



Muko city, Kyoto



Section 1 Nature and(Geographical Environment and Weather)

1. Geographical Environment

Muko city is located at the southwest part of the Kyoto Basin. Traveling the Yodo River upward from the Osaka Bay through the narrow area between Mt. Tenno, the famous warfield of Battle of Yamazaki that determined the future of this country, and Mt. Otoko, the home of Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine, one of the three major hachimangu shrines in Japan, the city sits where three rivers of the Katsura, the Uji and the Kizu merge and form the Yodo River.

On west, Kyoto Nishiyama Mountain Range including Mt. Oshio lays and the Katsura River runs on our east. We share three boundaries with Kyoto city - the northern and western boundaries with Nishikyo-ku, and the eastern boundary with Minami-ku and Fushimi-ku. Across the southern boundary is Nagaokakyo city abutting Oyamazaki-cho which is the neighbor of Osaka Prefecture.

The city is approximately 2km from east to west and approximately 4km from south to north covering the 7.72km² area. This makes us the third smallest city in Japan after Warabi city and Komae city.

Figure 1-1-1

Location of Muko city

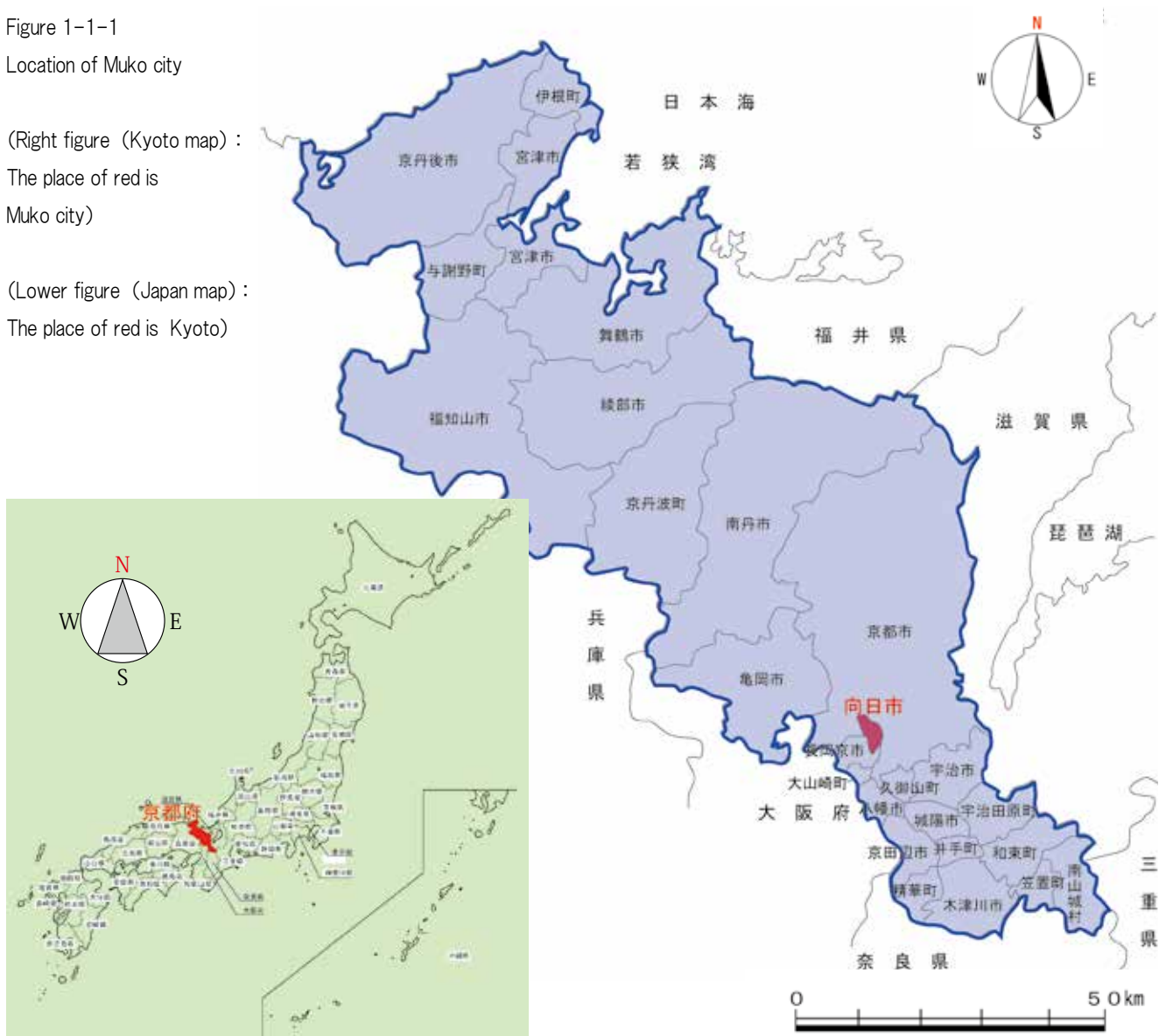
(Right figure (Kyoto map) :

The place of red is

Muko city)

(Lower figure (Japan map) :

The place of red is Kyoto)



Geographically, it is a flatland with the northwestern part higher and the southwestern part lower. This divides the city coverage into three distinctive parts of the hilly area in the west formed by the Osaka Geo Group which is believed to be cumulated several tens of thousands to several million years ago, the terrace in the center, and the alluvial plain in the east formed by the Katsura River and the Obata River.

