

# The Future of Railway Technology and Culture — Interactive Railway Museum

The Railway Museum in Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture was opened on October 14, 2007, with the express aim of providing a place where future generations of children will be able to voluntarily learn, think and act.



It was opened by East Japan Railway Foundation as a part of JR East's 20th anniversary celebrations, and has the objective of encouraging visitors to learn, think and act by themselves. In addition to exhibits showing our railway culture heritage, various interactive exhibits have attracted considerable public attention with the result that the museum is always busy with visitors — both families and individuals.

The Railway Museum's three concepts:

- ① The Railway Museum, in addition to exhibiting aspects of Japanese and global railway-related heritage and reference materials, also contains specific reference materials on the Japanese National Railways (JNR) reform and JR East. These materials are systematically stored, and surveys and research are constantly conducted.
- ② The History Museum shows the story of the transformation of the railway system as part of Japan's industrial history, focusing on actual railcar exhibits that physically demonstrate the background of each era.
- ③ The Education Museum encourages children to gain hands-on experience and thus learn about railway principles, systems and cutting edge technologies (including future concepts) utilizing models, simulation and play equipment.

## Connecting Seeds of Intellectual Interest for the Future

The Museum consists of six specifically themed zones.

### The History Zone

The History Zone contains 35 railcars, including six cars that were reserved for the imperial family, and accurate scale models, as well as scenery reproduction panels. Visitors are told, in an easy-to-understand way, about railway technology, and the trends and history of the railway system from the early Meiji era to today.



### The Entrance Zone

The Entrance Zone contains Shinkansen 200 Series driving cabin simulators and a D51 type steam locomotive (see photo), as well as Japan's largest model railway diorama.



### The Collection Zone

The Collection Zone contains a library where visitors can read valuable transport-related reference materials and a gallery where special exhibitions are held.

### The Learning Zone

The Learning Zone allows visitors to experience interactive exhibits, such as three laboratories where the duties of station staff, railcar inspectors and railcar designers can be studied, along with a section where railway mechanisms can be experienced.

### The Park Zone

The Park Zone is an exterior space where a miniature train is operated; visitors can operate its signal safety system, which is the same as on real lines. The zone also displays a still operable historic railcar.



### North Wing

The North Wing contains the 180-seat capacity Railway Hall.