

To Press

August 6, 2007

National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

The Number of Visitors to the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation Reached 4 million People on August 5 (Sun.)

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan, Director: Mamoru Mohri, Address: Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo) has held a commemorative ceremony as it welcomed its 4 millionth visitor since the opening of the museum at around 11:00 am August 5 (Sun.), 2007.

The 4 millionth visitor was Ms. Sumomo Kawanabe (10 years old, 4th grade in elementary school) who was visiting from Setagaya-ku, Tokyo. Sumomo was visiting the museum with her parents.

The ceremony was held on the special stage set within the event site of the Special Exhibition, "Science News! from Asia - Power of Asia, Power of Science -" at the Exhibition Space of the 1F of Miraikan. The commemorative ceremony took place in front of over 100 visitors who had gathered for the celebration, and flowers and a certificate for the 4 millionth visitor and a "DNA Extraction Kit," which can easily be enjoyed at home and used for a free research project while on summer vacation, were presented by Director Mamoru Mohri.

On this occasion, Sumomo happened to come to the museum as she was on her summer vacation. She explained her feelings in words such as "I was surprised to become the 4 millionth visitor since I came here to see the ASIMO demonstration as it was recommended by my brother." After the ceremony the museum invited her to see the all sky movie "Space Elevator - Future Dreamed by Scientists -" prior to the release from August 11 (Sat.) at Dome Theater GAIA with Director Mohri. Since the press preview was held on that same day, there were greetings from the actors who were responsible for the voices of the characters and from Mr. Serkan Anilir (Associate Professor of the University of Tokyo/Architecture and the first candidate for Turkish astronaut) who edited the movie.

National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, was opened in July, 2001 as a base for transmitting information which introduces cutting-edge science and technology in an understandable way for the actualization of a scientifically and technologically creative nation. Every year, the number of visitors has expanded at a pace which exceeds the number of visitors for the previous year as Special Exhibitions and seminars presenting interesting themes where science and technology, society and art, etc., intersect have been held each year since its opening. Our records show that during the period up to the end of March 2007, the number of visitors had reached a record high of 778,629 people.

The number of visitors to the museum reached 500 thousand on May 12, 2002, 1 million on March 29, 2003, 2 million on November 3, 2004, and 3 million on April 20, 2006. The record also shows that the number of visitors reached a record high of 778,629 people for the year 2006.

[Outline]

Accomplished date: August 5 (Sun.), around 11:00 am.

Name of 4 millionth visitor:

Ms. Sumomo Kawanabe (10 years old, 4th grade in elementary school) from Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

Images of the ceremony can be accessed and downloaded from the website of Miraikan until August 16 (Thu.)

URL: <http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/press/index.html>

[Reference] The transition in the numbers of the visitors,

July 9, 2001: The Opening of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

May 12, 2002: The number of visitors to the museum reaches 500 thousand.

March 29, 2003: The number of visitors to the museum reaches 1 million.

November 3, 2004: The number of visitors to the museum reaches 2 million.

April 20, 2006: The number of visitors to the museum reaches 3 million.

| Inquiries from general visitors: | For information on this release, please contact: |
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| National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) TEL: +81-3-3570-9151 / FAX: +81-3-3570-9150 URL: http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp E-mail: info@miraikan.jst.go.jp | Public Relations and International Affairs Division, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) (press@miraikan.jst.go.jp) 2-41, Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064 TEL: +81-3-3570-9192 / FAX: +81-3-3570-9150 |