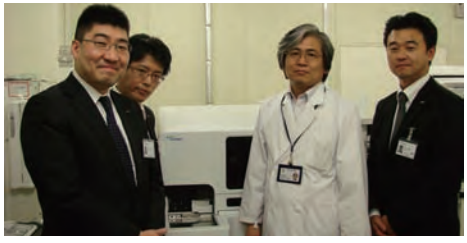
Keeping people safe and keeping the lab going

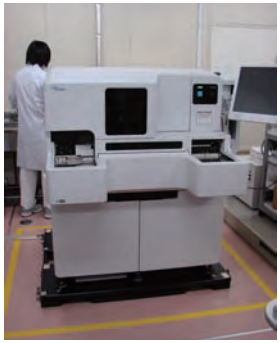


(From left) Sysmex employees Kazuo Sugihara and Tetsuya Namura, Mitsuaki Nagasawa, and Sysmex employee Naoki Kai.

Mitsuaki Nagasawa, Head of Laboratory Testing
Deputy Director, Department of Laboratory Medicine
Tohoku University Hospital

When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, a 300-kilogram autoanalyzer was knocked over at Tohoku University Hospital. When the first tremors hit, the people working in the laboratory were all safely evacuated, but the electricity went out, the water stopped, and other equipment was damaged as well, making it impossible to perform crucial lab tests. Afterward, even while repair and restoration work was being done to enable us to get back to doing ordinary lab work, we decided to implement some comprehensive countermeasures to ensure that testing would be able to continue even if another major earthquake occurred. Under the plan, lab work was divided between two locations, one of which would be equipped with a minimal amount of testing equipment and made earthquake-resistant.

One alternative was to quake-proof the whole floor of the latter location, but Sysmex* presented a plan that would utilize THK's seismic isolation tables to protect the analysis and testing equipment, and that's the plan we ultimately adopted. We needed to get the job done quickly, and they had expertise in constructing testing laboratories. Their proposal was also persuasive because, being located in Kobe, Sysmex had experienced damage firsthand in the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The THK devices deflect seismic motion, which will keep our people safe and prevent any harmful impact on the accuracy of our equipment. I fully expect to be able to continue our lab tests even in the event of a natural disaster.



Seismically isolated blood analyzer.

*Sysmex Corporation, a leading manufacturer of medical testing equipment and reagents. An interview with Sysmex employees was featured in the 2011/2012 edition of the *THK CSR Report*.