

Index and map

Two-hour trip starting from the East Exit of Nagaoka station.

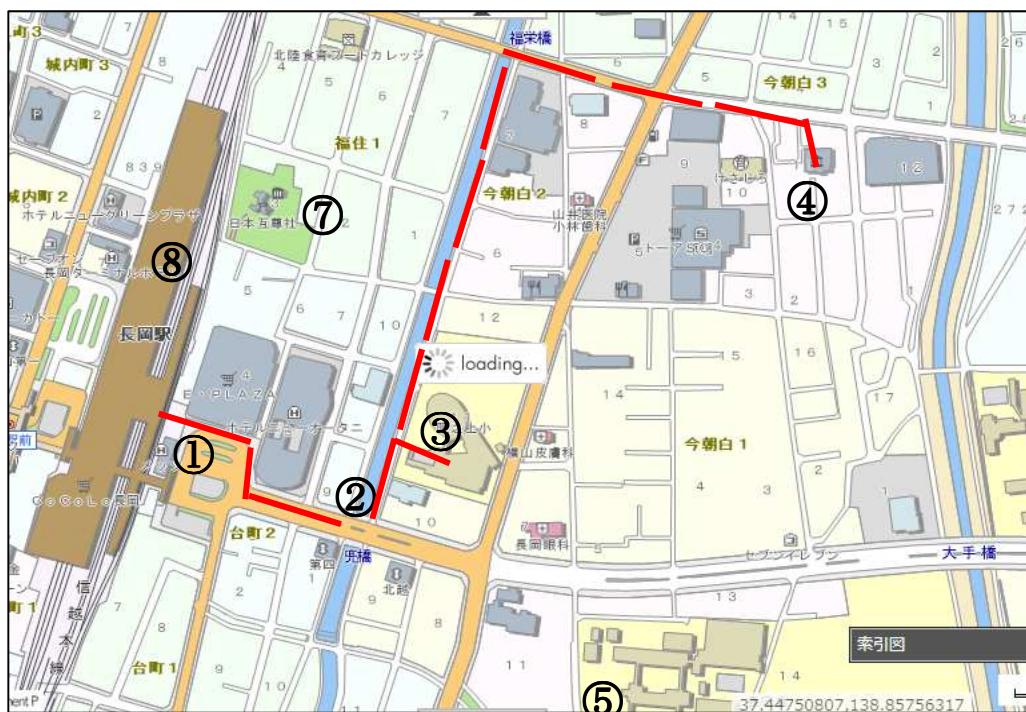
Start ① East Exit of Nagaoka Sta. ~, ② ~③ ~④ ~ ①

Note : ⑤, ⑥, and ⑦ are mentioned in the other place.

長岡駅東口を起点、約二時間の歴史、美術関連の「長岡散歩」コースです。

②、③、④のみです。 ⑤、⑥、⑦は別途ご紹介します。

① East Ext.	駅東口
② Fukushima-E channel	福島江
③ Sakanoue Elementary School	阪之上小学校 伝統館
④ Komagata Jukichi Memorial Art Museum	駒形十吉記念美術館
⑤ Nagaoka High School	長岡高等学校 記念資料館
⑥ Shoufuku-Ji Temple	昌福寺
⑦ Nyozezou Museum	如是藏博物館
⑧ Nagaoka Sta.	長岡駅



