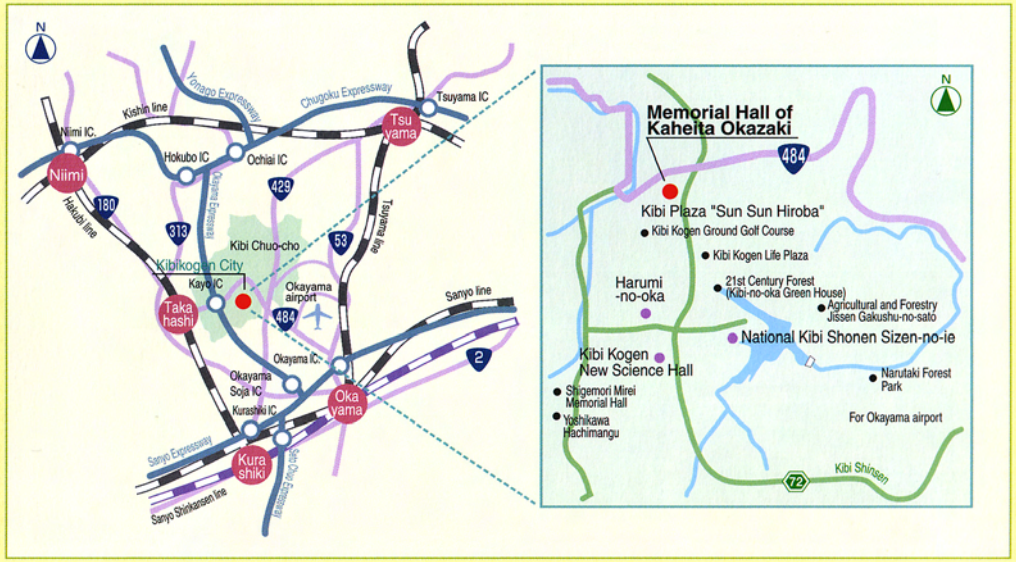
Information

Hours: 9:00 to 17:00 (last admission at 16:30)

Closed: Tuesdays (except when a national holiday falls on a Tuesday), the following day after a national holiday (except when the day falls on a Saturday or Sunday), Year-end holidays (December 28 to January 4).

Admission fee: Free



Access

<Car> 50 minutes from JR Okayama Station
20 minutes from Okayama airport
10 minutes from Kayo IC
35 minutes through Kibi Shinsen from Okayama IC
70 minutes through National Highways 53 and 429 from Tsuyama IC
30 minutes through National Highways 180 and 429 from Soja IC
60 minutes through National Highways 180 and 313 from Niimi IC

<Bus> Chutetsu bus from Okayama Station and Bihoku bus from Takahashi Station

* Cars are convenient for reaching the hall. Parking lot is available.

Kaheita Okazaki Memorial Hall

Address: Kibi Plaza, 4860-6, Yoshikawa, Kibi Chuo-cho, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture 716-1241
TEL: 0866-56-9033 FAX: 0866-56-9066
http://www.okazaki-kaheita.jp
E-mail okmh@okazaki-kaheita.jp

(Incorporated foundation) Okayama Cultural Foundation

Address: 2-1, Ishizeki-cho, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture 700-0813
TEL: 086-233-2505 FAX: 086-232-4329

Kaheita Okazaki Memorial Hall

Okazaki (left) talking with Chinese prime minister Zhou Enlai (right) at the People's Congress Hall on March 1, 1971.

Kaheita Okazaki

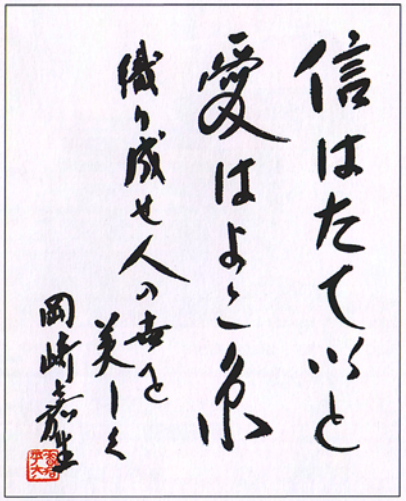
Kaheita Okazaki was born in Yamato-mura, Kibi-gun, Okayama Prefecture (now Kibi Chuo-cho, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture) in 1897. His house burned down when he was at the first grade of primary school and moved to Soja town (now Soja City). Afterward, his father went to the U.S. and died there in 1917. He was raised by his mother. After entering Prefectural Okayama Middle School, he left his home and began to live in school's dormitory. He was admitted to the National First High School and then the Imperial University of Tokyo. After graduating, he obtained a position in the Bank of Japan. During his service, he was assigned to the German office. In 1938, he was assigned to the Shanghai office as a part-time clerk of the Ministry of War of Japan. As Wah Hing Commercial Bank was founded in the following year, he retired from the Bank of Japan and became the director of the commercial bank. Thereafter, he worked as a member of Shanghai's embassy staff.