On west, a narrow band of hills of 35m to 80m altitude, starting from Arashiyama in Kyoto, lays from north to south. The entire area is covered by the bamboo forest and produces plenty of bamboo shoots. There are many Tumuli at the peaks of the hills, and Muko Shrine sits at the tip of the hills which our city was named after.

The low terrace of 15m to 30m altitude frames the central part where the former capital city of “Nagaoka Palace” was built. It has been the major residential section in the area even after the capital was abolished. The rice paddy based on the ancient administrative system at around 12m altitude covers the entire eastern part.

Table 1-1-1 Geographically of Muko city

Area		7.72 km ²
Geographically	Location	East longitude 135 degrees, 42 minutes and 3 seconds North latitude 34 degrees, 56 minutes and 44 seconds
	City size	Approximately 2km from east to west Approximately 4km from south to north
	Above sea level	Maximum 100.5m, minimum 13.7m



Photo 1-1-1 Aerial photograph of Muko city
(View Kyoto city direction (northeast) from the point where the Kizu River, Uji River, Katsura River join)

Section 2 Social Environment (Population, Transportation, Industries and Tourism)

1. Formation of the City

Muko city stretches approximately 2km from east to west and approximately 4km from south to north covering the 7.72km² area, and is the smallest “city” in the western Japan.

Before the Meiji era, the area of present-day Muko city was made of “Muko-machi”, the township developed at the early Edo era, and six villages of Mozume, Terado, Kaide, Kamiueno, Nishitsuchikawa and Shirai. The territories of the imperial family, court nobles, and temples/shrines were complexly intertwined here.

Yamashiro Country, consisted of eight counties of Atago, Kadono, Otokuni, Kii, Uji, Kuze, Tuzuki and Soraku from the ancient time, was included in Kyoto Prefecture formed in April, 1868, and the county office was established in 1879 as the local agency of the prefecture. The Otokuni County Office that governs our city was located in “Muko-machi”.

The present-day Muko city was first set as the 1st Ward of Otokuni County when the Kukocho system was adopted in 1872. The coverage remained unchanged through the county/ward/town/village system of 1878, the federal mayors’ office system and the city/town/village system of 1889, and the area was named “Muko-machi” under the new political system.

While many towns and villages nationwide were merged and reorganized under newer municipal government systems afterward, Muko Town never went through the boundary change and became “Muko city” in 1972 when it was granted the city status. It is an extremely rare case in this county.

2. Population/Number of Household

56,870 people/24,765 households reside in our city as of November 1, 2017 with the population density of 7,366.58/km², which is the highest in the prefecture.

The population was 4,178 in 1889 when the city/town/village system was adopted, and it grew exponentially from around 1960 to 1984, with the peak from 1965 to 1970. The rapid housing development as the residential area near large cities was the cause of this growth since our city is conveniently accessible to metropolitan regions of Kyoto and Osaka.

The population grew and exceeded 10,000 in 1954, 30,000 in 1968, 50,000 in 1978 and 55,000 in 2005, then decreased slightly. In the past 10 years, it has been stable around 54,000 as the residential estate development has slowed down. The city is now in the mature stage. However, the land readjustment project covering 10.5ha by the private sector started in 1997 and the one covering 8.4ha by associations of land owners and leaseholders in the adjacent section has been conducted since 2009. These projects ignited another round of population increase and changed the inflow/outflow.

The working population was 25,008 as of October 1, 2015, and the distribution was; 251 in the primary industry (1.00%), 6,170 in the secondary industry (24.67%), and 17,399 in the tertiary industry (69.57%).

3. Use of Land

The vast majority of the city area is urbanized due to the shift to the residential town which has been accelerated since 1960s.

As for the size by category, approximately half of the taxable area excluding public land, roads and railway grounds is the residential land (2.73km²), 30% is the farmland (1.66km²) and 4% is the woodland (0.24km²).

The residential land spreads widely from north to south at the low terrace in the center of the city.

The farmland is divided into two groups, the bamboo forest in the hilly area and rice paddy in the alluvial plain (flat area). The hilly area in the west is covered by the pure forest of Moso Bamboo and is the major production area of quality bamboo shoots. The rice paddy in the alluvial plain is framed by the northern and southern tips of the city and JR Tokaido Line/Route 171 in the east. It forms a narrow and long band from north to south in the part of the city where land blocks established after the Nagaoka-kyo capital was abolished still remain.

