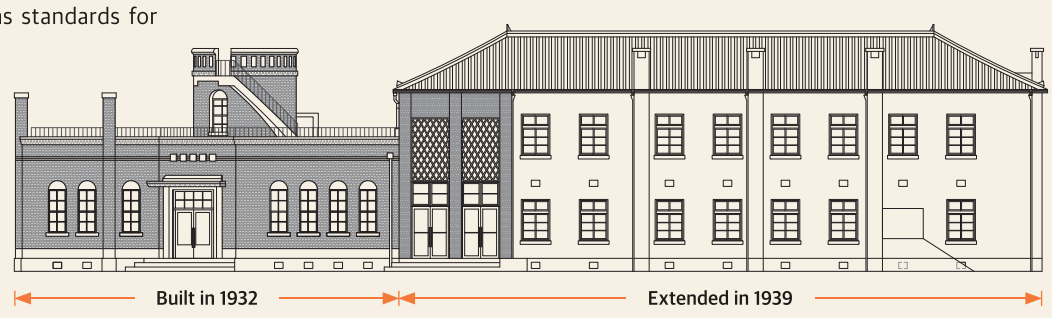
Capturing the History of Weather

National Meteorological Museum of Korea

The National Meteorological Museum of Korea: A National Registered Cultural Heritage

The National Meteorological Museum of Korea was originally built in 1932 as the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory. In 1939, a two-story building was added to the east, resulting in the structure we see today. Recognized for its continuity in meteorological observations and records, the main building, rain gauge room, and the planting sites for maple and cherry trees, which serve as standards for seasonal observation, were designated as national registered cultural heritage in 2014. Additionally, in 2017, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) designated this site as a Centennial Observing Station.

The main building remarkably represents the modern architectural style. The design highlights geometric shapes and spaces through elements such as the cylindrical rooftop structure, the curved porch, and the concavo-convex decoration on the upper part of the eaves roof, the semi-circular window frame structure, and the tile finish on the exterior wall.



History

2020 The National Meteorological Museum was opened in October

2016 Design for restoration of the original form of the Seoul Weather Observatory

1998 The headquarters of the Korea Meteorological Administration relocated to Sindaebang-dong

1939 Extension of the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory office building

1938 Reorganization as the Meteorological Observatory of the Japanese Government-General of Korea

1933 Observation started at the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory, 1-1 Songwol-dong

1932 Completion of construction of the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory in Songwol-dong

Approval of relocation of the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory from Nagwon-dong to 1-1 Songwol-dong

Opening hours

10:00 to 18:00 (last entry at 17:00)

Closed on Mondays, January 1st, Lunar New Year's Day, and Chuseok

※ If Monday is a (substitute) holiday, the museum will be closed on the following first weekday.

Admission fee

Free

Exhibition commentary

Reservation

Advanced reservation system

10:00, 11:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00

※ On-site reservations are possible if there are vacant seats.

Inquiry

070-7850-8493

https://science.kma.go.kr/museum

Directions

52 Songwol-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul

800m from exit 4 of Seodaemun station on subway line 5

P Parking facilities are limited, so please use public transportation.

Explore the Exhibition

The National Meteorological Museum was established to preserve and promote Korea's rich meteorological relics and heritage and to widely disseminate its outstanding meteorological science culture. The museum exhibits the Rain Gauge of Chungcheong Provincial Office, Gongju, which was invented over 200 years before the West, alongside modern meteorological observation equipment and meteorological and climate data. The museum is located at the Seoul Weather Observatory, the hub of Korea's modern and contemporary meteorological history, leading to Yeongeon-dong (1907), Nagwon-dong (1913), and Songwol-dong (1932), where modern meteorological observations began.

