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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Japan's First*¹ Large-Scale Inland Aquarium "KYOTO AQUARIUM" Opens March 14, 2012 (Wed.)
- A Nine Zone Layout Recreates a Range of Habitats from
Kyoto's River Ecosystem to the Open Ocean -

TOKYO, Japan - February 13, 2012 - ORIX Real Estate, a subsidiary of ORIX Corporation, has announced the final details of KYOTO AQUARIUM, a facility that will open on March 14, 2012 (Wed.) in Kyoto's Umekoji Park (35-1 Kankijicho Kyoto Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto).

KYOTO AQUARIUM, Kyoto's first full-scale aquarium, is also Japan's first*¹ large-scale inland aquarium. Based on the concept of "Life Connected by Water," the aquarium is designed to recreate the connection of life from the source of Kyoto's rivers to the sea, and the ecosystems where numerous life forms co-exist, as well as the cyclical flow of water and life. The aquarium is organized into nine zones that present habitats ranging from Kyoto's rivers to the open sea, namely the Kyoto River Zone, Marine Animal Zone, Penguin Zone, Main Pool, Ocean Zone, Interaction Hall, Dolphin Stadium, Conservation Zone, and Kyoto Countryside Zone.

KYOTO AQUARIUM is located in Umekoji Park, which is an approximate 15-minute walk west of Kyoto Station's central exit. Set against the backdrop of scenery unique to Kyoto, with views of mountains, temples and railways, the facility offers visitors the opportunity to interact with various forms of aquatic life.

KYOTO AQUARIUM aspires to be an "edutainment*²-oriented aquarium" where visitors learn about nature and the ecosystem in the locality and Kyoto while having fun, offering more than just the traditional aquarium experience of observing aquatic life and samples. Designed for all ages from children to adults, the facility aims to attract individual tourists, tour groups, students on school trips, and preschoolers and children visiting on picnics and field trips. Other targeted visitors include families, couples, and groups of similarly aged members living in Kyoto. In addition to exhibits, the aquarium will conduct dolphin performances, experiential programs and other events.

*1 Source: ORIX Real Estate research. A large-scale inland aquarium is defined as an aquarium that is 50 km from the coast with a total floor space of more than 10,000 m².

*2 Edutainment is a combination of "education" and "entertainment." It has become a popular expression in recent years for learning while having fun at museums, art galleries and similar facilities.

