



20 Years of KYB Museum

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1 Introduction

In March 2025, KYB will celebrate its 90th anniversary, and in October 2025, the KYB Museum will mark its 20th anniversary. To commemorate these milestones, we are honored to have been granted this valuable space in this issue of the KYB Technical Review.

This article briefly explains the “Background of the Establishment” and “Evolution of Exhibit Renewal” of the KYB Museum. These topics are covered in more detail in issues No.40 (April 2010) and No.69 (October 2024), respectively. Instead, we will focus on what has happened in the last 20 years and the museum's membership in the Kanagawa Company Museum Liaison Committee.

2 Background of the Establishment

The KYB Museum first opened in October 2005 as part of KYB's 70th anniversary celebrations, initially for internal use by employees. It opened to the public in April of the following year, showcasing the company's technical history. The museum is located on the 1st and 2nd floors of the first R&D center (approximately 750 m²) of the KYB Sagami Plant (Photos 1 and 2).



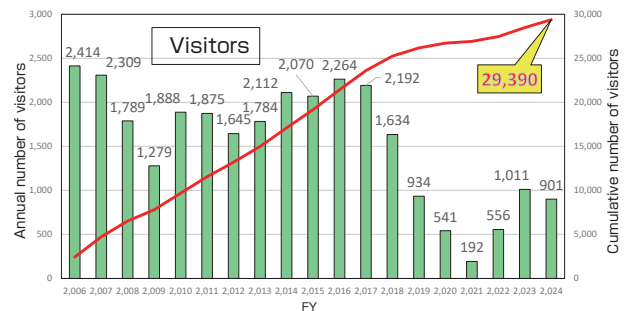
Photo 1 1st floor at the time of museum's opening in 2005



Photo 2 1st floor as of 2024

3 Number of Visitors and Number of Exhibits

As of the end of November 2024, the cumulative number of visitors is 29,390 (Fig. 1). In addition, a visit to the KYB Museum is part of the new employee training curriculum, through which 1,901 new employees have visited the museum for training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, some of the training programs have been held online, and an additional number of new employees have participated in the online training, bringing the total number of participants to 2,044. We hope that these training programs continue to contribute to the key training objectives of “Conveying the history, depth, and breadth of KYB technology”, “Inheriting KYB's DNA and management philosophy”, and “Cultivating awareness of norms”.



Note) The annual number of visitors in fiscal 2024 reflects the total number of visitors by the end of November 2024.

Fig. 1 Number of visitors

When the museum was established, the number of exhibits was approximately 120. We now have about 630 exhibits and are working to gradually expand the lineup.

The Chronology of Major Products and the Historical Timeline were updated in 2011, 2016, and 2023. The SA, HC, Sealing, and other exhibits were updated as needed (Photo 3).

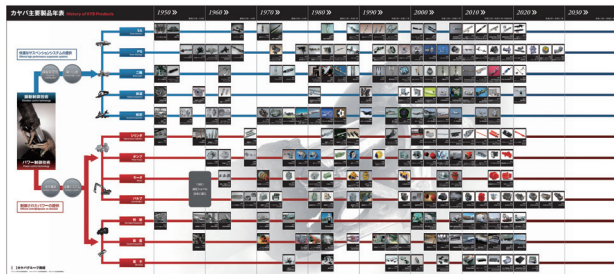


Photo 3 Chronology of Major Products as of 2024

4 Major Events Over the Past 20 Years

Since opening in October 2005 for internal use by employees, the KYB Museum has seen many events. The following chronology lists the major events:

- October 2005 - Opened for internal use by employees as part of the 70th anniversary commemorative project of KYB
- April 2006 - Opened to the public for external visitors
- June 2006 - Article on the opening of the KYB Museum published in the June issue of "Auto Mechanic"
- August 2006 - Joined the Kanagawa Company Museum Liaison Committee (* For more information, see Section 5)
- February 2010 - Updated the exhibit of semi-active control systems for railway vehicles
- October 2011 - Updated the Chronology of Major Products
- July 2012 - Updated the Historical Timeline
- July 2012 - Exhibited the Oleo lubricating pump kit (Photo 4)
- February 2014 - Exhibited the steer-by-wire



Photo 4 Oleo lubricating pump kit

system (Photo 5)

