

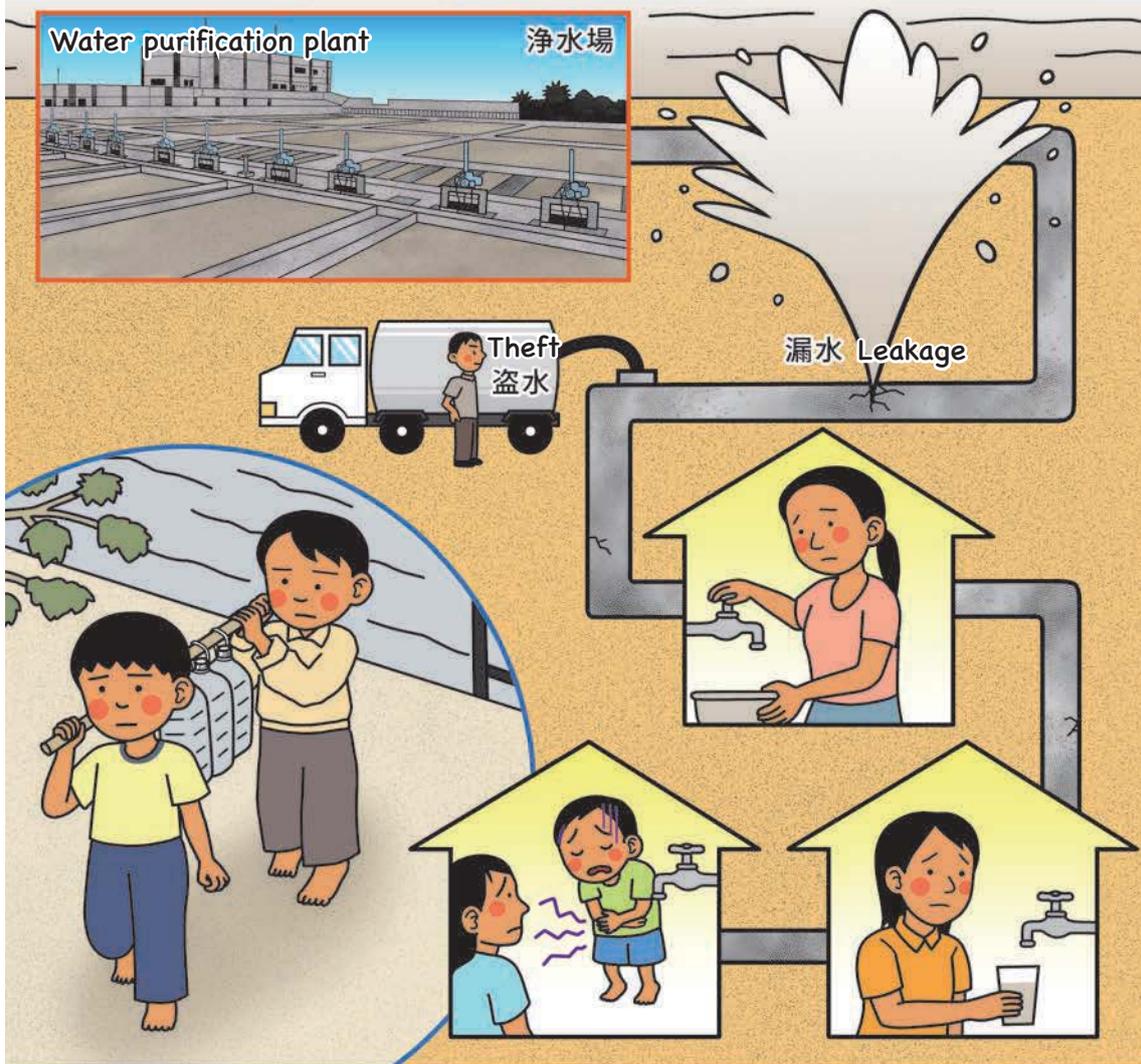
## **What is the 'Miracle of Phnom Penh'?**

In 1993, Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, was desolated after more than twenty years of civil war. Only the tiniest trickle of water could be had from taps, so the city's children were tasked with fetching water for their families several times a day.

Water quality was poor and sickness was rife as a result.

However, beginning in 1999, the city's water supply was dramatically improved through the assistance that the City of Kitakyushu provided and, in a very short time, the lives of the citizens of Phnom Penh were transformed.

This achievement has become known as the 'Miracle of Phnom Penh.'



In Phnom Penh in 1993, more than 70% of tap water produced by water purification plants was not reaching people's homes. The situation was critical.

One major factor was a shortage of staff available to deal with issues such as leaks and theft of water.

People were forced to walk long distances every day just to fetch water for their daily needs and there were many children who were unable to go to school as a result.