Overview

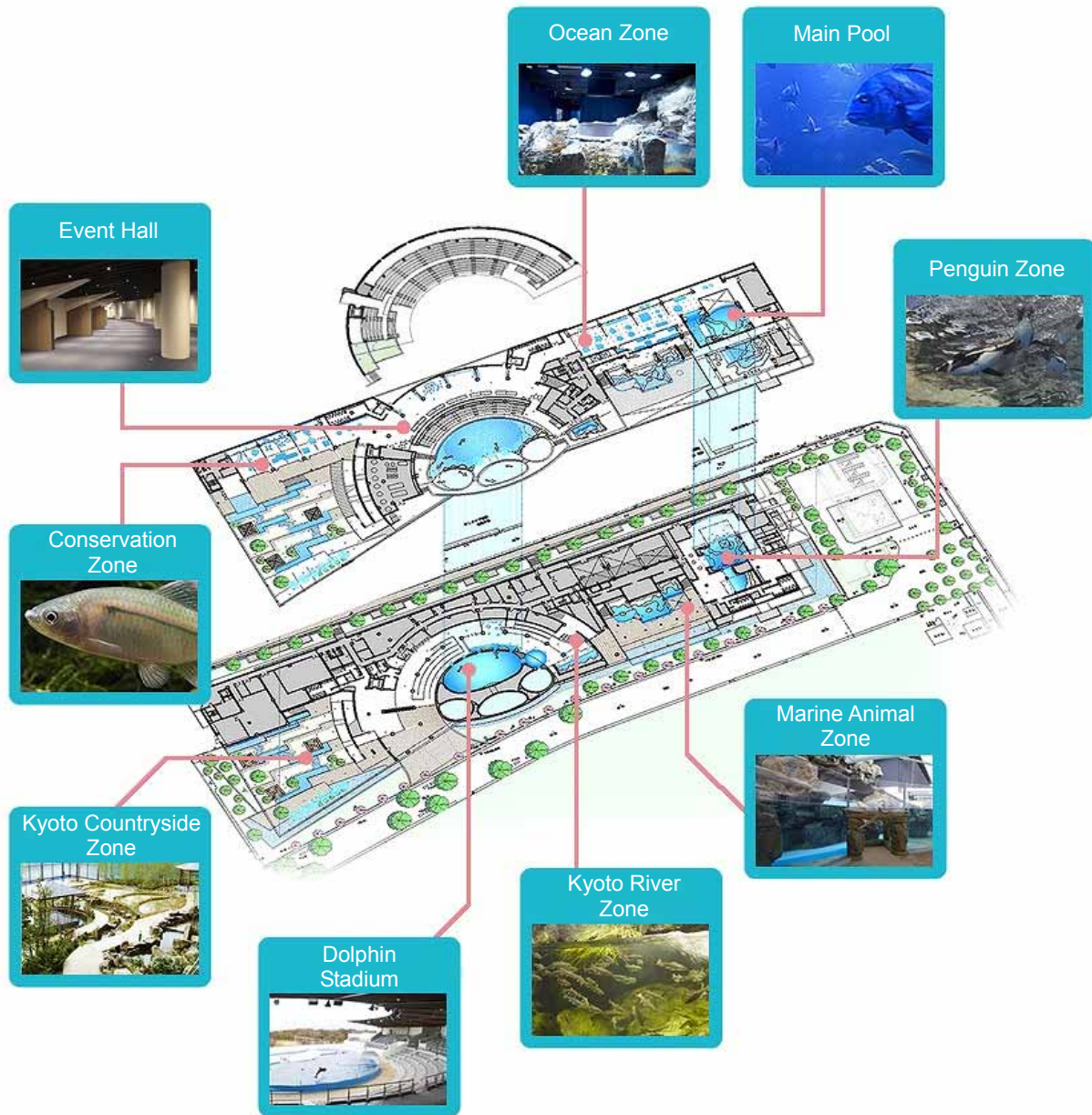
Facility Name	KYOTO AQUARIUM				
Operating Company	ORIX Real Estate Corporation (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Yoshiyuki Yamaya)				
Planned Opening	March 14, 2012 (Wednesday)				
Location	35-1 Kankijicho Kyoto Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto (inside Umekoji Park)				
Operating Hours	9:00-17:00 *Subject to change during Golden Week, summer holidays and the New Year period *Admission ends one hour prior to closing time *Ticket sales, purchase of and applications for Annual Passports and other memberships end one hour prior to closing time				
Closed Days	None (open 365 days a year) *Subject to temporary closures for facility inspections				
Admission Fees (Tax included)	Individuals				
		Adults	High school students	Junior high school and elementary school students	Children (Aged 3 and over)
	General Admission	¥2,000	¥1,500	¥1,000	¥600
	Annual Passport	¥4,000	¥3,000	¥2,000	¥1,200
	* Disabled visitors and one attendant are each eligible to receive a 50% discount on general admission fees upon presentation of a Disability Certificate. * Junior high school and high school students are requested to show their student identification at the ticket counter. * Advance sales of Annual Passports (with a special gift of a KYOTO AQUARIUM original neck strap holder) are available from February 14, 2012 (Tues.) to March 7 (Wed.), 2012. (Sold at the Annual Passport window on the first floor of KYOTO AQUARIUM)				
	Groups				
	General Groups (With 20 or more members)	¥1,800	¥1,350	¥900	¥540
School Groups *Accompanying teachers are admitted free of charge. (Some restrictions apply)	Adults/ high school students	Junior high school students	Elementary school students	Preschoolers (Admission fee required from age 0)	
	¥1,200	¥720	¥500	¥360	
*Applies to admission for school activities					
Director	Shigeru Sakakibara				
Number of First-Year Visitors (Estimated)	2 million				
Reference	Food and drink allowed *Food and drink brought into the facility may not be consumed in exhibition spaces. For Families with Small Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing rooms equipped with hot water sinks (3 locations) • Boys' urinals (3 locations) • Seated toilet for children (8 locations) • Diaper changing tables (8 locations) Barrier Free <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair rental • Wheelchair accessible toilets (4 locations) • Guide dogs and other service dogs permitted. 				



