Why was Kikuchi Castle built?

Kikuchi Castle was built by the Yamato government during the latter half of the 7th century (about 1300 years ago). The political situation in East Asia at the time was extremely volatile. Japan, who had sent auxiliary troops to assist with the recovery of the friendly country Baekje, was defeated in 608 by the allied forces of Tang and Silla in the Battle of Hakusukino. As a result, Japan faced the sudden risk of war on its homeland. Consequently, in Kyushu, Ono Castle (Fukuoka Prefecture), Kii Castle (Sagawa Prefecture) and Kameida Castle (Nagasaki Prefecture) were built to protect Daraku. Kikuchi Castle played the role of a support base, supplying these castles with food, weapons and soldiers.

The first wood strip excavated from ancient hill fort in Japan

Wood strip reveals the past...

The reservoir remains are situated in a valley on the northwest side of the Choyabaru district and covers an area of 5,300㎡.

Many valuable artifacts such as wood strips and construction materials were found here.

A wood strip excavated from this remains has "8.5 x 2.5 x 0.5 cm" written on it. This was a tax paid when a Hata clan member paid a rice tax of 5 to 60 kg (an ancient Japanese measurement, approx. 60kg). From this it is also understood that Kikuchi Castle was not only a military facility, but also functioned as an administrative center for tax collection and other duties.

Round roof tile

The round roof tile (takbar-hachiyou-tenno-mono) found among the building remains is the oldest one in Kumamoto Prefecture, dating back to about 1300 years ago.

Ancient records mentioning Kikuchi Castle

| Shika Nihougi | Mommu Year 2 (689) | Daraifu was ordered by the government to repair 3 castles; Ono, Kii and Kikuchi.
| Montoku Jutakura | Tenmu Year 2 (688) | The drum in the Weapons Storehouse of Kikuchi Castle played by itself.
| Sandai Jutakura | Jutanian Year 17 (757) | Flocks of crows had hidden off the matches of storehouses and houses in the Kikuchi area.
| Jutakura Gangoi Year 6 (727) | The drum in the Weapons Storehouse of Kikuchi Castle played by itself.

Come and visit Kikuchi Castle and the Kumamoto Prefectural Decorated Tumulus Museum

Let's travel back in time to an ancient hill fort of 1300 years ago

Kikuchi Castle

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