⑥

1. Higashi-Yama

Snow-trace

Oil production industry

Simbol Road

2. Yamakoshi

Nishiki-Goi

3. Fukushima-E canal

Cherry lossom front

4. Sakano-UE elementary school

Model of "The one hundred sacks of rice" sculpture

A hundred sacks of rice

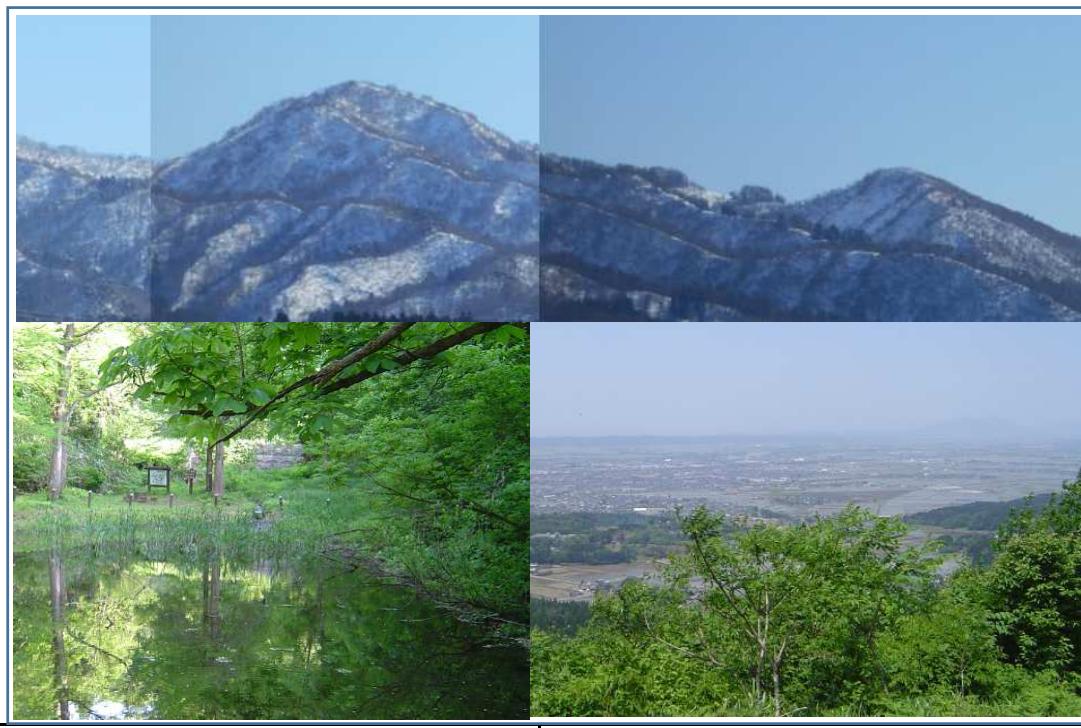
Textbook of The public international laws

5. Komagata Jukichi Memorial Museum

Collection

Higashi-Yama Hills

東山の景観



The Higashi-Yama Hills

Ponds near the City Skiing Site

Nanban-Yama

Long-distance view
from the City Skiing Site

長岡駅の東口コンコースから見える山、東山を紹介します。

明治大正期は石油を算出し、長岡はオイルシティとして繁栄しました。

2004年の中越地震は、この東山の南端を震源に発生し、山古志の周辺を含め、長岡地方全域に大きな被害をもたらしました。

豊かな自然に恵まれており、いつか、ゆっくり訪問下さい。

The Higashi-Yama Hills

As you may observe, Nagaoka is surrounded with low mountains and hills except northern side, that is a downstream of the longest river in Japan, Shinano-gawa river. Mountains, those skyline is found in the eastern side, are called the Higashi-Yama hills.

Please close your eyes from the mountains.

During walking, I want to explain some topics regarding Yamakoshi.

You can see a small building overthere, that is stood near the Nagaoka high school. We are going to guide toward that direction, Please imagine you are stood on the center of semicircle. And think that building is on the circumference of circle. We want to start a tour walking along the circumference of circle.

Snowfall and Yukigata (snow-trace)



降雪と
東山の雪形

初春の数日間、
見られます、
雪消えの途中の
山肌に残る形です。
(暗く残るのが
動物の形)

It is well known that the north-westerly winter monsoon brings heavy snowfall to the east-northern part of Japan, in particular in the middle of Niigata area including Nagaoka. Southern part of Nagaoka is said to be one of the deepest snowfalls among relatively large cities in the world.

