

# Good Job



# ITABASHI



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# Connect × Gather × Innovate

Technological excellence forged in the optical & precision equipment industry.

A reliable medical network, ready when it matters most.

Bustling with lively shopping streets and distinctive local stores.

In "Good Job Itabashi", we feature interviews with companies that are driving this city forward, where "industry" and "everyday life" coexist in harmony, creating a new tomorrow (value) for the future.

We delve into the untold stories of businesses and uncover the allure of the world-renowned "Itabashi Brand."

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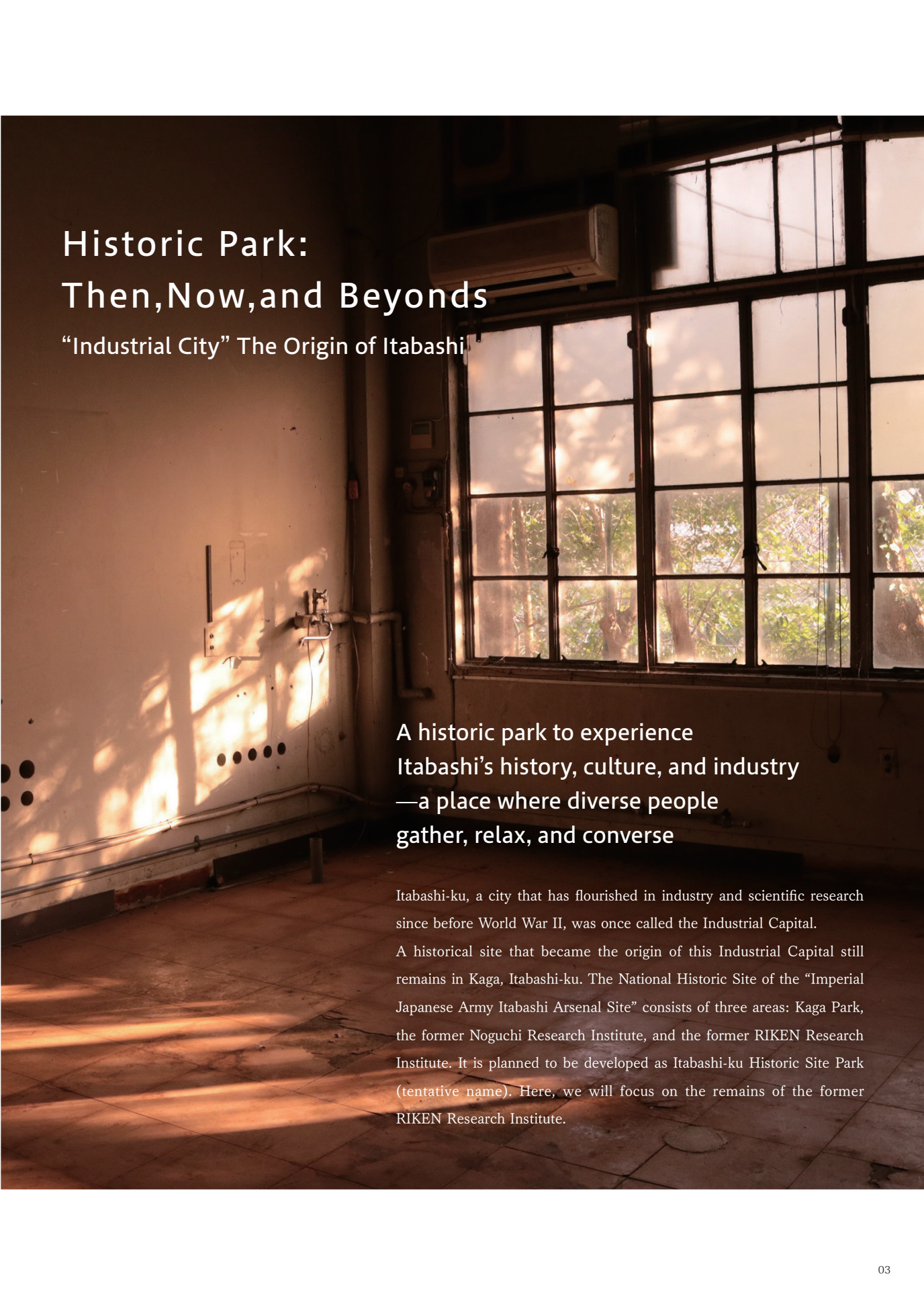
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A photograph of an industrial interior. On the right, a large window with multiple panes looks out onto a green landscape. Sunlight streams through the window, casting long, warm shadows of trees and foliage onto the left wall and the tiled floor. The left wall is light-colored and shows some electrical conduits and pipes. The floor is made of large, light-brown square tiles. The overall atmosphere is quiet and historical.

# Historic Park: Then, Now, and Beyonds

“Industrial City” The Origin of Itabashi

A historic park to experience  
Itabashi’s history, culture, and industry  
—a place where diverse people  
gather, relax, and converse

Itabashi-ku, a city that has flourished in industry and scientific research since before World War II, was once called the Industrial Capital.

A historical site that became the origin of this Industrial Capital still remains in Kaga, Itabashi-ku. The National Historic Site of the “Imperial Japanese Army Itabashi Arsenal Site” consists of three areas: Kaga Park, the former Noguchi Research Institute, and the former RIKEN Research Institute. It is planned to be developed as Itabashi-ku Historic Site Park (tentative name). Here, we will focus on the remains of the former RIKEN Research Institute.





Left: Current Former RIKEN  
No. 1 Building

Below: 1949 Photo (RIKEN Collection)



## Contributing to Japan's modernization National Historic Site: “Imperial Japanese Army Itabashi Arsenal Site”

In the Edo period, Kaga, Itabashi-ku, was home to the sprawling suburban residence of the Maeda family from the Kaga Domain, covering approximately 210,000 tsubo (about 694,000 square meters). In 1876, the newly established Meiji government repurposed this site to create Japan's first government-operated gunpowder factory, the “Itabashi Imperial Army Gunpowder Factory.” The factory continued to function as a central hub for gunpowder manufacturing and research until the end of World War II. After the war, operations ceased, and the 180,000-tsubo (about 595,000 square meters) site came under GHQ administration. It was then leased to private companies, schools, and research institutions, marking the beginning of Japan's post-war reconstruction. Among the organizations that moved in were the Noguchi Institute (a medical research institute) and RIKEN (the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research). Including Kaga Park, which was established in 1971, an area of approximately 12,000 square meters will serve as the site for the upcoming historic park.

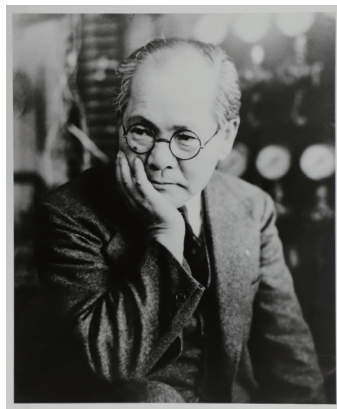


### From the Itabashi Gunpowder Factory to RIKEN. This is where cosmic ray research began.

Yoshio Nishina is a physicist known as the “father of nuclear physics in Japan.” Born in what is now Satoshio Town, Okayama Prefecture, Nishina graduated from Tokyo Imperial University before studying advanced quantum mechanics in Europe. Upon returning to Japan, he became a

senior researcher at RIKEN. While conducting research on theoretical physics, particle accelerators, and cosmic rays, Nishina also mentored future Nobel Prize-winning physicists Hideki Yukawa and Shinichiro Tomonaga. Many leading scientists who spearheaded cosmic ray research after World War II were also trained under Nishina. Following the war, Nishina became the director of RIKEN and played a key role in negotiations with GHQ, ultimately securing the relocation of RIKEN's Cosmic Ray Laboratory to the site of the Imperial Japanese Army Itabashi Arsenal Site.

Above: 1949 Photo, No. 1 Building, Room 10 (RIKEN Collection) Right: Yoshio Nishina (RIKEN Collection)





## Room 7

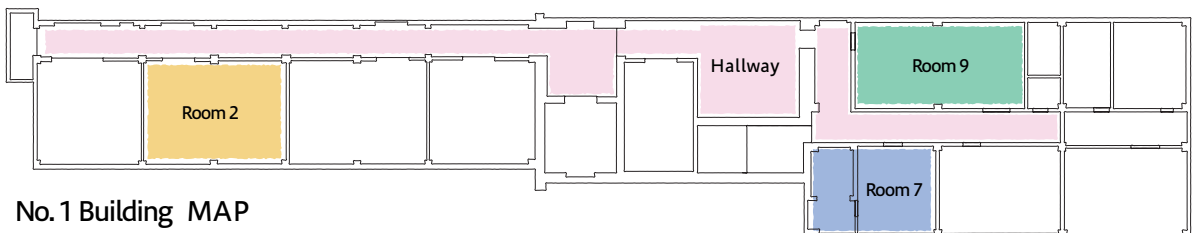
This room, which was usually used as a cafeteria, housed a Nishina-type ionization chamber, a cosmic ray detector. Researchers conducted continuous observations, analyzing daily data to uncover the nature of cosmic rays. Even now, an observation space remains in the back of the room.

Left: 1949 Photo, Observing cosmic rays with a Nishina-type ionization chamber (RIKEN Collection)

## Hallway

The researchers shared a strong camaraderie and worked in a free and open atmosphere, sometimes even playing table tennis together.

1949 Photo, Researchers enjoying table tennis (RIKEN Collection)



No. 1 Building MAP

## Room 2

This room was renovated with a raised floor to accommodate an electronic computer, and remnants of the modification still remain today.