The commercial facilities are concentrated around Hankyu Higashi-muko Station and along Mozume Road that crosses the central part of the city from north to south. Factories and distribution centers are located along Route 171.

The entire city is designated as the urban planning area, and 521ha or approximately 70% is designated for urbanization. As for the use district, 74% of the area designated for urbanization is for the residential use, 22% for the industrial use, and 4% for the commercial use.

The hilly area in the west is blessed with the scenery with bamboo forest and the hilly landscape which are the symbol of our city. In order to preserve and protect such blessings, the area is designated for un-urbanization and preservation (79.5ha) and is subject to other restrictions including residential development (200ha).

In recent years, the construction of continuous multi-level crossing in the northern part between JR and Hankyu lines south of JR Katsuragawa Station and Hankyu Rakusaiguchi Station is underway, together with the two land readjustment projects mentioned earlier.

4. Transportation (Roads/Railways)

The area including our city has been of the strategically important point of transportation connecting Kyoto and Osaka. On the right bank of the Katsura River (the Yodo River) where our city is located run JR Tokaido Honsen Line, JR Tokaido Shinkansen, Hankyu Kyoto Line, Route 171 and Meinshin Expressway, and on the left bank run Keihan Honsen Line and former Route 1 (former Kyo Road). Together with the river itself which once served as the water route, the biggest major transport artery of the Kinki region runs through our city.

The main roads run across Muko city are Meishin Expressway as well as one national and nine prefectural roads. Route 171 running vertically on the eastern boundary of the city is the regional arterial road to connect Kyoto and Kobe.

The other major road to serve as the north-south arterial road, other than Route 171, is Mozume

Road which once was used as the bypass connecting Saigoku Road and Sanin Road.

Also, Keiji Bypass was connected to Meishin Expressway at 3km south of the city in 2003, and Oyamazaki Junction/Exit were built. In April, 2013, Kyoto-jukan Expressway (Oyamazaki Junction/Exit - Kutsukake Exit) was opened. With the availability of these major roads, the city's location is considered as even more convenient.

As for the railways, JR Tokaido Honsen Line and Hankyu Kyoto Line run across the city from north to south. There are one JR station and two Hankyu Stations in the city, plus one JR station and one Hankyu station sit at the boundary of our northern neighbor of Kyoto city. Together, our residents have access to five stations.

It takes approximately 10 minutes from stations in our city to the central part of Kyoto, and 35 minutes to Osaka city.

5. Public Facilities

Numerous public facilities dot our city include;

schools for mandatory educations such as elementary and junior high schools, the social education facilities such as the community hall, the community center, the planetarium, the civic gymnasium, and the civic heat pool, and the health/welfare facilities such as the health preservation center, the welfare hall, and the childcare center. Prior to the construction work, we ensure to search the historical cultural assets buried in the ground. In case any ruin is found, we preserve it and amend the construction plan to take advantage of the discovery.

The public facilities including the civic hall, the library, the cultural reference center, and the welfare hall are concentrated around the city office to serve as the hub of the civic culture. We maintain close liaison among those facilities, and the cultural reference center serves as the hub of presenting information on Nagaoka Palace site and others as well as the network of other historical cultural heritage and tourism resources.



Photo 2-5-1 The Muko city cultural reference center



Photo 2-5-2 The Muko city cultural reference center permanent exhibition

A three-institution complex facilities of the library, the cultural reference center, and the Kyoto prefectural archaeological research center

The Muko city cultural reference center, permanent exhibition is held with the main theme of "Nagaoka-kyo's history and culture"



Photo 2-5-3 The Muko city library



Photo 2-5-4 The Muko city planetarium

6. Tourism/Recreational Resources

The historic sites related to Nagaoka Palace site including its Daigokuden(Imperial Audience Hall) site are concentrated in the central part of the city. Tumuli and imperial mausoleums scattered in the hilly area in the west and along Mozume Road including the Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus. Muko Shrine our city was named after is located in the west of Nagaoka Palace Daigokuden, and the site which is believed to be one of the imperial villas in the eastern part of the walled Nagaoka Palace site is now used as Toin Park.

Saigoku Road crossing the city is the arterial road built in the ancient time and connects Kyoto with western regions. Buildings and cityscape with traces of the past such as Nakakoji Residence (a registered tangible cultural property) and Suda Residence (a prefecturally designated cultural property) still remains along the road.

As for the walking trails, the city has Take no Michi path crossing the bamboo forest in the Muko Hills which takes the visitors to Tumuli and beautiful natural scenery. In addition, the city hosts the Kyoto Muko-machi Bicycle Racetrack built in 1950.

As our city is very small, tourists can visit those tourism resources on foot or by bicycle. In order to support, we have been building convenient excursion roads and presenting relevant information.

