

SATOSHI ŌMURA MUSEUM

A new, dynamic forum for academics, culture, and art

Dr. Satoshi Ōmura, a 1958 graduate of the University of Yamanashi's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (now the Faculty of Education) won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in December 2015.

In commemoration of that monumental achievement, the University of Yamanashi created the Satoshi Ōmura Memorial Scholarship Fund and established the Satoshi Ōmura Museum to honor Dr. Ōmura's tremendous accomplishments and preserve his legacy for future generations.

The entrance to the Satoshi Ōmura Museum, which abuts Takeda-dōri on its way to Takeda Shrine, features a unique, compelling design that invokes the octagonal, three-story structure of the second Kitenkan—a branch of the Shōheikō (a state-run school under the Edo shogunate) that would later go on to become the Faculty of Education at the University of Yamanashi.

The first floor of the museum houses several exhibit areas, showcasing not only a variety of valuable items relating to Dr. Ōmura's Nobel Prize and academic triumphs but also a wealth of academic items and cultural pieces that offer revealing glimpses into the University of Yamanashi's storied past. On the second floor, meanwhile, is Ōmura Memorial Hall: a space available to students, faculty, alumni, and the local community.

The University of Yamanashi is a "Center of Community," a backbone institution for the entire region. That symbolic identity has taken on a deeper, richer significance with the creation of the Ōmura Museum, which represents a core hub for the community on a far-reaching scale, nurtures and showcases academic, cultural, and artistic endeavors, and symbolizes a new chapter in the history of the University of Yamanashi.

Commemorating the Opening of the Satoshi Ōmura Museum

Shinji Shimada

President, University of Yamanashi

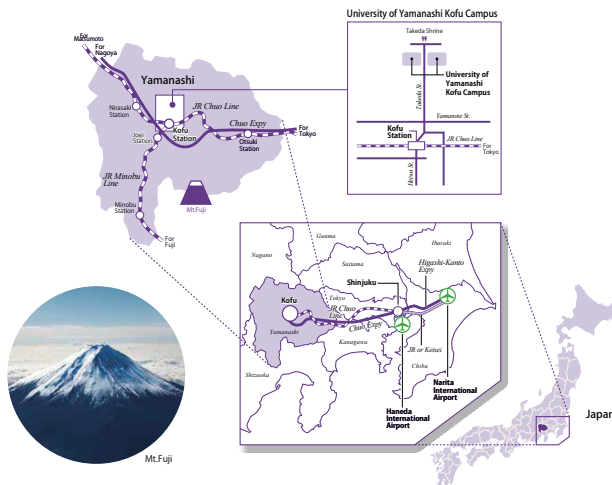


The University of Yamanashi established the Satoshi Ōmura Museum using donations to the University of Yamanashi Satoshi Ōmura Memorial Fund, which was created to commemorate Dr. Satoshi Ōmura's 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The Museum symbolizes the University's role as a "Center of Community" in both its location and design. Abutting Takeda-dōri on its way to Takeda Shrine, the building invokes the University's storied history by emulating the octagonal, three-story structure of the University's predecessor—the Edo-period "Kitenkan" Kōfu School of Learning.

The first floor of the museum showcases a variety of items that illuminate Dr. Ōmura's career, including original copies of graduation papers, examples of research projects, and a wealth of items relating to his Nobel Prize triumph. Also on the first floor are an exhibit detailing the Kitenkan, which would go on to form the cornerstone for the University of Yamanashi, and a wealth of academic items and cultural pieces that offer revealing glimpses into the University of Yamanashi's storied past. The second floor is home to Ōmura Memorial Hall, a venue for lectures, symposia, socials, and more. The University of Yamanashi regularly organizes events to hold at the Memorial Hall, hoping to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience the space in person.

All of us at the University of Yamanashi are committed to making the Satoshi Ōmura Museum a vibrant representation of the school, a symbol of Kōfu, and a dynamic contributor toward a stronger, more engaging regional community.



SATOSHI ŌMURA MUSEUM

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SATOSHI ŌMURA MUSEUM

大村智記念学術館

A new, dynamic forum for academics, culture, and art



Floor Guide



Dr. Satoshi Ōmura (L) receives his Nobel Prize from King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden at the award ceremony on December 10, 2015 (Photo courtesy of Kyodo News Service)

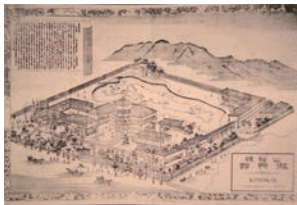
1 Dr. Ōmura exhibit

This collection delves into Dr. Ōmura's remarkable life and career, featuring photographs, original copies of graduation papers, examples of numerous research projects, and a wealth of items that cast an illuminating light on his Nobel Prize triumph.



