

Coast Protection Environmentally at Toban Coast

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Toban coast faces the Inland Sea of Japan and is about 26 km long from the western end of Kobe City, through Akashi City, to Harima Town of Kako County. The coast was much eroded by rough waves and high tide caused by typhoon. Therefore, since 1961, the MLIT has been carrying out the work to protect the coast. At first we provided against erosion and high tide by building revetments and installing blocks to absorb waves. Since 1982, in addition to ordinary coast protection construction, we have been encouraging the development of artificial nourishment, considering the use of the seashore and the recovery of a beautiful beach that was lost.

In 1986, loggerhead turtles' eggs were discovered at the coast. It is very unusual that the eggs are laid at the enclosed water area, so in 1996, we established a commission consisting of the specialists and the people in the neighborhood. Their activities are called "eco-coast work" the purpose of which is to protect the coast, to preserve the environment, and to promote the use of the seashore. We are making more efforts to hear various opinions of the commission concerning the ecology and how to make use of the seashore, and put them into practice as much as possible.

The observation of the sea turtles has been continuously made since 1986, and their eggs are found almost every year. Akashi City is trying hard to protect them so that the sea turtles are the symbol of the city, and made the city regulation of the protection of them in April of 2001.

Himeji Construction Work Office of the MLIT has held "The Commission for Toban Coast in the future" since 1996, where the specialists and the neighbors talk about various kinds of themes concerning Toban Coast. Thus the government and community are going together to execute its activities.