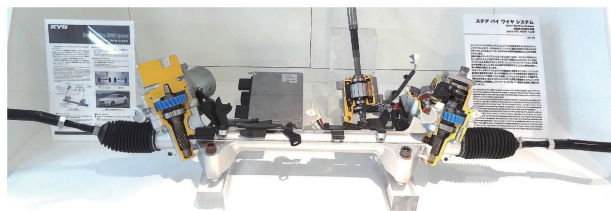


Photo 5 Steer-by-wire system

- March 2014 - Exhibited the drive recorder
- June 2014 - Significantly changed the layout of the hydraulic engineering area
- January 2015 - Reinforced the eight Major Product Information Panels (the "Signature Towers") (Photo 6)



Photo 6 Major Product Information Panel

- May 2016 - Installed the Patent Timeline
- May 2016 - Updated the Chronology of Major Products
- December 2016 - Updated the Historical Timeline
- February 2017 - Exhibited valve casting cores
- July 2017 - Sponsored and participated in the Kanagawa Science Summer (July-August)
- February 2018 - Relocated the EPS experience machine from the 45th Tokyo Motor Show (Photo 7)



Photo 7 EPS experience machine

- July 2018 - Sponsored and participated in the special outreach lecture "Kintaro papa school 2018" hosted by the Minamiashigara City Board of Education (July-August)
- October 2018 - Exhibited the active suspension system (ASTRIC) on the Odakyu Romancecar 70000 series GSE
- Exhibited the external proportional solenoid damping force adjustable shock absorber
- Suspended public access to the KYB Museum (from October 18, 2018, to March 31, 2022, for three and a half years)
- July 2019 - Held a Parent-Child Workshop Event at Kumagaya Plant
- August 2019 - Held a Parent-Child Workshop Event at Sagami, Gifu North, Gifu East, and Gifu South Plants
- November 2019 - Held the Casual Reading-Only Historical Archive Exhibition at Sagami, Aikawa, and Gifu North Plants (Photo 8)



Photo 8 Stand-and-Read Museum

- February 2020 - Installed the smart security camera (Photo 9)



Photo 9 Smart security camera

- April 2020 - Renovated the SA exhibition area (completed by March 2023)
- October 2020 - Installed a presentation board to ensure that the lessons learned from the issue of seismic isolation/mitigation equipment for buildings would not be forgotten
- June 2021 - Reassigned Oleo to the aircraft business
- August 2021 - Exhibited the electronic control suspension system (KADS) for motorcycles
- December 2021 - Exhibited the shock absorber SwingValve
- Exhibited the shock absorber Prosmoth®
- March 2022 - Held the Student Virtual Company Tour hosted by the Japan Automobile Parts Industry Association (JAPIA) at the KYB Museum
- Changed the Japanese name of the KYB Museum
- April 2022 - Installed a special large poster at the main entrance in conjunction with the change of the Japanese common name of the company
- July 2022 - Initiated HC exhibition review activities (ongoing)
- August 2022 - Began reviewing the DNA Panel, Chronology of Major Products, Historical Timeline, and Eight Signature Towers
- February 2023 - Updated the DNA Panel
- Updated the Chronology of Major Products
- Updated the Historical Timeline
- Updated the Eight Signature Towers
- July 2023 - Exhibited developed components of the travel motor (MAG-33)
- Sponsored and participated in the Kanagawa Science Summer 2023 (July-August)
- September 2023 - Exhibited the boom cylinder mock-up for mining machinery
- October 2023 - Exhibited components of the load sensing (LS) system for excavators (pumps, valves, travel motors, swing motors, and cylinders)
- Established a corner for developed products (oil condition monitoring and cylinder oil leakage detection systems) (Photo 10)



Photo 10 New corner for developed products

October 2023 -Updated the sit ski exhibit (Photo 11)



Photo 11 Sit ski

October 2023 -Exhibited the butted cylinder
-Received a visit by Ms. Kei Takeoka, a motor journalist, filmed and broadcast on YouTube ("Kei Takeoka Visits the KYB Museum")

November 2023 -Exhibited the rally suit used by Mr. Ukyo Katayama during his participation in the Paris-Dakar Rally

December 2023 -Exhibited the 1 pinion type EPS for off-road vehicles

May 2024 -Established a corner for the KYB rally project (Photo 12).



Photo 12 Newly established KYB rally project corner

July 2024

-Article about a visit to the KYB Museum published in the September issue of "Car Goods Magazine"
-Sponsored and participated in the Kanagawa Science Summer 2024 (July-August)
-Exhibited the electronically controlled shock absorber
-Exhibited the improved damping force adjustable shock absorber (low friction)

August 2024

-Held a Parent-Child Workshop Event at Sagami Plant

November 2024

-Sponsored and participated in a Parent-Child Workshop Event at Heavy machinery fan appreciation festival presented by the Hitachi Construction Machinery official fan club
(held at AEON TOWN Fujimino, Saitama Prefecture)

-Article about a visit to the KYB Museum published in the November issue of Journal of Plating & Surface Finishing

November 2024

-Exhibited the smart road monitoring system (Photo 13)



Photo 13 Smart road monitoring system

5

Membership in the Kanagawa Company Museum Liaison Committee

Established in 1985 by five companies, the Kanagawa Company Museum Liaison Committee (the "Committee") is a place for corporate museums in Kanagawa Prefecture to exchange information.

