World Irrigation Heritage Structure

On November 4, 2023, the Yamagata *Goseki* (Five Weirs) were officially designated a World Irrigation Heritage Structure. “Irrigation” refers to the artificial supply of water to agricultural fields. Irrigation systems that have existed for more than 100 years and possess outstanding historical and technical value are eligible for this designation.

The Yamagata *Goseki* have a history spanning approximately 400 years. Their designation was based on their unique system for efficiently distributing limited water resources, the long history of local communities cooperating to protect and manage the waterways, and their important contributions to regional industry and daily life.

Leveraging this recognition, Yamagata City promotes community development centered around the *goseki*. Areas such as the Odenbori district in Nanokamachi have been designated as priority scenic areas, where waterway restoration and community cleanup activities are actively underway.

The Yamagata *Goseki* have also been selected as one of the “100 Famous Waters in Japan” in recognition of their contributions to agriculture, regional revitalization, cultural and historical heritage, biodiversity, scenic beauty, and community building.

Today, the historic Yamagata *Goseki* are being embraced as a new tourism resource and continue to shape the future landscape of Yamagata City.