He showed a keen interest in China through his association with Chinese students during his school days and tried hard to establish the friendship between Japan and China with a high ideal for prosperity for both countries. After World War II, he returned to Japan in 1946. He was purged from public service until 1950 when the purge was lifted. Under severe labor-management disputes, he managed to help many companies back on their own feet with good results. He also ran an airline company to contribute to the development of the private airline business in Japan.

Furthermore, throughout the post-war period when diplomatic relations between Japan and China were lost, he made efforts to maintain the economic relationship between the two countries by playing a central role in the Japan-China Memorandum Trade. This is one of the most important achievements during this period which led to the normalizations of diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

His reliable and affectionate personality as well as his high idealism were highly respected by many people. For his many achievements, he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, the Order of Kayo-cho Honorary Townsman, the Order of Soja City Honorary Citizen, and the Order of Okayama Prefecture Honorary Citizen of the Prefecture.

He was decorated with the Order of Okayama Prefecture Honorary Citizen. (May 9, 1985)



Okazaki's motto: "The society is a textile woven by reliability and affection".

Brief personal history

1897: Born as the first son in Oaza Kita, Yamato-mura, Kibi-gun (now Kibi Chuo-cho, Kaga-gun) to father Tsurutaro and mother Nobu on April 16.

1904 (7 years old): Entered Yamato Primary School.

1905 (8 years old): Moved to Soja-cho Kibi-gun (now Soja City). Changed to Shingi Primary School.

1910 (13 years old): Entered the Advanced Class of Soja Primary School

1911 (14 years old): Entered Okayama Prefectural Okayama Middle School

1916 (19 years old): Entered the First High School (Faculty of German Law)

1919 (22 years old): Entered the Imperial University of Tokyo (department of political science of the faculty of law) Graduated in 1922.

1922 (25 years old): Obtained a position at the Headquarters of the Bank of Japan. Transferred to the Otaru Office 1923 and returned to its Headquarters in 1926. Married to Tokiko in 1928. Assigned to Germany in 1929. Returned to Japan and its Headquarters in 1933.

1938 (41 years old): Assigned to Shanghai as clerk of the Ministry of War of Japan.

1939 (42 years old): Retired from the Bank of Japan. Founded the Wah Hing Commercial Bank and became its director.

1942 (45 years old): Became a councilor of the Ministry of Daitoa.

1943 (46 years old): Became a councilor of the Japanese embassy in China.

1946 (49 years old): Returned to Japan from Shanghai.

1947 (50 years old): Purged from public service. The purge was lifted in 1950.

1949 (52 years old): Representative director of the board and president of Ikegai Tekko Co., Ltd. (until 1957 (60 years-old))

1951 (54 years old): Representative director of the board and president of Maruzen Oil Co., Ltd. (until 1952 (55 years-old))

1952 (55 years old): Established Nihon Helicopter Transport Co., Ltd. and became representative director of the board and vice president (until 1967 (70 years-old)). Became representative director of the board and president in 1961. The company name was changed to All Nippon Airway Co., Ltd. in 1957.

1953 (56 years old): Established Nihon Hoden Kako Institute Co., Ltd. and became the representative director of the board and president (until 1965 (68 years old)) (The company name was changed to Japax Co., Ltd. in 1960.)

1957 (60 years old): Chairman of the Central Committee of Savings Promotion (until 1971 (74 years old))

1962 (65 years old): Visited China together with Tatsunosuke Takasaki for the purpose of negotiating Japan-China trades. Signed the Memorandum relating to Japan-China Trade and LT Trade Agreement (for the year 1963). (LT stands for the initials of Tatsunosuke Takasaki, a representative of the Japanese delegate for the negotiation and Liao Chengzhi, the Chinese counterpart.)

1963 (66 years old): Visited China as head of the LT Trade negotiation delegation. Signed an LT Trade agreement (for the year 1964). Met with Chinese prime minister Zhou Enlai. Thereafter, as head of the LT Trade negotiation delegation, he visited China every year until 1972 (75 years old) for the purpose of signing an agreement for the following year. (The name of the LT Trade was changed to Japan-China Memorandum Trade (MT Trade) in 1968.)

1972 (75 years old): Diplomatic relations between Japan and China were normalized. Decorated as honorary townsman of Kayo-cho (now Kibi Chuo-cho).

1973 (76 years old): The Memorandum Trade ended.

1978 (81 years old): Decorated with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

1985 (88 years old): Decorated with the Order of Soja City Honorary Citizen and the Order of Okayama Prefecture Honorary Citizen.

1989 (92 years old): Made his post-war 100th time visit to China (Shanghai, Qufu, Jinan, Beijing). Died on September 22,1989.

First grade of Okayama Prefectural Middle School (1911)

Period when working for the Bank of Japan (November 1929)

At the Counselor's room of ANA (1981)