The original Japanese version of “Dams in Japan (Dam Binran in Japanese)” was created on June 12, 2002 as part of the Japan Dam Foundation website. It was originally a simple database listing all modern Japanese dams built since the Meiji Period in the late 19th Century. Within the next decade it continued to develop, and has now evolved into a portal website with all sorts of information about dams in Japan.

The website covers an extensive range of topics ranging from specifications, photos and locations of some 2,500 modern Japanese dams. It has a dam encyclopedia with about 540 entries on dam terms and commentaries, a dam essay series “Theme Page” (about 540 entries) and “Konogoro (These days)” (about 310 titles). It also has a photo archive (about 110 thousand photos) and links to Dam maps (DamMaps by takane and “Okonomi Dam Search” by Takehiro Yanagida).

“Dams in Japan” is supported and enabled by many people in many ways, from experts to ordinary citizens, and from organizations to individuals. It has become an indispensable information tool for business and for fun for everyone who wants to know about dams. In fact it is now a socially shared information infrastructure that is evolving daily.

On April 20 2012, we launched an English version of “Dams in Japan” to coincide with the ICOLD 2012 conference held in Kyoto. It is still very limited in its content compared with the original Japanese version. We hope to enhance it to make it an internationally useful portal on dams.

Both versions of “Dams in Japan” are never complete. The future remains uncertain but we hope to continue evolving them over the next decade with ongoing support from many people and by relying on the power of the Internet.

(May 2012 by “Jny” “Dams in Japan” webmaster)

Dam Binran:
http://damnet.or.jp/Dambinran/binran/TopIndex.html
Dams in Japan:
http://damnet.or.jp/Dambinran/binran/TopIndex_en.html
Features of “Dams in Japan”

**Dam index** linked to each dam page

Contains extensive information on some 2,500 modern Japanese dams including dam features, specifications, photos and links to related pages within the website (e.g. theme-based pages) and outside the website, and to DamMap and other maps.

**Sample dam page: Amagase Dam**

http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binranA/All.cgi?db4=1403

**Photo archive: A treasury of dam photos**

The photo archive contains some 110,000 dam photos. Many of them have been contributed by individuals and corporations. This still-growing archive is the place where you can view and find dam photos. We receive many requests for permission to use these photos. In most cases, we contact the photographer to get their permission, and the photo is then used for magazines and websites.

**Sample photo: Amagase Dam**

http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binran/PA.cgi?ban=1403&jy=d
http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binran/PAL.cgi?idm=93637
**Theme Page: Reports and articles**

The “Theme Page” contains about 540 entries. These include articles on dam functions and roles, comparisons of Japanese and overseas dams, reports on dam construction processes, interviews and photo essays. There are long-running series, like this “Dam Bibliography,” too. Please take the time to read them and learn more about dams!

**Series “Dam Bibliography” (No. 81)**
http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binranB/TPage.cgi?id=540

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**Konogoro: Short Essays**

“Konogoro (These Days)” is a collection of blog-like essays with about 310 titles, including event introductions and essays. By following them, you can get the latest news and information. “Konogoro” is frequently updated.

**Announcement of “Dam Card FullCollection” catalog to be published**
http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binranB/Konogoro.cgi?id=319

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**Dam Encyclopedia**

“Dam Encyclopedia” has about 540 entries, from dam glossaries and encyclopedic entries about construction processes, onto history and dam-related social and economic events. The entries contain many photos and are written in a way that is easy to understand.
English version “Dams in Japan” launched

In April 2012, prior to ICOLD 2012 to be held in Kyoto, we launched the English version of “Dams in Japan” listing some 2,500 dams in Japan. It is still very limited in its content compared with the original Japanese version. We hope to enhance it to make it an internationally useful portal on dams.

Kurobe Dam page
http://damnet.or.jp/cgi-bin/binranA/enAll.cgi?db4=0848