

Construction of the World's Largest Observation Elevators Completed at Dubai International Airport!

Dubai International Airport in the U.A.E. is set to become the largest international airport in the Middle East. The Phase two expansion project, funded by the Dubai government, involving the construction of a terminal and concourse specifically for use by Emirates Airline is underway, and Terminal 3, which boasts a total floor area of 515,000 m², opened in October of this year.

In February 2004, we received an order from Dubai Airport Authority for 16 SKYTRAINS, giant observation elevators to be installed in two concourses. The installation of eight of these elevators is now complete.

These SKYTRAINS were installed to facilitate the smooth conveyance of large numbers of people, which will be necessary for boarding of the Airbus A380 (555 seats). With the capacity to handle a load of 9 tons and 120 occupants, the SKYTRAINS rank among the largest observation elevators in the world.

Each elevator has two sets of landing doors at the front, further increasing the resemblance to an actual train. In each elevator, there are three large displays, which provide a variety of images, information, and music to passengers. They are also equipped with anti-bacterial ion generators that clean the air. These elevators are receiving a great deal of attention for their ability to create a clean and comfortable environment.



SKYTRAINS



Dubai International Airport

Removal of Elevator Research Tower and Reconstruction of Field Base!

As part of a new business project, we are currently disassembling the 150-meter elevator research tower that stands on the site of the old head office in the city of Ibaraki, Osaka Prefecture. Completed in September 1975, the tower was, at the time, one of the tallest and largest elevator research facilities in the world.

In April 2006, we moved our head office to the city of Hikone in Shiga Prefecture, and constructed a new, 170-meter, world-leading elevator research tower. In the 33 years since its construction, however, the old tower had become a well-known local landmark.

In 1976, the year after completion of the research tower, we developed the world's first ultrahigh-speed elevator capable of traveling at 600 m/min. After that, in addition to elevators controlled by microcomputers and inverters, we developed the world's first double-deck elevator capable of automatically regulating the distance between the upper and lower cars in 2001.

Through such achievements, we continued to bring numerous innovations to the elevator industry.

On September 21 of this year, we held a farewell ceremony for the elevator tower to which we invited representatives of Ibaraki City and the local area. In addition to praying for the safety of the disassembly work, we enjoyed the view from the top of the tower one last time.

After removal, a new, 5-story company

building will be constructed as “Big Fit,” a base for providing field services and responding to disasters affecting large areas. In addition to a field training center handling installation and maintenance and a technical research center, we will incorporate a parts center and a remote monitoring center.



Elevator research tower currently being disassembled (Ibaraki)



Rendering of “Big Fit”