Reconstructed image of the electronic computer (Created by Nakazawa Laboratory, Department of Conceptual Design, College of Industrial Technology, Nihon University)

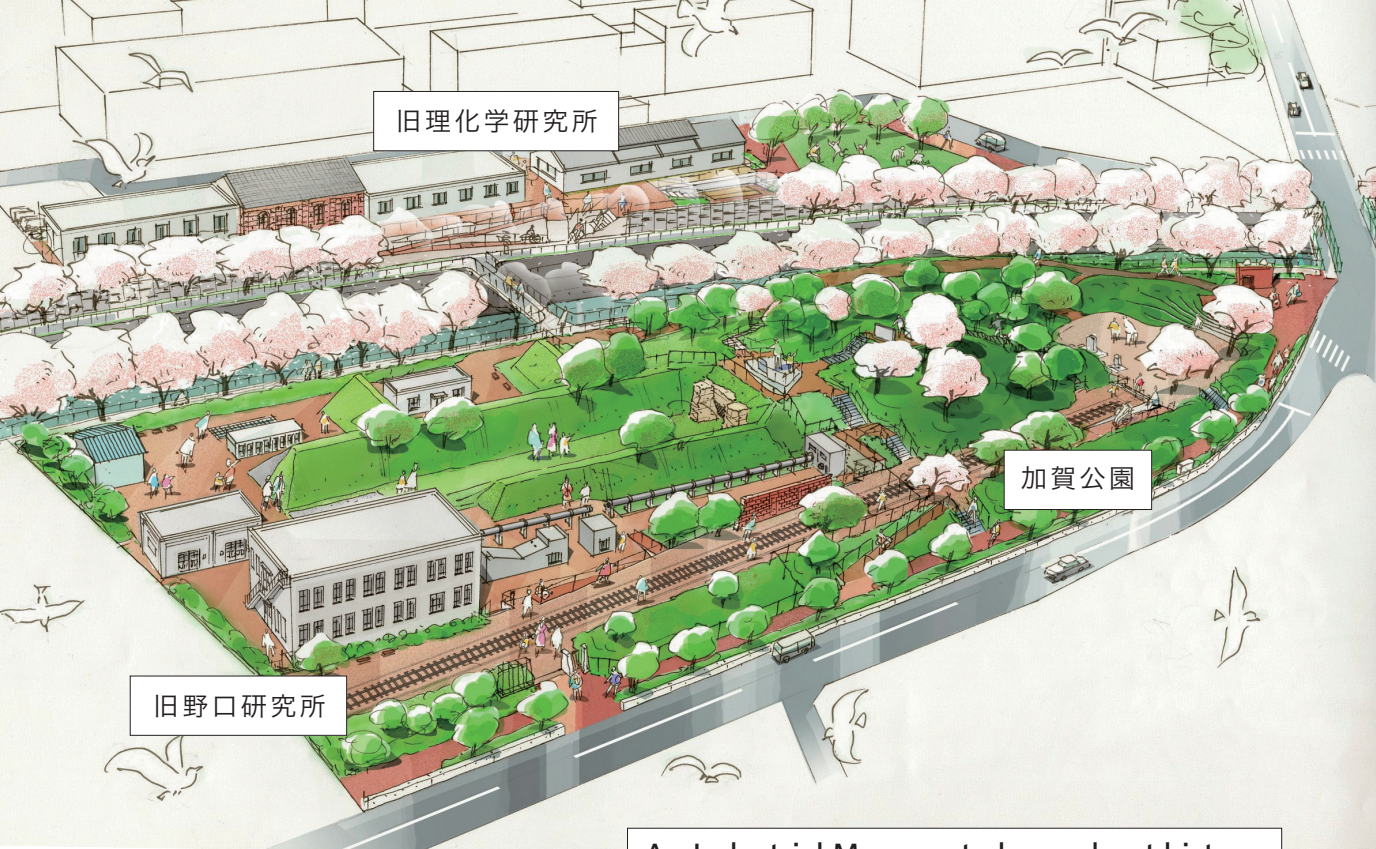
## Room 9

In the 1960s, Dr. Hideki Yukawa, Japan's first Nobel Prize winner in physics, conducted research in this very room. This room also housed an electronic computer, considered a precursor to modern supercomputers.



1949 Photo, Room 9, No. 1 Building (Despite efforts to locate the original source of this image, confirmation could not be made. If you have any information regarding this photo, please contact the Itabashi City Board of Education.)





An Industrial Museum to learn about history and culture through a national historic site

## Industrial Museum

In line with the development of the historic park, Itabashi-ku is planning to establish an Industrial Museum (tentative name) utilizing the existing buildings of the former RIKEN Itabashi Branch. This site, where RIKEN researchers conducted foundational studies, including continuous cosmic ray observations, has played a significant role in advancing Japanese science and technology. Not only is it the birthplace of modern manufacturing in Itabashi, but it also has deep ties to science and technology, serving as a catalyst for the development of future industries. The Industrial Museum aims to preserve and leverage the site's historical value as: "The birthplace of Itabashi's industry," "A hub for foundational scientific research," and "A key site in Japan's physics community." By highlighting these aspects, the museum seeks to inspire local residents, enhance the value of related businesses and institutions, and foster excitement about the future of industry and daily life. The facility is planned to open in 2029 (Reiwa 11).

### Address

7-8, Kaga 1-chome, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo

### Access

- 15-minute walk from "Itabashi Kuyakusho-mae Station" on the Toei Mita Line
- 10-minute walk from "Shin-Itabashi Station"
- 15-minute walk from "Jujo Station" on the JR Saikyo Line
- 5-minute walk from "Higashi-Itabashi Gymnasium Entrance (Higashi-Itabashi Taiikukan Iriguchi)" Bus Stop on the Kokusai Kogyo Bus [Route ㊦ 22: Oji Station ⇄ Itabashi Station]

\* Due to ongoing maintenance, areas outside of Kaga Park remain closed to the public.





# Optics

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The Birthplace of Optical Technology - Itabashi

The optical industry has laid the foundation for "Monozukuri Itabashi" (Itabashi's Manufacturing Legacy).

Its advanced optical technologies are now utilized in emerging fields such as medicine and space development, earning global recognition and support.





A pioneer company in domestic optical equipment that contributes to the enrichment of the lives of people around the world

# TOPCON CORPORATION

75-1 Hasunuma-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://global.topcon.com>



Optics



**Mr. Takaaki Hirayama**

Executive Officer /Vice General Manager of Corporate Planning &  
Digital Business Operation Div. / Corporate Communication

Since its founding in 1932 in Itabashi, TOPCON CORPORATION has globally developed solutions based on optical technology to solve various social issues in the business fields of medicine (healthcare), food (agriculture), and housing (construction). The company's numerous DX-based achievements have been recognized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, which has selected the company as a DX Grand Prix in 2023 and a DX Platinum Companies in 2024. Mr. Takaaki Hirayama, Executive Officer of Topcon, spoke strongly about the future of Topcon, saying, "We will continue to contribute to enriching the lives of people around the world with DX as our core business."

## Combining optical and cutting-edge technology to aid in the early detection and treatment of eye diseases

In recent years, the aging of the population is accelerating worldwide, and the shortage of eye doctors is becoming a prominent social issue. In the eye care business field, we have developed a system for eye health checkups (screening) that uses the precision optical technologies and various solutions we have developed over the years in order to solve this problem. This contributes to early detection and treatment of eye diseases and improvement of medical efficiency by enabling remote diagnosis by specialists and AI diagnosis.



## Solutions for solving social issues selected as a "DX Grand Prix"

Even before the term DX became popular, we had developed numerous solutions utilizing digital technology to solve social issues. In the DX stock selection by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, from among the companies selected for the stock selection, we were selected as the "DX Grand Prix" in 2023, a company that is "leading the digital age," and in 2024 we were selected as a "DX Platinum Companies 2024-2026" as a company that "has continued to make particularly outstanding efforts." We believe that our various initiatives over the years have been highly evaluated by society.

## Until today, and in the future. Contributing to the enrichment of people's lives

Our management philosophy is "to contribute to the creation of a prosperous society by solving social issues related to medicine, food, and housing." We have been and will continue to challenge ourselves with the aim of "health," "enriched dietary life," and "safe and secure urban development" for people around the world, using various solutions based on the technologies we have cultivated.





**Mr. Koichi Sato**  
President

NTKJ Co., Ltd. was established in 1974. The company started with molding molds and lenses for products such as lenses for tail lamps in automobiles and Fresnel lenses for overhead projectors (OHPs, devices that are rarely used nowadays). President Koichi Sato laughs that many of the company's products "aren't used in places where people can see them," but a surprising fact is that actually, most of the headlights of the cars on Japan's roads are inspected using the company's lenses. We delved into the inner thoughts of this company that continues to take on challenges with an insistence on "creating the real thing."

### **Diameters of up to 5 meters: Technology for manufacturing some of the largest lenses in the world**

There are three main pillars of our technology. The first is ultra-precision mold processing. This technology controls the processing machine in extremely fine units of 10 picometers to produce precision molds. The second is precision molding technology. This technology is used to manufacture products as lenses by transferring the shape of a precision mold to the resin totally faithfully. And that brings us to the third. This is technology for manufacturing lenses with diameters of up to 5 meters, which it is no exaggeration to say are among the largest in the world.



### **So that we are proud of the products and technologies we have created**

What we value is creating the real thing. However, even though our company and I keep saying that, it is no easy feat to achieve. In fact, we are currently renovating the building to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our foundation. In the renewed office, I would like every employee to see how the lenses they have created are being used around them. I would like each and every one of us to engage in manufacturing with a feeling of pride in our products and technologies.

### **Pioneering the future through stable quality and a spirit of challenge**

In the future, we will continue to pursue the three pillars of our technology. At the same time, as our mission statement of "Create the real thing—factory & lab" says, we will also continue to deliver products of stable quality to the world (factory), and boldly take on the challenges of making and doing things that have never been attempted before (lab). I hope that each and every employee will be able to take on challenges with a spirit of challenge like that.





A leading optical manufacturer that supports “Itabashi Optics” What is the future that young people are looking forward to?

## Luceo Co., Ltd.

30-9 Oyama Kanai-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://luceo.co.jp/en>



**Mr. Taiki Hayashida**  
Production Dept.



**Mr. Takaki Ichimura**  
Technical Development Dept.

Luceo Co., Ltd. celebrates its 59th year in 2024. Since its establishment in 1966, the company has continued to manufacture products in Itabashi, the birthplace of optical technology, as a leading optical manufacturer. The company's strength is its ability to handle the entire process from design and development to manufacturing and sales. In addition, it can provide products in small lots to meet the various needs of its customers. Mr. Taiki Hayashida, in the Production Department, who has been with the company for seven years, and Mr. Takaki Ichimura, in the Technical Development Department, who has been with the company for six years, are following in the footsteps of their seniors, and every day they embody Luceo's philosophy of “contributing to society by actively creating products that meet customer needs from an easy-to-work-in workplace.”

