

# Ryokusui-horou 2012

## Wetland & Water Stairway in Kyoto Station Building



Kyoto is a city with a population of 1.47 million today, and was the capital of Japan for several hundred years. The Kyoto Station Building is the gateway to the city through which many people from all over Japan and around the world pass through, for purposes ranging from business to tourism.

Near Kyoto lies Lake Biwa, which became a Ramsar Site (designated wetland) under the Ramsar Convention 20 years ago and has long had a deep connection with the city as well as being an important source of water. Kyoto also has numerous wetlands along the Kamogawa, Ujigawa and Katsuragawa rivers and the Lake Biwa Canal that flow through the city and are tourist spots in themselves.

In 2012, the new KYOTO AQUARIUM also opened near Kyoto Station. It's "Rivers of Kyoto Zone" at the entrance has excellent exhibits based on the water sources around Kyoto and attracts the attention of many visitors. Furthermore, in the summer of 2012 we created the "Ryokusui-horou" displays in the Kyoto Station Building.

In this name, the word ryoku in Japanese means "green" or "greenery," the word sui means "water" and the term horou means a "corridor" or "stoa" (similar to ancient Greek architecture) but is called a "stairway" in this display. As it exhibits a lot of the aquatic plants and vegetation from wetlands, "Ryokusui-horou" can be translated as a "Wetland & Water Stairway," when you equate the greenery with wetland plants. In this way, the display is in line with the theme of this year's World Wetlands Day - "Wetlands and water management." Therefore, we wished to report on this display as a part of activities for World Wetlands Day. Other activities included cooperating in the production of a Japanese version of the comic strip released by the World Wetlands Day office (Photo 1), and setting a day to introduce the "Ryokusui-horou" along with World Wetlands Day posters displayed nearby (Photo 2).



Kyoto Station Building

Japan

Lake Biwa  
Kyoto City



photo1



photo 2

Going forward, we intend to use and further develop the display to communicate the beauty and importance of wetland environments to many people so that it plays a role in bolstering tourism to Lake Biwa, a source of Kyoto's water supply, and the greater area's wetlands. At the Ramsar Convention's 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (COP10/COP11), a resolution on "Wetlands and Urbanization" was enacted, and we believe that activities in the center of cities like the "Ryokusui-horou" will increasingly be a center of interest in the future.

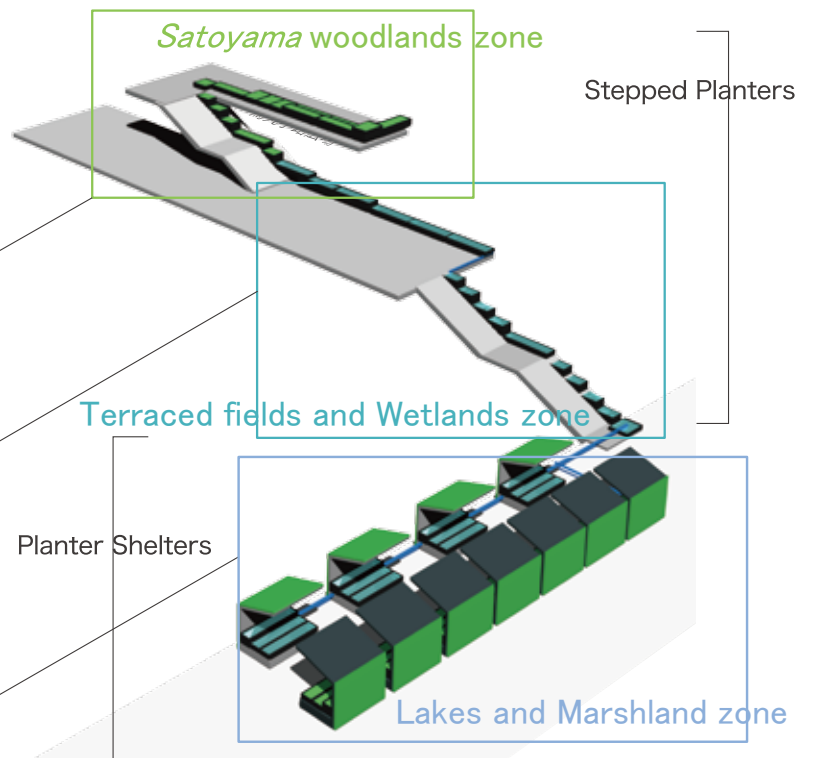
See below for details.

