

The experience of war and air raids

Today, less than 10% of the Japanese has experienced war. To learn about the reality of war and air raids, we have to find out for ourselves, learn, and share our experiences and knowledge. It is important to do so. We wish this center would be a center of learning and exchange for all of you who wish to pass on the experience of war, and it is a place where people can learn and exchange ideas.

Director Yutaka Yoshida

Origins and History of the Center

The Center is a museum attached to the Institute of Political Science and Economics. Since the 1970s, the Association for Recording Air Raids in Tokyo has been collecting materials and damaged goods related to air raids and war damage. They had asked the Tokyo metropolitan government to build a war museum. However, they couldn't.

In order to establish a facility for the preservation of materials, storytelling and learning, the "Recording Group" and the Institute of Political Economy had been working together to appeal for private donations and received the help of over 4,000 people. Then, on March 9, 2002, the Center opened, and Katsumoto Saotome, the one of the founders of the "Recording Group," was appointed director of the museum; in 2019, historian Yutaka Yoshida will be the new director. Mr. Saotome passed away in 2022.

The purpose of the center is to clarify and exhibit the damage to civilians caused by air raids and wars, including the Great Tokyo Air Raids. We hope to contribute to building a peaceful world without repeating the horrors of war.

Membership fee and Donation to support the center

The Center, which is privately owned and operated, is sustained and managed by the membership fees and donations from the public, and carries out a variety of activities, such as exhibition, document organization and preservation, research activities, publication and editing, and various events. Please donate to our dues and fundraising efforts. Thank you very much.

● Membership fee :Individuals: JPY2,000~, Groups: JPY10,000~

*Members will receive a bi-annual bulletin and free admission to the museum.

● Post Office Transfer Account: 00170-6-123225

— Floor Guide —

〈2nd Floor Exhibition Room〉

Scan the QR code of the document with your mobile device to use the related video and audio.

The exhibition room focuses on the experiences of the people who were affected by the air raids in Tokyo. Divided into four sections, the exhibition is displayed in chronological order before, during and after air raids.

3 Video Reference Library

This is an audio-visual room that includes videos of air raid survivors recounting their stories.

4 Revival from the Air Raids

The damage and problems caused by air raids that have continued after the war are on display: the temporary burial of air raid victims, war orphans and food shortages, the movement for compensation and air raid records, and the history of the establishment of the Center.

2

The Facts of the Air Raids

There are real and model incendiary bombs used in air raids, and you can feel the weight of them. In the center, there is a display of testimonials, drawings of the experience, photos and items from the disaster after dawn.

1 Daily life under the wartime

After recovering from the Great Kanto Earthquake, Tokyo was gradually involved in the wartime system. There are exhibitions of life in those days, school activities, items related to air defense, rooms under light control (reproduction), etc.



〈1st Floor, Video and Lecture Room〉

It will be used as a venue for video screenings and events. It's also a place where you can take a group tour and hear stories from people who have experienced air raids. To give you an overall picture of the air raids, there is a large downtown disaster map and a timeline of air raids up to the present day.

The reception lobby can be used as a reading room with books and picture books about air raids.



Tokyo, Japan and Air Raids

March 10, 1945, at the end of the Asia Pacific War, there was an indiscriminate bombing raid called Great Tokyo Air Raid, by the U.S. military. It lasted for over two hours and destroyed an area of downtown Tokyo, killing about 100,000 people.

On the other hand, Japan also bombed China and other countries after the Manchurian Incident. Many people were burned, damaged, and lost their lives in air raids. Most of them were civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

Even today, Air Raids are still being carried out around the world.

Two Statues for Peace

There are two statues at the entrance of the center, "Children's Peace in the World" and "Mother and Child". "Children's Peace in the World" was raised and designed by junior and senior high school students in Tokyo, who learned about air raids and the atomic bombing. "Mother and Child" represent the wishes of mothers living in Koto City for peace.



"Children's Peace in the World"
by Mitsutetsu Okamura
*Besides Tokyo, they were also made in the U.S., Hiroshima and Kyoto etc. .



"Mother and Child"
by Arata Kono

Annual Event Schedule

Around March 10 : Tokyo Air Raids Meeting

(Talk Event of Air Raids Survivors, Center's Activity Report, etc.)

Around May 5 : Statue of "Children's Peace in the World"

Meeting

Around August 15 : Summer vacation special projects

(free research, community and citizen conversation etc.) for a week

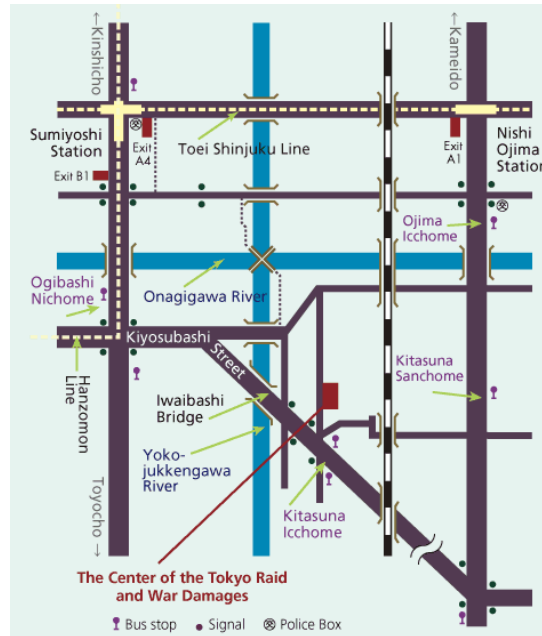
*For the latest information, please check our website and Twitter.

ACCESS

▼ From JR Akihabara Station: Bus stop #2 at the left side of the central ticket gate of JR Akihabara Station. Take the Toei Bus 《Kasai Station-bound》 (Aki 26), 35 min, get off at "Kitasuna 1-chome", 2 min walk.

▼ From Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Line or Toei Subway Shinjuku Line, Sumiyoshi Station : Take exit B1 and walk for 18 min.

*It is located at the crossing of Iwai-bashi Higashi-zume intersection on Kiyosu-bashi Street, next to the Iwai-bashi Clinic.



Information

Closed: Monday, Year-Ends and New Year's Days

*If Monday is a holiday, the museum opens on Monday and close on Tuesday.

*Open on March 9 and 10

Open hours: 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

Admission: Adults : 300JPY Jr. / Sr. high school students : 200JPY

Elementary school students : 100JPY

Preschoolers and disabled persons : Free

Remarks :

*For groups of more than 10 people, please contact us in advance.

*There is a wheelchair elevator, a toilet, and a parking lot.

There is no public parking available.

* For groups, We're available for consultation after hours and on closed days.

The Center of the Tokyo Air Raids and War Damage

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Striving for Peace in the Future by Communicating the Horrors of War

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東京大空襲・戦災資料センター

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The Center of the Tokyo Raids and War Damages

Near Kitasuna and Ojima, Koto-ku,
Tokyo, September 1945
(photo by the U.S. Military)