



# Meiji Period Rock Dikes

*Furuki and Elsewhere, Minami Echizen-cho*

The area's stone dikes, built in the Meiji Period, have since served to protect its villages from erosion. Standing before them makes one appreciate the efforts that went into constructing these important safeguards.



Akatan Ohira Mizuya Dike (Nat. Ref. Cult. Prop.) (Furuki, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>①</sup>



Akatan No. 8 Dike (Nat. Reg. Cult. Prop.) (Furuki, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>②</sup>

Throughout the prefecture, many stone dikes from the Meiji Period have protected nearby villages from erosion for over 100 years. Built without concrete, these structures become a part of the natural landscape, seamlessly blending in with the surrounding soil and greenery while ensuring the safety of local settlements. Those installed along the Akatani River have become locally known as *Akatan*, and local residents recently reconfirmed the location of all nine dikes, which have since earned the distinction of



Hikers along the Takakura River Falls (Seto, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>③</sup>

being named a National Tangible Cultural Property. Since their rediscovery, local groups have tended to their maintenance while promoting knowledge of them and their important role among other locals.

This has in turn spurred on the discovery of Takagura, Kuki, Ōtsurume, Hirono, and other stone dikes from the same period, as well as the formation of local groups to tend to them and preserve the memory of the work and dedication that went into creating them over a century ago.



Performing maintenance on the *Akatan* dikes<sup>④</sup>