The festivals and events in our city include various festivals at Muko Shrine such as “Shinko Festival” and “Kanko Festival”, “Cherry Blossom Festival”, “Daigokuden Festival” to commemorate the establishment of Nagaoka-kyo, “Muko city Festival” and “Take no Michi/Kaguya no Yube”.



Photo 2-6-1 Cherry Blossom Festival at Muko Shrine



Photo 2-6-2 Muko city Festival

Total number of tourists to our city exceeded 200,000 in 2010. It, as well as the tourist consumption value, has been on the increasing trend since 2008 (except in 2011 when the Great East Japan Earthquake impacted the entire economy).

The major factor for this increasing trend of tourists is two of our original events - "Kyoto Muko city Ultra Spicy Shopping Street" which started in 2009 to offer "spicy yet tasty" foods and "KARA-1 Grand Prix" since 2011. They are the popularity competitions of ultra spicy foods, and attract some 50,000 visitors from all over Japan which is the equivalent to the city's population.

The national stilts competition (since 2003) which was inspired from our "bamboo" resource and the information center in Chodoin Park which was built at the historic site of Nagaoka Palace site (since 2010).



Photo 2-6-3 Take no Michi/Kaguya no Yube



Photo 2-6-4 KARA-1 Grand Prix



Photo 2-6-5 The mascot character "Karakki" in Kyoto Muko city Ultra Spicy Shopping Street



Photo 2-6-6 The national stilts competition

Section 3 The history of Muko city

1. Historical environment

Muko city has a varied topography: from the west to the east, it has hills, terraces, and lowlands of the Katsura River floodplain. It has been inhabited by people since ancient times.

① From the Paleolithic age to the Yayoi period

The trace of human activities in our city dates back to the late Paleolithic age 10 thousand to 25 thousand years ago.

Saisekijin (or small stone blades) and sentoki (or projectile points) have been excavated at the Nakakaido ruins and the Kishinoshita ruins. Yuzetsu Sentoki (or halfted points) have been excavated at the Dencho ruins.

People started to form villages and settled in the municipal area in the middle of the Jomon period about three thousand years ago.

Middle-Jomon-period large-sized stone bars, artifacts rarely excavated in the Kinki district, have been excavated at the Nanzan ruins. It can be imagined from them that the Jomon people held religious services.

In the late Jomon period about 2,500 years ago, the number of settlements increased in lowlands too, and a large amount of seeds were found in the Ishida ruins along with pottery and stoneware, suggesting the start of agriculture.

Moreover, dugout boats were excavated at the Higashi Tsuchikawa Nishi ruins, and it is thought that the means of transportation such as hunting and transportation using a river developed.

The right bank of the Katsura River including Muko city played an important role in the spread of the early Yayoi culture to the Kyoto Basin. Settlements from the Jomon period developed and the number of ruins further increased as if to suggest the development of sophisticated culture based on agriculture.

In the middle period, irrigation canals were put into use at the Morimoto ruins, utilizing the terrain under



Photo 3-1-1
Excavated at the
Dencho ruins
Yuzetsu Sentoki



Photo 3-1-2
Middle-Jomon-period stone bars at
the Nanzan ruins



Photo 3-1-3 The Jomon period dugout boats which was
excavated in the Higashi Tsuchikawa Nishi ruins



Photo 3-1-4 Morimoto ruins waterway

the terrace cliffs, and it became an archaeological site that shows one aspect of middle-Yayoi-period mura, or village, characterized by a living area on the terrace and a production area at the lowland.

To be specially noted is the copper mold excavated at the Kaide ruins, an important artifact in considering the form of community rituals. In the middle period, many items of earthenware showing human and cultural exchange with various regions such as Settsu, Kawachi, Omi, Harima, etc. were excavated, and thus it is clear that Muko city has been an important point of transportation since ancient times.

The development of agricultural production, which centered on rice paddy cultivation that produced many settlements during the Yayoi period, created chiefs who lead their areas with the background of its increased productivity and the convenience of water and land transportation, etc., and ancient tombs were built to bury chiefs.



Photo 3-1-5 Excavated at the Kaide ruins the copper mold



Figure 3-1-1 Restore diagram of Kaide ruins

② From the Kofun period to the Nara period (until the capital is moved to Nagaoka-kyo)

On the hill called Mukokyuryo in the western part of the city, about 100-meter-long gigantic Tumuli (or kofun) that are appropriate as Tumuli of great leaders of the area were built one after another for about 100 years from the latter half of the third century, the Early Kofun period, such as the Itsukahara Tumulus, the Moto Inari Tumulus, the Terado Otsuka Tumulus, the Myokensan Tumulus, which formed “Dai-shucho Bogun” or a group of great chiefs’ Tumuli.

As kofuns built in the Mid-Kofun period to the Late Kofun period, there is a kofun name the Nakanodan Tumulus where house-shaped Haniwas were excavated, as well as a kofun named the Yamabiraki Tumulus where beads called “komochi-magatama” were excavated. Excepting these, however, small-scale Tumulus such as the Nanjo Tumulus group, the Yamahata Tumulus group, etc. were built in this period, suggesting that the family of the chiefs from the early period lost their previous power.