### The three pillars of products include “polarizing plates / wavelength plates,” “polariscopes,” and “optical units”

The three pillars of our products include polarizing plates and wavelength plates used for microscopes and space observations, polariscopes for measuring distortion in glass and plastic products, and optical units used for optical sensors and related products in a wide range of fields (Hayashida). We handle polarizing plates, wavelength plates, and polariscopes as our own brand, which we handle from design and development to sales. We mainly offer high-mix low-volume production, so we accept custom-made polarizing plates and wavelength plates from one sheet (Ichimura).



### Aiming to provide unique products and technologies to the world

We would like to offer unique Luceo products and technologies to the world. I would like to challenge myself to design electricity and other products while learning the skills of senior employees (Ichimura). While passing on Luceo's technology to the next generation, we should be aware of communicating difficult things as simply as possible, and hope to create an environment in which anyone can make Luceo's products. By doing so, I would like to create a workplace that is easy to work in, as stated in Luceo's corporate philosophy (Hayashida).

### Comparing the tastes of fried rice at local Chinese restaurants in Itabashi

I love to take a walk in the nearby shopping area during my lunch break and look for local Chinese restaurants in Itabashi I look forward to going into different restaurants and comparing the taste of fried rice (Hayashida).

There are many good places to eat in the Happy Road Ohyama and You-za Oyama Shotengai near the head office. Among them, I especially recommend Chinese restaurants such as ramen (Ichimura).





## From “Picture Book Town Itabashi” to the world The challenge of picture book author Taro Miura

In 1999, the “Bologna Children’s Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition”  
was held at the Itabashi Art Museum.

This encounter became the turning point for Taro Miura,  
propelling him forward as a picture book author.

For “Good Job Itabashi”, we interviewed Taro Miura at the Itabashi Art Museum,  
a place filled with memories for him.

We asked him about his journey as a picture book author and his dedication to his craft.





## Taro Miura

<https://www.taromiura.com/>



Born in Aichi Prefecture in 1968. Graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Osaka University of Arts.

He was repeatedly selected for the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition in Italy, leading to his debut as a picture book author overseas.

In Japan, his picture book "Kuttsuita (Stuck Together)" (KOGUMA Publishing) became a bestseller, exceeding 1.3 million copies in sales.

His book "Chiisana osama (The Tiny King)" (Kaiseisha) won the "Fine Art Prize at the Sankei Children's Publishing Culture Award."

He is currently a Specially Invited Professor at Joshibi University of Art and Design. In 2024, he celebrated the 20th anniversary of his debut as a picture book author.



Itabashi Art Museum  
5-34-27 Akatsuka, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 175-0092

### Taro Miura and the Itabashi Art Museum

The exchange between Itabashi City and Bologna began in 1981, when the Itabashi Art Museum hosted the first "Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition." Since then, the cultural bond between Itabashi and Bologna has continued to deepen through picture books. For Taro Miura, visiting the "Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition at the Itabashi Art Museum" was the spark that led him to become a picture book author. The museum holds a special place as the starting point of his career. Further strengthening this connection, the museum held the "Taro Miura Exhibition: Picture Books and Tableaux" in 2022.



## A poster that sparked the journey to becoming a picture book author

In the summer of 1999, I came across a poster at a library near my home, which led me to visit the Itabashi Art Museum, the venue for the “Bologna Children’s Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition.” There, I learned that anyone could submit their work. On my way home, I picked up the application guidelines and decided to give it a try for the first time in 2000. Unfortunately, I was not selected that year. However, in 2001, on my second attempt, I was selected. Then, in 2003, my first picture book, “Je suis...”, was set to be published by the Swiss publisher La Joie De Lire.



My first picture book “Je suis...” (La Joie De Lire)

## “Baby Picture Books” inspired by the birth of my daughter

Until 2004, when my daughter was born, I created picture books based on “the images I wanted to draw” and “my own ideas.” But then I realized that these books might be too difficult for my baby daughter to understand. As I showed my daughter various picture books, I kept wondering, “What kind of picture book would make a baby smile?” Through trial and error, I eventually created “Kuttsuita (Stuck Together)” (KOGUMA Publishing). In the summer of 2024, I published my 50th picture book, “Umi e Yama e (To the sea. To the mountains.)” (Kaiseisha). I hope this book will allow readers to see a side of Taro Miura they have never seen before.



The 50th picture book  
“Umi e Yama e (To the sea. To the mountains.)”  
(Kaiseisha)

## Passion as a picture book author and his encouragement for Itabashi’s printing and bookbinding industry

In my picture books, I don’t include many difficult elements like moral lessons or educational content. Instead, I create them with the hope that the fun of picture books and the time spent together reading them will become cherished memories for the reader. I would be incredibly happy if my book was there at the moment a baby laughed for the first time. That’s why I want to continue making picture books that “I genuinely want to choose myself.” While working on picture books, I am always amazed by the “incredible quality of Japanese printing and bookbinding techniques.” As a picture book author, I hope to continue creating wonderful works together with Itabashi’s printing and bookbinding artisans.



Taro Miura’s first picture book for babies  
“Kuttsuita (Stuck Together)” (KOGUMA Publishing)

## Picture book author Taro Miura’s advice! “The First Book for Babies”

For a baby’s first book, I believe the most important thing is that the mother enjoys reading it. I hope parents choose picture books that make them think, “I love this illustration, I want my baby to see it.” A mother’s joyful tone when reading aloud is something babies can sense, and that will surely make them happy. Rather than selecting a book just because someone else recommends it, I encourage parents to visit bookstores or libraries and find one that makes them think, “I want to read this too. I want to share this with my baby,” “My baby would love this.”



# Picture Books

"Creating picture books" "Enjoying picture books"

"Connecting through picture books"

Picture book authors, printing and bookbinding companies,  
and exhibition spaces all come together here.

And so, "Picture Book Town Itabashi"  
brings smiles to everyone.





Making picture books useful for communication is our pride

## Omura Bookbinding Co., Ltd.

3-43-7 Maeno-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.omuraseihon.com>



**Mr. Kazuaki Saito**  
President

When you step into the office of Omura Bookbinding Co., Ltd., you will see picture books lining the walls. I am filled with nostalgia, as I remember the days when I read picture books with my children, when they were very young. President Kazuaki Saito says, “We want to deliver a book to the future of children while exploring the possibilities of paper,” even in our daily lives dominated by the IT environment. He says he strives to bind books in such a way that readers can immerse themselves in the world of the picture book without thinking about anything. Connecting someone to someone else and deepening understanding of each other... He is most proud of the fact that he is making picture books that play a role in creating such communication.

### We make any kind of picture book We don't refuse any inquiries

The inquiries we receive from our customers are very diverse. For example, there are cases where we receive inquiries from publishers, etc., saying, “We had no more places to bind the books we made before,” or “We want to make a book like this that we have never seen before,” or private customers saying, “A book we cherished is damaged and we want to repair it somehow,” or we repair just one book, or children come to us saying, “I want to tour your company,” etc... Because we are a “consultative bookbinder,” we will never refuse any kind of consultation.



### What are the benefits of working in Itabashi, the city of picture books?

Itabashi-ku boasts one of the nation's highest manufacturing shipments in the printing-related industry. We operate a bookbinding business that folds, pastes, and wraps printed materials into books. However, before that, various companies that cut, process, print, store, and perform other processes related to picture books are gathered here in Itabashi-ku. We are encouraged by the fact that we can work consistently while working hard in the neighborhood, and we see this as a great advantage.

### The joy of the finished product is exceptional We will continue to challenge ourselves

Bookbinding tends to attract attention when a great book is made, but we at Omura Bookbinding believe that our goal is to make bookbinding a commonplace practice that allows readers to immerse themselves in the story, and for bookbinding to become an airy presence. It is quite risky and difficult to bind books that no one has ever done before. But the joy I feel when I take on a challenge and produce a finished product is great, so I would like to continue to take on challenges in the future.



# Seibidou Co., Ltd.

2-14-11 Misono, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://seibidou-ehon.com>



**Mr. Hideaki Akita**  
Representative Director

Seibidou Co., Ltd. celebrated its 66th anniversary in October 2024. The company has been working diligently to bind picture books in Itabashi, the town of picture books. It is characterized by its “saddle-stitch binding” method, in which the middle of the paper with few pages is sewn with a sewing machine and covered with a cover made of a hard core material called chipboard. The picture books, which are easy for even small children to open and hard to break, have long been loved by picture book authors and publishers. Representative Director Hideaki Akita, who says he is proud to be involved in the production of picture books that will be read and passed down from generation to generation, is also looking beyond the production of picture books

## Announcing factory tours and workshops via social media

In order to let people know about Seibidou's picture book production site, we invite picture book authors and hold factory tours for the general public about once a month. We also offer workshops for elementary school students and their parents during the summer vacation. If you are interested in making picture books, we hope you will follow Seibidou's page as we will keep you informed through X, Instagram, etc.



## Obtaining qualifications and creating an environment for the creation of high-quality picture books

We have six members with the national qualification of “1st grade bookbinding technician,” which can only be obtained after more than seven years of work experience, and two employees with the 2nd grade certification after more than two years of experience. Employees who have graduated from the vocational training school pass on what they have learned to their juniors, and all employees are working toward obtaining the 1st grade certification. In addition, there are many female employees in our company who have become full-time employees from part-time positions, so we are focusing on creating an environment in which they can

work energetically for a long time, for example, by enhancing our maternity and childcare leave systems.

## Utilizing our experience in picture book production to move on to the next stage

First of all, in our main business of hardcover medium-sized sewing machine bookbinding, we will pursue higher quality products. The other is that we would like to develop as a new manufacturer of miscellaneous goods and stationery. In fact, in June 2024, we launched the brand “ju:ta!e” and introduced the “Airy note,” based on the concept of “the lightest notebook in the world.” Even now, we are diligently producing new products using the technology we have cultivated in the picture book binding business.





What is the printing company that supports “Picture Book Town Itabashi” aiming for?

