

## Introduction

As reflected in the traditional expression “The 808 Bridges of Naniwa (Osaka)”, Osaka has prospered with a large number of bridges since ancient times, and the City’s Public Works Bureau currently manages **764 bridges (as of April 2009)**.

Since the City of Osaka is one of the first ones among Japanese municipalities to start developing urban infrastructure, its bridges are relatively old compared to those of other cities. As these bridges continue to age, it has become a big challenge to maintain a large number of bridges with a limited budget.

In 2007, the City established the Osaka City Bridge Conservation and Renewal Plan Committee (Committee chairperson: Eiichi Watanabe, Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University; Committee members: Hitoshi Furuta, Professor, Kansai University, and Misako Tanaka, Associate Professor, Osaka Sangyo University). With their expertise, it has formulated the **Osaka City Bridge Conservation and Renewal Plan**, which encompasses projects and policies aimed at ensuring that bridges are maintained in good condition into the future.



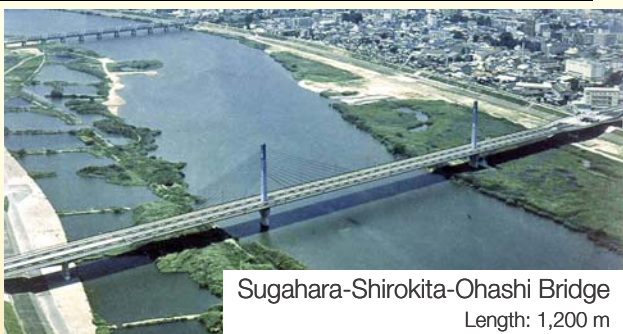
## Characteristics of Bridges in Osaka City

Osaka has prospered at the mouths of rivers such as the Yodo and the Yamato Rivers. With so many rivers and canals, bridges have played an important role supporting the daily lives of its citizens and the development of the city. For this reason, Osaka has been known as “the City of Bridges”, as reflected in the expression “The 808 Bridges of Naniwa”.

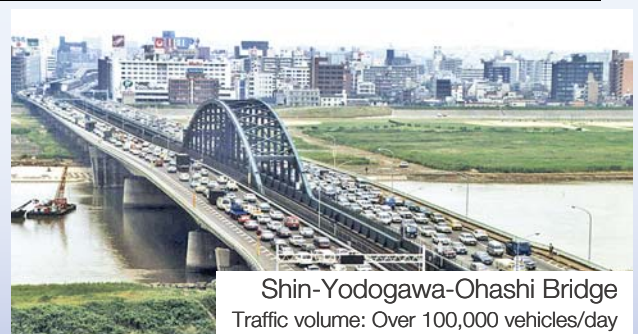
The City of Osaka administers a wide variety of bridges; the long-span bridges crossing the Yodo and the Yamato Rivers, and in the port and harbor areas, elevated bridges supporting urban functions, and small and tiny bridges used for the daily lives of citizens.

Some bridges support economic activities as part of infrastructure and some are loved as the symbols of the city with their scenic beauty or historical significance.

### Long-Span Bridges Crossing Major Rivers



### Elevated Bridges Supporting Urban Functions



### Bridges of Historical or Aesthetic Significance



### Small Bridges Supporting Daily Lives of Citizens