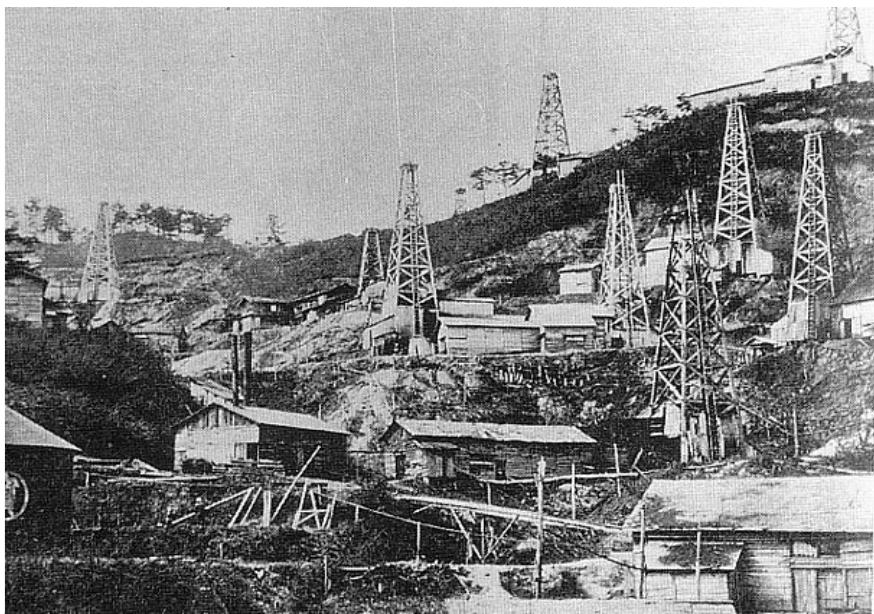
The mechanism of the snowfall is generally explained as follows. When the cold and dry air mass from the Siberian Continent passes over the Japan Sea, it contacts with the warmer sea water of the Tushima ocean current, flown between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Islands. And the air is supplied with heat and vapor from below. Tushima-Channel is occasionally shallow, therefore heat of warmer water in upper current is supplied efficiently. In such a way, it becomes an unstable air mass.

When this wet clouds are formed which gives rise west side of the mountains, it gives heavy snowfall on the west side of the mountains.

Yukigata

In early spring, we can see YUKIGATA, shape of the lingering snow on a mountainside. Famous shapes found in the Higashi-yama is "Three lines" that looks like inverse of Japanese Kanji meaning River". This is known as a symbol of the start of agricultural work in new year. Another is named as town Musicians of Bremen, donkey, dog, cat and chicken in the Grimm Fairy Tales. The River is positive print but the Musicians is negative. Actually, the more we look the blue Yukigata like Musicians, the more we are able to distinguish those four animals. In case of lucky season, we can distinguish clearly those four blue animals in lingered white mountain surface.

-city Nagaoka



山は、明治から大正にかけて、日本一の製油産出量を誇っていました。ここから多くのが生まれ、そのひとつ、宝田石油となり、柏崎・西山に拠点を置いた日本石油と対等し、新生・日本石油が誕生し、現在の日石ホールディングに早続いています。

日本石油の機械工場として新潟鐵工所が生まれ、日本最初の石油パイプライン、石油貨車、タンカー建造を実現していきました。石油掘削機械の保守・製造から、新潟鐵工所、多くの工作機械工場が集積し、今日の全国一の工作機械工場地帯の形成へと繋がりました。新潟鐵工所は1970年代の前半、当時日本最大の日石・根岸製油所を単独で、建設しましたが、21世紀はじめ、財政破綻で会社更生法の適用を受けて解体されました。多くの企業の中で製品製造が続いています。

http://www.kome100.ne.jp/main/contents/cec/naga_data/nagaoka/rekisi/ishin/index31.htm

City Nagaoka (Higashi-Yama Hills)

walk road over there is a track trace of the private electrical train

For a period of time in the past, 40 years since 90 years ago.

eral train lines were served in Nagaoka area, one was a major domestic railway company in Japan and the others were private small local companies.

of the private local company railroad was used to transport crude oil situated in northern side of the city, northern area of the Higashi-Yama

. And also provide for commuting to offices, factories or schools .

track trace is just a monument of the Oil City Nagaoka, highest level crude oil production was continues about 40 years.

ended because of production depletion. (about 90 years ago)

ead now Nagaoka is famous production area of Natural gas. I can't find any of oil digging company, called Nippon Oil Corporation later.

factory was built in Niigata city 1895 for production of digging tools transport equipment, and supplied Nishi-yama in Nagaoka and Niitsu plants with all (the) facilities from digging to finished product transport. ever the factory built other sub-factories in Nagaoka and other districts like Niigata prefecture (Kashiwazaki, Nao-etsu, etc.)

