What is claimed is:

1. An article transport facility comprising:

an article transport vehicle configured to travel along a travel rail suspended from a ceiling to transport a container wherein the article transport vehicle includes a support portion for supporting the container;

an inactive gas supplying device having an eject portion for ejecting inactive gas such that the eject portion is located to a side of, or below, a travel path along which the article transport vehicle is configured to travel;

a connecting actuator device for moving the eject portion relative to the support portion to change a positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between a connecting positional relationship in which the eject portion is connected to the container supported by the support portion and a separating positional relationship in which the eject portion is separated from the container supported by the support portion,

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with a connection between the eject portion and the container maintained after the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion is changed to the connecting positional relationship by the connecting actuator device,

wherein the connecting actuator device is provided to the inactive gas supplying device and is configured to move only the eject portion, out of the eject portion and the support portion, to change the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between the connecting positional relationship and the separating positional relationship,

wherein the eject portion is located directly below the travel path, and

wherein the connecting actuator device is configured to raise and lower the eject portion linearly to change the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between the connecting positional relationship and the separating positional relationship.

2. The article transport facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the support portion includes a plurality of support bodies for supporting a supported portion provided to an upper end portion of the container, restriction members located to respective sides of the supported portion to restrict horizontal movement of the supported portion when the supported portion is supported by the plurality of support bodies, and a switching actuator device for changing between a support state in which the plurality of support bodies are located closer to each other than in a support releasing state, and the support releasing state in which the plurality of support bodies are spaced farther apart from each other than in the support state, and wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the support portion changed to the support state by the switching actuator device.

3. The article transport facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the article transport vehicle stopped at a supply-purpose stop position defined in advance relative to the inactive gas supplying device.

4. An article transport facility comprising:

an article transport vehicle configured to travel along a travel rail suspended from a ceiling to transport a container wherein the article transport vehicle includes a support portion for supporting the container;

an inactive gas supplying device having an eject portion for ejecting inactive gas such that the eject portion is located to a side of, or below, a travel path along which the article transport vehicle is configured to travel;

a connecting actuator device for moving the eject portion relative to the support portion to change a positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between a connecting positional relationship in which the eject portion is connected to the container supported by the support portion and a separating positional relationship in which the eject portion is separated from the container supported by the support portion,

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with a connection between the eject portion and the container maintained after the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion is changed to the connecting positional relationship by the connecting actuator device,

wherein the connecting actuator device is provided to the article transport vehicle, and is configured to move only the support portion, out of the eject portion and the support portion, to change the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between the connecting positional relationship and the separating positional relationship,

wherein a transport subject location designated as either a transport origin or a transport destination for transporting of an article by the article transport vehicle is provided directly below the travel path,

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is provided at a location that is displaced relative to the transport subject location along a longitudinal direction of the travel path,

wherein the eject portion is located directly below the travel path,

wherein the article transport vehicle includes a transport actuator device for raising and lowering the support portion to pick up an article from and unload an article to the transport subject location, and

wherein the transport actuator device also functions as the connecting actuator device.

5. The article transport facility as defined in claim 4, wherein the support portion includes a plurality of support bodies for supporting a supported portion provided to an upper end portion of the container, restriction members located to respective sides of the supported portion to restrict horizontal movement of the supported portion when the supported portion is supported by the plurality of support bodies, and a switching actuator device for changing between a support state in which the plurality of support bodies are located closer to each other than in a support releasing state, and the support releasing state in which the plurality of support bodies are spaced farther apart from each other than in the support state, and

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the support portion changed to the support state by the switching actuator device.

6. The article transport facility as defined in claim 4, wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the article transport vehicle stopped at a supply-purpose stop position defined in advance relative to the inactive gas supplying device.

7. An article transport facility comprising:

an article transport vehicle configured to travel along a travel rail suspended from a ceiling to transport a container wherein the article transport vehicle includes a support portion for supporting the container;

an inactive gas supplying device having an eject portion for ejecting inactive gas such that the eject portion is located to a side of, or below, a travel path along which the article transport vehicle is configured to travel;

a connecting actuator device for moving the eject portion relative to the support portion to change a positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between a connecting positional relationship in which the eject portion is connected to the container supported by the support portion and a separating positional relationship in which the eject portion is separated from the container supported by the support portion,

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with a connection between the eject portion and the container maintained after the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion is changed to the connecting positional relationship by the connecting actuator device,

wherein provided in a bottom surface of the container are an intake portion to which the eject portion is connected from below, and engaged portions that are configured to be engaged from below by positioning members which are provided integrally with the eject portion and each of which is formed to have a convex shape that projects upwardly,

wherein each of the engaged portions has a shape which is recessed upwardly and is tapered toward a top thereof such that lateral dimension thereof becomes progressively narrower toward the top, and

wherein the connecting actuator device is configured to raise and lower the eject portion relative to the support portion to change the positional relationship between the support portion and the eject portion between the connecting positional relationship and the separating positional relationship.

8. The article transport facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the support portion includes a plurality of support bodies for supporting a supported portion provided to an upper end portion of the container, restriction members located to respective sides of the supported portion to restrict horizontal movement of the supported portion when the supported portion is supported by the plurality of support bodies, and a switching actuator device for changing between a support state in which the plurality of support bodies are located closer to each other than in a support releasing state, and the support releasing state in which the plurality of support bodies are spaced farther apart from each other than in the support state, and

wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the support portion changed to the support state by the switching actuator device.

9. The article transport facility as defined in claim 8, wherein the inactive gas supplying device is configured to eject the inactive gas from the eject portion with the article transport vehicle stopped at a supply-purpose stop position defined in advance relative to the inactive gas supplying device.