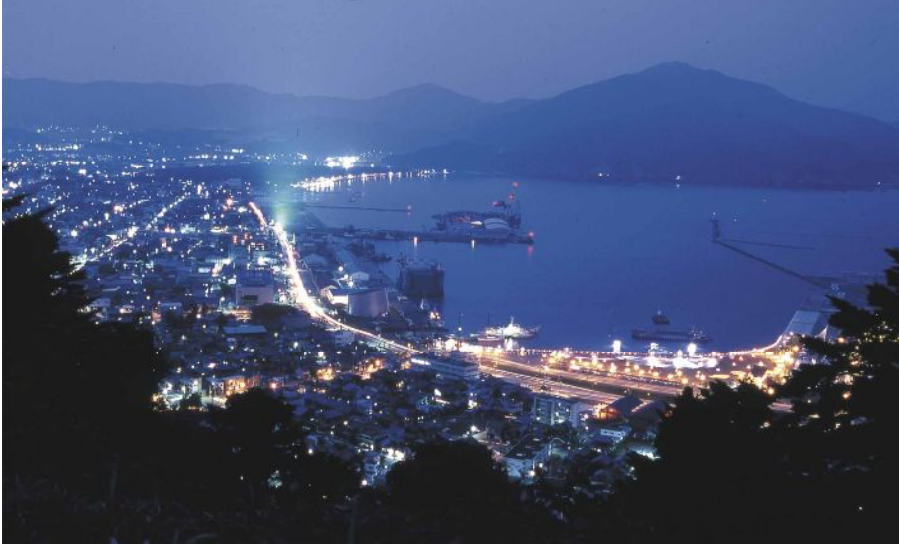




Tsuruga, International Port and Gateway to Asia

Hōrai-cho/Aioi-cho, Tsuruga City

Long an important port along the Sea of Japan, Tsuruga grew from small port town to bustling city over the centuries. Now, cargo ships and ferries carrying passengers to elsewhere in Japan and Asia still make call at this harbor.



Tsuruga Port at night, as viewed from Mt. Tedsutsu^①

Tsuruga Port, situated in the interior of Tsuruga Bay, is an excellent natural harbor that has long enjoyed strong links to the rest of Japan and Asia. Though much of the city was destroyed in air raids in 1945, several storied structures, such as the Owada Bank Main Branch Building (built 1927), the 400-plus year-old Tsuruga Brewery, brick storehouses, and others still stand in the Funadamari district. Surviving through fires, earthquakes, and years of natural disasters, these structures capture the history of Tsuruga's prosperity.



Former Owada Bank Main Branch Building



Tsuruga Brewery



Red-brick storehouses (National Cultural Property)^②



Old storehouses^③

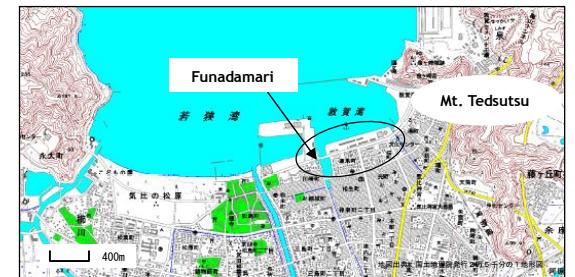


Funadamari district



Tug-of-war in Tsuruga's west side (Nat. Folk Cult. Treas)^④

On the third Sunday in January, a tug-of-war boasting a 400-plus year history takes place in western Tsuruga with hundreds of participants, young and old. Participants are divided into two teams ("Ebisu" and "Daikoku"), and the year's fortune (ample fishing for Ebisu, bumper crops for Daikoku) is decided by who wins the competition.



Photos ①~④ courtesy of Tsuruga City