

# Shimadzu Foundation Memorial Hall



## Introduction

The Shimadzu Foundation Memorial Hall was established in 1975 to commemorate the company's centennial anniversary. The Hall is located in Kiyamachi-Nijo district of Kyoto, where company founder Genzo Shimadzu set up his original business, an area that still retains the unique look and feeling of old Kyoto. The building that houses the Hall is a traditional townhouse structure that recalls the days when the company founder lived and worked here.

On permanent display at the Hall are some 600 exhibits which show the origins of science and technology in Japan. These include physics and chemistry instruments and medical X-ray equipment – products the company has been manufacturing and marketing since business began in 1875.

Many of the products on view here were the first of their kind in Japan and, in some cases, the first in the world, proof that Shimadzu has lived up to its time-honored philosophy of "Contributing to Society through Science and Technology." This ideal has guided Shimadzu Corporation since its inception, much in the same way that Japanese tradition has been a guiding force throughout Kyoto's long history, whose history of being Japan's capital extends back some 1,200 years.

## Background

After flourishing for some 1,000 years, Kyoto was faced with the prospect of decline in the late 19th century when the capital was moved to Tokyo. Instead of despairing, however, Kyoto began to revitalize itself by introducing state-of-the-art Western technology.

Around this time an idealistic young man named Genzo Shimadzu, committed to the idea of helping to make science and technology the foundation of Japan, opened up a small factory. His son, who eventually took the name of Genzo Shimadzu, followed his father in the business and helped the company grow. The many accomplishments and pioneering spirits of these two men still serve as an emotional anchor for the company today.

Genzo Shimadzu once attributed his success simply to the coincidental intersections of time, place and people in his life. His son, on the other hand, lived by a motto of "soul searching when in bed, working hard when



awake," and believed that effort was eventually rewarded. Taken together, these twin ideas describe a philosophy where hard work and preparation turn opportunity into success – a spirit that guides the company even today.



Walking through the Hall gives you a real feeling for this spirit and a sense of how it still echoes in the culture of the company Genzo Shimadzu founded.

## Exhibit Highlights

One important aspect of Shimadzu's business activities is the role they played in Japanese school education. The company manufactured a variety of instruments that were designed to illustrate the principles of science for students and promote the country's growth in this field. You'll see many instruments that feature small "surprises", designed by Shimadzu's engineers to make the study of physics and chemistry – subjects many people find difficult – fascinating and fun. In fact, you are allowed to touch and handle some of the instruments on display here.

## Location

The Shimadzu Foundation Memorial Hall is located to the north of the Takase River's Ichinofunairi anchorage, a historically significant site. The Hall's close proximity to central Kyoto makes it an ideal stop during any tour of Kyoto. We warmly invite all visitors to Japan to stop by our museum and learn about Japan's industrial and scientific history.



### SHIMADZU FOUNDATION MEMORIAL HALL

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Open : 9:30 to 17:00 Closed : Wednesday