The KYB Museum joined the Committee in August 2006, when it opened to the public, and it has remained a member ever since.

Currently, the Committee has 16 member companies that take turns hosting regular meetings. The KYB Museum has hosted seven of these meetings. Through information exchange among members on various issues related to the

nature and operation of corporate museums, we have made improvements to enhance customer satisfaction (Photo 14).



Photo 14 Regular meeting at KYB Museum

We have carried out various activities through the Committee. The main activities are described below.

5.1 Participation in Attendant Staff Training Seminar

Training seminars have been held to promote mutual learning and networking among attendants. Since September 2008, the KYB Museum has participated in ten training seminars to improve the capabilities of its attendants (Photo 15).



Photo 15 Attendant staff training seminar

5.2 Participation in the Kanagawa Science Summer

The Kanagawa Science Summer program, implemented by Kanagawa Prefecture, aims to spark children's and youth's interest in science and technology, as well as enhance their desire to learn. From the summer vacation period through fall, science museums and companies within the prefecture that support this initiative hold events.

The KYB Museum first participated in the program in July 2017 and has held a total of 12 events, including the most recent one in August 2024.

Each day-long event is attended by ten parent-child pairs, who are selected by lottery from applicants, and has been well-received every year. (The program was interrupted for a while due to the need for infection control related to the COVID-19 pandemic).

These events have been held under various themes, including “Learn About Hydraulics (Pascal's Principle) and Friction (What Is Tribology?)!”, “Zoom in on the Microscopic World with a Microscope!”, “Craft Your Own Excavator Front Part!”, and “Operate a Mini Excavator!” (Photos 16, 17, 18, and 19).



Photo 16 Learn About Hydraulics (Pascal's Principle) and Friction (Tribology)



Photo 17 Craft Your Own Excavator Front Part



Photo 18 Operate a Mini Excavator



Photo 19 Leaflet distributed to all elementary schools in Kanagawa Prefecture

The Science Summer program had a ripple effect. The “Craft Your Own Excavator Front Part!” event received external offers and was held at a special outreach lecture hosted by the Minamiashigara City Board of Education in July 2018 and at the Official Fan Club Presents Heavy Equipment Fan Appreciation Festival in November 2024.

It was also held as a Parent-Child Workshop Event for the children of KYB employees at the Kumagaya, Sagami, Gifu North, Gifu East, and Gifu South Plants in the summer of 2019, as well as at the Sagami Plant in 2024 (Photos 20 and 21).



Photo 20 Parent-Child Workshop Event (at Kumagaya Plant)



Photo 21 Parent-Child Workshop Event (at Gifu North Plant)

Due to the great popularity of KYB's events in the Science Summer program, we plan to continue holding them with even more exciting content.

6 Conclusions (Toward the Future)

As mentioned in KYB Technical Review No.69, we are renewing the exhibits of diverse product families using a unified “form” and “board” design. This design allows a wide variety of visitors to understand the exhibits' contents, even if they are visiting alone.

Specifically, we will systematically renew the exhibits based on the museum's existing concept: “Our Precision, Your Advantage.”

「Our Precision, Your Advantage」

☞ Convey KYB's history and its technological prowess in design, production, and manufacturing to customers.

☞ Given the diverse nature of KYB's business areas, inform employees about the high level of the company's products and technologies across all divisions to enhance their motivation.

Additionally, for visitors from other countries, we plan to create guided narration videos in two languages using translation applications: English and Chinese.

We kindly request that all Operations and Divisions continue to provide support and cooperation.

7 In Closing

Customers and suppliers who would like to visit the KYB Museum should contact their KYB representative and apply via the KYB bulletin board.

The museum is also open to the public on certain days. You are welcome to visit the

museum if you are interested in the exhibits (More information is available on the KYB Museum page of the KYB website).

Finally, the KYB Museum is a place where you can see how KYB's DNA is connected to your daily life.

We are all looking forward to your visit.



KYB Museum page of KYB
website (Japanese only)



KYB on You-
Tube (Japa-
nese only)

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