In the 6th century, the Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus with a horizontal stone chamber was built at the tip of the terrace of Mozume-cho in the northern part of the city. Based on the structure of the stone chamber and the unearthed relics, it is considered that it might have been a trigger for the political change in the Keitai Dynasty. The maintenance of the Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus started

in 1983, and it was completed in March 1995, including the maintenance of the horizontal stone chamber. Since then, the stone chamber has been open to the public.

After the Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus, no large kofun such as a zenpokenfun (a large keyhole-shaped Tumulus) was built in this municipal area. Instead, clustered Tumuli were built at the foot of the hills, and with the arrival of Buddhism, powerful local ruling families started to build Buddhist temples.



Photo 3-1-6 The Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus whole view



Photo 3-1-7 The Mozume Kurumazuka Tumulus
the horizontal stone chamber

Around that time, irrigation canals for which water was taken from the Katsura River were built so that it goes through the municipal area from the south to the north. The Toji Hyakugo Monjo (a national treasure) has canal pictures and maintenance records. It is one of the famous canals in the history of the studies of Japanese irrigation history, and it still supplies water to the paddy fields in the surrounding area.

As Fujiwara-kyo became the first full-fledged tojo or (castle town) in Japan, “Otokuni-no-kori” was established in this municipal area as a unit of administrative division. Later, “kori” was changed to “gun” (The word gun is pronounced goon, with the vowel “-oo-” pronounced as in “book.”) in accordance with the Taiho Ritsuryo or the Taiho Code, and this municipal area came to belong to “Yamashiro-no-kuni Otokuni Gun,” etc.

Jorisei (an ancient Japanese system of land subdivision) starts with the present Oyamazaki-cho as ichi-jo, or the first jo, and runs northwards. This municipal area corresponds from hachi-jo (the eighth jo) to jusan-jo (13th jo). The Gunga (or an ancient Japanese local government office) of Otokuni Gun (Gun is pronounced goon, with the vowel “-oo-” pronounced as in “book,” and the same goes with “Gunga” pronounced goon-ga.) is estimated to have been located near Katsuyama Junior High School in Kaide-cho where the place name “Gun-no-Baba” (or the riding ground of Gun) still remains. Building ruins indicating reconstruction have been found by excavational investigations.

In the Nara period, the Muko Shrine, one of the most famous old shrines in the Otokuni district, was constructed.



Photo 3-1-8 Located in the narrow part of the southern edge of Mukokyuryo the Muko Shrine (On the north side of the Muko Shrine is the Moto Inari Tumulus)

The Muko Shrine is located in the narrow part of the southern edge of Mukokyuryo, which is an extension of Arashiyama, or Mt. Arashi, in Kyoto. The location of the Muko Shrine is excellent. From there, you can see the southern part of the Yamashiro Basin, Mt. Tenno, and the Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine, as well as from the point where the Kizu River, Uji River, Katsura River join to become the Yodo River to the border with Settsu (Osaka).



Photo 3-1-9 The Muko Shrine whole view (From the southeast)



Photo 3-1-10 View from the Muko Shrine

③ The Nagaoka-kyo period

In 781, Emperor Kanmu was crowned. Emperor Kanmu abolished Heijo-kyo in 784 and transferred the capital to Otokuni Gun in Yamashiro-no-kuni, an important point of water and land transportation, in order to change public sentiment in the Heijo-kyo which lasted as the capital city for a long time. The area of Nagaoka-kyo, the new capital, was 4.3 kilometers long from east to west and 5.3 kilometers long from north to south, encompassing the present Muko city, Nagaoka-kyo city, Kyoto city, and Oyamazaki-cho.

In the municipal area centering on the present Kaide-cho in Muko city, the center of the royal palace was established, occupying an area of about 1 kilometer from east to west and 1.6 kilometers from north to south. Streets were constructed from Nishiyama in Kyoto to the edge of the Katsura River.

Since ancient times, Yamazaki-no-Tsu was established in the Yodo River as an outside port because the convenience of water and land transportation was excellent in this place. It made it possible to transport goods directly into the capital city, using rivers which are large and small branches of the Katsura River. In addition, a solid transportation network was formed by implementing station houses and roads.

Nagaoka-kyo was constructed as a full-fledged tojo. However, the convenience of water and land transportation meant floods. Because of this problem, it became an abolished capital after only 10 years, and the capital was moved to Heian-kyo in 794. Along with the construction of the new capital, many of the buildings were transferred to Heian-kyo. The jobo, or streets, were gradually abolished, and the city area, especially the left area, returned to a rural village again little by little.

Among the sites of the palace, the Daigokuden (Imperial Audience Hall) and the Shoanden were designated as national historic sites under the name of "Nagaoka Palace Sites" on April 27, 1964.