Simbol road (old railway road becomes now Bronze sculptures



The walk road over there is a track trace of the private electrical train line. For a period of time in the past, 40 years since 90 years ago. Several train lines were served in Nagaoka area, one was a major domestic railway company in Japan and the others were private small local companies. One of the private local company railroad was used to transport crude oil excavated in northern side of the city, northern area of the Higashi-Yama hills. And also provide for commuting to offices, factories or schools. This track trace is just a monument of the Oil City Nagaoka, highest level of crude oil production was continues about 40 years (about 90 years ago). It ended because of production depletion. Instead now Nagaoka is famous production area of Natural gas. I can't tell you in detail, they are the same reason, geological history of Niigata land.

You can see status of lovely children playing in an innocent way.

picture story books illustrated by Shirou Kawakami, an artist born in Nagaoka, a famous artist of children books through before and after the War. I think almost all the Japanese spent their childhood must remember enjoying these figures in their books.

山古志の棚田・種池は、オールシーズン見られる、すごい景観です



駅から車で40分です。 一度ご覧になることをお勧めします。

Yamakoshi

As you may observe, Nagaoka is surrounded with low mountains and hills except northern side, that is a downstream of the longest river in Japan, Shinano-gawa river. Mountains , those skyline is found in the eastern side, are called the Higashi-Yama hills.

They are not so high, almost lower than 800 meters except one mountain of height 1537meters, Mt. Sumon,

Recently the Higashi-Yama hills area is designated as a prefectural natural park; it abounds in wild grasses and flowers, insects, birds and so on.

They are about 10 km from here, there is a lot of hiking trails in the hills, where citizens enjoy trails in particular spring and fall.

[Contents_form](#)

Nishiki-Goi (Yamakoshi)



Ohmori Matsuo, "Nishiki-Goi Zukan (Japanese)", Ikeda-Shiten(1976)

山古志は、隣の小千谷市とともに、錦鯉の故郷です。
錦鯉の基本種として紅白、大正三色、昭和三色、黄金鯉がありますが、
これらの全てが、ここ山古志で生まれています。

Nishiki-Goi

Yamakoshi district over there is famous for the birthplace of the Nishiki-Goi, beautifully colored carps. and known as the largest fish-farming place. Nishiuki-Goi ponds are scattered in the entire area of the district.

I heard there are several advantages in production of the Nishiki-Goi in Yamakoshi. They are first, possessing good parent carps, namely not only beautiful but having strong resistance to diseases, and second having know-how of filtering from fingerling to adult, ratio is about one from ten thousands or more, and the last suitable natural condition, in particular water.

Prospects of a lot of the Nishiki-Goi ponds found in morning mist spread within wide view area is also famous for beautiful scenery, and one of the beautiful camera-spots in Nagaoka in all seasons.

Fukushima-E Canal



Fukushima-E canal was started with volunteer

Fukushima-e canal is an irrigation canal flowing through a center of the city, that extends to 20km.

In the middle of the 17th century, the early Edo era, one of the village leader of Nagaoka-Han had started to dig the water channel in order to keep farmer from suffering shortage of water.