Facility Overview

Floors	3 stories above, 1 story penthouse
Building Area	5,948.25 m ²
Floor Area	10,974.29 m ²
Structure	Reinforced concrete/steel construction
Total Length	Approx. 170 m
Depth	Approx. 55 m
Height	Approx. 15 m
Total Water Volume	Approx. 3,000 t
Maximum Capacity	Approx. 5,000 people
Aquarium Layout	Kyoto River Zone, Marine Animal Zone, Penguin Zone, Main Pool, Ocean Zone, Interaction Hall, Dolphin Stadium, Conservation Zone, Kyoto Countryside Zone

Facility Map



Kyoto River Zone

The Kyoto River Zone consists of two pools based on the motif of two rivers: Kyoto's Kamo River and the Yura River, which runs through northern Kyoto Prefecture. The different environments of each river are realistically recreated and aquatic life characteristic of each river habitat is displayed.

■ Pool (1)

Exhibit of one of Japan's largest Japanese giant salamanders (*Andrias Japonicus*)

The Japanese giant salamander is designated as a special natural treasure of Japan and has been called "a living fossil" and "one of the world's largest amphibians." Much is still unknown about the behavior of this rare species. Currently, the number of endemic Japanese giant salamanders in the Kamo River ecosystem is declining due to an increase in hybrid species resulting from interbreeding with the Chinese giant salamander, which was introduced to this habitat by man. In addition to providing an exhibit, the aquarium will work to promote research into the conservation of this species and disseminate related information.



Recreating a mystical habitat formed by the three water sources of the Kamo River's upstream ecosystem

A Japanese giant salamander and a school of dwarf rill trout live quietly in a pristine natural environment untouched by human activity, where snowmelt from the mountains is slowly filtered in the ground. To realistically capture such a scene from Kamo River's upstream ecosystem, we recreated the three sources of water found in this habitat: *Iwashimizu*, or water that seeps through cracks in rocks; *Yusui*, or water that wells up from the sandy river bottom, and *Shizuku*, or water flowing through breaks in the surrounding moss.

Aquatic life on display: Japanese giant salamander, dwarf rill trout and others.



■ Pool (2)

Recreating the Yura River's Ecosystems from Upstream to Downstream

Pool (2) recreates the Yura River's upstream, midstream and downstream ecosystems in a single pool. Visitors can enjoy aquatic life representing each section of the river and the changes of the four seasons. The display includes upstream species such as char and landlocked masu salmon; midstream species such as the Japanese minnow and Zunaga-nigoi; and downstream species such as carp and Japanese silver crucian carp.

Aquatic life on display:

Upstream: Char, landlocked masu salmon, Amur minnow and others

Midstream: Japanese minnow, Zunaga-nigoi, freshwater minnow and others

Downstream: Carp, Japanese silver crucian carp, masu salmon and others



Marine Animal Zone

Visitors can enjoy watching marine animals in the outdoor rocky area and pool as they relax and perform stunning acrobatics in the water. The zone features a number of unique pools. The horseshoe-shaped pool makes visitors feel as if they were swimming together with fur seals. There is also a tubular pool that gives visitors a close-up view of earless seals. Visitors can watch these marine animals from various angles.

