Area

Prepare yourself for disaster by learning from people who have actually been through them. Movie simulations, photographs, and interactive games are used in each section to help young visitors learn what to do when a disaster strikes. Visitors will also find plenty of essential tips for getting through tough times.

Inamura-no-Hi Gallery

On the second floor, you can see the history of tsunami disasters that have happened since the seawall was built. The lessons of the Torch of Rice Sheaves "Inamura-no-Hi" have been passed down and have become the foundation for the town, which is now known for tsunami preparedness.



On the Skyway Bridge, you can follow an illustrated history of the tsunamis that have struck the village since 1605.

Tsunami Library

In the second floor library, you'll find lots of books and information about tsunamis in many languages. The center has become closely allied with the Aceh Tsunami Museum in Indonesia.



Exhibition Gallery and Orientation Room

The third floor has rooms for special events, and these spaces can also be used as temporary shelter and storage in emergencies.



Be sure to stop by our Souvenir Shop to find gifts and treats to take home and to try our specialty ice creams.

Access

Address: 671 Hiro Hironaga-cho, Arida-gun, Wakayama, Japan 643-0071
Website: <http://www.town.hirogawa.wakayama.jp/inamuranohi/english/index.html>
Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. (admission by 4:00 p.m.)
General Admission: 500 yen; High school students: 200 yen;
Elementary and junior high school students: 100 yen
Closed Mon. and Tues. (open if holiday on Mon. or Tues.)
Closed Dec. 29-Jan. 4 for the year end and new year.
Half-price discounts are available for elementary and junior high school students if the visit is part of school activities.
Reservations are required for group tours with more than 20 people. A group tour form is available on our website.



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