## Keiyu Printing Co., Ltd.

46-2 Ohara-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.keiyu-printing.jp>



**Mr. Kohei Manjou**  
Representative Director

Keiyu Printing Co., Ltd. provides a one-stop-shop for orders for everything from typography production and other pre-printing processes to plate making, printing, and processed bookbinding, and carries out production in a non-stop manner. In addition to conventional offset presses, we have introduced the latest digital presses to meet diversifying customer demands such as high-mix and small-lot production. “I want to make ‘Picture Book Town Itabashi’ even more exciting,” says Representative Director Kohei Manjou. We also actively work every day to discover new picture book authors and produce original picture books.

### Aiming to be a company where each and every employee finds their work fulfilling

In 2022, we received the inaugural “Itabashi Company Award for Developing People and Creating the Future.” This award is given to companies that are rooted in the local community and continue to work hard to nurture people and contribute to growth. We believe that we received it in recognition for our efforts toward creating an environment where employees can work comfortably (including providing welfare programs), and toward becoming a company where each and every employee finds their work fulfilling.



### Making children's potential and dreams come true Original sticker picture books: “Petako”

Two years ago, as an in-house project, we commercialized “Petako,” a series of original illustration sticker picture books that tell a story where children get to choose their dream job and become the main character. The first one is “If You Become a Firefighter.” Your child's potential and dreams are made reality through stickers based on a photo of their face, and the picture books that form the basis of the stories. The first book in the series, “If You Become a Firefighter,” won the Jury Award in the Itabashi Product Technology Grand Prize in 2023.

### Discovering new picture book authors and illustrators: Potential expected of a publisher

Prompted by Itabashi City's signing a friendship city agreement with Bologna City in Italy, we went to its Bologna Children's Book Fair. There, we met and negotiated with promising young potential picture book authors and illustrators of the future, and brought publishing plans back to Japan, printed them, and bound them into books. In cooperation with Itabashi City, besides printing and bookbinding, we would like to continue to produce many artists' work as a publisher as well.





# DX & GX

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To achieve a sustainable society.  
Through Digital Transformation (DX), we aim to  
revolutionize society by leveraging digital  
technology. Through Green Transformation (GX),  
we strive to balance environmental protection  
and economic growth.







**Mr. Masahiro Arai**  
CEO

ROBIT Inc. was founded in 2014 by a group of students who loved manufacturing. The “Mezamashi Curtain mornin’ plus” was developed to solve a certain employee’s problem of not being able to wake up in the morning. At the time set in the dedicated app on the smartphone, the “mornin’ plus” attached to the curtain rail pushes the curtain open. This reflects the company’s philosophy: “We are always looking for ways to solve the problems of many people, not just the one at hand.” CEO Masahiro Arai looks to the future by saying, “We want to continue to help our customers with DX from both hardware and software aspects.”

### Creating solutions that combine different technologies

After starting the company, we developed and launched the “Mezamashi Curtain mornin’ plus.” Currently, we offer two solutions: “TESRAY,” which automates visual inspection, and “CUTR,” which automates vegetable cutting, etc. We create solutions based on the idea that we can do more interesting things by deeply combining and integrating various hardware and software technologies.

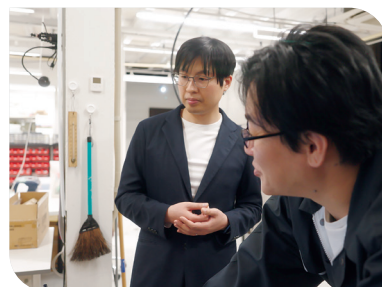


### Identifying real issues and solving them with our technology

We develop a solution by converting our problems into something more generalized and essential. We use our technology to solve people’s real problems and major issues for the world based on the information we obtain from our on-site visits. I believe that the “TESRAY” that performs visual inspections and the “CUTR” that automates the cutting of vegetables are freed from the harsh and simple work of factory workers, and provide an environment with higher added value.

### Achieving DX by utilizing various technologies and solutions

Currently, we are providing solutions for visual inspection and vegetable cutting, but I believe there is still a possibility to apply our technology to a wider range of applications. We will carefully assess the customer’s issues, think about the optimal DX, and help them. We also want to continue to develop new solutions and functions while constantly incorporating new technologies, since we are a company that was started from the perspective of enjoying manufacturing.



## Clairvision Co., Ltd.

7th and 8th floors, Daikei Itabashi Bldg., 1-42-13 Itabashi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://clairvision.co.jp>



**Mr. Ken Noseyama**  
Sales Manager

Clairvision Co., Ltd. is an independent systems integrator founded in Itabashi in 2008. It provides software with measurement and control as the keywords, mainly serving customers in the manufacturing industry. “Our systems not only improve operational efficiency, but also help to save energy, reduce energy consumption, and clarify wastefulness through data visualization,” says Sales Manager Ken Noseyama. A company that is driving GX (green transformation), it produces systems and initiatives one after another, and is the focus of high expectations.

### One of the strengths is the ability to develop the whole system from the top level to bottom—entirely in-house

Here are our three strengths. Firstly, our engineers can develop the whole system from the top level to bottom—for example, everything from the cloud to the server software and PLCs (control devices for equipment and devices in the manufacturing industry). Secondly, we can build systems based on business knowledge regarding hardware, sensors, and the customers’ in-factory electricity. Thirdly, we are simultaneously developing original package software while also conducting development work on contract.



### Contributing to energy reduction through visualization and equipment control

Our clients often tell us that introducing our system has reduced their burden of manual data collection work. They say it has also prompted them to start tackling hidden wastefulness by devising ways to visualize data through things like graphs and layout diagrams. Some have also told us they were actually able to reduce their energy consumption and save energy by regulating and controlling equipment via our system.

### Connecting companies that lack electricity with ones that can supply it

Our company has contributed to the visualization of power plants through approaches that include communicating with software that collects data from wind turbines, then aggregated and displaying the data. At the same time, with the balance of supply and demand within power companies collapsing, we are working on a project through which various companies will supply their own surplus electricity to power companies. We would like to work on creating a system that connects companies that lack electricity with ones that can supply it using their own generators.







# Printing

Itabashi boasts one of the highest shipments of manufactured products\* in Japan's printing and printing-related industries.

In Itabashi, where numerous printing companies are concentrated, skilled expertise and cutting-edge technology come together to create high-added value.

\*From 2021 Economic Census



# Gikodo Co., Ltd.

2-15-3 Itabashi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.gikodo.co.jp>



**Mr. Hidenori Sato**  
Executive Officer

Gikodo Co., Ltd. has its head office in Itabashi-ku. The company mainly manufactures switch sheets for operation panels of industrial and manufacturing equipment using printing technologies such as silk screen printing, seal printing, and inkjet printing. Although it may be hard to imagine, the fact is that they are attached to the operating parts of home appliances used in daily life, such as washing machines, rice cookers, and microwave ovens, and support the convenience and safety of our daily lives in ways that are not readily apparent. We interviewed Mr. Hidenori Sato, Executive Officer of the company, who is happy to hear that the new product “METALFACE,” developed using a unique special printing process, has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries from many companies.

## The patented “METALFACE,” which looks like metal but allows light to pass through

Our strength lies in our unique printing technologies, such as metal printing and stereoscopic printing. Recently developed “METALFACE” is a product made of a new material that is transparent to light and radio waves and can be operated by touch, and is being mass-produced as a card reader panel for access control systems. At first glance, it looks like an ordinary metal panel, but when it senses human presence, the interface displays operational guidance such as “Please touch the card” and weather information.



## Printing technology that protects the safety of people behind the scenes

Our main focuses are caution and warning labels that are attached mainly to the back of electrical appliances. We believe that we play an important role in protecting people’s safety by preventing accidents when using our products through warning signs such as “There is a danger of pinching your hand” and “There is a danger of electric shock.” We are proud that our products are necessary to protect people’s safety, even though they are not visible from the outside.

## Keep challenging to create products that satisfy customers

Under the leadership of our president, we value the spirit of challenge and are constantly taking on new challenges. We believe that our strength lies in our ability to develop products from a completely zero state to one that satisfies our customers. In the future, we intend to expand “METALFACE” to a wider market by taking full advantage of our printing technology, as well as expanding our fields to other industries with the aim of making the leap from a small and medium-sized company to a mid-sized company.





## Offset Iwamura Co., Ltd.

1-15-22 Shingashi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.offiwa.com>

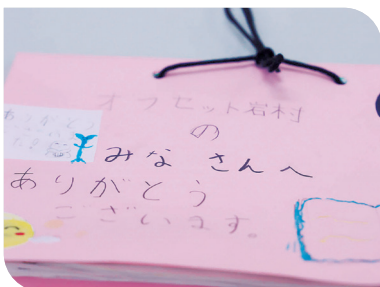


**Mr. Takanari Iwamura**  
Representative Director

Itabashi-ku is an area where many printing and bookbinding companies, whether large or small, are gathered. Its sales account for about 30% of the total industry in the city, and it is known as the “city of printing and bookbinding.” Offset Iwamura Co., Ltd. was established in 1980 and has played a role in the development of the area since then. Mr. Takanari Iwamura, Representative Director who is committed to the development of not only his company but also to the printing industry in Itabashi-ku, is not satisfied with the current situation, but is boldly tackling various issues with an eye to the future of printing companies, including the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Mr. Iwamura, who is envisioning a new printing company that makes full use of digital tools, shared his views in the interview.

### Aiming to be a printing company that is rooted in, and loved by the local community

We are a printing company founded in 1980 and I am the second president. We aim to be a company that is loved by local residents and rooted in the community by actively accepting local elementary and junior high school students for factory tours and other activities. Our core area of business is in the entertainment area, so you have probably seen the brochures, flyers, posters, etc. that we have produced in various places around the city.



### High quality and quick delivery are our strengths Equipped with the latest printing machines

We specialize in high-quality, quick-delivery printed materials. We strive to deliver added value to our customers by making the most of the technology and know-how we have cultivated over the years. For example, by utilizing the latest printing machines equipped with quality control devices, we have a system in place to prevent the delivery of defective products such as dust and dirt during printing. In addition, by establishing a factory in Itabashi-ku, we reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as much as possible and deliver products with consideration for the environment.

