

Coordination of Land Use by the Mining and Other Industries

The purpose of the land-use coordination system, another function of the Commission, is to coordinate land use by adjusting the needs of the mining, quarrying, and gravel-collecting industries alongside those of agriculture, forestry and other land-based industries or public interests. This system was established in accordance with the Law concerning Coordination Procedures of Land Use by the Mining Industry, etc. (enacted in 1950).

Designation of mining prohibited areas

In Japan, dams, irrigation ponds, hot springs or scenic areas are often located in the vicinity of useful mines. Therefore, there arises necessity for **coordination between the activities of the mining industry and public interests or the activities of other industries**. For example, if mining were conducted in the areas near dams or reservoirs, their functions would be endangered. **The system of designation of mining prohibited areas** is designed to avoid such a problem.

As of March 2007, a total of 242 areas were designated as mining prohibited areas, including the *Unazuki* Dam (purpose: conservation of the dam), the *Chubu* Mountains National Park (protection of natural scenery), *Dogo* Spa (protection of hot spring resources), and the Seikan Tunnel area (conservation of the tunnel). A total of these mining prohibited areas cover 670,808 hectares.

(As of 31 March 2007)

| Reasons of designation | Number of mining prohibited areas |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Conservation of dams or reservoirs | 150 |
| Protection of hot spring resources | 35 |
| Protection of natural scenery | 24 |
| Conservation of irrigation water resources | 15 |
| Preservation of historical sights | 7 |
| Conservation of tunnels | 4 |
| Others | 7 |
| Total | 242 |

Process of designation