After that, when important remains related to the Nagaoka Palace are found, measures are taken to additionally designate them as national historic sites under the same name at each time.

④ From the Heian period (the abolition of Nagaoka-kyo) to the Medieval Ages

After the capital was transferred to Heian-kyo in 794, land allotting based on the Jori system was administered to the entire former Nagaoka-kyo including Muko city, and more and more land of the former capital was turned to farmland, which was managed as shoen (or manors) by court nobles, shrines, and temples.

Since the Tumulus of a son of Emperor Kanmu, Emperor Junna Cremation Tumulus, was built on Mukokyuryo as well as the Tumulus of Empress consort of Emperor Kanmu (Dentakabatakeryo), it appears clear that this municipal area was a special area even after it became an abolished capital because of the new Heian-kyo.

In the Medieval Ages, Mozume-sho, Terado-sho, Kaide-sho etc. were established in Muko city, and it developed as shoen or manors outside the capital.

In the late Kamakura period, farmers in these manors strengthened their local bond through shared use and allocation of water, construction of waterways and roads, boundary disputes, self-defense against warfare and thieves. This led to the establishment of Sou (Gou), which is an autonomous collaborative organization by farmers etc. beyond their own manors.

It was the east-facing Muko Shrine on the south of Mukokyuryo that was worshiped as a guardian deity of these Gou villages. The approach to this shrine extends from the Saigoku Kaido Road.

The Muko Shrine is said to have been built in the Nara period. It is written in the ridge plaque (Important Cultural Property) that the current main shrine (Important Cultural Property) was built by neighboring Gou villages such as Mozume, Terado, Kaide, Imazato (present Nagaokakyo city) in 1418. The precincts of the shrine were also used for gathering people for Tsuchi Ikki (or peasant uprising) of the Gou villages and meetings of local people.

The Takeda Clan, the Mozume clan, the Kaide clan, etc., who became powerful through the Onin War and were called the Nishi-no-oka Clans, were competing against each other. However, Nobunaga Oda entered Kyoto and brought the Yamashiro region under his control, and the once-powerful local clans perished.

As for remains in the city area, the ruins of Mozume Castle, the residence of the Mozume clan, are located at the top of the terrace of Mozume-cho. These castle ruins show a rectangular tankaku style. In these castle ruins, part of the moat and the earthen walls still remains. In the recent



Photo 3-1-11 The Tumulus of Empress consort of Emperor Kanmu of Mukokyuryo



Photo 3-1-12 Aerial photograph of the ruins of Mozume Castle

excavational investigation, partitions considered to be residential areas of their retainers were found in the surrounding area.

As for temples erected in the Medieval Ages, there are such temples as Sekito-ji, Shinkyo-ji, etc.

Sekito-ji was founded in 1469-88 in relation to the stone pagoda that Nichizo built. After going through rises and falls, Sekito-ji took over the principal image of Buddha and other materials of Koryu-ji which used to be located to the west of Daigokuden but was abolished in the early Meiji period. Thus, Sekito-ji has continued into the present day. On May third of every year, "Kaide Daimoku Odori," an event related to Nichizo and passed down from the Kamakura period, is dedicated to the temple. Kaide Daimoku Odori is a unique folk entertainment that remains in only three places throughout the country: this place, Matsugasaki, and Shugakuin, of which the latter two are in the northern part of Kyoto city, Rakuhoku.



Photo 3-1-13 Kaide Daimoku Odori (The Cultural Properties of Kyoto Prefecture Designation)

⑤ From the early modern period to the establishment of Muko-machi

Muko-machi, the predecessor of Muko city, is a town formed along the Saigoku Kaido Road on the east side of the gate of the Muko Shrine. Muko-machi centered around the approach to the Muko Shrine and continued until around the branch point with the Mozume Kaido Road to the north.

The formation of Muko-machi began in 1592 when Hideyoshi Toyotomi issued a permission to build a new town in front of the Muko Myojin (the Muko Shrine). Muko-machi consisted of three towns: a town belonging to the Muko Myojin territory on the western side of the Saigoku Kaido Road, another town called Uencho and a third town called Shimoncho.

The Saigoku Kaido Road is an old road that goes from Toji-guchi in Kyoto through the Muko city area to the western part of Japan. The Saigoku Kaido Road still has road signs and all-night lights from the Edo period. The old road of the Saigoku Kaido Road, off the current main road, still has a townscape with old-fashioned houses.

⑥ Late modern period

The Muko city area before the Meiji era consisted of "Muko-machi," which was a commercial town formed at the beginning of the Edo period, and six villages: Mozume, Terado, Kaide, Kami-Ueno, Nishi Tsuchikawa, Shirai.

Later, Nishi Tsuchikawa and Shirai Villages merged to become Morimoto Village in 1874. With the enforcement of the Act of the City, Town, and Village in April 1889, the "Muko-machi" of and before the Edo period merged with the five neighboring villages, and a new "Muko-machi" was born.

