A&D's Micro-Balance and Seminar at the National Institute of Health Sciences

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Please do me a favor and answer the following questions…

1) Where should you look for causes when a micro-balance is unstable?
2) How do you prevent those causes?

Even regular users of a micro-balance may find it difficult to answer such questions correctly. And researchers at the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), one of the most respected research institutes in Japan and also one of the earliest customers of our BM-20 micro-balance (as well as the BM-252 semi micro-balance), were no exception. In fact, what convinced them to purchase our micro-balance was not just the excellence of the product. It was also our expert advice based on actual data on how to bring out the best performance possible in their given environment.*

Naturally, they were more than happy when we suggested holding a seminar for their fellow researchers as an opportunity to learn more about the instruments and adequate weighing practices.

* This was actually a precursor to the A&D Measurement Environment Evaluation Tool (AND-MEET).

The National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), which was established in Tokyo in 1874 as the Tokyo Drug Control Laboratory (later renamed the Tokyo Institute of Hygienic Sciences), is now a major organization within the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). It is the oldest national research institute in Japan and currently consists of 21 divisions, 5 of which belong to the Biological Safety Research Center (BSRC).

The major responsibilities of the NIHS involve extensive testing and research to ensure the quality, efficacy, and safety of chemical substances (including pharmaceuticals and food) that are closely related to people's lives.

(Except from the NIHS website at http://www.nihs.go.jp/english/)

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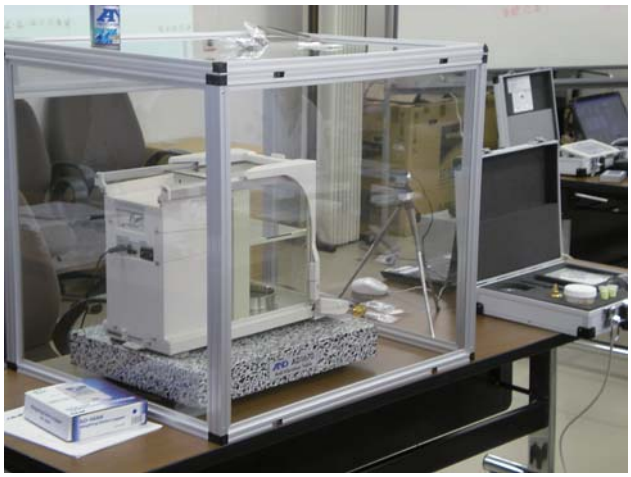
On June 15, 2011, a total of 32 researchers gathered to attend the seminar in a conference room at the NIHS, located in Setagaya Ward, Tokyo. The subjects of the seminar included:

(1) Causes of errors in weighing: demonstration and countermeasures
(2) Uncertainty and minimum sample weight
(3) Mechanisms of mass sensors
(4) Reading and calculating specifications
(5) Functions and accessories for the BM Series
(6) Regulations and control concerning weighing



We performed a demonstration using actual products and a CCD camera.

The pipette accuracy testing kit is a useful accessory for the micro-balances.

At the end of the seminar, we had a hands-on session and answered the many questions posed by the attendees. They seemed particularly interested in such accessories as special pans for elemental analyses and a holder for microfuge tubes. They also highly appreciated the built-in fanless ionizer of the BM Series because they frequently measured the weights of powder, which easily becomes statically charged due to internal friction. We were all grateful to them for taking the time to participate and showing such enthusiasm about what we brought to them.

As exemplified by the above, A&D is actively helping users gain a better understanding of weighing through video, reports, training, seminars, and other methods, so that they can improve their practices and, hopefully, see our products as good solutions. Are you having problems or are there things you don't understand about weighing? If so, please let us help you!

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