Animals on display: South American fur seal and spotted seal.



Penguin Zone

This zone is designed to allow visitors to watch penguins both underwater and on land. Visitors can enjoy two different behaviors of penguins by watching them dynamically dive in and swim through the water and leisurely spend time on land.

Furthermore, the zone is designed to allow visitors to see how penguins actually behave in the wild. A wave generator produces actual waves underwater. The penguins can use the force of the waves to get onshore. Along with a rocky landscape, sandboxes have been installed on the poolside where the penguins can be seen raising chicks.

Animals on display: Cape penguins



Main Pool

Installed in a 2-story atrium, the main pool contains approximately 500 tons of water. The pool can be observed from a total of 7 viewing spots.

The main pool area has many enjoyable features on the first floor. An overhang treats visitors to a close-up view of fish. There is also a cave from which moray eels can be observed from three viewing "holes."

The front view on the second floor provides a stunning panoramic view of the open ocean. In addition, there are various viewing spots where visitors can observe aquatic life of all sizes. The behavior and appearance of this aquatic life is teeming with variety. In this way, the aquarium recreates the biodiversity of Japan's seas.

Aquatic life on display:

White-spotted eagle ray, thornhead, green sea turtle, pitted stingray and others.



Ocean Zone

The Ocean Zone is divided into four areas: the Coral Sea, Tide Pool Classroom, Invertebrate Pool and the Kyoto Sea. Visitors can view aquatic life and their behavior based on each of these four themes.

Coral Sea

Bright and beautiful scenes, white sandy beaches and a colorful coral reef have been recreated in this area. Visitors can enjoy the complex colors and shapes of coral along with a wide variety of colorful fish swimming around the coral.

Aquatic life on display: Clownfish and others.



Tide Pool Classroom

The Tide Pool Classroom teaches visitors about the physiology and behavior of tide pool organisms by allowing visitors to actually touch these organisms.

Specialist aquarium keepers instruct visitors on how to touch these organisms and provide information about their behavior. Visitors gain first-hand experience of the rough texture of the skin of bullhead sharks, and the surprising hardness of starfish and sea cucumbers.

Aquatic life on display: Bullhead shark, starfish, purple sea urchin and others.



Invertebrate Pool

The Invertebrate Pool introduces invertebrate species lacking skeletal structures, such as squid and octopi. Distinctive aquatic life with mysterious features is displayed, such as moon jellyfish and shellfish such as lobsters and crabs.

Aquatic life on display: Giant Pacific octopus, Chambered nautilus, Aurelia and others.



Kyoto Sea

The Kyoto Sea area features marine life closely tied to Kyoto's culinary culture, such as queen crabs. In addition, visitors can enjoy spotting smaller aquatic life hiding in the rocks and seaweed. Plans call for displaying abortive migration fish arriving in the Sea of Japan, as well as holding exhibits of aquatic life according to the four seasons.

Aquatic life on display: Queen crabs, black sea bream, porcupine fish and others.



Event Hall

KYOTO AQUARIUM holds daily workshops in the Event Hall where visitors can learn about life and the environment through direct experience, in addition to merely viewing exhibits. Programs include the Calendar Workshop, which is based on seasonal and cultural events; the Holiday Workshop, in which anyone can easily participate, and the Teamwork Workshop, in which all participants create something together. The aquarium will also develop workshops and other events that visitors can participate in over more extended periods of time.

The Event Hall also features an exhibit of a global seashell collection through an exchange program with the Kyoto Municipal Science Center for Youth.



Dolphin Stadium

Dolphin Stadium is a spacious, open stadium offering 180-degree panoramic views. Set against a scenic backdrop unique to Kyoto, including temples, mountains and parks, Dolphin Stadium enables visitors to enjoy performances by bottlenose dolphins with colorful personalities. Visitors can also watch them swimming in the pool. Through these performances, visitors learn about the physiology and physical capabilities of dolphins and can observe their growth, behavior, personalities and abilities, while having fun.

