

## 発刊にあたって



阿久比町の歴史は古く、藤原宮跡から出土した木簡に「甲午年（西暦 694 年）九月十二日知多評 阿具比」と書かれたものが今まで知られている最古の史料です。

奈良時代になり、地名は良き名をつけ 2 文字とする法律が出されたことにより、「阿具比」は「英比」と表記されるようになりましたが、読み方は「えいび」ではなく「あぐい」でした。その後、歴史の流れの中でさまざまな変遷を経て、米どころ阿久比谷の 16 か村は明治時代には阿久比村となり、昭和 28 年 1 月 1 日に町制が施行され「阿久比町」となって今日まで来ました。「あぐい」の

発音で集落（行政単位）の名が 1,300 年以上にわたり連綿と使われていることに、驚きを感じると同時に、先人から受け継いできた誇りと愛着を感じます。

平成 6 年に発刊された「あぐいのあゆみ」は、昭和 58 年度から続いた町誌編さん事業から作成された町誌のダイジェスト版で、本町の歴史や文化遺産などを町民に分かりやすくまとめたものでした。その後は改定されることなく四半世紀が経過し今日まで来ましたが、平成の時代が終わり令和の新しい時代を迎えたことを機会と捉え、阿久比の歩んできた 1,300 年以上にわたる出来事や、まちの魅力など「阿久比町の全体像」を知っていただきたく、冊子「阿久比の概観」として発刊する運びとなりました。

まちへの愛着や町民の誇りは、まちづくりの原動力となります。皆さまがこの「阿久比の概観」を手にとっていただくことで、改めて「まちの宝」に気づき、より一層「まちへの愛着」が深まり、まちづくりや地域づくりにより積極的に参加してくださることで、「阿久比町のより良いまちづくりに自分自身も関わっている」という新たなシビックプライドを持っていただけたら、幸いに思います。

発刊にあたり、新型コロナウイルス感染症のまん延により調査や会議などの開催が制限されるなか、ご尽力いただきました研究委員会の皆さまはじめ、これまでご協力賜りましたすべての方々へ深く感謝申し上げます。

令和 4 年 3 月

阿久比町長

竹内 啓二

### About This Publication

The town of Agui has a long history. To date, the oldest known document to mention it is a wooden strip excavated from the ruins of Fujiwara-kyo that reads "Agui, Chita no Kohori, September 12, 694."

During the Nara period, a law was enacted that required place names to be good names with two characters, so the spelling of Agui was revised, but the pronunciation remained unchanged. Since that time, the course of history has led to many changes. During the Meiji era, the 16 villages of the rice-growing Agui Valley became known as Agui Village, and on January 1, 1953, it was incorporated as Agui Town. I was surprised to learn that the name of this settlement (administrative unit) has remained unchanged for over 1,300 years with the same pronunciation of "Agui," and I feel the sense of pride and attachment to Agui that the townspeople have inherited from my ancestors.

The History of Agui, published in 1994, was a digest version of the town magazine created as a compilation of material from the town magazine going back to 1983. It was intended to be an easy-to-understand summary of Agui's history and cultural heritage for the general public. A quarter of a century has since passed without any revisions to that book. However, with the end of the Heisei period and the beginning of the new Reiwa period, we have taken the opportunity to publish a new overview of Agui that covers events that have occurred over a span of more than 1,300 years as well as the town's attractions, in the form of a booklet titled A Guide to Agui.

Proud townsfolk who are attached to their town are a driving force behind community development. It is my hope that by picking up this booklet, you will become more aware of the treasures of our town, develop a deeper appreciation for it, and participate more actively in urban and community development. My hope is that this will foster a new sense of civic pride with the understanding that you yourself have a role to play in making our town a better place.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the hard-working members of the research committee and to all the people who have cooperated with our efforts to get to this point despite restrictions on surveys and meetings due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 2022  
Mayor of Agui Town

Keiji Takemura