Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel

The Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel, is an underground water infrastructure project in Kasukabe, Saitama, Japan. It is the world's largest underground flood water diversion facility, built to mitigate overflowing of the city's major waterways and rivers during rain and typhoon seasons. It is located between Showa in Tokyo and Kasukabe in Saitama prefecture, on the outskirts of the city of Tokyo in the Greater Tokyo Area, Japan.

Work on the project started in 1992 and was completed by early 2006. It consists of five concrete containment silos with heights of 65 m and diameters of 32 m, connected by 6.4 km of tunnels which are 50 m beneath the surface. There is also a large water tank with a height of 25.4 m, a length of 177 m and a width of 78 m. The roof of this tank is supported by 59 massive pillars. The tank is connected to 78 10 MW pumps that can pump up to 200 tons of water into the Edo River per second.

Central control room

"Ryukyuan" or Underground Exploration Museum of the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel is also a tourist attraction and can be visited for 3,000 Yen; however, as the tours are conducted in Japanese, a Japanese speaker must be present in the group to act as a translator for non-Japanese speakers.
Media coverage

The main water tank resembles a temple and has been used in some movies and TV programs to create mystic scenes. In 2006, a Land Rover television commercial and print campaign was produced using Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel as a location. Also, a Dutch TV program Wie is de Mol? had an assignment taking place in the water tank and the video game Mirror's Edge featured a version of the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel in several of its level designs. The 2015 movie The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2 also used the facility during the underground approach to the Capitol scenes.