

About half a century ago, Japan emerged from the reconstruction period following World War II and entered a period of rapid economic growth. With a social trend that put priority on the economy, many large plants were constructed one after another in various places around the country, including Yokkaichi City, resulting in various types of pollution from them.

As a result, like many other industrial cities in Japan, Yokkaichi City was also hit by serious pollution problems. For example, air pollution caused asthma in many residents in the city, and is widely known as “Yokkaichi Pollution.”

Given this background, in 1965 Yokkaichi City began implementing a pioneering medical aid system for pollution-related patients, and then the so-called Yokkaichi Air-pollution Lawsuit” was filed in 1967. These events opened a way to solving Japan’s pollution problems, leading people to think about simultaneous pursuit of economic growth and environmental conservation.

Later, the concerted efforts of citizens, companies and administrative authorities to improve the environment in the city bore fruit. In particular, in fiscal 1976, the level of sulfur dioxide (SO2), considered a main cause of asthma, was below national environmental quality standard throughout the city.



Children gurgling at Shiohama Elementary School (photo by Mr. Yoshiro Sawai)



Construction of tall chimneys with a height of over 100 m



Yokkaichi Petrochemical Complexes around 1960



Access

- 3-min. walk heading west from Kintetsu Yokkaichi Station
- 20-min. walk heading west from JR Yokkaichi Station (4-min. fixed-route bus ride from JR Yokkaichi Station to Kintetsu Yokkaichi Station)

※Visitors who use the JA Parking (at Yasujima 2-chome) and present their parking tickets at the Museum’s Information Desk can receive special parking discount tickets.

Museum Hours

- 9:30 – 17:00 (admission until 16:30)

Museum Holidays

- Mondays (the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday); year-end and New Year holidays; and other temporary closing days

Admission fee

- Free

※An admission fee may be required for special/feature exhibits. The amount of admission fee depends on the exhibit.

 **Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness**  
1-3-16 Yasujima, Yokkaichi City 510-0075, Japan  
Yokkaichi Municipal Museum 2F  
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<http://www.city.yokkaichi.mie.jp/yokkaichikougai-kankyomiraikan/>



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 **Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness**

Yokkaichi Municipal Museum **1F** **2F** Jibasan Mie (Mie Prefecture Local Product Center) **2F**

Thank you very much for coming to the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, severe environmental pollution caused many citizens to suffer from pollution-related diseases in Yokkaichi City. The Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness was established with the following objectives:

- to pass on the city’s history of pollution and lessons from history to future generations,
- to develop the city while making continuous efforts to improve the environment and pursue both economic growth and environmental conservation simultaneously, and
- to communicate knowledge and environmental technologies obtained from such efforts to people in Japan and around the world.

The Museum shows the history of pollution caused in Yokkaichi, the damage caused by the pollution, and a wide variety of measures to improve the environment, in an easy-to-understand way for both children and adults, by using various exhibits such as videos, photos and picture books.

Visitors to the Museum are highly recommended to visit the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum’s permanent collection exhibit room and see a show at the Planetarium as well. This will help you understand the relations between our lives and the environment and think about the environment at a global level.

I hope that you will learn about the environment at our Museum to help create a better environment for future generations and reflect what you learned in your environmental practices at home and in your local community.



Yokkaichi Petrochemical Complexes at present



# Creating better environment for future generations



**1 Industrial Development and Lifestyle Changes**  
Through old pictures and re-creation of ordinary people's daily lives in those days, visitors can see how Yokkaichi changed between the beginning of the modern times, when Yokkaichi Port began to develop, and when petrochemical complexes were built along the port after World War II.



**2 Outbreak of Environmental Pollution**  
After World War II, air pollution became an issue throughout Japan. In the industrial city of Yokkaichi as well, residents raised many complaints and many health problems were reported in relation to air pollution. Photos of the time and precious audio sources are opened to the public to communicate the history of Yokkaichi Pollution and the seriousness of the pollution damage.



**3 Changes in Yokkaichi**  
Videos projected on a model of Yokkaichi City are used to explain changes in Yokkaichi from the establishment of Yokkaichi Town (present-day Yokkaichi City) in 1889 to the present.

## To Learn History Exhibit Area Yokkaichi Municipal Museum 2F



**Yokkaichi Air Pollution Lawsuit Theater**  
In 1967, officially certified air pollution victims living in Isozu filed a lawsuit against companies located in Petrochemical Complex No.1. Videos produced based on relevant documents and stories of witnesses from that period are used to explain the lawsuit and its impact on the country later.