Aquatic life on display: Bottlenose dolphins.



Conservation Zone

The Conservation Zone displays aquatic life native to Mizorogaike Pond and the former Oguraike Pond, aquatic life closely tied to Biwa Lake, and species unique to Kyoto, such as Aucha perch and fourspine sculpin.

Through multiple-themed exhibits and learning areas, this zone introduces visitors to so-called rare species that are listed in the Red Data Book, which documents near-extinct species for which sightings in the wild have decreased markedly in recent years. This zone will be utilized to disseminate information about environmental conservation in Kyoto.

Aquatic life on display: Aucha perch, fourspine sculpin, ajime loach, yellow pond turtle and others.



Theme-based introduction to Kyoto's diverse natural environment

The freshwater organisms of Kyoto, a city blessed with abundant water resources, can be broadly divided into two categories: Yura River system and Lake Biwa-Yodo River system organisms. This zone displays aquatic life native to Mizorogaike Pond and the former Oguraike Pond, including organisms related to frogs, the clouded salamander and aquatic insects, as well as the striped bitterling. Aquatic life closely tied to Lake Biwa is also on display.



Introducing the history of Kyoto, a city with abundant water resources

Exhibits in this zone explain how rare species in Kyoto live and the reasons why they became rare species, along with explanations of related events in Kyoto's history.

Kyoto Countryside Zone

The Kyoto Countryside Zone recreates Kyoto's traditional countryside setting of rice terraces and irrigation canals, which can no longer be seen as much as before, as well as the ecosystem found there. This zone provides a place for visitors to learn how catfish, crucian carp, frogs and other wildlife utilize the environment of the countryside and terraced fields, as well as the important role played by people in connection with the ecosystem.



Furthermore, visitors can also see various water plants that grow in rice fields and wetlands, which have now become rare.

Project Overview

Project Operator	ORIX Real Estate Corporation
Design	Toyo Sekkei Jimusho Co., Ltd., Taisei Corporation
Construction	Taisei Corporation

Company Overview

Operator	ORIX Real Estate Corporation	
Tokyo Headquarters	Akasaka Star Gate Plaza, 2-3-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, Japan	
Established	March 11, 1999	
Representative	Yoshiyuki Yamaya, President & Representative Director	
Fiscal Year-end	March 31	
Business Activities	Residential	Development and sale of condominiums, houses, etc.
	Real Estate Investment	Development and purchase of offices, houses, commercial facilities, logistics facilities and other investment products
		Leasing, value enhancement, sale and asset management of offices, houses, commercial facilities, logistics facilities, etc.
		Investment in overseas real estate
		Real estate business rehabilitation and M&A
		Development and purchase of rental properties for funds
	Operation	Development and operation of nursing care facilities
		Rehabilitation of hotels and Japanese inns
		Operation and management of hotels, golf courses and training centers

Contracted Operator	ORIX Aquarium Corporation	
Headquarters	World Trade Center Bldg., 2-4-1 Hamamatsu-cho, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6135, Japan	
Established	April 1, 2011	
Representative	Etsuaki Morikawa, President & Representative Director	
Fiscal Year-end	March 31	
Business Activities	Planning, operation and management of aquariums	
	Planning, operation and management of product sales and restaurants	
	Planning and operation of experimental learning courses and other educational programs	

About ORIX

ORIX Corporation (TSE: 8591; NYSE: IX) is an integrated financial services group based in Tokyo, Japan, providing innovative value-added products and services to both corporate and retail customers. With operations in 27 countries and regions worldwide, ORIX's activities include corporate financial services, such as leases and loans, as well as automobile operations, rental operations, real estate, life insurance, banking and loan servicing. For more details, please visit our website at: <http://www.orix.co.jp/grp/en/>

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