

Tokyo, the water paradox



Figure 1: Japanese fish kites: the Koinobori

In 2020, I had the chance to work on a paper explaining the link between culture and nature in the city of Tokyo, Japan. We all know about the crowded intersections and giant digital displays of the megalopolis, yet Tokyoites have a very close connection with nature through Shinto philosophy. This is true even though nature, and especially water, has a strong impact on the country. We all remember the tragic tsunami (a word with Japanese origin) of 2011, but more recently the capital, asphyxiated by its density, causing a heat island phenomenon, must also deal with increasingly heavy rainfall leading to major flooding risks.

In my previous study, I had stopped at mentioning measures that would allow this phenomenon to be contained for the time being, and I would like to analyse in greater detail the various solutions proposed by the city of Tokyo. It seems to me that this work fits perfectly with the proposed lines of research and this subject fascinates me as it raises questions and contradictions between philosophy and technique. My first ideas would be to report quantitatively on this increase in rainfall and to explain its link with the heat island phenomenon. Then, my work will focus on a qualitative study of the different resources and political decisions deployed to fight against these flood risks.



Figure 2: A huge underground water tank in Tokyo