

March 9, 2018
Aichi Steel Corporation

Registration of Kariya Plant, Prototype Plant and the Origin of the Toyota Group, as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property (Structure)

Aichi Steel Corporation (Headquarters: Tokai, Japan, President: Takahiro Fujioka) announces that its Prototype plant, Kariya Plant, has been reported by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure).

Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (structure) are modern or similar cultural asset structures that are at risk of disappearance and, based on the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties, are registered so that they can be widely passed onto the next generation.

The Prototype plant Kariya Plant, which has been reported on here, was used as an experimental plant by the Automobile Division of Toyota Industries Works (currently: Toyota Motor Corporation) when Aichi Steel Corporation was the Steel Division of Toyota Industries Works (currently: Toyota Industries Corporation). It is a historical building in which founder, Kiichiro Toyoda completed the A1 prototype passenger vehicle.

It was used as a parts and repair plant until approximately 10 years ago. Demolition of the plant was subsequently considered from the viewpoints of safety and earthquake-resistance. However, the decision was made to preserve it as a site where one can experience the appearance of the company during its foundation, resulting in the building remaining to this day.

Going forward, it will be operated by the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology as a shared asset with the Toyota Group. Public admission is being considered in addition to utilization in various types of training.

Aichi Steel Corporation will continue to carefully preserve this building, which could be described as the starting point of the Toyota Group, and will pass on the spirit of its founding.



Interior of Kariya Plant, Prototype Plant, Aichi Steel Corporation