

What Is Yokkaichi Pollution?

In the decade starting from 1955, Japan shifted from the phase of post-WWII reconstruction to a phase of high economic growth. Against the social background of high economic priority, the entire country, including Yokkaichi City, saw the construction of large-scale plants one after another, resulting in pollution of various kinds around them.

In Yokkaichi City as well, many people suffered from asthma due to air pollution, causing great damage. This serious pollution problem was called "Yokkaichi Pollution."

However, countermeasures adopted by the city, including the medical expense support program that the city launched in 1965 ahead of other municipalities in Japan to help those with pollution-related health damage, and the Yokkaichi Air Pollution Lawsuit filed in 1967, paved the way for the entire country to solve its pollution problems, and provided an opportunity for the nation to consider how to achieve a good balance between industrial development and environmental preservation.

Close collaboration in environmental improvement between local citizens, companies, and administrative authorities achieved significant improvement in the environment in Yokkaichi City, as seen by the fact that the national standard for sulfurous acid gas (sulfur dioxide) content in the air was met throughout the city in 1976.



Flare stack



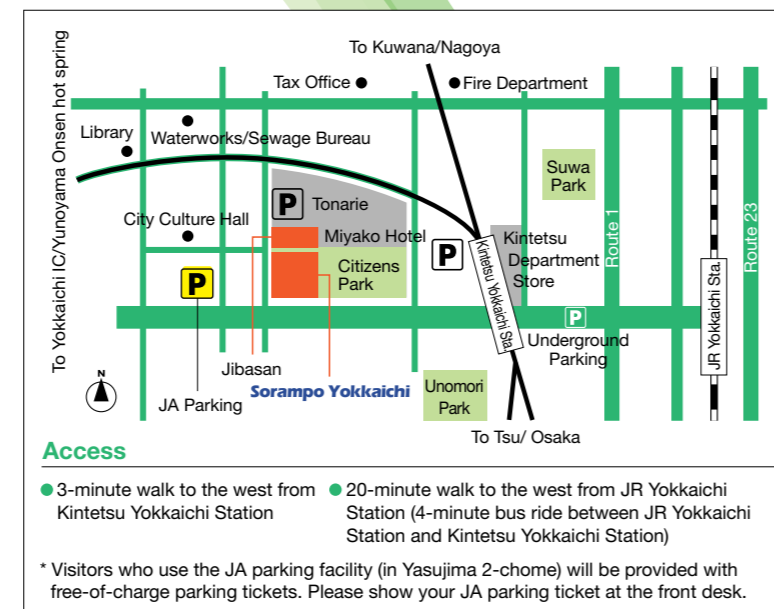
Children gargling at Shiohama Elementary School



High smokestack under construction



Industrial complex around 1960



[Inquiries]
Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness

1-3-16 Yasujima, Yokkaichi, Mie 510-0075 Japan
 ☎ (059) 354-8065 FAX (059) 329-5792
 E-mail : kougai-kankyomiraikan@city.yokkaichi.mie.jp