### Takashimadaira Danchi, where the design still attracts attention from around the world

My favorite place in Itabashi-ku is the Takashimadaira Danchi, where I was born and raised, where I started to live in 1972. I have heard that when it was built, it gained attention as the largest multi-unit housing complex in the East, and people rushed to move into it. Even though it is about 50 years old now, the design concept of a cityscape where the future can be imagined is still highly acclaimed in various fields and around the world.

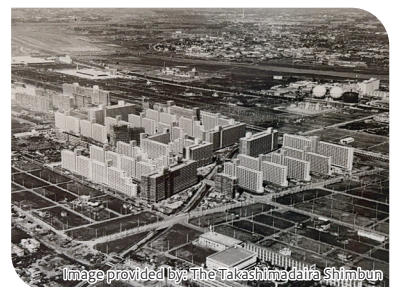


Image provided by The Takashimadaira Shinbun



# A 100-year Company

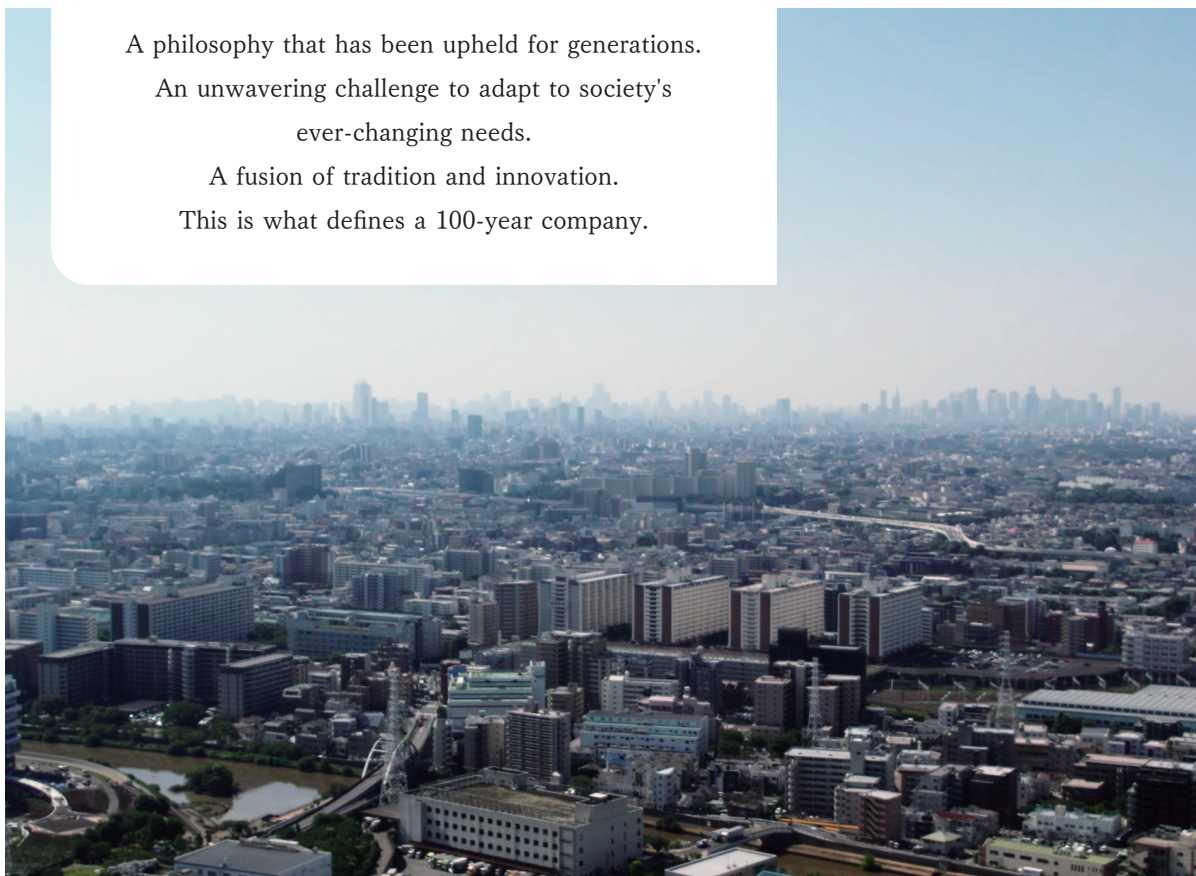
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A philosophy that has been upheld for generations.

An unwavering challenge to adapt to society's  
ever-changing needs.

A fusion of tradition and innovation.

This is what defines a 100-year company.





# Kikuchi Foods Industry Co., Ltd.

9-9 Oyamahigashi-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.kikuchi-shokuhin.co.jp>



**Mr. Miyuki Kikuchi**  
Chief Executive Officer

A 100-year Company

Kikuchi Foods Industry Co., Ltd. was established on March 3, 1914, and celebrated its 111th anniversary in 2024. The history of the company is outstanding among food companies in Itabashi-ku. It started more than 100 years ago. After trial and error by Mr. Tamahiko Kikuchi, the founder and grandfather of current Chairperson and CEO Miyuki Kikuchi, he found a way to feed a child with a cold a dried squid which was “cheap and nutritious” but “hard to eat,” and the soft and sweet “Noshi-ika” was born. We interviewed Mr. Kikuchi about the company’s commitment as a food manufacturing and sales company over its long history.

## Japan’s first. We have developed Noshi-ika, which is also popular among women and children

For about 70 years, we have been developing our business with Noshi-ika as our main product, which is a soft processing and development of low-priced squid. However, in recent years, due to the price increase caused by the decrease in the catch of Japanese flying squid in the seas around Japan, we have been forced to change our business. Therefore, we made use of our existing manufacturing facilities and expanded our product lineup to include tsukudani (kelp, sand eel, and clams) and boiled beans. Currently, we are developing our business with tsukudani and boiled beans as our main products.



## Spreading from Oyamahigashi-cho as the headquarter base to Saitama and Hokkaido

We have been operating our plant beside the railroad tracks in Oyamahigashi-cho for about 80 years. However, we decided to relocate because of the noise, smells, and soot from the chimneys that were causing inconvenience to nearby residents, as well as the impact on the environment, due to the development of residential land in the surrounding area. Currently, the head office is located in Oyamahigashi-cho, while the production bases have been relocated to Tsurugashima-shi, Saitama Prefecture, and Nanae-cho, Hokkaido Prefecture.

## Making foods to help people live longer in an aging population

We recognize that “food” is an important factor for healthy longevity. For this purpose, we strive to provide foods that have both “good taste” and “health benefits” to our customers. Up to now, we have aimed to create products that people buy not “because they are cheap” but “because they are tasty.” In an era of an aging population, we will continue to focus on creating products and foods that will enable our customers to live long and healthy lives.



# Kanto Kongoki Industrial Co., Ltd.

3-12 Ohara-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://kanto-mixer.co.jp/en>



A 100-year Company

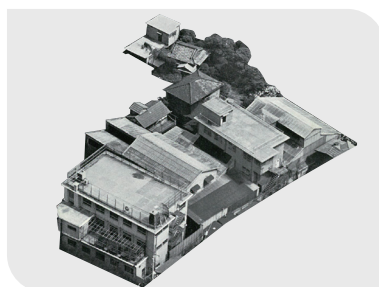
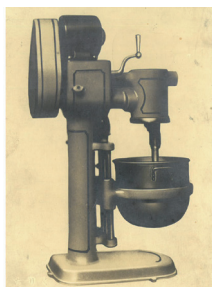


**Mr. Junichi Hayashi**  
President

Founded in 1918, Kanto Kongoki Industrial Co., Ltd. has a long and proud history. The company gained widespread acclaim in the early Showa era with its machine designed for Tianjin sweet chestnuts. Since then, it has grown into a major manufacturer of mixers, specializing in the baking and confectionery industries. President Junichi Hayashi emphasizes that under the motto “Manufacturing the most suitable mixers for every user,” the company prioritizes not only selling products but also building strong, trust-based relationships with its customers to grow together with them. This dedication to solving customers’ challenges has earned it high praise and trust not just from them, but also from the food industry.

## Improved mixing efficiency for confectionery: Developing machines that can save time

Our main products are mixers for food manufacturers, primarily focusing on the baking and confectionery industries. It has been over 100 years since our company was founded, beginning with the development of sweet chestnut machines and Japan's first domestically produced cake mixer. Throughout our history, we have consistently prioritized listening to customer feedback and incorporating it into our product development. Recently, we developed a new machine for Western confectionery manufacturers that not only emphasizes safety and hygiene but also enhances mixing efficiency and reduces processing time.



## Carrying on the spirit of creation in Itabashi, a town of manufacturing

Our neighborhood was once filled with many small factories, but in recent years, the landscape has changed significantly, with more and more apartment buildings and houses appearing. Located in Tokyo, Itabashi has long thrived as a manufacturing town. We have continued to work in manufacturing and run our business here in this community ever since our foundation. We have a deep affection for Itabashi, and are committed to continuing our craftsmanship and business in this beloved town for many years to come.

## As the market shrinks, our key focus for the future is to expand our market share

With the Japanese economy booming, our founder anticipated that Western confectionery would definitely grow in Japan. Utilizing the know-how gained from developing the sweet chestnut machine, he created a cake mixer specifically for Western confectionery. Now, more than 100 years on, in a Japanese market facing a declining population and shrinking demand, our company—having developed a wide range of mixing processes—faces the challenge of differentiating itself from its competitors and expanding its market share going forward.





## HI-CAST Co., Ltd.

38-8 Oyamahigashi-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.hicast.jp>



**Mr. Kentaro Takahashi**  
President

A 100-year Company

HI-CAST Co., Ltd. has been in operation for 100 years since its establishment in 1916 in a section of Oyama, Itabashi-ku. The company started its business by making castings for daily necessities such as pots and cookers. Later, a plant of the Monopoly Corporation of the Ministry of Finance was built near the factory, and the company shifted its focus to manufacturing cast parts for cigarette manufacturing machines, industrial machines, and machinery. Nowadays, the company is constantly receiving orders from various industries for the manufacture of critical safety parts, in anticipation of its high level of technical and assurance capabilities. Interview with President Kentaro Takahashi on what is important to a company that has been in business for 100 years.