Poor water quality caused diarrhoea and disease and the infant mortality rate was particularly high. The deterioration in sanitary conditions was becoming ever more acute.

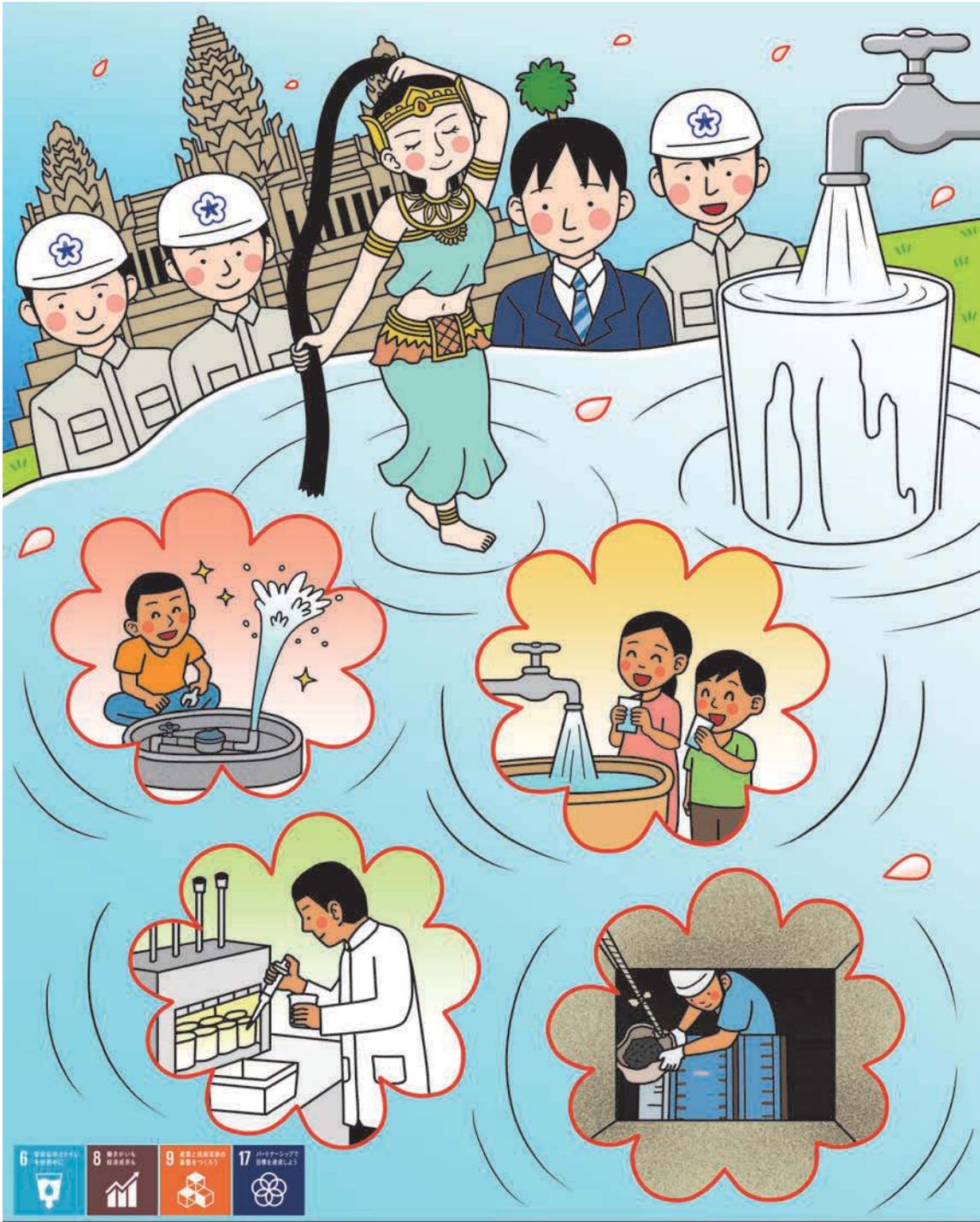


In 1999, at the request Japan's central government, the City of Kitakyushu began sending specialists to Cambodia.

A large number of personnel from Kitakyushu took with them a century's worth of water supply technology and knowhow and helped to put it into practice on the ground.

Thanks to this 'assistance with a face' and the passion of the people on the ground, Phnom Penh's water supply system was dramatically improved in a very short time.

This achievement became known as the 'Miracle of Phnom Penh' and astonished observers all over the world.



In Phnom Penh today, potable water is available directly from the tap everywhere in the city, leading to a vast improvement in quality of life.

The Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority's logo, the goddess Thorani, has become a symbol of pride for our personnel. Phnom Penh's gratitude towards the City of Kitakyushu and Japan continues to this day.