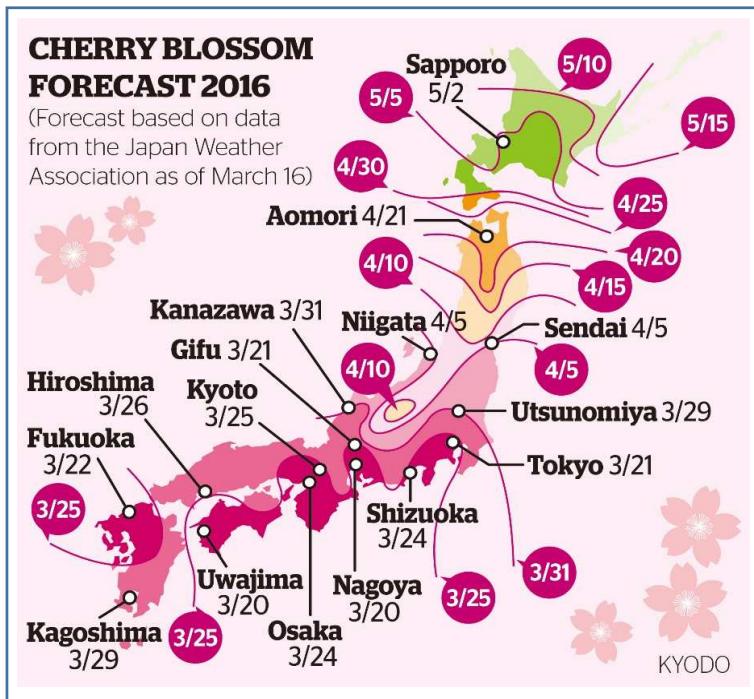
It began with his volunteer spirit, and the Nagaoka-Han assisted him. The canal have been maintained and re-constructed sequentially during the Edo-period.

Another canal was also digged in the middle of the 19th century, started also with a volunteer of the other village leader in the Nagaoka-Han. Those canals made a contribution of doubling a crop of rice in Nagaoka compared with the one in the early Edo era.

These are the Edo era, and farmera were set free from a civil war, and society was stable. Consequently, river improvement construction advanced.

The Fukushima-E is well known in citizens for the magnificent cherry trees. In the average year, blossoming time in Fukushima-E is the middle of April, about one week earlier than that in Yuukyu-zan park, the largest cherry blossom spot in Nagaoka area.

Cherry blossom front



<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/03/19/>

The baiu front is meteorologically a front which brings monsoon. In the analogy, cherry blossom front is a line graph illustrating the forecasted blooming dates of cherry blossoms in various locations of Japan. (primarily of Someiyoshino, *Prunus yedoensis*)

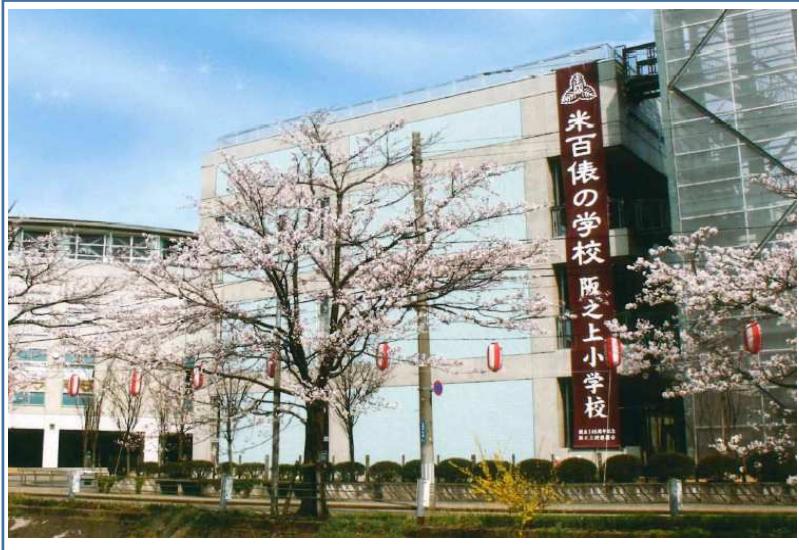
Someiyoshino is still the most popular cherry tree in Japan, being planted in nearly every area of the country.

The 'bloom forecast' (cherry blossom front), announced in March of every year by the Japan Meteorological Agency, is based on the bloom condition of this type.

The Japan Islands are about two thousand kilometers long, the cherry blossom front lands the southern Kyushu and Shikoku areas in late March, subsequently moving northward in ascending order of latitude values of locations starting from the northern Kyushu and Shikoku areas, the Seto Inland Sea coast, the Kanto region, the Hokuriku region, the Tohoku region and finally reaching Hokkaido in early May annually.