### Manufacturing important safety related parts using our technical and management capabilities

Our strength lies in our technical and management capabilities to guarantee the manufactured parts. We also specialize in high-mix low-volume production. Recently, we have been manufacturing increasing amounts of equipment that is called important safety related parts, which is very difficult to manufacture and guarantee quality. Most importantly, I believe that our company's greatest strength is our young employees, who are always boldly taking on new challenges, while passing on our long history of experience.



### Discussing, acknowledging, and helping each other: “HI-CAST Philosophy”

We have a “HI-CAST Philosophy” that describes our management philosophy and code of conduct from our company motto. Among them, what I consider especially important is “valuing harmony,” which I inherited from my predecessors. To put it simply, “let’s get along with each other,” but getting along is not the same as pandering. Every day I hope to create such a culture where we talk to each other, acknowledge each other, and help each other.

### Toward a world where people who work hard with sweat their foreheads are appreciated

We will continue to face the strict demands of our customers sincerely and continue to improve our technical capabilities through trial and error. In addition, I strongly hope that not only our employees, but also those who work hard with sweat on their foreheads, will see the light of day and be appreciated. The work of factory workers is very hard, but with that in mind, I would like to make even better products by letting many people know that there is a company that enjoys manufacturing.





# Startups

With cutting-edge technology and bold ideas,  
new value is being created.

The business models born in Itabashi are  
now taking off on a global scale.





Why do they insist on sticking to analog in an age where everyone is using AI and going digital?

SoLARIS Inc.

14-13 Higashiyama-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://solaris-inc.com>



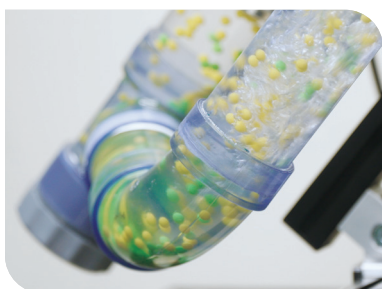
**Mr. Kiyoshi Umeda**  
Chief Executive Officer

Startups

SoLARIS Inc. was established as Chuo University's first venture company in 2017. In this age where everyone is using AI and going digital, they continue to develop analog devices that move through the power of air alone. Chief Executive Officer Kiyoshi Umeda says, "The first time I saw a robot that moves using artificial muscles, these analog devices, which move through the power of air alone, felt very new to me." The company's flagship product, "Sooha<sup>®</sup>," won the top prize in the 22nd Itabashi Product Technology Awards in 2024, and great things are expected of its ultimate analog devices.

### Supple soft robots that are one of a kind

The core technology of our robots is pneumatic artificial muscles, which were created based on research results from Chuo University, and are characterized by having a special structure inside. This rubber tube swells and shortens when air is put into it, and returns to its original shape when the air is released. The soft robots that incorporate this mysterious movement and move supplely are created based on our one-of-a-kind technology that exists nowhere else in the world.



### Winner of the top prize in the Itabashi Product Technology Awards: An earthworm-shaped robot that goes through pipes

Currently, we are mainly working on two robots. "Zendo Drive<sup>®</sup>" is a pump robot that is shaped like the human intestinal tract, mimics its movements, and can mix and carry various things. "Sooha<sup>®</sup>" is an earthworm-shaped robot that goes through pipes and can get into the deep parts of narrow and complex ones ascertain the conditions within them, an environment that was difficult to reach with conventional technology. We are currently focusing on launching the "Sooha<sup>®</sup>" business, for which we are a particularly high volume of requests from customers.

### SoLARIS is the place to go for soft robots: Mastering the ultimate analog

Our company has only just been born. We are currently conducting joint research and development with many companies, and would like to achieve even greater growth by rolling out into their respective industries the products we have obtained through that research and development. Our goal for the future is to become a pioneering company in this unexplored genre called "soft robots." We would like to grow into a company about which anyone you ask will say, "SoLARIS is the place to go for soft robots."



# What the startup is aiming for: “Reducing sad vehicle accidents”

## MARVEL AUTO SERVICE Co., Ltd.

702 Creer Ukimafunado, 1-15-15 Funado, Itabashi-ku  
URL | <https://marvelas.net/index.html>

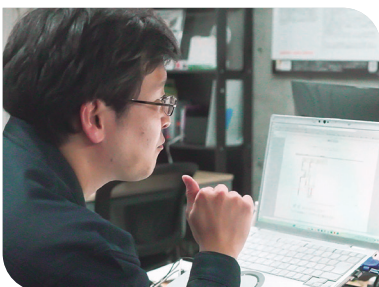


**Mr. Yoshihiro Tachibana**  
CEO

MARVEL AUTO SERVICE Co., Ltd. was established in March 2018 and is celebrating its seventh year in 2024. The company provides accident reduction services to corporations using drive recorder video, and designs, manufactures, and sells safety equipment for forklifts. CEO Yoshihiro Tachibana said that from his previous work experience in the automobile industry, he noticed that there are few companies working to reduce sad vehicle accidents, and he felt the need to solve this problem. What is the goal of a startup that builds innovative business models one after another even in the face of various difficulties?

### Same evaluation for everyone: “Vehicle video analysis service”

We developed the vehicle video analysis service which has a mechanism to eliminate inconsistencies in evaluation so that the same evaluation can be obtained by anyone. The system analyzes the driver's driving behavior based on the video footage, and examines it in detail based on the video footage captured by the drive recorder. By analyzing the number and types of these behaviors, it evaluates the risk of accidents that drivers face. Most of our customers are corporations, of which 80% are publicly listed companies and their group companies.



### Developed forklift safety equipment during the self- restraint period of the COVID-19 pandemic

The main focus of our forklift service is the development of safety equipment to prevent accidents before they occur. The vehicle analysis service is not required unless the vehicle moves, so many companies stopped operating at the same time due to the self-restraint of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this company was also in a situation where there was no work at all. During that time, we were able to start the development of forklift equipment, partly because customers wanted to take measures against work-related accidents involving forklifts.

### Shift to e-learning for safety training. Also taking on the challenge of developing new products

In the automobile business, the situation of COVID-19 has drastically changed the way customers train safe driving. Opportunities for group training have been greatly reduced, and e-learning is becoming mainstream. In order to respond to these changes, we will focus on e-learning. In addition, we plan to develop new products at a pace of about twice a year in response to requests and inquiries from many customers regarding a variety of forklift equipment.







**Mr. Masumi Fujii**  
President

Based on his many years of experience in the field of orthopedics, President Masumi Fujii formed a strong desire to launch a business that would offer a bridge medical professionals and patients that only he could provide. Five years after forming his vision, he launched his business in October 2020. Around 46 million people nationwide were said to be suffering from locomotive syndrome at the time. We are rolling out a variety of businesses aimed at prevention. Having lived in Itabashi for 33 years, Mr. Fujii now has his sights set on preventing locomotive syndrome on a global scale too.

### Avoid becoming bedridden by nipping locomotive syndrome in the bud

The greatest challenge in the field of orthopedics today is locomotive syndrome. Locomotive syndrome means being at a high risk of becoming bedridden or requiring nursing care due to age-related muscle weakness. Around 37% of authorizations to receive nursing care are said to be due to movement impairment. In order to avoid falls, fractures, and becoming bedridden, we believe that locomotive syndrome needs to be monitored and prevented starting from the initial stage.



Image provided by:  
Tanabe Orthopedic Clinic,  
Seishukai Medical Corporation



### Walking is the key to overall health: Support through an app called "Kurua."

A management app for medical and nursing care facilities that we developed ourselves, "Kurua®" boosts patients' health through exercise functions and sharing data on how active they are from day to day.

In fact, written in the Japanese script and read backwards, the name "Kurua®" is the Japanese word for "walk." Walking is linked to overall health. In the future, we will continue to strengthen regional medical cooperation with the aim of helping everyone to be able to walk for their whole lives.

### Monitoring patients together with doctors: Regional medical cooperation that only we can achieve

For regional medical cooperation, it is important to monitor patients while communicating with doctors. In this regard, we can make full use of our experience as a bridge between medical professionals and patients. As a first step, we work with medical institutions, pharmacies, nursing care facilities, osteopathic clinics, fitness facilities, etc. Making our base Narimasu—the place we owe the most to—our goal is to spread our business throughout Japan, whose society is aging more and more, and to the rest of the world as well.



