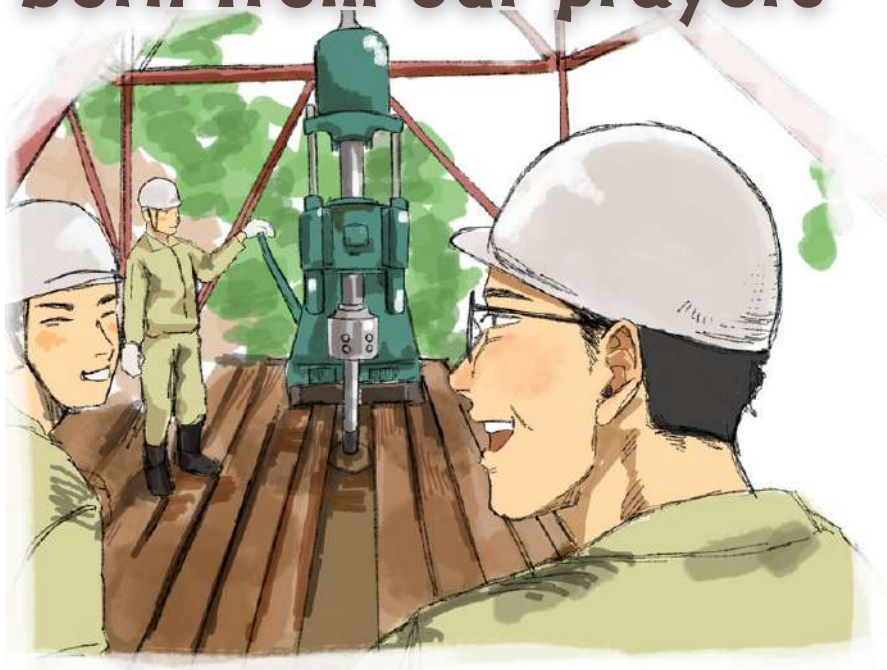


“Miracle Hot Spring” born from our prayers



The Founding Story of
Yamaga Onsen Kaze no Sato



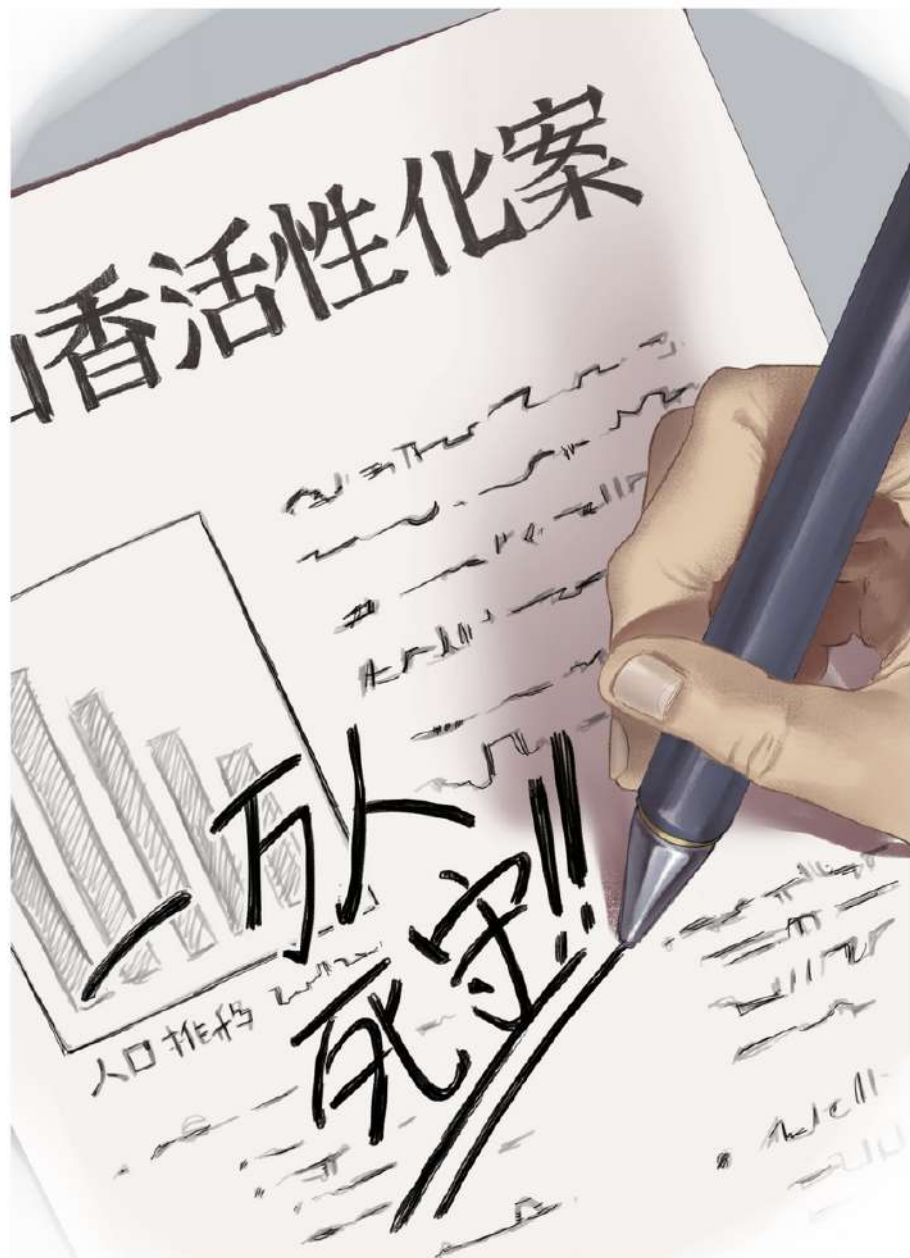
**Let me tell you the story of how Yamaga Onsen
Kaze no Sato came to be in Yamaga Town.**





At that time, I was working in Yamaga Town office. Yamaga Town was formed through a merger of several towns during the Showa period. At its peak, it had a population of 16,107. But over time, the number of residents gradually declined.

So, the townspeople decided to take action.
They wanted to protect the town by keeping
the population above 10,000.



