

What Was Lost in the Earthquake, What Need To Be Passed On, and What We Should Create From

The Hyogo-ken Nanbu Earthquake occurred at 5:46 in the morning on January 17, 1995, took precious lives and destroyed cherished livings of local communities. The earthquake directly beneath the densely populated cities was an almost unprecedented experience and caused tremendous damage to the Hanshin Expressway, leaving us with indescribable catastrophe. In the chaotic, sorrowful aftermath, our priority missions were rescue of people, emergency responses and early restoration of the expressway system.

While making full efforts toward restoration, we saw a strong need to pass on this experience of disaster to future generations and, as a part of those activities, decided to select and preserve damaged structures from engineering view points. The pieces of damaged structures collected here are reminiscent of the devastating energy of earthquake, demonstrating how real structures fail and collapse actually, which was only possible in the realm of hypothesis in the past.

Although the forces of nature could not be resisted, the communities have been revived by human power and wisdom. This museum aims at not only preserving how the earthquake destroyed but also conveying how we responded in the 623 days from the moment of the earthquake to the complete restoration of the expressway system. The museum also introduces new technologies and various activities we have developed and put into practice based on the lessons we learned, including disaster management support and educational assistance for disaster prevention.

Earthquakes will come. We strongly hope that valuable information be conveyed and shared among people through this museum, so that collective wisdom generated thereby will contribute to preventing catastrophic disasters in the future. For us, this museum will always be the reminder of safety and reliability, for we see no end to the lessons from which we must learn.

Chronological record from earthquake to reconstruction of Hanshin Expressway

- 1995.1.17 Hyogo-ken Nanbu Earthquake occurred
4 bridges collapsed along Kobe Route 3
1 bridge collapsed along Wangan Route 5
- 1995.2.7 Emergency measures promotion office was setup
- 1995.4.1 Kobe Route restoration/reconstruction office was set up
Debris were removed from Kobe Route and gathered under raised highway Wangan Route 4
- 1995.9.1 Re-openings of Wangan Route 5
- 1996.2.19 Re-openings of Kobe Route between Kyobashi and Maya
- 1996.7.17 Re-openings of Kobe Route between Yanagihara and Kyobashi
- 1996.8.10 Re-openings of Kobe Route between Maya and Fukae
- 1996.8.31 Re-openings of Kobe Route between Tukumiyama and Yanagihara
- 1996.9.30 Re-openings of Kobe Route between Fukae and Mukogawa
- 1996.10 Openings of Hanshin Expressway Earthquake Museum, at Fukaehama, Higashinada Ward, Kobe
- 2009.12.18 Redesigned and re-openings of Hanshin Expressway Earthquake Museum



Summary of Earthquake Museum

- [Area]**
1212 m²
- [Structures on display]**
Steel superstructure, 3
RC bridge pier, 6
Steel bridge pier, 6
Bearing system
- [Number of Panel]**
At the entrance, 3
At the display corner, 14
At the presentation room, 3
- [Scale model]**
7

Hanshin Expressway Earthquake Museum

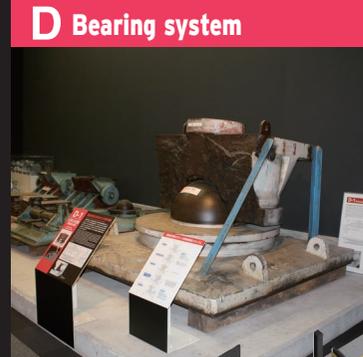
— 1995.1.17 and After That —



11-1, Fukaehamacho Higashinada-ku
Kobe, Hyogo, Japan 541-0056

Homepage Address <http://www.hanshin-exp.co.jp/>

Outline of the Display, Hanshin Expressway Earthquake Museum



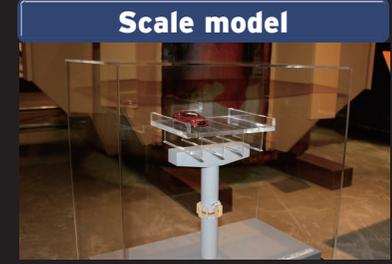
Damaged structures are displayed for the section of Steel superstructure, RC bridge pier, Steel bridge pier, and Bearing system.



Based upon the earthquake experience, developed technology, construction method, as well as disaster assistance and necessity to pass this disaster down the generations.



Large panel points out the location of severely damaged structures, displayed in this museum



In order to visualize images, scale models are exhibited

Presentation room

With using projector, we can make a presentation on the outbreak of Hyogo-ken Nanbu Earthquake and disaster, also restoration activities since that time.

●Remarks by a staff in charge

●Chronological table



Large panel

large scale photo panel shows the details of typical damages

Entrance

Introduction of Hyogo-ken Nanbu Earthquake

Damage outline

Introduction of the damage type and the details

Kids corner

As a comprehensive social study for school, countermeasures against earthquake for highway protection are illustrated