

December 5, 2019
Aichi Steel Corporation

Japan's First Stainless Steel Cubic Connection Receives Japan Stainless Steel Association Prize

On December 4, Aichi Steel Corporation (President: Takahiro Fujioka), along with Tsumura Company, which handled the design and installation, received one of the Awards of Excellence within the 18th Japan Stainless Steel Association Prize for the stainless steel used in the construction of a Stainless Steel Cubic Connection play structure inside Bell Park Chippubetsu (Chippubetsu-cho, Hokkaido).

Furthermore, in commemorating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Japan Stainless Steel Association, various industry newspapers gave out Special Awards to some of the nine recipients of the Award of Excellence, and the aforementioned stainless steel received the Japan Metal Daily Award.

The Japan Stainless Steel Association started its Prize system in 1993 to formally recognize stainless steel products widely used in society (building construction & civil engineering components, products, functional components, monuments, etc.) whose functionality, designability, and originality contributed to harmony with the social environment and the creation of new culture.

Although there are many large-size play structures throughout Japan that use cubic connections utilizing lumber and ordinary steel, the one in Bell Park Chippubetsu is extremely large, with a width of 50 m, a height of 13 m, boasting six stories. This is the first time stainless steel has been used for cubic connections in Japan.

Chippubetsu-cho, Hokkaido, where this play structure is located, is well-known for heavy snowfall. In winter, most of the play structure would be covered by snow, which tends to cause paint to peel off. Thus, there were concerns about potentially high maintenance costs.

To address this concern, we used 46 tons of stainless steel, which possesses excellent corrosion resistance and resists cracking even at low temperatures, for the pillars and beams. This allowed us to reduce the post-installation running cost while achieving a play structure that is safe and secure, with a high degree of designability.

By continuing to strive to develop technologies that address a wide variety of needs, cultivate markets, and provide products with high added value, Aichi Steel Corporation aims to keep contributing advanced materials to society as it continues to evolve.

*Cubic connection: Cubic play structure consisting of vertical and horizontal bars. In addition to containing approximately 20 types of athletic elements, such as a jungle gym and hammock, the structure, which recently received the award, features a barrier-free structure for the first two stories, accommodating access by wheelchair and stroller users.



Cubic Connection installed in Bell Park Chippubetsu



Awards from the Japan Stainless Steel Association and Japan Metal Daily