2 Kitenkan exhibit

Visit this exhibit for a peek into the Kitenkan, the Shōheikō (Edo shogunate-run institution) branch school that would develop into the University of Yamanashi. In this exhibition area, museum-goers will find fascinating archival evidence from the late-eighteenth-century onward, the Kitenkan monument, an ink impression of the institution's motto, and more.



3 Special exhibit

This area showcases precious academic materials, research journals, educational achievements, and other pieces from the University of Yamanashi's faculties, centers, and other institutions. Changing on a regular basis, the special exhibit highlights a diverse mix of accomplishments from the University's proud heritage.



A Kitenkan tower



Feature a unique, compelling design that invokes the octagonal, three-story tower of the second Kitenkan building.

B Jusin-Kitenkan Monument



This monument was erected to commemorate the 1843 (Tempo 14) reconstruction and relocation of Kitenkan, an institution founded in 1796 (Kansei 8) to educate vassals of the Tokugawa shogunate who were working in Kofu and their children.

C Stone Monument



The stone monument built next to the entrance of the academy hall; the Japanese text engraving, "Shiseisokudatsu," reflects Prof. Ōmura's philosophy that things will go well if people have hearts of sincerity and mercy

D Bust of Dr. Ōmura

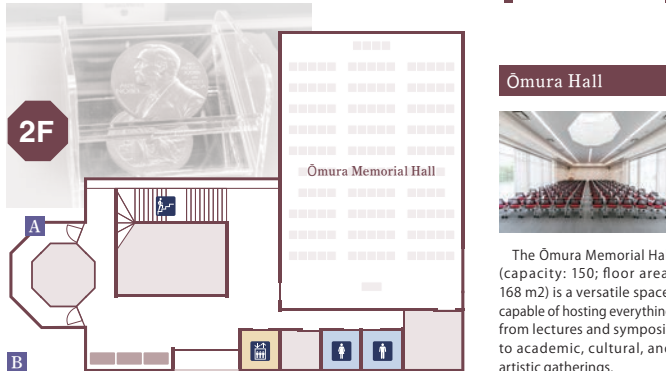
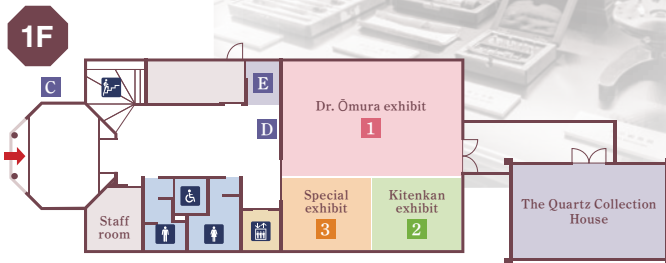


This impressive bronze bust, standing 180 cm on its pedestal, depicts Dr. Ōmura in the cap and robes he wore when receiving his honorary doctorate from Wesleyan University in 1994.

E Giant crystal



A hexahedron with a maximum m-face width of 18 cm and measuring 97 cm long, 30 cm wide, and 80 cm around, this 77.5-kg crystal is a rare, impressive specimen.



Ōmura Hall



The Ōmura Memorial Hall (capacity: 150; floor area: 168 m²) is a versatile space, capable of hosting everything from lectures and symposia to academic, cultural, and artistic gatherings.

Quartz Collection House

The Satoshi Ōmura Museum premises are also home to the Quartz Collection House, which showcases the University of Yamanashi's unparalleled collection of valuable quartz.

In 1920, the University of Yamanashi (then the Yamanashi Normal School) received a donation of precious quartz and processed quartz products from Kōkichi Momose, a druggist and avid mineral enthusiast. To house the items, which boasted both significant academic value and aesthetic merit as pieces of craftwork, the University erected the reinforced-concrete Quartz Collection House in 1927.

The collection continued to grow across the subsequent decades. In the early 1960s, jewelers Muneyoshi Ishihara and Bun'ichi Ishikawa added to the University's holdings with contributions of quartz accessories and crafts that highlighted cutting-edge processing techniques.

On display at the Quartz Collection House are a substantial number of academically and aesthetically important items from the University of Yamanashi's roughly 170-piece quartz collection. The other pieces are currently on exhibit at the Yamanashi Jewelry Museum (located at Yamanashi Plaza in the Yamanashi Prefecture Disaster Prevention Annex).

Yamanashi has been a fertile source of quartz for centuries, fostering the development of numerous quartz-processing techniques. With the production of quartz jewelry and craftwork representing a key local industry, quartz now stands alongside Mt. Fuji and wine as a proud symbol of Yamanashi's unique identity.



Quartz inkstone
Crafted by hand from a single piece of quartz (from the Takemori area)
Created in 1873



Twin quartz
Translucent, tabular Japan law twin quartz



Quartz class from Suishō-Tōge
Long, columnar quartz formation (some pieces containing grass)