**We wanted to make the town more lively,
so in 1984, we formed the Mt. Kono Association.**

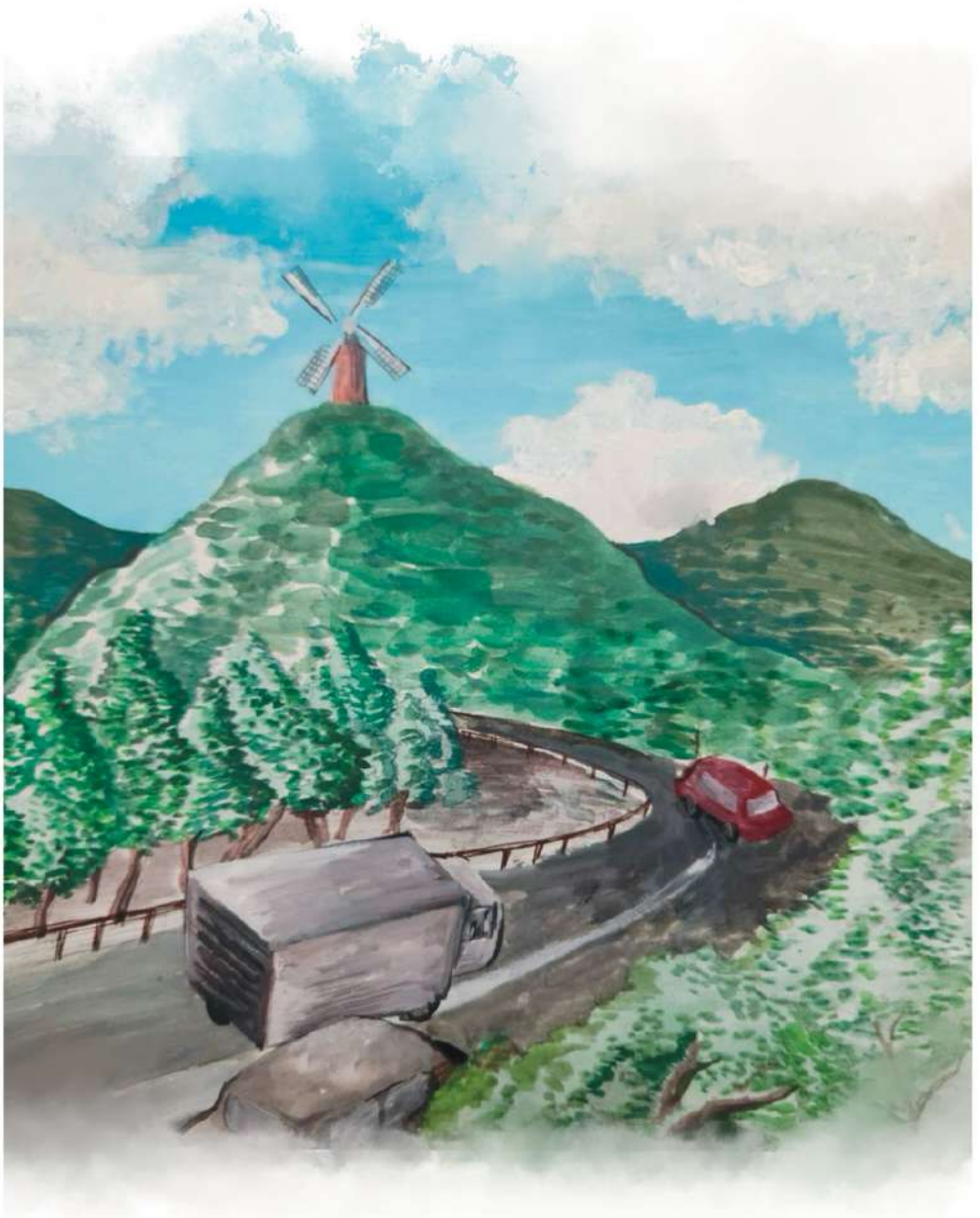


At Mt. Kono, we organized cleanup activities.
We also held a cherry blossom festival every year.
It became a place where many people would
come together.



At that time, we thought of many ways to improve the town. We worked together with other towns, studying and discussing ideas with people from all around.





Then in 1994, a wide road connecting to Ota was built. Our towns became more connected. That same year, a plan to develop the area around Mt. Kono began.

