

Hara Model Railway Museum

Coordinates: 35°27′47″N 139°37′29″E﻿ / ﻿35.46306°N 139.62472°E﻿ / 35.46306; 139.62472

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The **Hara Model Railway Museum** (原鉄道模型博物館 *Hara Tetsudō Mokei Hakubutsukan*) is a model railway museum in Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Japan, which opened on 10 July 2012. Managed by Mitsui Fudosan, the museum houses the extensive collection of model trains built and amassed by the Japanese model railway enthusiast Nobutaro Hara (原信太郎 *Hara Nobutarō*).^[1] The museum covers an area of approximately 1,700 m², with the display area covering an area of approximately 1,200 m².^[2]

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Exhibits

Approximately 1,000 items from Hara's private collection of more than 6,000 model railway items are on display.^[3] The centrepiece of the museum is a 30 metre x 10 metre diorama called "Ichiban Tetsumo Park" (いちばんテツモパーク) which features "1 gauge" (45 mm gauge) model trains from around the world, and has approximately 450 metres of track. The layout features working overhead power lines to power trains via their pantographs.^[4]

Exhibits on display include models in 1 gauge (45 mm gauge, 1/32 scale), 0 gauge, and H0 gauge.^[4]

History

Hara Model Railway Museum



Museum entrance, July 2012

Established	10 July 2012
Location	Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Japan
Type	Railway museum
Director	Nobutaro Hara
Owner	Mitsui Fudosan
Public transit access	Yokohama Station, Shin-Takashima Station
Website	http://www.hara-mrm.com

The museum was unveiled to the news media on 20 June 2012 ahead of its public opening on 10 July.^[5]

Nobutaro Hara

The owner of the collection, Nobutaro Hara, was born in Tokyo on 4 April 1919,^[2] and built his first model train at the age of 13.^[1] He studied mechanical engineering at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.^[6] After World War II, Hara worked as a development engineer for the office equipment company Kokuyo (ja).^[4] In his spare time, he continued to build and collect model trains,^[1] travelling to some 380 different countries and building up a collection of over 6,000 items.^[2] Over the years, he received a number of invitations from museums to exhibit his models, but always refused. He finally agreed to lend part of his collection to Mitsui Fudosan because the museum was located in Yokohama, the terminal of Japan's first railway, from Shimbashi in Tokyo.^[6]

Access

The museum is located on the second floor of the Yokohama Mitsui Building in Nishi-ku, Yokohama, and is a two-minute walk from Shin-Takashima Station on the Minatomirai Line, and a five-minute walk from Yokohama Station.^[4]

Address

1-1-2 Takashima, Nishi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken

References

- ↑ ^{*a b c*} Konagai, Maaya (22 June 2012). "Model train buff brings out his toys for everyone" (http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/fq20120622a1.html#.T_tmU2Nn784) . *The Japan Times* (Japan: The Japan Times Ltd.): p. 14. ISSN 0289-1956 ([//www.worldcat.org/issn/0289-1956](http://www.worldcat.org/issn/0289-1956)) . http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/fq20120622a1.html#.T_tmU2Nn784.
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- ↑ ^{*a b c d*} Ikeguchi, Eiji (September 2012). "原鉄道模型博物館 [Hara Model Railway Museum]" . *Japan Railfan Magazine* (Japan: Kōyūsha Co., Ltd.) **52** (617): p.130-133.
- ↑ "Railway museum featuring one of world's biggest dioramas to open in Yokohama" (<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/features/news/20120624p2a00m0na005000c.html>) . *Mainichi jp*. Japan: The Mainichi Newspapers. 24 June 2012. <http://mainichi.jp/english/english/features/news/20120624p2a00m0na005000c.html>. Retrieved 10 July 2012.
- ↑ ^{*a b*} Orii, Yuka (24 July 2012). "Full steam ahead for 93-year-old model train builder" (http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/people/AJ201207240008) . *Asia & Japan Watch*. Japan: The Asahi Shimbun

Company. http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/people/AJ201207240008. Retrieved 26 July 2012.

External links

- Official website (<http://www.hara-mrm.com>) (**Japanese**)

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Categories: Museums established in 2012 | Museums in Yokohama | Railway museums in Japan

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