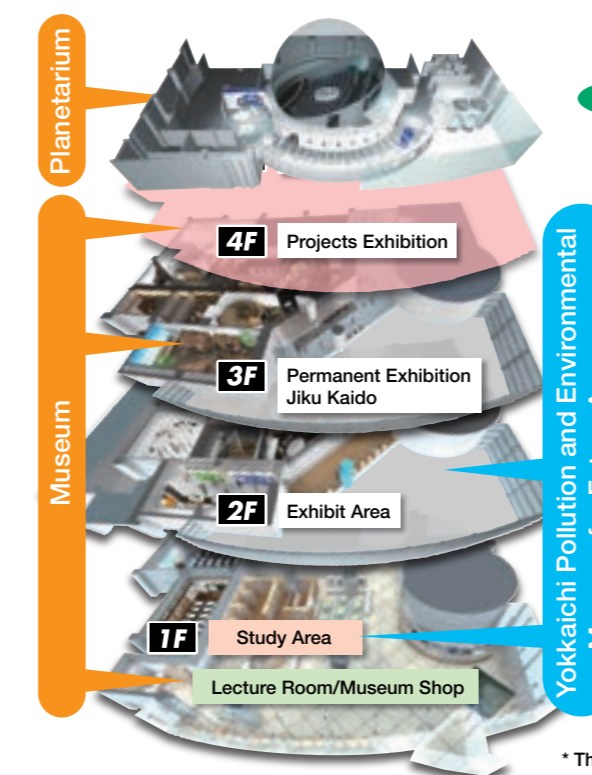
Yokkaichi Municipal Museum/Planetarium

1-3-16 Yasujima, Yokkaichi, Mie 510-0075 Japan
 ☎ (059) 355-2700 FAX (059) 355-2704
 E-mail : hakubutsukan@city.yokkaichi.mie.jp



Sorampo Yokkaichi

Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness
 Yokkaichi Municipal Museum/Planetarium



Sorampo Yokkaichi houses three facilities: a municipal museum, a planetarium, and Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness.

Sharing the environment as a common theme, all three facilities provide information and support studies on topics distinctive to Yokkaichi City.

* The Activity Area is situated on the second floor of Jibasan.

To Hand Down a Better Environment to Future Generations

Thank you for visiting Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness.

In the decade starting from 1955, Yokkaichi experienced environmental pollution, called "Yokkaichi Pollution," causing many people to suffer serious health damage. Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness was established to hand down the history of the pollution and the lessons learned from it to the next generation, and share with a wide range of people in Japan and abroad the city's experience of striving for environmental improvement and achieving harmony between industrial development and the environment, as well as the knowledge and environmental technologies that the city obtained from that experience.

This museum features easy-to-understand exhibitions using videos, photos, picture books, etc., intended for both children and adults, on the historical background to Yokkaichi Pollution, the damage it caused, and various environmental improvement measures adopted.

A visit to the permanent exhibition at Yokkaichi Municipal Museum and the planetarium, in addition to this museum, will allow you to understand the link between human life and the environment and consider the environment from a global perspective.

We hope that this museum will help you learn how to hand down a better environment to future generations, and guide you to participate in environmental activities at home and in your local community.



International trainees in a training program in Japan provided by the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT)



Sea bindweeds on Yoshizaki Beach



Tea farm in Suizawa



Industrial complex today

Museum / 3rd Floor

(Travel Through Space and Time)

Permanent Exhibit: **Jiku Kaido**



2 [Ancient times] Kurube Village (pit house)



3 [Medieval times] Yokkaichi market

Enjoy a journey through space and time and feel the history in the "Travel Through Space and Time"! This area features life-size reproductions of a pit house during the Yayoi period, the Yokkaichi market during the Muromachi period, and the Yokkaichi post town during the Edo period.

Please experience the development of Yokkaichi and changes in the daily lives of people living there.

