

About Museum

The southern limit for drift ice

Every year, drift ice arrives at the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in Hokkaido around Mombetsu and Abashiri area. This area is located at 44 degrees north. This is **the southern limit for drift ice** in the northern hemisphere. Since no sea ice* exists at this low degree in the southern hemisphere, the sea ice seen here is at the lowest degree throughout the world.



Sea ice at Mombetsu

(* “Sea ice” is used scientifically rather than “drift ice”)

Establishment of Okhotsk Sea Ice Museum

Science the Sea Ice Research Laboratory of Hokkaido University was established in 1965 (through 2004) at Mombetsu City and drift ice radars were installed at Mombetsu and other area, the International Symposium about sea ice was held every year at Mombetsu, since 1986 to present, and Mombetsu became the Mecca of the sea ice research.

In this background, **Okhotsk Sea Ice Museum of Hokkaido** was established by Hokkaido Prefecture in 1991, where people can learn the knowledge about sea ice and the Sea of Okhotsk clearly. This is the unique museum in the world featured with the theme of sea ice.



Okhotsk Sea Ice Museum

Facilities of Museum

There are many exhibition facilities about sea ice as follows.

Cold Experiencing Room (-20 °C): You can touch drift ice.

Ice Aquarium: Lots of fish specimen enclosed in ice

Dome Theater: you can experience to fly over drift ice.

Drift Ice development Model: Showing from frazil ice to thick ice

Clione Tank: Lots of Clione, angel of sea ice, are swimming.

Diorama of Okhotsk Sea: Showing how the drift ice comes



Drift ice and Polar Bear



Ice Aquarium

History

1991: Okhotsk Sea Ice Museum of Hokkaido establishment

1st director: Seiichi Kinoshita (Hokkaido Univ. emeritus professor)

1995: Registered as “Michi no Eki” (Road Station)

2002: 2nd director: Masaaki Aota (Hokkaido Univ. emeritus professor)

2013: 3rd director: Tsuneo Nishiyama (former Tokai Univ. Sapporo school's president)

2014 4th director: Shuhei Takahashi (Kitami Inst. of Tech. emeritus professor)

Aspect

Area: 2,700 m²

Building: Steel reinforced concrete construction. One floor under the ground (cold room), some 3 stories above the ground

Staff number: 15