

Press Information

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Akebono's Ai-Museum to open to the general public from April

Akebono's brake-dedicated "Ai-museum," built last year inside the Ai-city complex in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the company's foundation, will be opened to the general public from 6 April 2005.

The Ai-museum, established as part of the renewal of approximately forty-year old production facilities, occupies an area of 800 m² and is a genuine brake museum, with over 240 exhibits including brakes for automobiles, industrial machinery and rolling stock, as well as various sensors.



The Ai-museum has the following zones: (1) product exhibition zone; (2) brake education zone; (3) history zone; and (4) hands-on experience zone

Product Exhibition Zone - Exhibits here range from the first domestically manufactured automotive disc brake in Japan to brakes for the maglev train advanced transport system operating at the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, and include in all such non-automotive products as brakes for wheelchairs, bicycles, motorcycles, industrial machinery and rolling stock, as well as the various sensors handled by Akebono.

Brake Education Zone - The brake education zone facilitates a better explanation and understanding of brakes, which are not usually very visible when installed on vehicles, by utilizing cut-away models of actual vehicles.

History Zone - Here one can learn about the history of friction materials from raw ingredients to production methods, the history of the development of Akebono's technology, and the history of brakes used in the Japanese automotive, industrial machinery and rolling stock industries.

Hands-on Experience Zone - Here visitors can experience sensor functions first-hand through the use of radio-controlled vehicles and sensor-fitted golf putters, while a computer-game simulation of friction material formulation

allows visitors to try their hand at mixing their own original brake pads, whose effectiveness can then undergo a simulated vehicle test.

Moreover, with the Ai-museum aiming to be a global brake museum, displays are certain to be supplemented and expanded in the future.

Opening times	Wednesdays 14:00 – 16:00 (Not open on Akebono holidays)
Admission fee	Free
Group tour bookings (Weekdays, 09:00 – 16:00)	Please contact Y. Fukushima or K. Kobayashi (Akebono Management Service Co., Ltd.) TEL: 048-560-1570 FAX: 048-560-2880 ※Group tours please contact in advance of the intended date of visit