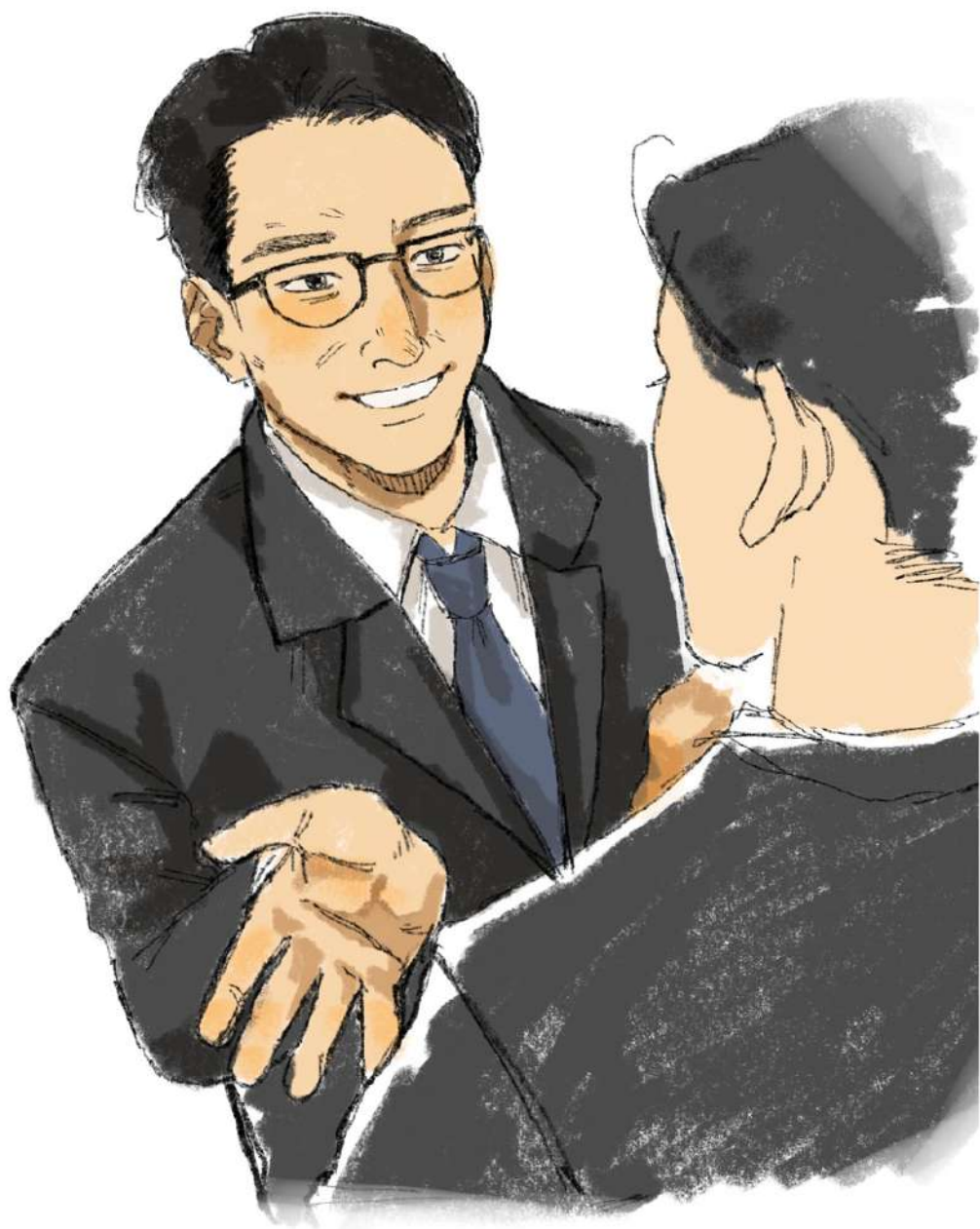
We came up with the idea of building hot springs and lodging facilities on the very site where Kaze no Sato now stands. In 1998, preparations to create Kaze no Sato at Mt. Kono began.