In Niigata prefecture, it is from early April to late April.

Sakano-UE elementary school



The school having the roots of "A hundred sacks of rice"

Established in 1899 as the Kokkan Gakkou

Text books in the Kokkan Gakkou

The public international laws

Model of "The one hundred sacks of rice" sculpture



These statues depict a scene from the play "Kome Hyappyo" by Yamamoto Yuzo. The city asked artists group in Nagaoka to build a sculpture in 1990.

The artists started searching what sculpture should be made. They visited several bronze sculptures and reliefs inside the country to expand the image.

One of them was "Citizenes in Calais", blonze of masterpiece by Auguste Rodin, displayed at the National Museum of Western Art in Ueno, Tokyo, famous for noble group-figures expressing being sacrificed for the other citizen.

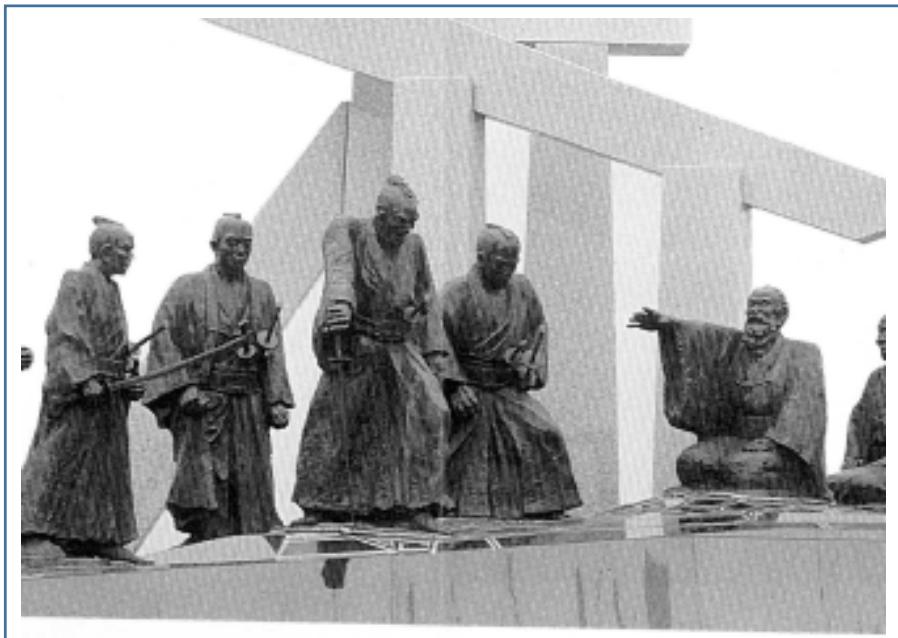
And the other was "Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan (1962)", blonze of masterpiece by Japanese artist, FUNAKOSHI Yasutake, in Nagasaki.

"the site of the martyrdom of the 26 saints of Japan" in Nagasaki as the first Catholic pilgrimage destination in the country.

After blonze was turned of in autumn 1991, this model was presented to the school, memorizing the birthplace of the play.

Recentry, pupils in the school has been continuing dramatic performance every year in English.

Group sculptures of A hundred sacks of rice at Sensyuu-Gahara



These statues depict a scene from the play "Kome Hyappyo" by Yamamoto Yuzo which details an incident that occurred shortly after the end of the Hokuetsu Boshin War of 1868.

Nagaoka was devastated in the war and the city was reduced to rubble. There was no food and little hope of survival.

A branch of the Nagaoka clan in Mineyama sent a relief package of a hundred sacks of rice or about six tons of rice.

Everybody in the city was in need of food, and many of the samurai, who had lost nearly all their means of support, argued that the rice should be distributed through the Han.

One of the city's chief executives, Kobayashi Torasaburo, however, proposed a different plan. He suggested that the rice should be sold to a dealer and the money should be used for education.

