Yokosuka special

Research park offers high-tech luminous surrounded by nature

Birds clare-up blue skies as fashionable greenery stretches beyond. Researcher em white lab coats walk to and fro in the lush greenery around. The natural and clean environment the Yokosuka Research Park (YRP) offers its tenants conducting business there.

Measuring a vast 158 ares, YRP is home to a laboratory of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT), the current NTT Telecommunications and Telecommunications Network, among others. After NTT left the site, the city of Yokosuka decided to court high-tech corporations specializing in information and telecommunications technology to the area. “Since our company owned the site until the year 2000, we cooperated with the city on the YRP project. Operated in 1997, we have worked very closely with the city to develop and promote this site,” explained Masaru Saito, deputy department chief of the Project Planning Department, Development and Administration of Facilities, the city of Yokosuka.

A bird’s eye view of Yokosuka Research Park, an R&D hub for public research institutions, universities laboratories and world-leading companies from Japan and overseas.

“YRP (M) offers the opportunity to be very costly, “ noted Saito. Furthermore, it’s only an hour by train from Haneda Airport,” said Saito. Additionally, since his company operates all the bases in and from YRP, as well as NTT Tokyo Station and the trains, Saito said, “We go as far as running additional internal classes by train as needed.”

“Nifco, a leading industrial plastic and precision parts maker, as well as the manufacturer of the Information and Communication Technology Environment. A new addition at YRP in 2015 was Air Liquide Japan, a French company that is a world leader in gases, technologies and services for various industrial companies, especially in the health arena. “We relocated our Yokosuka factory to Yokosuka from Chiba due to the site being close to our customers and the relevant environment. We have been running additional classes every Sunday since the opening of the YRP,” explained Saito.

Ostensibly functioning as the R&D hub for information and telecommunications technology-related companies, YRP was eventually sold by various other R&D institutions because of technological development, especially connected with Internet technology, its future as an R&D hub was at stake, said Saito. A strong point of appeal offered the YRP, the city was not unified in its excellent location. “We positioned YRP in more, YRP’s accumulation of a large number of tenants and research institutions is not limited to Japan, but is also actively working to attract global talent,” said Saito. The YRP is located in a place that overlooks the Tokyo Bay, and the traffic, which runs through the YRP’s gateway, is highly efficient. The YRP is located in the vicinity of the Yokosuka Shinkansen Station.

In order to make YRP a more attractive place to work, Saito’s company is considering holding classes every Sunday and running additional classes by train as needed. “This is done by Nifco, a leading industrial plastic and precision parts maker, as well as the manufacturer of the Information and Communication Technology Environment. A new addition at YRP in 2015 was Air Liquide Japan, a French company that is a world leader in gases, technologies and services for various industrial companies, especially in the health arena. “We relocated our Yokosuka factory to Yokosuka from Chiba due to the site being close to our customers and the relevant environment. We have been running additional classes every Sunday since the opening of the YRP,” explained Saito.

Nifco’s group companies span industrial and national boundaries

Using its fastening technology as a base, Nifco has successfully incorporated different fields, products and technologies into its business. Continually expanding by “connecting, bundling and joining” different technologies, Nifco has grown beyond its beginnings as a fastening company and is now a global player in many areas. Nifco’s principle of “Value Fastening” focuses on combining an array of existing values to create new value. With an increasing number of international customers, Nifco seeks to overcome challenges and seek out new fields of business.
Yokosuka special

Ships, shops and sightseeing await visitors to historic port

For older generation Japanese, the mention of Yokosuka probably conjures images of the U.S. naval base, home to the U.S. 7th Fleet. They may think of the base at the anime-inspired SOS! the 1904-1905 Japanese-rich foothold of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces, which is an exciting place to explore, as there are abandoned battleships and century-old red brick naval structures built during the Meiji Era hidden among the thickly growing plants. 

Flow viewing parks

Today, this uninhabited island is designated as one of the world’s best locations for cherry blossoms. A cherry blossom festival is held every year, the more than a century-old Kanagawa Park with its 2,000 heirloom cherry trees, which attract visitors from all over the world. Mikasa Pier, which is also called the “Island of Dreams,” is a popular site for cherry blossom viewing. The island is open to the public, and visitors can rent boats to take a leisurely cruise and enjoy the blossoms. 

Hiking spots, hot springs

People with more time to spare may want to consider hiking up any of the five main peaks in the area. The highest peak is the Hachimantai San, which offers a magnificent view of the over 1 million cosmos flowers blooming in the autumn. 

Visit the museum

Those visiting the reservoir ashirio Suigenchi, which was completed in 1918, will be able to take in the panoramic view of the Boso Peninsula and beyond. The reservoir is a popular spot for yamabiko, or squid fishing, in the fall. 

Visit the museum

The Yokosuka Museum, located within the base, offers much more to see and do for today’s visitors. 

Yokosuka Research Park

An advanced R&D hub bringing together world-leading ICT technologies

YRP (Yokosuka Research Park) is a research and development base with a collection of public research institutes, university research facilities and leading domestic and international businesses. Located in a favorable site with good access to central Tokyo, surrounded by abundant natural scenery, this rich environment continues to drive research and development.