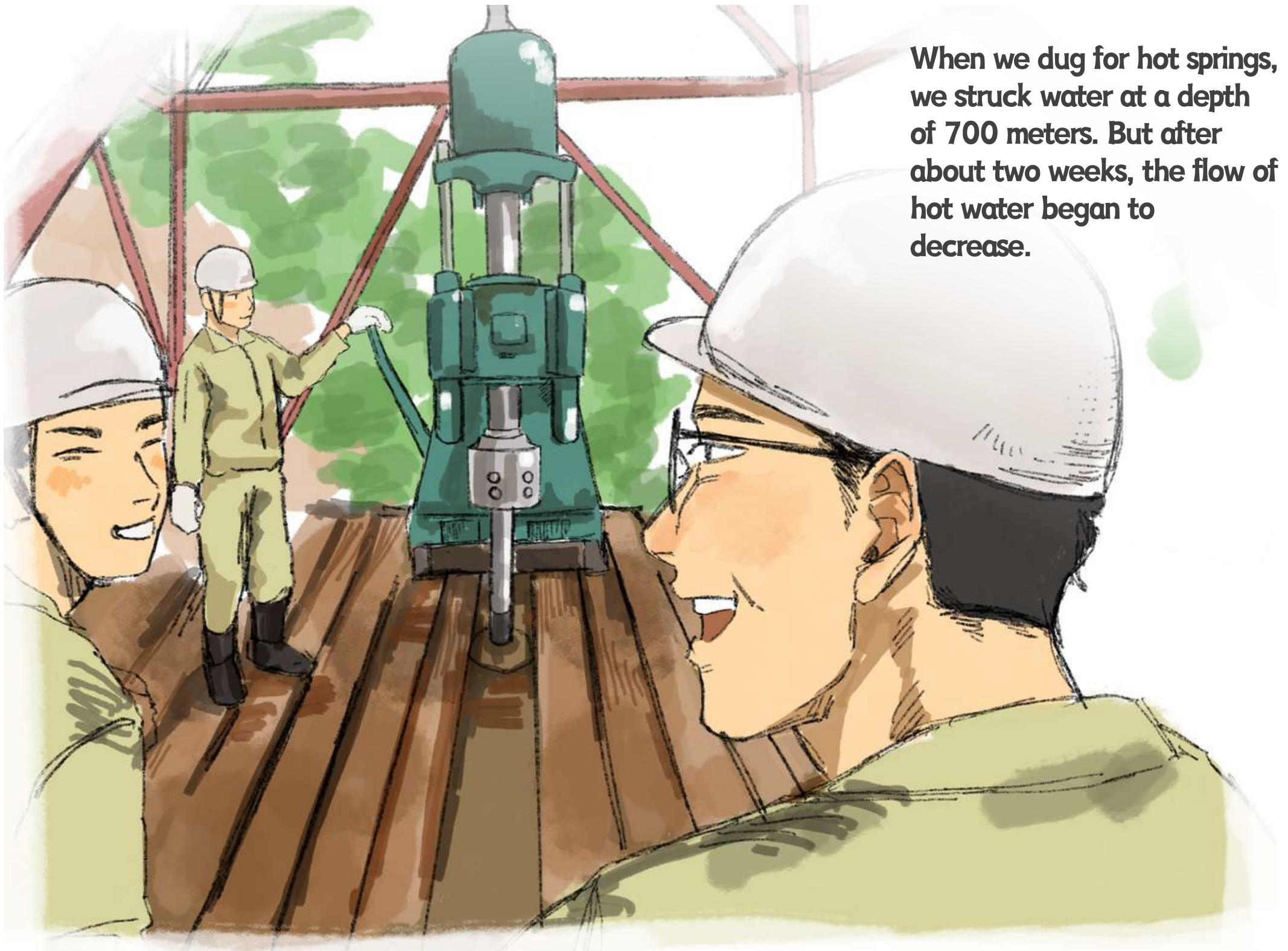
First, we carried out surveys to see if hot springs could be found. The results showed, that there might be hot springs in three locations.



**When the mayor changed, there was some doubt
about whether to continue the plan.
But I decided to move forward with it.**



When we dug for hot springs, we struck water at a depth of 700 meters. But after about two weeks, the flow of hot water began to decrease.



Still, we didn't give up. We kept digging. And finally, at a depth of 1,504 meters, we found the hot spring we had hoped for!



But the water was brown, and had a strong smell. It didn't seem usable. So we asked experts for help, to see how we could make it work.

