

News Release

April 23, 2012

Akebono Holds Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Training Center

Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd. has held a ground-breaking ceremony for construction of its new Training Center, attended by about 40 guests including the head of the of Employment and Industry Division, as well as Saitama Prefectural officials and the Mayor of Hanyu City.

“Akebono purchased land in Hanyu 10 years after its establishment in 1929 to respond the sharp increase in demand, and started production there in 1940,” said Nobumoto Hisataka, Chairman, President & CEO of Akebono Brake Industry. “In 2001, our R&D, purchasing, manufacturing and sales divisions, which had been in scattered locations, were consolidated in ‘Ai-City’, Akebono’s headquarters in Hanyu, to accelerate reorganization of the business. We will continue to pursue improvements here in Hanyu, which has always been, and will always remain the most important location for us.”

He added that, “Akebono reached a third turning point in our history in 2010 by purchasing the North American brake business of Robert Bosch GmbH, which initiated our global business. Now, about 60% of both our net sales and our associates are from overseas locations. Moreover, new plants will be opened in Vietnam and Mexico. The new ‘akebono Training Center (tentative)’ will bring together associates from different countries while exercising our ingenuity to encourage exchange of language, culture and values.”

Akebono’s Ai-City Headquarters complex already houses a *Monozukuri* Center and an “ai-museum” brake history facility. Establishment of the new akebono Training Center will complete HR development functions, enabling Akebono to prepare globally capable associates and secure for the medium- to long-term a solid foundation for talent management and development.

Main features of the “akebono Training Center”

- Flexible learning spaces that can be enlarged or reduced depending on program requirements
- Auditorium modeled on a university-style lecture theater
- Dedicated language laboratories and study rooms
- Lounge areas for enhanced communication and garden spaces for greenery
- Accommodation for visitors on medium- and long-term stays
- Kitchen facilities for cross-cultural exchanges through the experience of various cuisines, etc.
- Library facilities to support self-study through e-learning and other means
- Video conferencing functions to strengthen worldwide networking among global facilities

Environmental measures

- Efforts to plant trees across the entire site with a greening attainment rate of 33%
- Utilization of renewable energy technologies (solar power systems, solar water heating equipment,

energy/cost savings through use of natural resources)

- Promotion of wildlife diversification through on-site cultivation of local fauna and flora such as aldrovanda vesiculosa and fireflies

Business Continuity Plan

- Earthquake resistance enhanced to 150% of Japanese standards
- Emergency provisions and supplies available in the event of use as an emergency evacuation facility
- Independent power generators to ensure emergency electricity supply

Facility outline

Facility name	“akebono Training Center” (tentative)
Address	5-Chome Higashi, Hanyu-City, Saitama
Site area	Approx. 9,500 m ²
Floor space	Approx. 3,900 m ²
Construction	Two story, steel frame building
Design	Plantec Architects, Inc.
Contractor	Kitano Construction Corp.
Start of construction	May 2012 (tentative)
Completion	December 2012 (tentative)
Total investment	Approx. 1.7 billion JPY

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About Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd.

Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd. (TSE:7238), founded in 1929, is a world leader in advanced brake and friction material development and production. The Akebono Group operates R&D centers in Japan, the United States and France, and has wholly owned or affiliated manufacturing facilities worldwide. Akebono recorded net sales of 216.6 billion yen in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011, and employs over 9,000 people worldwide on a consolidated basis. As an official supplier of the Formula 1 Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team, Akebono has been supplying and jointly developing brake systems since 2007. For more information, visit www.akebono-brake.com/english/index.html.