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Preface

This volume contains a collection of selected papers and reports prepared as a result of the activities of the Foundation for Riverfront Improvement and Restoration.

Our mission is to conduct research concerning various subjects including the conservation and use of natural waterfront environments of rivers, lakes and coasts, the hydrological cycle, the use of research results for community improvement, the construction of "Super Levees" (high-standard levees), riverscapes, and river navigation.

With the growing public interest in the natural environment, recent research trends are towards focusing more than in the past on nature restoration taking river ecosystems into consideration and on the conservation and restoration of the natural environments of rivers and coasts. Research on the development of new ways to achieve the goals of nature-oriented river management is another priority in our research efforts. The management of exotic species, which has been attracting growing attention in recent years, is yet another priority of our research.

As the expectations for the conservation of excellent river environments grow, we feel we need to continue our research on the themes mentioned above, while endeavoring to strengthen the waterfront-human relationship including community management.

This report contains a total of 30 papers ranging in topics from very basic ones that may become part of future standards for river projects to interim reports of our ongoing research. Our intent in compiling this report is to provide information on the scope and trends of our research activities to as many people as possible.

We are determined to continue our research efforts in order to help make Japan a safer, nature-rich country.

Any thoughts and opinions on this report would be appreciated.

September, 2007

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