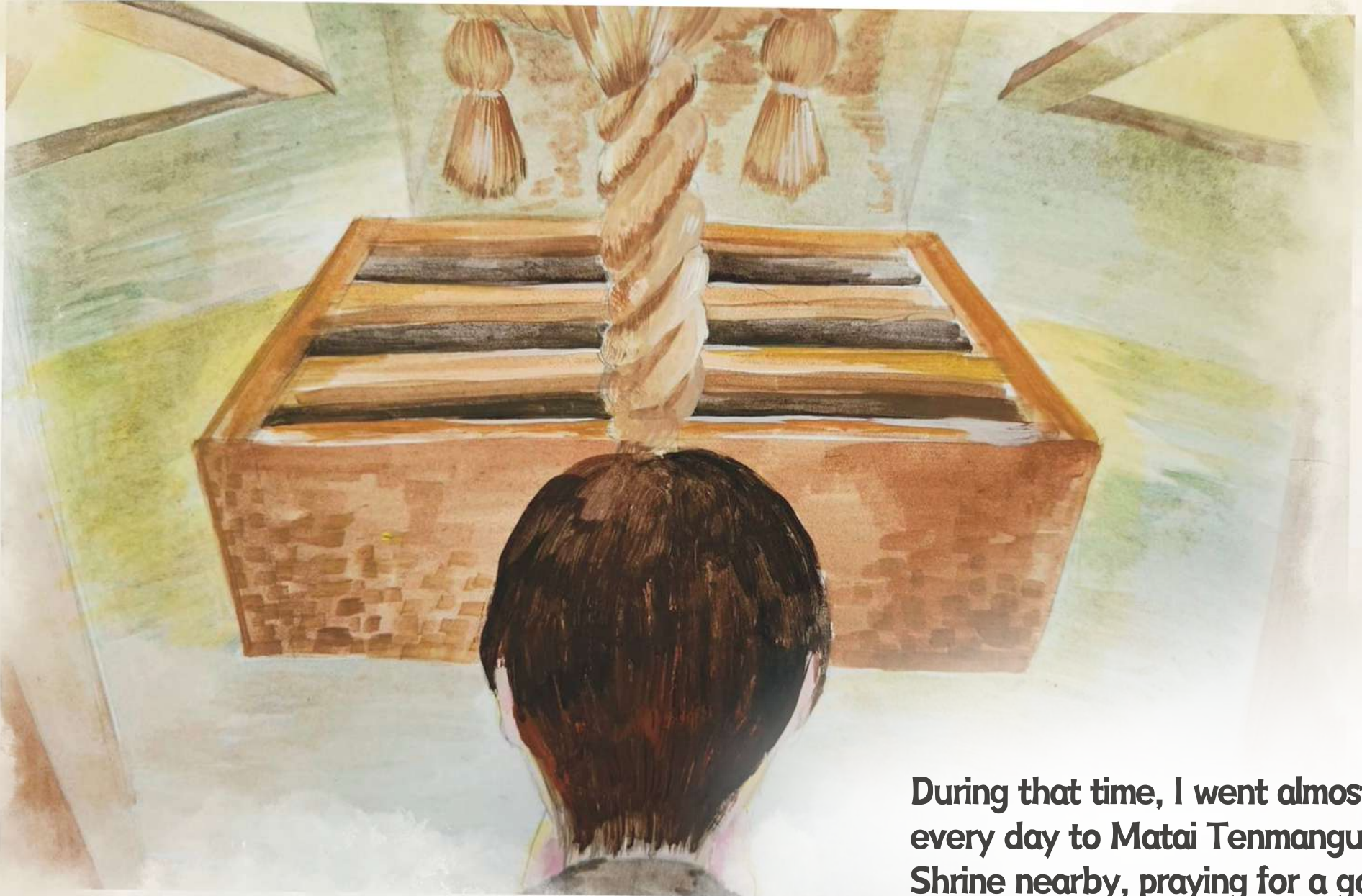


Construction of the hot spring facility began. But there were many problems. We even had to buy machinery from Germany, and the cost became very high.