Image provided by:  
Tanabe Orthopedic Clinic,  
Seishukai Medical Corporation

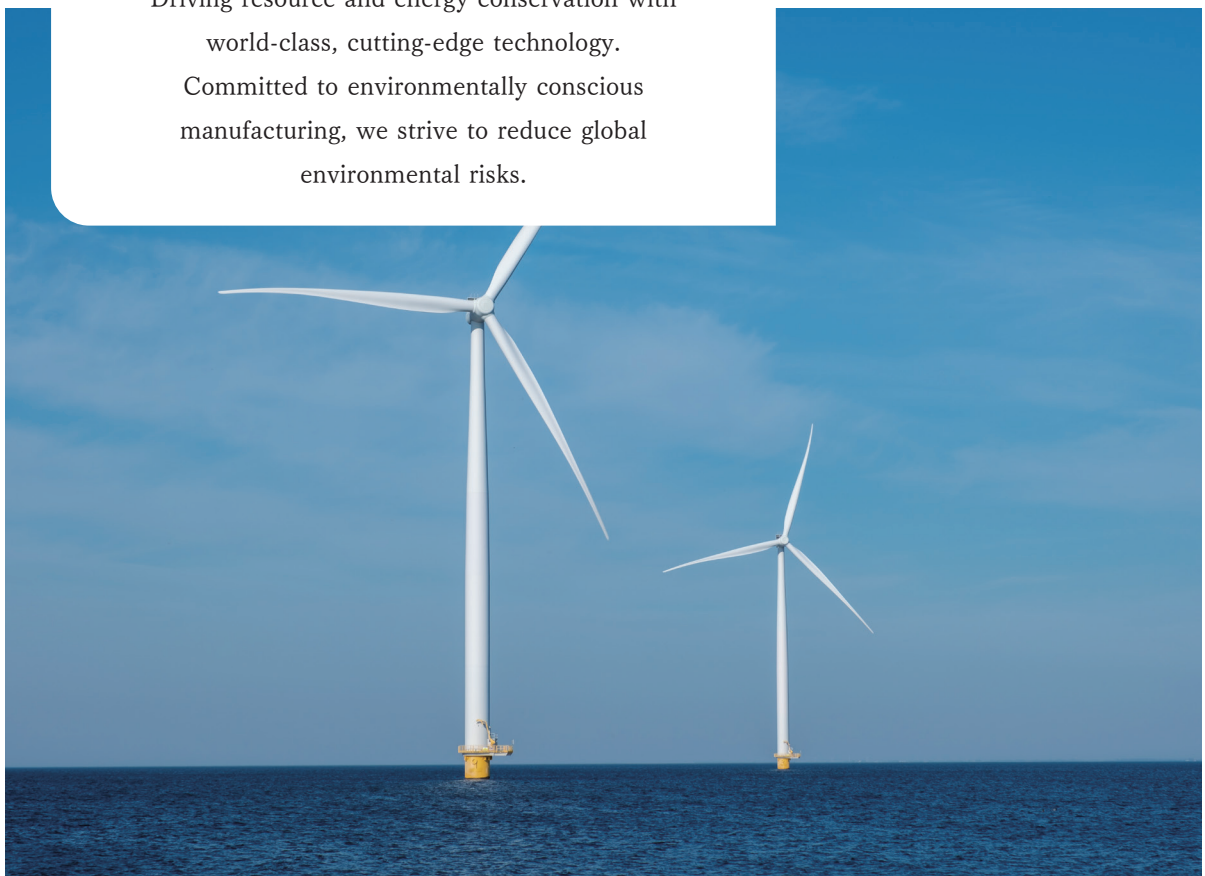


# Environment

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Driving resource and energy conservation with world-class, cutting-edge technology.

Committed to environmentally conscious manufacturing, we strive to reduce global environmental risks.







**Mr. Yohei Ishida**  
Senior Managing Director

Taiyo-Yuka CO., Ltd. is an expert in industrial waste disposal that got started in 1963 with recycling waste oil and used engine oil discharged from automobiles. There are said to be very few companies in Tokyo that specialize in liquid waste such as waste oil, wastewater, and sludge. In addition to waste disposal and recycling, the company has recently been working on upcycling—which is one step beyond recycling—using the residue (sludge) generated from disposal as a raw material. A notable example of this is its development of a microbial plant activator. We interviewed Senior Managing Director Yohei Ishida, who is using know-how on the use a microbial in sludge disposal to address social and environmental issues.

### From resource recycling to upcycling

Recycling resources and energy sources such as oil and fuel (which were valuable ones) has been the core of our business since the days when supplies and resources were limited in Japan right after its defeat in World War II, long before the United Nations-led SDGs started in 2015. Now, as a pioneer of the SDGs and one of the few liquid waste disposal companies in the 23 wards of Tokyo, we are focusing not only on recycling, but also on upcycling, which consists of transforming the liquid waste into another product as a raw material after processing. In this way, we are expanding the scope of resource recycling.



### Know-how on microorganism use cultivated through sludge disposal will save agriculture

Utilizing know-how accumulated over many years on the use of microorganisms through sludge disposal, we have developed the plant activator “Tokyo 8.” With “Tokyo 8,” 1500 different types of microorganisms form a community. The soil environment will be dramatically changed and the growth of plants will be stimulated as a result. You will be able to expect various benefits in the agricultural sector, including improving crop yields, quality, and resistance to disease and pests.

### Itabashi, his hometown: A changing landscape

I was born and raised in Itabashi. In particular, I have very fond memories of playing on gravel mountains on the way to and from elementary school. On the other hand, I also remember that the Shirako River, which flowed by near my house, was the second dirtiest river in Tokyo, with waste water from neighboring factories flowing into it. However, recently, due to government efforts, the water has gotten so clean that you can see the bottom and fish swimming in it.



A company that specializes in copper alloys and is attracting attention from around the world

# Yamato Gokin Co., Ltd.

2-46-2 Maeno-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.yamatogokin.com/en>



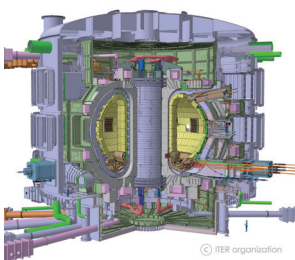
**Mr. Genjiro Hagino**  
President and CEO

Since its foundation in 1941, Yamato Gokin Co., Ltd. has specialized exclusively in the manufacture of materials in the field of copper alloys. Copper alloys are materials devised to enhance the features of pure copper by adding trace amounts of various elements such as aluminum and iron to it. More than 100 types of copper alloys are said to be in use, covering a wide range of applications that includes cars, ships, airplanes, and rockets. “Our strength is that we can create any special copper alloy from scratch, even in small quantities. Our copper alloys are also used in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)\*, in which seven countries and regions are taking part, among them Japan, the United States, and Europe,” says President and CEO Genjiro Hagino proudly.

\*A demonstration experiment of nuclear fusion, which is one of the sustainable energy sources with a low environmental impact

## Our special copper alloy parts have been adopted for the ITER!

Our special copper alloys are used as important parts for cooling the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). After a long process of trial and error to create a product that can withstand harsh usage conditions, these parts became components in the cooling pipes that form a part of the divertors. We would like the technology we developed for this to be used in the nuclear fusion of the future as well, and in fields such as rockets and railroads, too.



Provided by: National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology



## What we can do to fulfill the needs of our customers

Our company burns gas and heavy oil in furnaces to melt metals and perform heat treatment, so of course, we also emit CO<sub>2</sub>. However, besides emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, we also use city gas through which work is being done to reduce total emissions through tree planting activities in countries such as Peru and China. We also use electricity produced from natural energy sources such as solar power, and uniforms that include a carbon offset. So, we are working to give back to the environment besides use resources.

## Continuing to create innovation through achieving diversity

What is important in running a company is to create an environment and atmosphere where employees can discuss anything with each other in a lively manner. On top of that, we would like to strengthen our development capabilities—which are also our strength—and to develop an organizational structure that enables us to go on creating innovation. To that end, we would like to create an environment where people with diverse—in other words, different—backgrounds and values can gather together and produce interesting things. For example, we would also like to start hiring people who come from overseas.







# Healthcare

Supporting the medical field to ensure that everyone, anytime, anywhere can receive safe and optimal healthcare.



# Iwatsuki Co., Ltd.

1-32-18 Shimura, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo

URL | <https://www.iwatsuki.co.jp/en/company.html>



**Mr. Hiromasa Iwatsuki**  
President

Iwatsuki Co., Ltd. is a long-established company that manufactures and sells consumables for medical and nursing care facilities and for the general public. President Hiromasa Iwatsuki says, “We have many products that we would be in trouble if we did not have them in an emergency.” During the COVID-19 pandemic of the past few years, infection control products made by Iwatsuki, such as masks, gowns and gloves for medical and healthcare workers, have become an indispensable part of our daily lives. It was exactly what we did not want to happen, but many people must have been saved by the company’s products.

## “Luna Cast” won the highest prize at the Itabashi Product Technology Grand Prize

In 2023, our product “Luna Cast” won the highest prize at the Itabashi Product Technology Grand Prize. We originally imported and sold a product from Germany, but the manufacturer suddenly stopped manufacturing it, and many of our customers were in need of help. It took us about six years of trial and error to develop a similar product into the commercial product that eventually won the prestigious highest prize at the Itabashi Product Technology Grand Prize.



**You need it when you are in trouble The products are all good to have**

Many of our products are ones that no one would normally want to use. This is because if you don’t get hurt, you don’t need gauze or bandages, and if the infection does not spread, you may not need to use a mask or medical gown. However, we have always handled only products that are necessary in times of health problems, so that when a problem arises, we can say that we are glad we “have” them and not “don’t have” them, and I don’t think this policy will change in the future.

## Making products that will continue to benefit the world and people for the next 100 years

The world is progressing day by day, however. Of course, what is needed and what products are needed change with the times. This is where new technology can be utilized, for example, products such as “Luna Cast.” In other words, we will continue to handle the products necessary for the “good of the world and people,” which is the foundation of our company, and we will move forward into the next 100 years with an attitude of always responding to change.







**Mr. Daisuke Takahashi**  
General Manager of Corporate Planning Office

TOK, Inc. celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025. TOK is a long-established company that develops, manufactures, and sells palm-sized machine elements called “mechanical core parts.” “About 75% of the products we produce are customized ones,” says Daisuke Takahashi, General Manager of the Corporate Planning Office. An expert in his field, he holds the prestigious national qualification of Professional Engineer, a certification granted only to those with advanced specialized skills. The company is also committed to improving its working environment. TOK has been certified as a “Tokyo Metropolitan Government Company for Promoting Work-Life Balance” and a “Childcare Support Company,” proof of its dedication to supporting both work and family life.

### From manufacturing to sales: Three invisible parts that play a vital role

At TOK, we specialize in the seamless production and sale of three core products: bearings, one-way clutches, and rotary dampers. Bearings are designed to reduce the burden on the user by allowing sliding doors and similar mechanisms to move smoothly and effortlessly. One-way clutches are mechanical components that transmit power in one direction only. They are commonly used in paper feeding mechanisms for office automation equipment. Rotary dampers are essential for cushioning impacts and preventing finger injuries, such as when a piano keyboard cover closes.



### Delivering the motion our customers require: What can we do?

Recently, we have been using our technology to develop medical devices that meet the specific motion needs our customers require. For example, stainless-steel bearings are used in medical waterbeds to prevent rust even in underwater conditions. Our clutch technology is applied in devices for raising and lowering surgical pillows. In response to requests from overseas, we also designed special one-way clutches that can handle gamma-ray sterilization. These are now being used in equipment for accurately dispensing medicines.

### Aiming to develop medical devices based on doctors' needs

Until now, we have primarily supplied individual components for medical devices. However, in recent years, we have taken steps toward manufacturing complete medical devices in-house as finished products, tailored to the specific needs of doctors. Currently, we are conducting clinical trials for these products in collaboration with hospitals. By continuing to refine our design and development processes, we aim to make these collaborative projects with medical industry a cornerstone of our product lineup in the future.





# Disaster Prevention & Safety

Safeguarding people from potential dangers and unexpected natural disasters across the globe.

In Itabashi, residents, local governments, and businesses work together to confront emerging threats and disasters.







