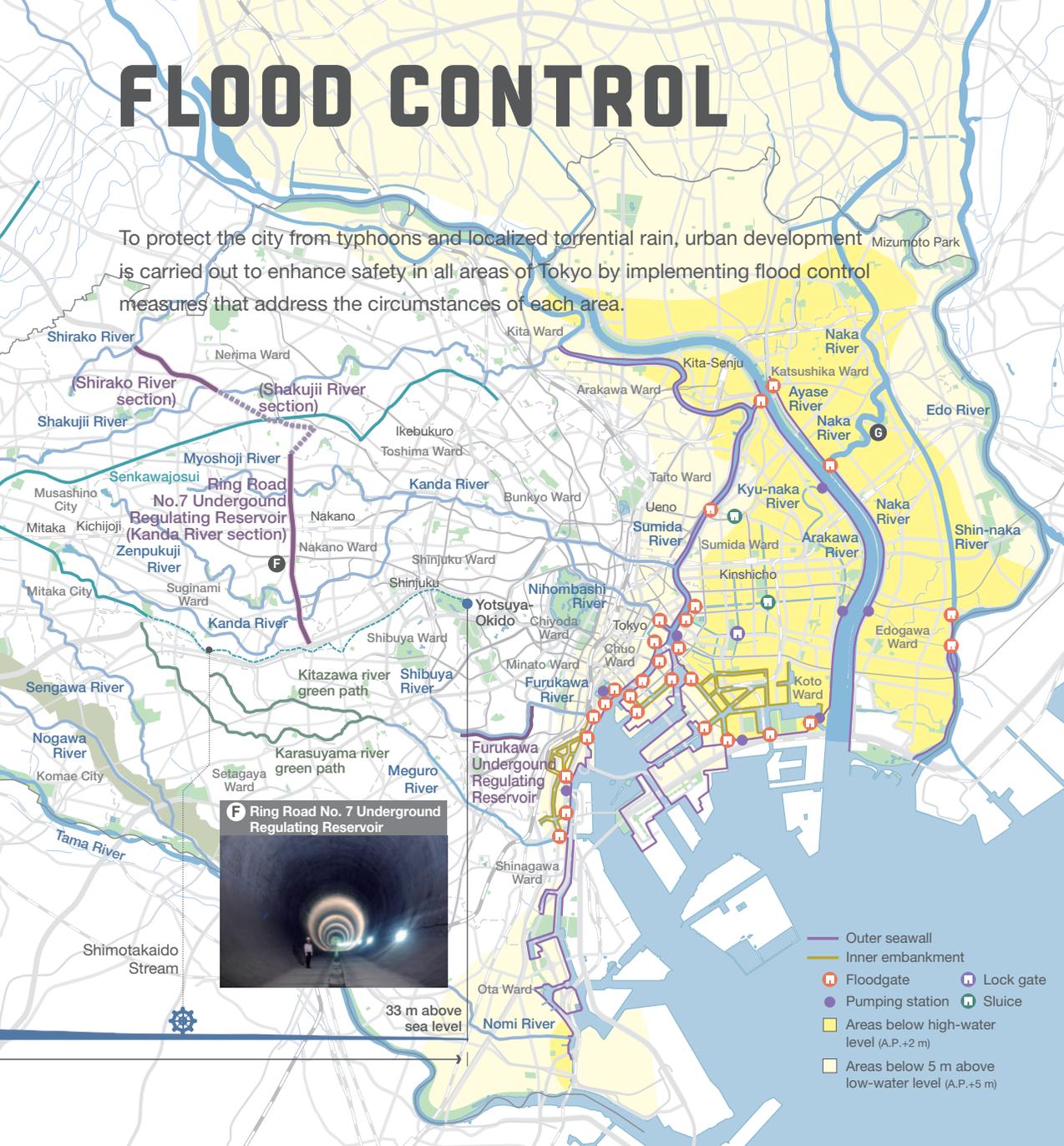


FLOOD CONTROL

To protect the city from typhoons and localized torrential rain, urban development is carried out to enhance safety in all areas of Tokyo by implementing flood control measures that address the circumstances of each area.



33 m above sea level

COMMENT

Takaaki Kato

Associate Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

Conducts research on how cities and communities can reduce flood risk, not only in the event of an earthquake but also with an eye on climate change. He holds a doctorate in Engineering.

A city coexisting wisely with flood risk

Tokyo has a history of employing considerable technical skills to control flood risk, such as diverting the Tone River in the Edo period, and excavating the Arakawa floodway starting in 1911. And now, new challenges are being taken up to manage flood risks that are certain to rise due to climate change. Tokyo, which has a wide swath of built-up areas at sea level, is at high risk of inundation. At the same time, this expansive waterside space has given rise to a rich culture for residents to enjoy. We need to look anew at these waterside spaces and rethink the relationship between rivers and urban areas for the next era. Creating a new culture that can coexist wisely with flood risk—one that strikes a balance between the benefits and threats of rivers—is the right direction for the future. This will probably be the only model in the world for adapting to climate change.

NO IMAGE

G Naka River Nanamagari bathed in the evening sun

Photo credit: "Naka River Nanamagari" © Chunichi Shimbun