

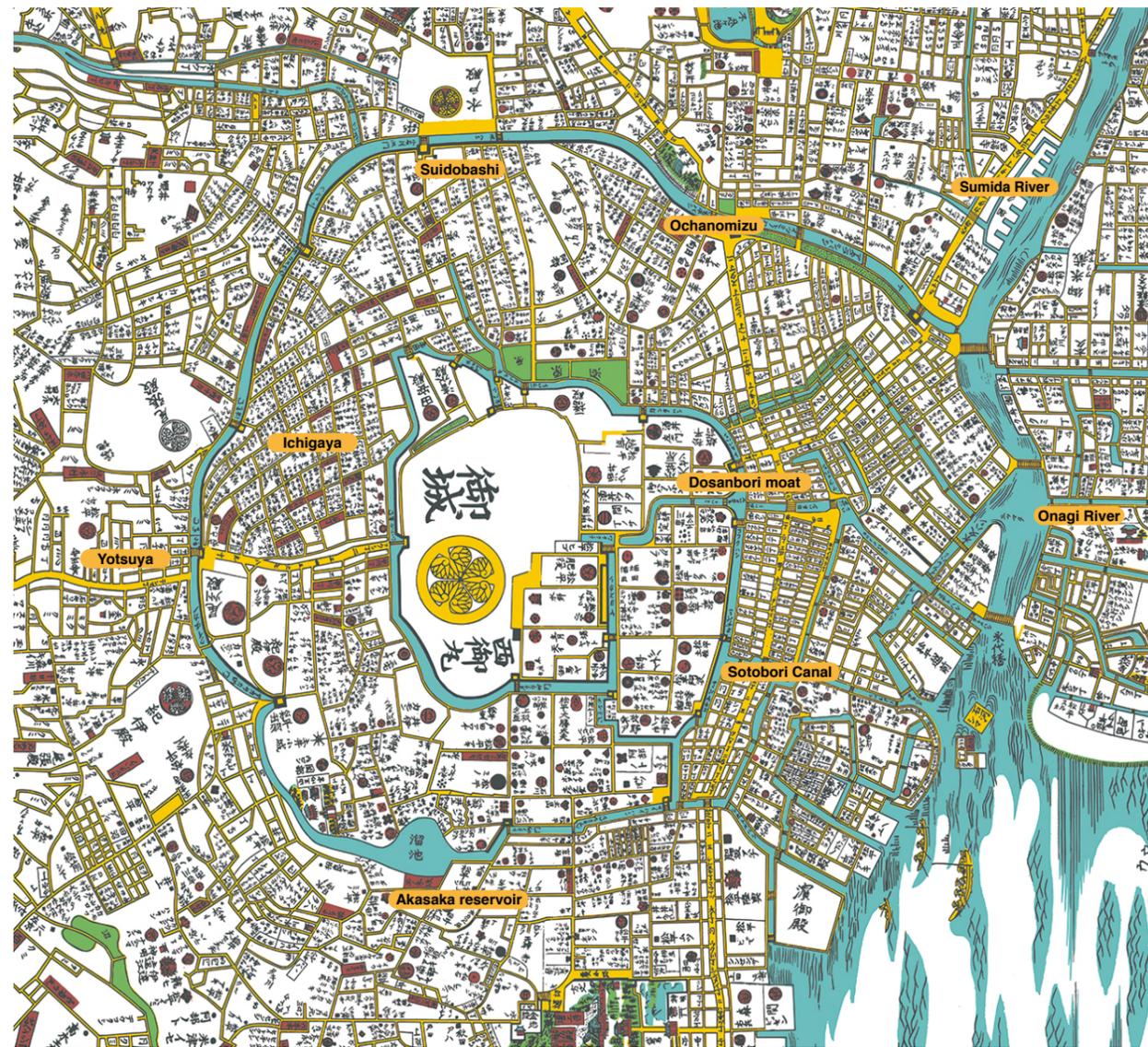
# 02 Water transport and *kashichi* river banks

When Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo, he planned the construction of waterways in the eastern side of Edo to transport goods to the castle town of Edo. The Dosanbori moat and Onagi River were excavated, and mainly salt, an essential household item, was transported from Gyotoku in the Boso Peninsula.

When the Hibiya inlet was reclaimed, a canal (Sotobori Canal) was opened in the Edomaeto peninsula. At the same time, the Akasaka reservoir was established as a water source in the southern part of urban Edo. Following this, construction

of the outer compound of Edo Castle was launched to build a water transport network around the castle.