Yes, that's true, said Kobayashi. "We can't afford to eat to the full now, and that's the very reason we should resort to education. The war broke out because the leaders of both parties were lacking in wisdom and judgement. This much rice divided among so many will

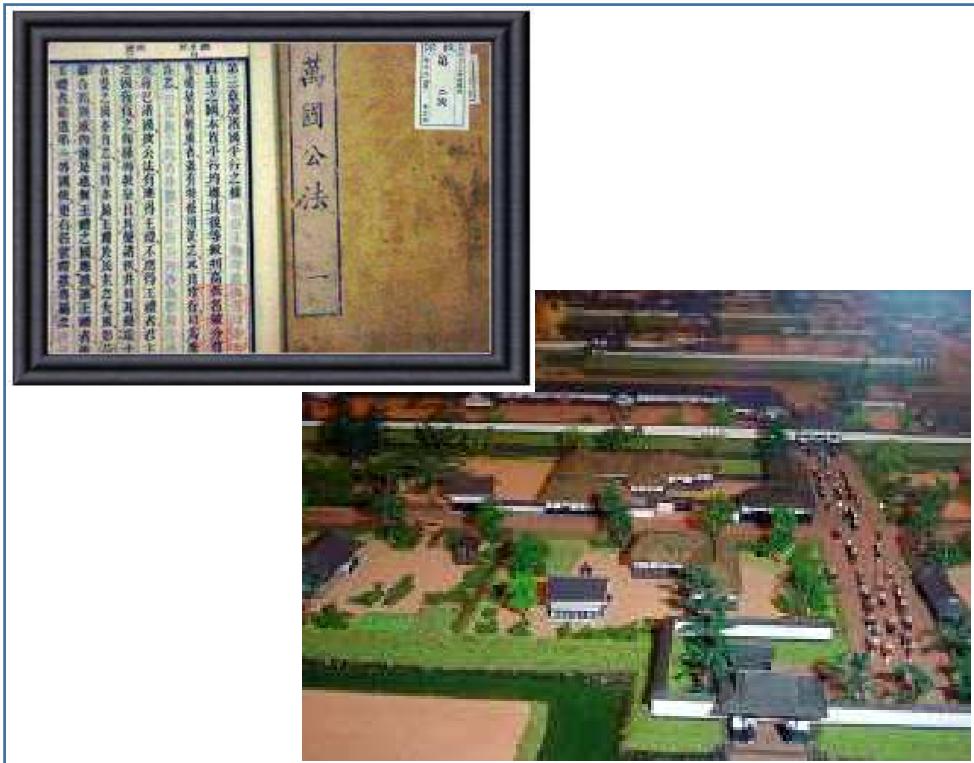
be gone in a day or two, but the same rice invested will last far longer and will produce men of wise judgement.

We should not be thinking of food for today but should be thinking of education tomorrow.

Against strong opposition and even threats of death Kobayashi prevailed; the rice was sold and the money raised was used to start a new school.

Mayor Hiura's message in 1991

Public International laws book used in the school at the end of Edo period



Textbook of The public international laws
in Sakano-UE elementary school

This Chinese translated edition of "Elements of International Law" written by Henry Wheaton was re-produced in Japan in 1865, and a lot of young samurais read it in their Han-schools.

They were greatly illuminated and noticed the importance of the international treaties.

Henry Wheaton was a United States lawyer, jurist and diplomat. He was the third reporter of decisions for the United States Supreme Court.

Elements of International Law (1836), his most important work. It was translated into Chinese in 1864 by a Protestant missionary, being fluent in Chinese.

Elements of International Law (1836), his most important work. It was translated into Chinese in 1864 by a Protestant missionary, being fluent in Chinese.

It is very remarkable that such an early absorption for the latest knowledge of an international law was done in Nagaoka-Han school before the Meiji Restoration.

The KOMAGATA Jukicji Memorial Museum



The museum was built by Mr.Komagata in 1994, having 2 floors above ground and the first basement level, stands in a quiet and secluded place in the east side of the JR Nagaoka Station.

On half a century ago, Nagaoka was a state-of-the-art of the modern art city.

Nagaoka had raced in the Japanese top with American modern art. The driving force was The museum of Contemporary Art, Nagaoka, and its founder Mr. KOMAGATA Jukichi.