Museum Facilities

1F Information Desk, Stroller Storage, Toilets, Lift, 100-Year Shelter

2F Exhibition of Construction Materials for Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory, Donors' Wall, Lift

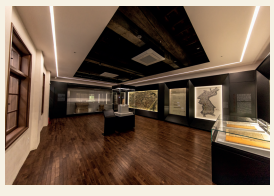
Tour the VR Museum

Exhibition Room 1 & 2 (1st floor)

Nationwide Rain Gauging System Begun During the Joseon Dynasty

I. Serving the Heaven

You can explore the meteorology history of the Three Kingdoms period and the Goryeo Dynasty through historical records. This exhibition showcases accounts from *History of the Three Kingdoms* and *Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms,* which documented droughts and heavy snow, as well as *History of Goryeo,* which recorded thunderbolts and droughts. You will see the ancient rainwater measurement method, Wootaek, used before the invention of the rain gauge, Cheugugi.



II. Reading the Will of the Heaven

This exhibition room allows you to understand the observation system used to measure rainfall during the Joseon Dynasty. It includes explanations about the various weights and measurement terms, such as Juchoek and Pobaekcheok, used to create rain gauges, along with rain gauge pedestals. Additionally, you can explore the network for observing rainfall on the Korean Peninsula displayed on *the Territorial Map of the Great East.*

Rain Gauge of Chungcheong Provincial Office, Gongju
[National Treasure]
Created in 1837
(the 3rd year of King Heonjong's reign)

Rain Gauge Pedestal of Gyeongsang Provincial Office, Daegu
[National Treasure]
Created in 1770
(the 46th year of King Yeongjo's reign)

Rain Gauge Pedestal of Gwansanggam (Bureau of Astronomy)
[Treasure]
Presumed to have been created in the early Joseon Dynasty

Exhibition Room 3 & 4 (2nd floor)

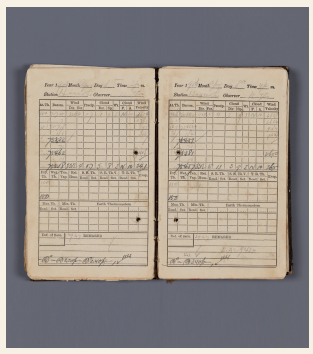
The Beginning of Modern Meteorological Observation

III. Meeting Another Sky

This exhibition takes you on a journey through the history of modern meteorology since the port-opening period. It exhibits records of meteorological observations at the Mokpo Meteorological Observatory, a national registered cultural heritage, are exhibited. You can explore the evolution of modern meteorological observation equipment, from anemographs and precipitation gauges to the weather instrument shelter, and automatic weather station equipment.

IV. Keeping Close to the Sky

This exhibition showcases the diversification of automatic observation devices and a Korean-style numerical forecasting model through video presentations. The video captures the weather forecast production process and provides a glimpse of the National Meteorological Center's operations for 24 hours, allowing you to witness a day in the life of a weather forecaster. You can also access weather observation data through interactive touch screens.



Meteorological Observation Records at Mokpo Meteorological Observatory
[National Registered Cultural Heritage]
1904

Mercury Barometer
1962

Robinson Cup Anemograph
1962

Exhibition Room 5 (1st floor)

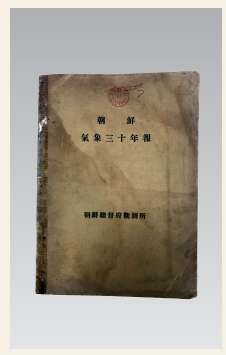
Relocating the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory to Songwol-dong

Seismograph Room at the Time of Establishment

In 1932, the Gyeongseong Meteorological Observatory was relocated from densely populated Nagwon-dong to Songwol-dong, a hilly area outside the Hanyang Fortress Wall, or the Seoul City Wall, to facilitate the smooth transmission and reception of meteorological observations and weather information. This is the only earthquake observation site in Korea where you can see the lower structure of the seismograph room. Here, you can learn about the construction technology and observation equipment during that time.

Omori-type portable microseismometer
(Replica)

Wiechert Seismograph
(Replica)



Thirty years of Joseon Weather Observations
1936