<http://www.kyoto-station-building.co.jp/corporate/activity/06.html>

# Outline of the Ryokusui-horou

## Expressing Kyoto's traditional scenery through plant life

This display represents Kyoto's traditional beautiful landscapes in turn from the upper to the lower floors - starting with *Satoyama* woodlands, going through terraced fields and wetlands, and ending with lakes and marshland. The plants in the lake area consist mainly of species that once existed in the Lake Ogura.

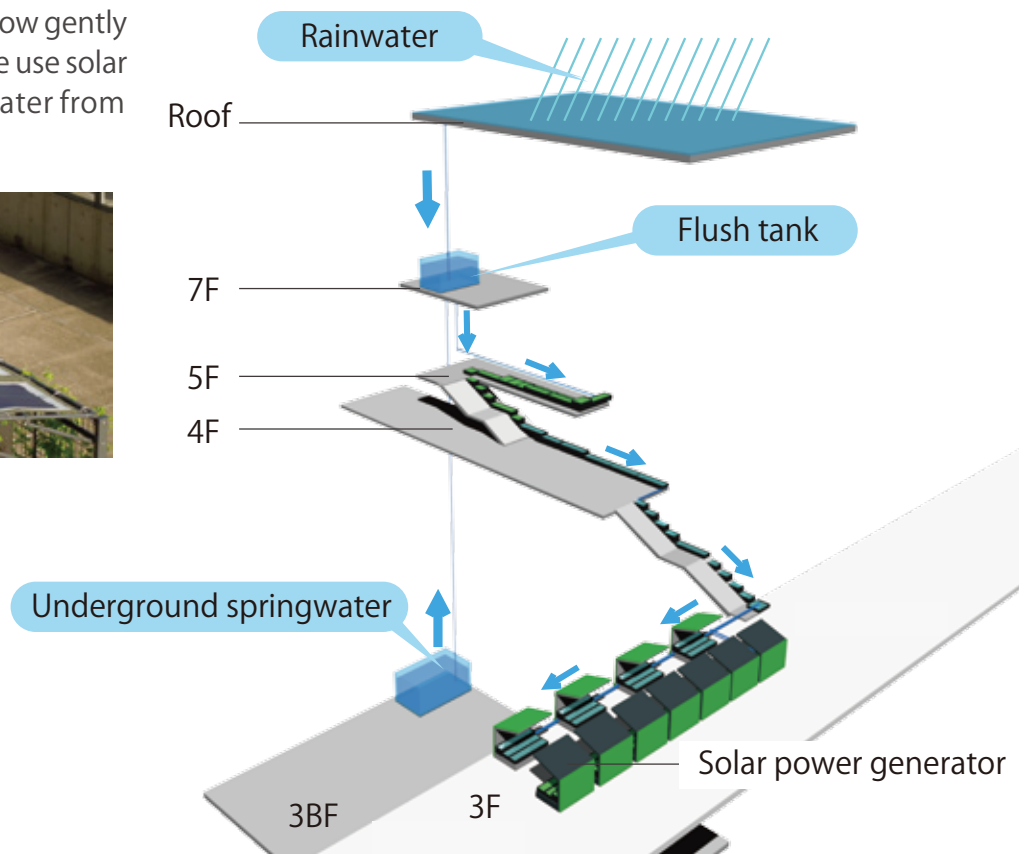


## A nature-powered water circulation system

We use a system that collects rainwater and underground water, then lets it flow gently down several floors by gravity. We use solar generated electricity to draw water from underground.



Solar power generator





# Stepped Planters

The shape of the planters makes them easy to put on steps, allowing us to make a creative arrangement within the station building. There are three different sizes of planter, so a variety of plant life can be brought together.



## Planter Shelters

Planters under a roof with a bench provide a small patch of nature to rest in. The roof on top is removable, so it is possible to use it for events as an easily portable and storable shelter.