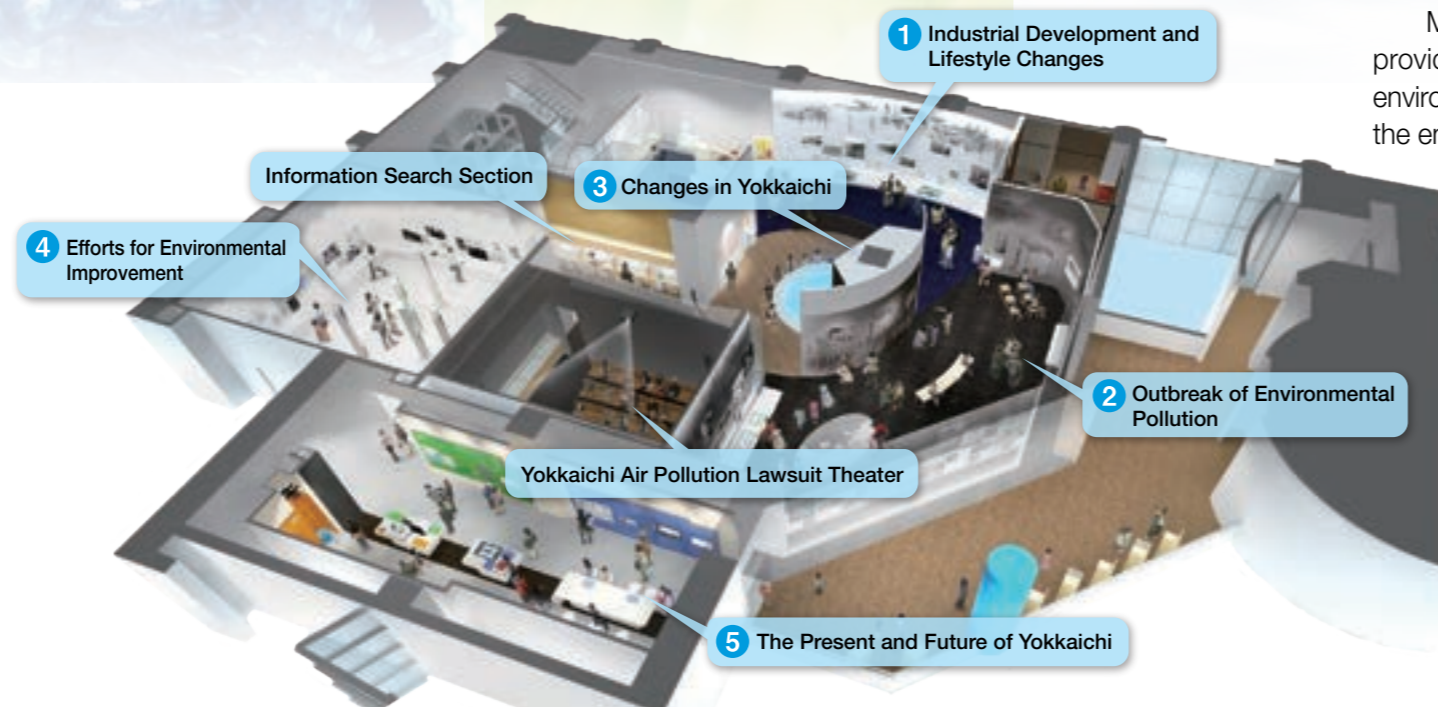
In the Travel Through Space and Time, you can trace the history of Yokkaichi from the prehistoric and ancient times to the Edo period. If you also visit the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness, which displays exhibits showing Yokkaichi's progress from the Meiji period to the present day, you will be able to better understand the whole history of Yokkaichi, from prehistoric and ancient times to the present.



4 [Early modern times] Yokkaichi post town

Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness

Exhibit Area / 2nd Floor



The Exhibit Area comprises five sections: 1) Industrial Development and Lifestyle Changes; 2) Outbreak of Environmental Pollution; 3) Changes in Yokkaichi; 4) Efforts for Environmental Improvement; and 5) The Present and Future of Yokkaichi. This area displays exhibits about the historical background to Yokkaichi Pollution and efforts toward environmental improvement.

Mainly through documents and films on the Yokkaichi Pollution, this area provides opportunities for you to study the relationships between the environment, industries, and people's everyday lives, to feel the importance of the environment, and to consider the environment's future.



1 Industrial Development and Lifestyle Changes

This section introduces you to the modern history of Yokkaichi, from the development of the port, through WWII, to the construction of an industrial complex, by displaying photos taken at those times and reproductions of the lifestyles people lived in those times.



2 Outbreak of Environmental Pollution

After WWII, air pollution problems occurred around Japan. In the industrial city of Yokkaichi too, many people filed complaints about air pollution or suffered serious health damage. This section features photos and valuable recorded sounds from that time to tell the history of the pollution and the serious damage it caused.



