

Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijxiang “Comfort Stations”

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OVERVIEW: Opened on the 1st of December 2015 as a branch museum of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, the Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijxiang “Comfort Stations” utilizes one of the largest and best preserved sites of Japanese Military comfort stations existing in Asia. It represents important evidence of the process by which the Japanese military implemented the “comfort women” system and violated the women’s human rights. In 2003, a Korean victim named Youngsim Park identified Room 19 of No.2 Lijxiang (Liji Lane) as the place where she had been forced to live. The site of Lijxiang “comfort stations” in Nanjing became known as the only site whose location has been confirmed by a victim who lived outside of China.

EXHIBITS and ACTIVITIES: The site of Lijxiang “comfort stations” is made up of eight buildings which were built between 1935 and 1937 by Lieutenant General Yang Puqing of the Chinese Nationalist Party. After the Japanese Military occupied Nanjing at the end of 1937, No. 2 Lijxiang and No. 18 were remodeled as the “Shinonome Comfort Station” and the “Kokyo-ro Comfort Station” respectively. The Nanjing Municipal People’s Government designated it as a Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the City level in June 2014, and officially started a project to repair and conserve the site in November of the same year. The Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijxiang “comfort stations” opened to the public in December 2015. (The total ground area is 3,680 square meters. The space for exhibits is 3,000 square meters.)

The museum is divided into three exhibition spaces: a general exhibit on the Japanese Military “comfort women” system, an exhibit of the site and a thematic exhibit. The museum displays over 680 historical photos and 1,600 articles as well as 19 visual materials. Utilizing “tears” as its main theme, the museum designed “the wall of tears,” “the ground of tears,” “the road of tears,” “tears of silence,” and “the statue of endless tears.

Source: The program brochure of the 1st “comfort women” Museum conference, Tokyo, Japan in 2017