A local bank where he was a president several years, backed up his corporate patronage activity.

Unfortunately, the bank failed in management difficulty, and these art possession including masterpieces of Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, Joan Miro, Andy Warhol etc were sell-outed.

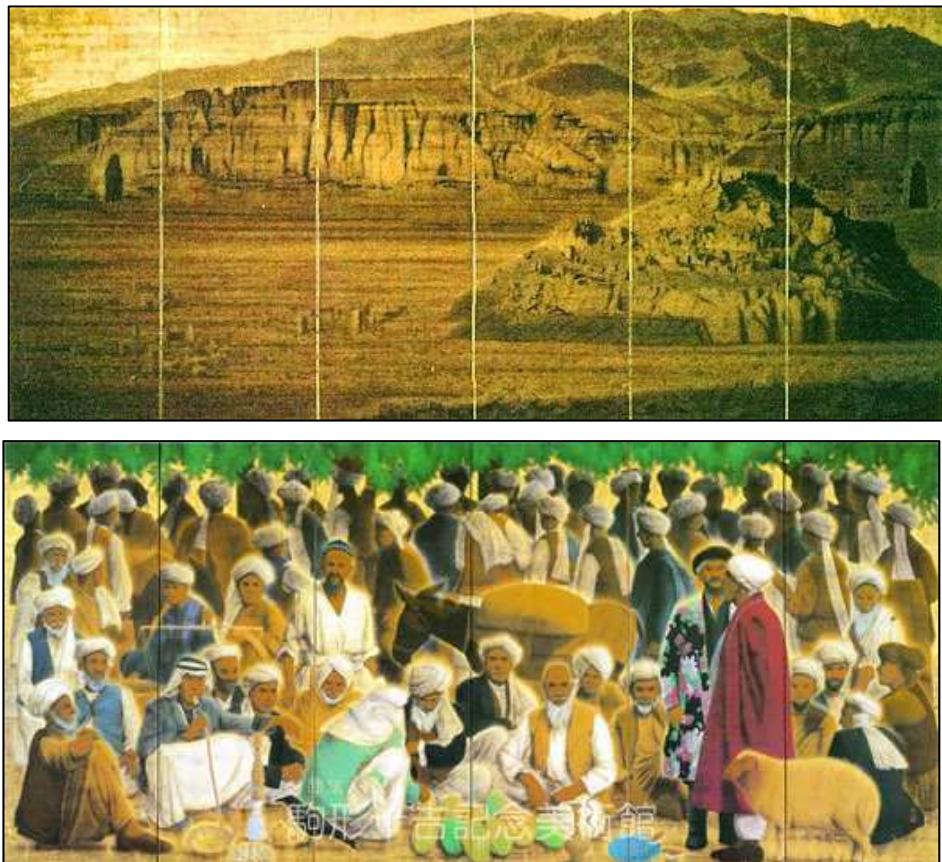
Although they were leaved, part of possessions were bought by Niigata Prefecture, in particular masterpiece of modern western art of Japanese artists.

They are exhibited in the Prefectural Museum of Modern Art in Nagaoka. Part of them are also possessed in the KOMAGATA Jukicji Memorial Museum.



"Flowers of Japanese tree poeny" by Kayama Matazou

The KOMAGATA Jukicji Memorial Museum



This museum owns best works of KIRAYAMA Ikuo , a famous Japanese Artist. They are his early Silk Road series, "Ruins of Turkestan in light" (1970) and "Hot bazaar in the Middle Asia"(1971).

In 1968, for the first time Mr.Hirayama visited the Central Asia, from NewDelhi in India to the Bamiyan Valley in Afgan through Gandhara in Pakistan. These two drawings are the memorial works, well known later as the very famous series of Hirayama's Silkroad paintings.

Mr. Komagata met young Mr. Hiyayama in the last half of 1960's. Mr. Komagata already became one of the grand persons in Niigata commerce and industry society.

He provided support for young artists of Japanese-style paintings. Among those young artists, he strongly supported Mr. Hirayama and Mr.Kayama. Both the artists later became the representative grand-masters in the modern Japanese-style painting.