3 Changes in Yokkaichi

Featuring a diorama and a large screen, this section introduces the history of Yokkaichi, from its establishment as Yokkaichi Town in 1889 to its current state.



Yokkaichi Air Pollution Lawsuit Theater

In 1967, pollution-affected patients, who were pollution-certified living in Isozu district, filed a lawsuit against the company that ran the industrial complex. This theater explains the Yokkaichi Air Pollution Lawsuit and its impacts by displaying documents from that time and films including testimonies.

Study Area / 1st Floor



4 Efforts for Environmental Improvement

This section introduces efforts for improving the environment in cooperation among citizens, companies, and administrative authorities, as well as their outcomes and international contributions made based on them.



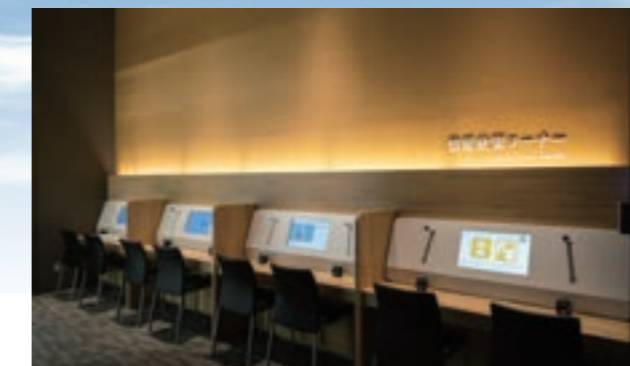
5 The Present and Future of Yokkaichi

This section focuses on the current state of environmental issues and ongoing environmental initiatives. Consider what we, including yourself, can do to realize a better environment in the future, while enjoying taking quizzes and playing games.

The Study Area provides support for you to study about pollutions and the environment.

In the Practical Room, we hold lectures on the Yokkaichi Pollution by Kataribe (storytellers of on-the-ground chronicles) and guidance sessions on the pollution. In addition, we hold eco-oriented craft workshops.

Moreover, the Book Space holds approximately 10,000 volumes on pollutions and the environment, while the Exhibit/Interaction/Study Space can be used for self-study.



Information Search Section

In this section, you can view videos of interviews with those related to the pollution and search a catalogue of materials housed in this museum.

Planetarium / 5th Floor

Let's take a spaceship and venture into space!

GINGA PORT 401

A planetarium that reproduces a realistic starry skies and a state-of-the-art space experience!

Called the GINGA PORT 401 after the port city Yokkaichi, the 5th floor is positioned as a port for space-travel. Anchored there is the spaceship Cosmic Cruiser (planetarium dome).

Why not take the spaceship and venture into space?

Why not immerse yourself in space at the planetarium?

This planetarium features a very compact but high-performance optical projector, which, despite being only 48 cm in diameter, can show you 140 million stars. In addition, this planetarium reproduces the colors and brightness of approximately 9,500 stars that are visible to the human eye.

Moreover, a 4K digital laser projector enables wonderfully vivid depictions, while the 60 speakers installed in the facility also help you enjoy an amazing dynamic sound. The seats, developed especially for this facility, are needless to say very comfortable.



Cosmic Gallery

This space displays exhibits based on the themes of space and the earth environment as seen from space.



Cosmic Lounge

An experience-based program held here tells you about the earth environment and the wonders of space.

Activity Area / Jibasan, 2nd Floor



The Activity Room of the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness is situated on the second floor of Jibasan, located on the museum's north side.

Organizations and individuals registered as Yokkaichi Eco Partners can use it as an activity room, meeting room, and exhibit space.

*Yokkaichi Eco Partner: Yokkaichi Eco Partners are individuals/organizations studying the environment and relevant environmental practices in cooperation with the Yokkaichi City government, under the City's environmental programs.