In July, 1876, a railroad opened between Muko-machi and Osaka. "Muko-machi station" opened as the first station in Kyoto Prefecture. As this station was built at the intersection of the Saigoku

Kaido Road and the railway, the convenience of transportation has increased. As a result, mass transport of bamboo and bamboo shoots, which are specialties produced from Mukokyuryo, became possible. In addition, this station brought a booming economy to the area as a starting point for visiting shrines and temples in Nishiyama on the right bank of the Katsura River, including this city. Thanks to that, "Muko-machi" as a commercial town has come to show more bustling.

A monument of honor was built in 1895 in the place about 100 meters northwest of the Daigokuden site.

To celebrate this establishment, "Daigokuden Festival" is held every November 11th, the day of the transfer of the capital to Nagaoka-kyo, and it has continued into today.

In the field of agriculture, research on the improvement in rice varieties was conducted in 1908, utilizing the jori-system paddy field in the northern part of the city area, and Shinjiro Yamamoto brought forth "Asahi Mai," the origin of the present Koshihikari.

As for transportation, the Shin Keihan line, now called the Hankyu Kyoto Line, opened between Saiin, Kyoto and Tenjinbashi, Osaka in 1928. Two stations are placed in the city area: Higashi-Muko Station and Nishi-Muko Station.

In 1929, the Shin Keihan Railway Company conducted the Nishi Muko housing development project based on a country life conception. At the same time, infrastructure development such as improvement of the road connecting the Saigoku Kaido Road with stations as well as installation of water supply lines advanced. As a result, agricultural villages have transformed into suburban houses, and further housing development has continued.

While development was actively conducted, excavational investigation of Nagaoka-kyo was conducted in the area 30 meters north of Hankyu Nishi Muko Station at the end of December, 1954, and the remains of something equivalent to Heian Kaisho Mon were found on New Year's day of the following year. Since then, excavational investigations have been conducted in proportion to development, and more than 2,000 investigations have been conducted to date.



Photo 3-1-14 The Saigoku Kaido Road detected in front of JR Muko-machi station



Photo 3-1-15 Excavational investigation of Nagaoka-kyo as development progresses (in 1961)

In the meantime, when an important remnant is found by an investigation, such as Daigokuden site and Chodoin, site measures are taken at each time so that it will be designated and preserved as a historic site.

In the Heisei era, regional development and tourism is being promoted by connecting historical heritages such as the Muko Shrine, kofun (or ancient Tumuli), historic buildings, etc. as well as research and study of the Nagaoka-kyo ruins and enlightenment activities such as exhibitions and lectures.



Photo3-1-16 Stamp Rally at a historic site

Muko city, with such a long history, is the place which appeared on the front stage of history, such as becoming the center of Nagaoka-kyo when the capital was moved there. Even today, when Muko city has transformed into a residential city, a lot of historical and cultural resources evidencing it still remains in Muko's narrow city area, and they form the landscape as if they melted in.

We are promoting the production of the value of historical and cultural heritage of these new areas and the organization of the heritage as well as town development that makes use of its culture.

In addition, since Muko city is located between the metropolitan areas of Kyoto and Osaka and has extremely high convenience of transportation, we are taking advantage of its location to actively attract businesses such as lodging complexes like hotels and a major base of a comprehensive motor manufacturer "Nidec Group," which is developing its market on a global scale.

Moreover, we are working on further improving convenience and promoting industry and tourism, for example, opening the east exit of the JR Mukomachi Station in the city, construction of the station building, maintenance of the surroundings in front of the station, establishment of Katsura River Muko smart interchange (provisional name) on the Meishin Expressway, expansion of the main roads and implementation of continuous overhead crossings of the Hankyu Kyoto Line in the Muko city area, etc.

Section 4 Cultural properties and cultural activities of Muko city

As of March 31, 2017, the cultural properties of Muko city are 6 items of national designation, 19 items of national registration, 5 items of designation, etc by Kyoto prefecture, and 27 items of cultural properties designated by our city.

Table 4-1-1 List of The Cultural properties of Muko city

Type		Nation		Kyoto prefecture			Muko city	Total	
Classification	Subdivision	Designation	Registration	Designation	Registration	Selection	Designation		
Tangible cultural properties	Structures	1	19	2	1			23	
	Fine arts and applied crafts	Sculptures						8	8
		Paintings	1					2	3
		Documents	2					5	7
		Historical materials						1	1
		Archaeological artifacts						7	7
Intangible cultural properties								0	
Folk cultural properties	Tangible folklore						1	1	
	Intangible folklore			1			1	2	
Monuments	Historic Sites	2					2	4	
	Places of Scenic beauty							0	
	Natural Monuments							0	
Cultural landscapes						1		1	
Important Conservation Techniques								0	
Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings								0	
Total		6	19	3	1	1	27	57	

