

# Nominations for “Hamaguchi Award” have been started.

Nominations for “Hamaguchi Award” for individuals and/or organizations that have made significant contributions to the enhancement of coastal resilience against tsunami, storm surge and other coastal disasters, have been started until June 30 2017.

## 1. Background of the Award

Commemorating World Tsunami Awareness Day of November 5, we have inaugurated the “Hamaguchi Award” for individuals and/or organizations that have made significant scientific or pragmatic contributions to the enhancement of coastal resilience against tsunami, storm surge and other coastal disasters, which will raise people’s awareness of disaster resilience. The award is named after Mr. Hamaguchi Goryo who protected and saved a village from a tsunami about 150 years ago.

## 2. Qualification

The award is given to individuals and /or organizations that have made significant contributions to the enhancement of coastal resilience against tsunami, storm surge and other coastal disasters.

- Researcher (scientific contributions)
- Practitioner (pragmatic contributions)

※For application, it is necessary to submit a Nomination Form written by nominator.

## 3. Schedule(tentative)

May 31, 2017	Official start of the Hamaguchi Award nomination process.
June 30,2017	Final deadline for submissions.
July - August 2017	Selection of Awardees.
In early November 2017	2017 Award Ceremony & Commemorative Lectures of Hamaguchi Award.

## 4. Details

For details, please check the Guidelines for Application and Nomination Form. You can download the Form from the website of the Port and Airport Research Institute.

([http://www.pari.go.jp/en/public\\_relations/seminars/2017/170531e.html](http://www.pari.go.jp/en/public_relations/seminars/2017/170531e.html))

### 【Contact Information】

International Promotion Committee for Tsunami/Coastal Disaster Resilience Technology.

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# History tells the importance of precautionary measures of TSUNAMI

## ~ Story of Hamaguchi Goryo ~

“Inamura no Hi (the burning of rice sheaves)” is based on a historical event that took place during a massive tsunami disaster, resulting from the Ansei Nankai Earthquake of 1854. The tsunami struck Hiromura, a little village on the Kii Peninsula in western Japan (present Hirokawa town, Wakayama Prefecture).

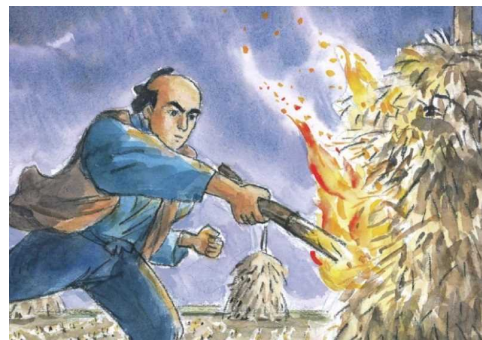
After feeling the earthquake, Hamaguchi Goryo, a local leader who lived in the village, anticipated that a big tsunami would come when he noticed the lowering of the tide and a rapid decrease in the level of well water. He guided his fellow villagers to evacuate to higher ground by setting fire to his precious sheaves of rice, his whole year’s harvest, as a signal of warning. From the hill top, the villagers saw the tsunami destroyed their village. They understood that it was the fire that saved them.

Hamaguchi Goryo’s deeds and story continued with his efforts to lay the groundwork for disaster preparedness among his community and to build the village back better than before. He implanted the seeds of prevention and preparedness amongst people to prepare for future disasters. Using his own money, he devoted to build a 5 meter high 600 meter long embankment, and to plant trees along the coast to mitigate future tsunami. This was a 4 year project which united the community, and was a key contributor to providing job opportunities for villagers whose livelihoods and homes were affected by the tsunami.

Today, Hamaguchi Goryo’s spirit of disaster preparedness is passed on in efforts such as the accumulation and use of indigenous and local knowledge on disasters, and the construction of seawalls against tsunami.



Hiromura Embankment built by Hamaguchi Goryo



Hamaguchi Goryo setting fire to his rice sheaves