Yokkaichi Pollution

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 it is widely known as "Yokkaichi Pollen.

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 Law" was drafted 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, considered a main cause of asthma, was below national environmental quality standards throughout the city.

Creating a Better Environment for Future Generations

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, including yokkaichi exhibits such as videos, photos, and picture books.

Visitors to the Museum are highly recommended to visit the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum, a 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.
Creating better environment for future generations

Industrial Development and Lifestyle Changes
Through this section, we aim to highlight the impact of industrial development on the environment. Efforts are made to reduce pollution levels and promote sustainable lifestyles.

Outbreak of Environmental Pollution
Here, we discuss the various factors that contribute to pollution, such as industrial waste, air pollution, and water pollution. The section also highlights the consequences of pollution and ways to mitigate it.

Changes in Yokkaichi
This section focuses on the changes that have occurred in Yokkaichi since the establishment of the Environmental Museum. It covers topics such as pollution levels, environmental policies, and community initiatives.

Environmental Advance City
This section highlights Yokkaichi's commitment to environmental sustainability. It showcases successful case studies and innovative solutions that have been implemented to create a more sustainable city.

Exhibit History Area
Yokkaichi Municipal Museum
This area features exhibits on the history of Yokkaichi, including its development and key events. The exhibits provide a deeper understanding of the city's past and its impact on the present.

For the Future
Activity Area
Abisan Me 97
This area is designed for visitors to engage in environmental activities and workshops. It provides hands-on experiences to learn about environmental issues and how to contribute to sustainability.

Study Area
Yokkaichi Municipal Museum 1F
This area is equipped with study materials and resources for visitors to learn more about environmental issues and conservation efforts.

Practical Room
This room is designed for practical training and workshops. It includes equipment for hands-on learning and interactive activities.

Book Corner
This section features a collection of books and documents about environmental issues. It is intended to provide visitors with additional resources to deepen their understanding of the topics discussed in the museum.

Yokkaichi Air Pollution Control Theater
This theater presents a multimedia experience on the history of air pollution control in Yokkaichi. It includes interactive displays and presentations to educate visitors about the issue.

Efforts for Environmental Improvement
This section highlights the efforts made by the city to improve the environment. It covers initiatives such as waste management, renewable energy projects, and green spaces.

Yokkaichi City Today
This section showcases the current status of Yokkaichi, including its achievements and ongoing efforts to improve the environment. It also addresses challenges and future goals.

Environmental Knowledge and Study
Yokkaichi Municipal Museum 1F
This area is dedicated to providing visitors with knowledge and understanding of environmental issues. It includes educational materials and resources for visitors to learn more about the topic.

Sending out Information about Environmental Practices from Yokkaichi
Anyone interested as an Eco Partner can use virtual facilities such as an activity room, meeting rooms, and display space, set up on the third floor of the Abisan Me Building, one of the Yokkaichi Municipal Museums.

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