Table 4-1-2 The Cultural properties of National Designation

Nation		Type	Name	Ara	designation / registration date		
Designation	1	Tangible cultural properties	Structures	Muko Shrine Honden	First half of 15th century	July 31, 1902	
				Muko Shrine Honden Munafuda 5sheets (5 wooden tags commemorating the foundation of the shrine)		December 20, 1986	
		2	3	Documents	Shihon bokusho nihonshoki Jindaiki gekan	14th Century	April 5, 1909
					Sonshohosshinnoshosokuhonshu Hokeyo Kaikechitomo 10 volumes	Mid-13th century to mid-14th century	June 6, 1979
	4	Paintings	Shihon chakushoku juunirui emaki(3 volumes)	Mid-14th century to second half of the 16th century	June 30, 1961		
	5	Monuments	Historic Sites	Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden, Shoanden Site)	Second half of 8th century	April 27, 1964	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Dairi Naikaku Tsuiji Kairo Site)		April 23, 1973	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Tsuiji Site)		September 8, 1981	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Chodouin West No. 4 Dou Site)		May 6, 1992	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden Hodo Site)		January 14, 1999	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden Komon Site)		March 19, 2002	
				Nagaoka Palace (Chodouin West No. 4 Dou / Nanmon (South Gate) Site)		September 20, 2002	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden Komonzentei Site, Chodouin The South side of Kairo Site)		July 28, 2006	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden The East side of Kairo)		February 22, 2010	
				Nagaoka Palace Site (Daigokuden The West/North side of Kairo)		March 18, 2014	
	6	Historic Sites	Historic Sites	“Historic site Otokuni tumulus group” Terado Otsuka tumulus	4th Century	March 1, 2016	
				“Historic site Otokuni tumulus group” Moto Inari tumulus	Second half of 3th century	March 1, 2016	
				“Historic site Otokuni tumulus group” Itsukahara tumulus	3th Century	March 1, 2016	
				“Historic site Otokuni tumulus group” Nanjo tumulus	5th Century	March 1, 2016	
“Historic site Otokuni tumulus group” Mozume Kurumazuka tumulus				Mid-6th century	March 1, 2016		

Table 4-1-3 The Cultural properties of National Registration

Nation		Type		Name	Ara	designation / registration date
Registration	1	Tangible Cultural Properties	Structures	Nakakoji Residence Omoya	Mid-19th century	May 7, 2008
	2			Nakakoji Residence Uchigura	Second half of 19th century to Early of 20th century	May 7, 2008
	3			Nakakoji Residence Hanare and Uchimon		May 7, 2008
	4			Nakakoji Residence Kokugura		May 7, 2008
	5			Nakakoji Residence Nagayamon		May 7, 2008
	6			Nakakoji Residence Kigoya ando Hei		May 7, 2008
	7			Muko Shrine Heihaiden and Honden ohiya		August 4, 2015
	8			Muko Shrine Minamimon / Kita mon(South Gate / North Gate) and Mizugaki		Mid-19th century
	9			Muko Shrine Massya Sorei Sya Honden	Second half of 17th century	August 4, 2015
	10			Muko Shrine Massya Sorei Sya Wataro	First half of 19th century to mid	August 4, 2015
	11			Muko Shrine Massya Gosya Shrine Honden	Mid-19th century	August 4, 2015
	12			Muko Shrine Massya Kasuga Shrine Honden	Mid-18th century to mid-19th century	August 4, 2015
	13			Muko Shrine Massya Gorei Shrine Honden	Mid-17th century to mid-18th century	August 4, 2015
	14			Muko Shrine Massya Tenmangu Shrine Honden	Mid-19th century	August 4, 2015
	15			Muko Shrine Massya Tenmangu Shrine Mizugaki	First half of 19th century to mid	August 4, 2015
	16			Muko Shrine Massya Katsuyama Inari Shrine Honden	First half of 20th century	August 4, 2015
	17			Muko Shrine Massya Katsuyama Inari Shrine Haiden	First half of 20th century	August 4, 2015
	18			Muko Shrine Kyakuden	First half of 20th century	August 4, 2015
	19			Muko Shrine Temizusya	Second half of 18th century to first half of 19th century	August 4, 2015

Table 4-1-4 The Cultural properties of Kyoto prefecture Designation/Registration/Selection

Kyoto Prefecture		Type		Name	Ara	designation / registration date
Designation	1	Folk cultural properties	Intangible folklore	Kaide Daimoku Odori	Mid-14th century to second half of 16th century	May 15, 1985
	2	Tangible cultural properties	Structures	Minami-Shinkyo-ji Temple Kaizando / Hondo	Kaizaando : Mid-17th century	April 15, 1987
	3				Suda Residence	
Registration	1		Structures	Kita-Shinkyo-ji Temple Hondo	Mid-17th century	April 15, 1983
Selection	1	Cultural landscapes		Nishinooka no Take no Michi in Muko city / Chikurin keikan (Bamboo grove scenery)	-	March 23, 2010



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full of the historic charms.