As the key products of Edo were limited to marine products and salt, items essential for everyday life, such as food ingredients and lumber, were sent to Edo from regions around Japan, and transported by boat to all corners of Edo. Open spaces along rivers and canals, called *kashichi*, were established; they were bustling with people as places where the boats were loaded and unloaded, with warehouses and markets.



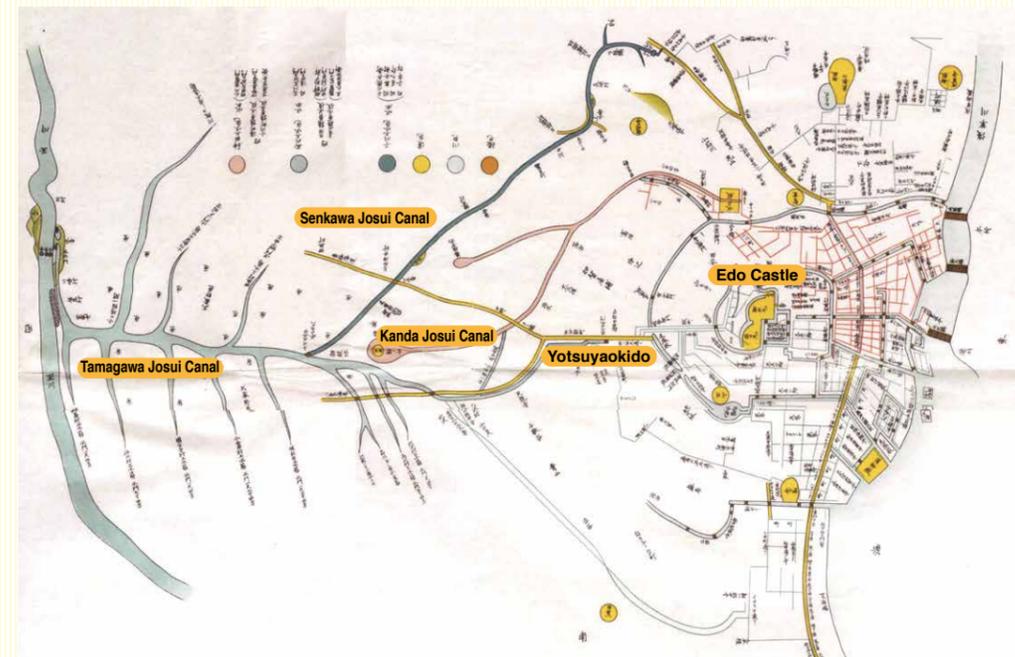
**Kaiho Oedo Ezu (Pocket Map of Edo) 1843**  
Construction of the outer compound took place around 1636-39, with canals running in the shape of a reversed letter “e” from the Sotobori Canal to the Akasaka reservoir, and on to Yotsuya, Ichigaya, Suidobashi, and Ochanomizu. This water transport network was used to transport goods to areas throughout Edo. Prepared from the Jinbunsha restoration of the *Kaiho Oedo Ezu* (Pocket Map of Edo), Kochizu Library.



**Hirokoji street and the river bank near Eitai Bridge** *Toto meisho Eitai-bashi zenzu* (Famous Places of the Eastern Capital: Full View of Eitai Bridge) From the collection of the National Diet Library. Eitaibashi Nishi-Hirokoji street at the foot of Eitai Bridge (bridge on the left) is bustling with people. Many warehouses line the banks of Horikawa canal, spanned by the Toyomi Bridge (bridge on the right).

## Water supply in Edo

- Pure water wells in the lowlands, reservoirs and ponds such as Chidorigafuchi and Ushigafuchi formed by damming small rivers in the plateau, were the water sources for Edo in the beginning of the Edo period. With the development of the urban area of Edo after that time, plans were made to construct waterworks, and the Kanda Josui Canal and Tamagawa Josui Canal were constructed. From 1624-43, Kanda Josui supplied water from the Sekiguchi and Kohinata plateaus to what are
- currently Korakuen, Surugadai, Ogawamachi, and up to Otemachi.
- In 1653, plans were made to connect the Tama River to Edo by the Tamagawa Josui Canal. The result was the construction of a 43-kilometer waterway from Hamura to Naito-Shinjuku. Its construction advanced development of residential and farming land in the western suburbs of Edo.



Water supply in the Edo period  
Prepared from a map in the *Tokyo-shi Shiko Josuihen Dai 1* (Tokyo City History: Waterworks Edition, No. 1) from the collection of the National Diet Library.