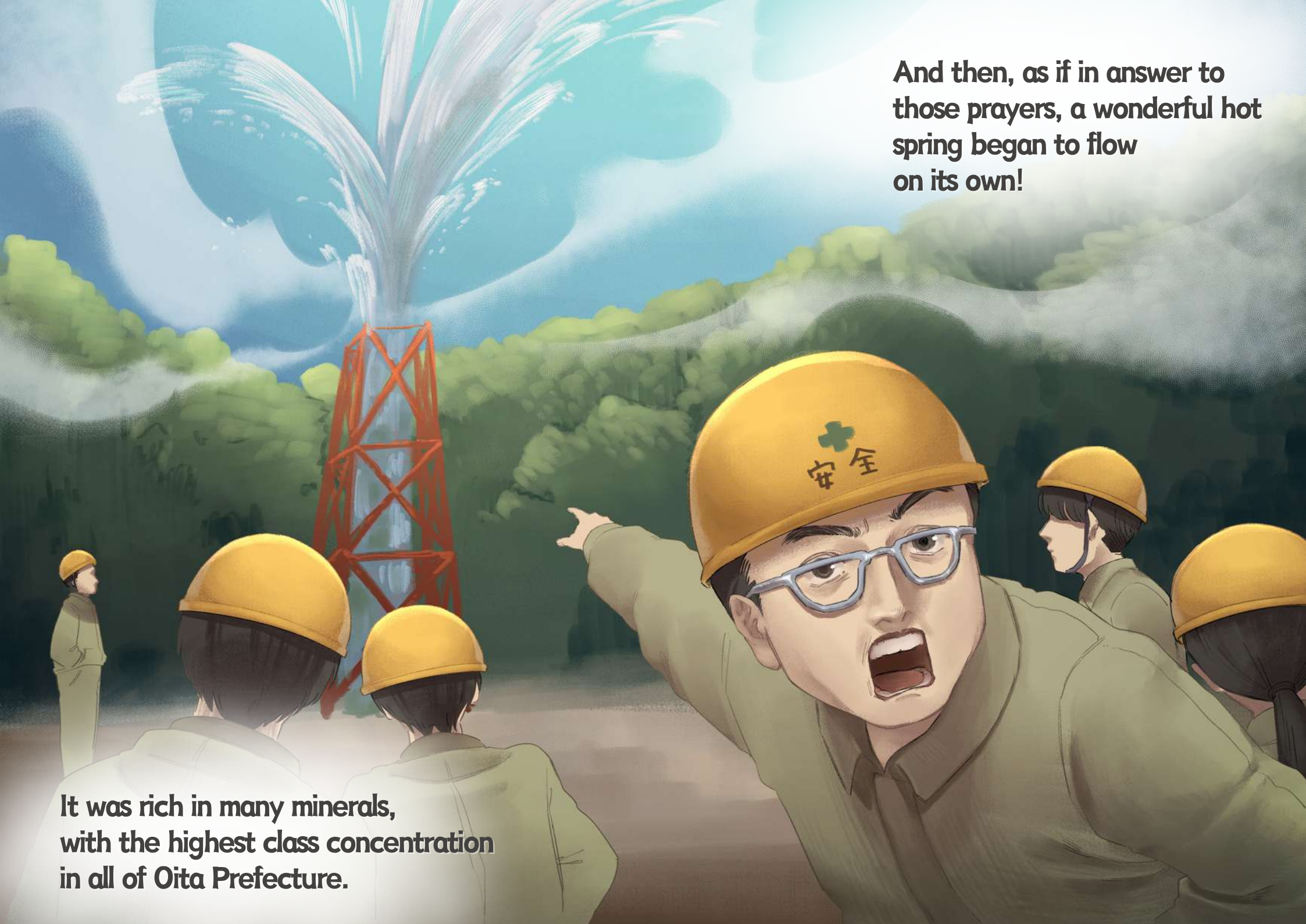


**Because the construction didn't go smoothly,
I had to move on to a different job.
Until the facility was completed, I could only
watch over it from afar.**





During that time, I went almost every day to Matai Tenmangu Shrine nearby, praying for a good, usable hot spring to appear.



And then, as if in answer to those prayers, a wonderful hot spring began to flow on its own!

It was rich in many minerals, with the highest class concentration in all of Oita Prefecture.

**And on July 7, 2000,
Kaze no Sato finally opened.**



As I told you, Yamaga Onsen Kaze no Sato is a “miracle hot spring,” born from our continued prayers for a spring that would benefit the community.

Let’s all treasure it, and make good use of it together!





I love
Yamaga Onsen
Kaze no Sato



Futa

Yamaga Onsen Utilization Research Association
Mascot Character

