

Reclamation Cooperation Between the Netherlands and Japan from the Samurai Period. Thoughts Through Samurai Dream and Recent Water Disaster.

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SUMMARY

The Meiji Restoration in 1868, which evolved from the samurai era to westernization. The former samurai who lost their jobs had a dream of creating a new land. However, for decades, it failed due to repeated storm surges and floods. At that time, a Dutch engineer has arrived in Okayama Prefecture, one of Japan's leading reclaimed areas. The Dutch water management technology created a samurai dream land for 100 years.

Anthonie Rouwenhorst Mulder (28 April 1848-6 March 1901) was a Dutch engineer and foreign advisor specializing in hydraulic engineering in Meiji period Empire of Japan. Mulder was recruited by the government of Japan in late 1879. He was responsible for improvements to the course of many rivers including the Tone River, Kinugawa River, Fuji River, Yodo River and the Sumida River; he became known as a specialist in the redesign and improvements of ports and harbours. In addition to Port of Tokyo he also worked on ports in Okayama, Hiroshima, Hachinohe and Shimonoseki. Mulder as well as his other Dutch contemporaries, Cornelis Johannes van Doorn (5 January 1837-24 February 1906) and Johannis de Rijke (5 December 1842-20 January 1913), developed a range of flood control, reclamation and water management projects that even today, over 100 years later, are key in serving and protecting these areas.

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