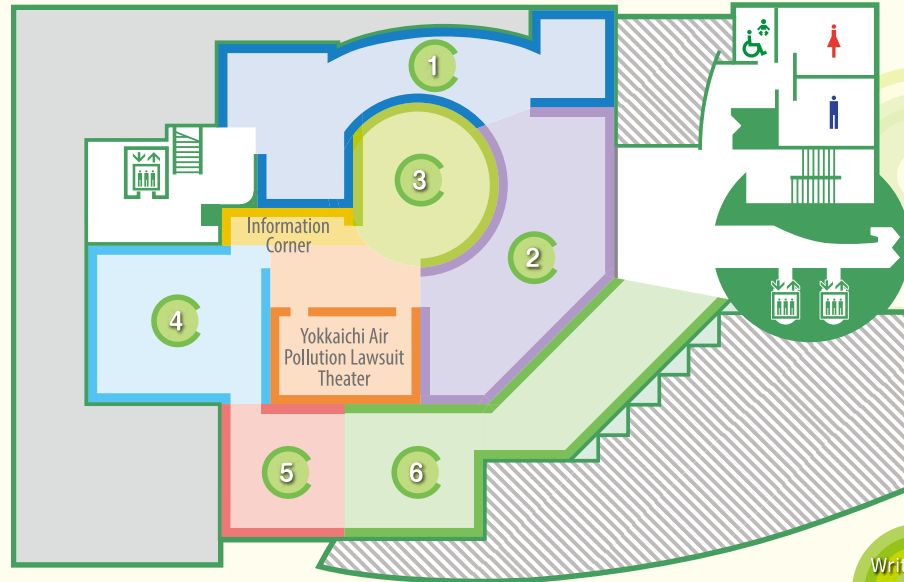
**4 Efforts for Environmental Improvement**  
This corner introduces the concerted efforts and international contributions for environmental improvement made by citizens, companies, and administrative authorities.



**5 Yokkaichi City Today**  
This corner introduces Yokkaichi's rich natural environment surrounded by Ise Bay and the Suzuka Mountains, and shows how industry innovation has been made in the city while considering the environment.

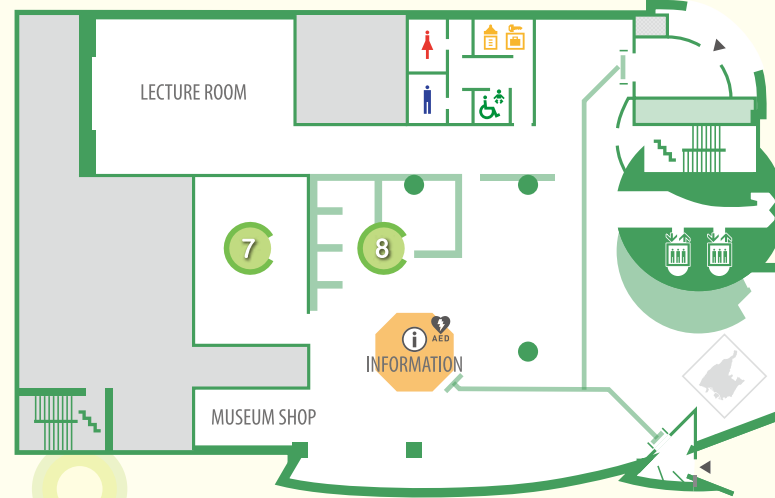


**6 Environmentally Advanced City**  
This corner shows that there are increasing global environmental issues and introduces Yokkaichi's initiative to solve them. It provides us with an opportunity to consider what we can do for the future.



Write a message for the future!

## Gathering information and Studying Study Area Yokkaichi Municipal Museum 1F



**7 Practical Room**  
This room is designed based on a classroom of Shiohama Elementary School around 1965. In this room, lectures by Kataribe (storytellers of on-the-ground chronicles) and environmental study classes are offered to encourage participants to think about the environment in the future.



**8 Book Corner**  
This corner has many books and documents about pollution and the environment. To acquire a deeper understanding of pollution and the environment, visitors can use this spacious corner as a study room and use the book loan service.

## For the Future Activity Area Jibasan Mie 2F



**Sending out Information about Environmental Practices from Yokkaichi**  
Anyone registered as an Eco Partner can use various facilities such as an activity room, meeting room, and exhibit space, set up on the 2nd floor of the Jibasan Mie Building, directly north of the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum.

Eco Partners are individuals/organizations studying the environment and relating to environmental practices in cooperation with the Yokkaichi City government, under the City's environmental programs. The City is accepting applications for Eco Partners at any time. For more information, please contact the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness.

## With a PDA, visitors can obtain access to a wider range of information!

The personal digital assistant (PDA, iPad) loan service is available inside the Museum. With a PDA, visitors can use an audio guide service (in Chinese or English), access a glossary, and enjoy quizzes, to deepen their understanding of what they are seeing and listening to in the Museum.