

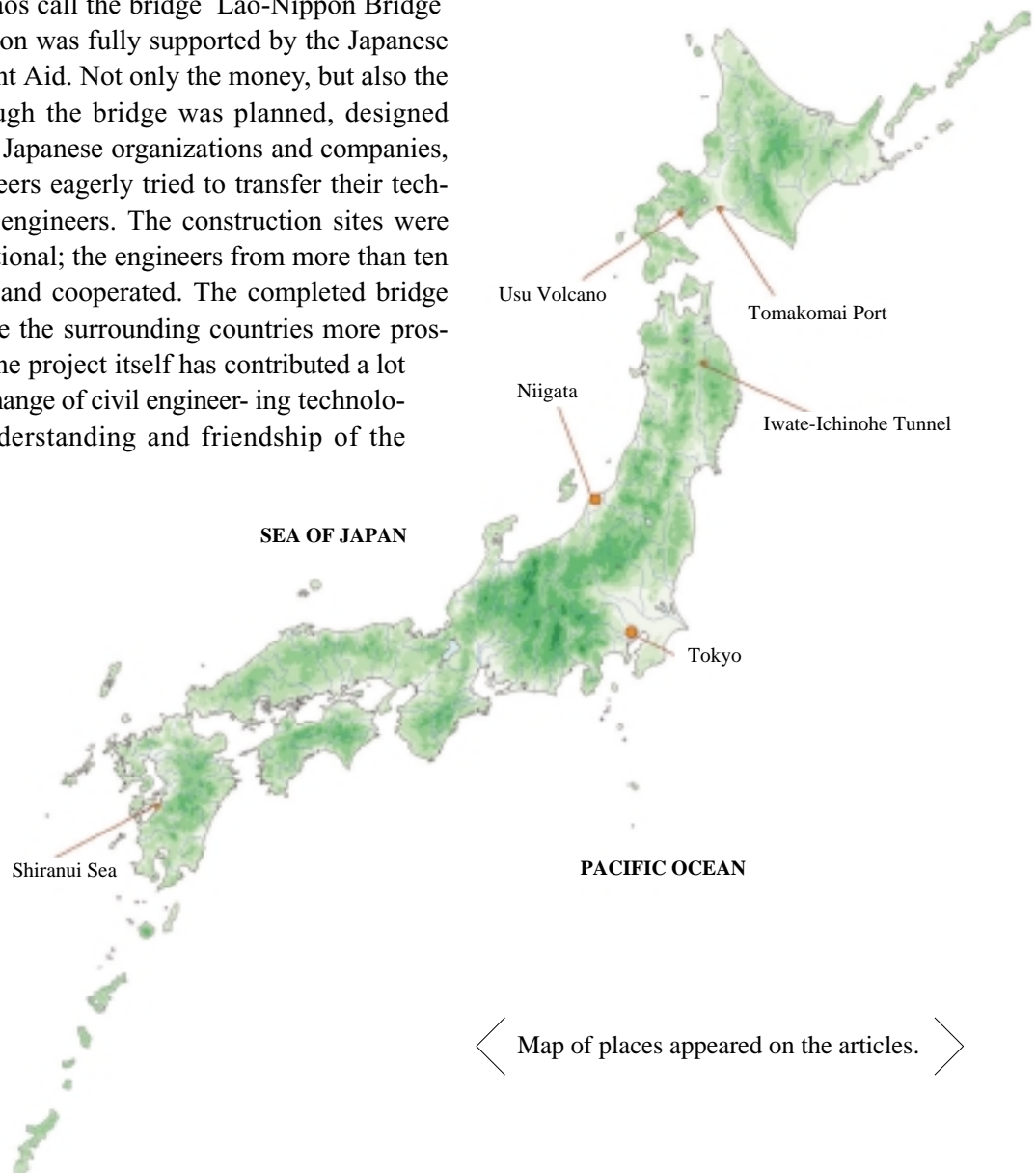
Editor's note

The bridge under construction on the cover photo is Pakse bridge over the Mekong River. Pakse is the biggest city in the south of Laos. The Mekong River passes through six countries, China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Excepting the part in China, there were only two bridges passing across Mekong. This bridge was completed as the third one in August 2000 soon after the photo was taken. It took three years to construct this 1380 m long prestressed concrete bridge of fourteen continuous box girders. It is worth to note that three of fourteen spans are the extradosed girders, in which pre-stressing cables are placed outside of the concrete box sections.

The people in Laos call the bridge Lao-Nippon Bridge since the construction was fully supported by the Japanese government as Grant Aid. Not only the money, but also the technology. Although the bridge was planned, designed and constructed by Japanese organizations and companies, the Japanese engineers eagerly tried to transfer their technology to the Lao engineers. The construction sites were much more international; the engineers from more than ten countries gathered and cooperated. The completed bridge is expected to make the surrounding countries more prosperous. However, the project itself has contributed a lot to international exchange of civil engineering technology and mutual understanding and friendship of the people involved.



(Cover Photo - Pakse bridge in Laos)



Map of places appeared on the articles.