**Mr. Toshiyuki Takemura**  
Manager of General Affairs Department

“Potato chips means KOIKE-YA.” This company—the first in Japan to successfully mass-produce potato chips—enjoys widespread support from consumers. It also develops, manufactures, and sells snacks like “KARAMUCHO” and high-value-added products like “KOIKE-YA PRIDE POTATO.” Recently, the company has developed “KOIKE-YA LONG LIFE SNACK,” a food that can be stored for five years, and is focusing on raising awareness for disaster prevention in local communities through food through its “Itabashi Disaster Prevention+ Project.” Mr. Toshiyuki Takemura, Manager of General Affairs Department says that he hopes to use the know-how the company has cultivated so far to solve various issues through food.

### From salty seaweed flavor and POLINKY to high-value-added products

We are a snack manufacturer that is headquartered in Narimasu, Itabashi City and was founded in 1953. Since the launch of our first salty seaweed flavor potato chips in 1962, we have produced a whole succession of brand-name products, famous examples being KARAMUCHO, SCORN, and POLINKY. In 1967, we successfully switched to mass-producing potato chips, and have continued to do so up to the present. Recently, high-value-added products like “KOIKE-YA PRIDE POTATO,” “PURE POTATO,” and “KOIKE-YA STRONG” have been very popular among customers.



### Offering peace in mind in a disaster: Developing products that can be stored for five years

Ever since our foundation, we have been developing and manufacturing potato chips using only domestically grown potatoes, taking great care over flavor and quality at all times. Recently, we have developed and launched “KOIKE-YA LONG LIFE SNACK,” a food that helps with disaster-preparedness because it can be stored for five years after manufacture. This long-lasting snack will give people peace in mind and help them feel at ease even in a disaster.

### Aiming for further development, going from potato chips to food as a whole

Itabashi City, where our head office is located, is neither too urban nor rural, and we feel very comfortable in this friendly area. In the future, from here in Itabashi, we would like to expand our business from snacks like potato chips to food as a whole. Our goal is to be a company that can garner even more support from its customers. For that reason, we will all work together as one to solve various issues.



## RIKEN KEIKI Co., Ltd.

2-7-6 Azusawa, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo

URL | <https://www.rikenkeiki.co.jp/english>



**Mr. Itaru Takabayashi**  
General Manager of Personnel and Administration Department

RIKEN KEIKI Co., Ltd. is a company that handles everything maintenance of industrial gas detection and alarm equipment from their development, manufacture, and sale. “Gas is indispensable for the development of industry not just in Japan but also around the world. The next challenge is the world,” says Itaru Takabayashi, General Manager of Personnel and Administration Department. As he says, demand for the company’s gas detectors is increasing continuously in every country around the world. Since its foundation in 1939, the company has been building up technologies and experience as a manufacturer of industrial gas detection and alarm equipment, and great things are expected of it.

### Protecting people from danger through gas detection and alarm equipment

Our company is a manufacturer of industrial gas detection and alarm equipment. Our strength is that we can provide customers with an integrated system that covers everything from research and development to manufacturing, sale, and maintenance. In particular, we develop gas detection sensors in-house. On top of that, every company that uses gas is a customer of ours. Our role is to provide safety and peace of mind for the people working at these companies by providing protection from the dangers of gas through our gas detectors.



### Contributing to the development of Itabashi City as a company rooted in the local community

We have been running our business from here in Itabashi ever since our foundation in 1939. Over that time, we have built a friendly relationship with local residents and other companies through communication with them in a form rooted in the local community, and we believe that we have contributed to the development of Itabashi City together with them. In addition, at restaurants near Shimura-sakaue Station near our company, I sometimes see employees communicating with each other enjoyably at social gatherings.

### Contributing to the safety and security of people not just in Japan but overseas as well

We are a leading company in the field of industrial gas detection and alarm equipment in Japan. Up to now, we have been protecting the safety of people in industries in Japan, based on our management philosophy of “creating safe working environments for workers.” In the future, we would like to expand to doing business not just Japan but overseas as well, and grow into a company that can provide and contribute to the safety and security of people from a global perspective.





The recycling rate of corrugated cardboard is over 96%: Using cardboard contributes to the SDGs

## Shimura Seikanjo Co., Ltd.

1-19-12 Shimura, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://shimura-seikan.co.jp>



**Mr. Tomoya Kono**  
Manager

Since its establishment in 1955, Shimura Seikanjo Co., Ltd. has been manufacturing and selling corrugated cardboard, its main customer base being companies in Itabashi City. In fact, corrugated cardboard is a renewable material with a recycling rate of over 96%. In other words, using corrugated cardboard contributes to achieving the SDGs. When you think of cardboard, you probably think of the boxes you put your belongings in when moving. However, Manager Tomoya Kono, proudly states that introducing digital printing machines and improving their engineering and design skills has enabled them to produce cardboard that can make our daily lives more colorful.

### Meet the needs of our customers through design and engineering skills

In 2023, we started to use digital printing machines that can directly print in full color on cardboard. By combining the strengths of that with our printing technology and design and engineering skills, we also offer other cardboard products besides boxes to meet the needs of our customers. Now that we can produce colorful printing, we can provide unique products to meet various needs that are different from the ones we used to focus on, such as exhibition wall displays and Christmas trees.



### Cardboard beds prepared underan agreement with Itabashi City for disaster preparedness

We have been making cardboard beds for several years, and have signed an agreement with Itabashi City to provide them in a disaster. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, cardboard beds began to attract attention, and wide variety were made. Based on in-depth interviews with our customers about how to use them and stockpile them, where to store them, and so on, we have developed and are now selling compact beds that are made of corrugated cardboard. Cardboard has tremendous potential.

### Fun products that will make everyone smile, instead of just square boxes

In 2023, we launched “Masterpiece Panel GARO” through crowdfunding, a product that features colors comparable to real paintings and a texture similar to oil paintings. The colorful cardboard fixture “Assemble Wall” exhibited at the Itabashi Industry Fair was a creation that truly showcased our engineering and design skills and digital printing machine technology. Our goal with it was to make everyone feel happier. Besides square boxes, we also want to create fun products in cardboard that will put a smile on everyone’s face.





# Life

A city where comfortable living becomes a reality - Itabashi.

From delicious foods that bring smiles to residents,  
to products that enrich daily life,  
and services filled with hospitality,  
Itabashi offers a lifestyle of warmth and quality.





# TANITA Corporation

1-14-2 Maeno-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.tanita.co.jp>



**Mr. Junya Nagasawa**  
Director

TANITA Corporation celebrated its 80th anniversary in January 2024. The company manufactures equipment such as body weight scales, body composition monitors, and pedometers. It made its first weight scales in 1959. About 65 years have passed since then. In recent years, the company has also been offering health services such as “TANITA SHOKUDO” and “TANITA CAFE” (which provide healthy foods) and “TANITA FITS ME” (which provides fitness services for women). Mr. Junya Nagasawa, the company’s director, spoke passionately about Tanita’s goal of promoting health, for which it is expanding its business domain from devices for measuring health to also encompass services for promoting it.

## From babies to the elderly: Products that meet the customers’ needs

We always keep in mind the importance of creating products that will meet the individual needs of everyone from every walk of life. We offer meticulous products such as ones for middle-aged and elderly people concerned about weakening in the legs that measure your lower-body health by calculating a leg score (a unique index that quantifies the leg muscle mass score), body composition monitors for visually impaired people that read out the measurements for you, and scales that can measure babies’ breastfeeding amounts.



## Interacting with local residents: Fureai Hiroba Kenko Matsuri has been held for over 30 years

We have a corporate culture that says, “Value change and don’t stay stuck in the same place. Change and improve from the previous year, even if it’s just in terms of one thing.” We place great importance on contributing to the community and interacting with local residents in Itabashi, where our head office is located. For the past 30 years, we have held an event called “Fureai Hiroba Kenko Matsuri” every year on our premises, and the food stalls and quizzes there are among the attractions that many of the locals enjoy.

## Aiming to create mechanisms and services for maintaining healthy habits

In the future, besides devices, we will also work on providing apps for managing measurement data, and on providing information via our official website. By meeting the needs of each customer, we aim to support those who are not good at maintaining healthy habits, so that they can work on improving their own health. We will also consider expanding our business not only domestically but also overseas.



## MARUJU Co., Ltd.

5-11 Oyama-cho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://maruju.com>



**Mr. Makoto Nishino**  
Managing Director

Step out of the south exit of Oyama Station on the Tobu Tojo Line, and you’ll catch a mouthwatering scent of freshly baked bread drifting from somewhere nearby... Follow the scent, and you’ll find MARUJU Oyama Main Store. “MARUJU Co., Ltd. began in 1951, when it was established as a branch of the Maruju Bread Shop,” says Makoto Nishino, its Managing Director. 73 years on, what started as a single store in Nakajuku has grown into three locations: Oyama Main Store, Itabashi Station Front Store, and the original one in Nakajuku. MARUJU’s signature koppepan series (passed down from the “original koppepan” MARUJU Bread) and curry breads showcase their dedication to freshness and quality, and have been loved by the local community for years.

### Breads lined up in our store: Freshly made, freshly baked, and freshly fried

At MARUJU, our motto is “Creating joy through food and delivering happiness through food.” We listen to our customers and continuously create new menu items to ensure we go on offering delicious bread every day. Insisting on “freshly made, freshly baked, and freshly fried,” our shelves are always stocked with over 100 kinds of bread products. Many customers time their visits to enjoy their favorites fresh from the oven.



### Curry breads and cream breads, too: Our unwavering dedication to beloved products

MARUJU’s most popular product, our “Rich & Flavorful Curry Bread,” is made with our original curry blend, freshly prepared in the store’s kitchen every day. At the “2024 Curry Bread Grand Prix,” our “Chunky Seafood Baked Cheese Curry Bread” won the highest gold award in the baked curry bread category, while our “Rich & Flavorful Curry Bread” won gold in the fried curry bread category. We are deeply grateful to our customers for their continued support, which makes these achievements possible.

### For Itabashi and all the customers who have supported us through the years

Itabashi-juku, the first post town on the Nakasendo Road during the Edo period, was once a bustling hub of activity. We have had the privilege of running our business in this culturally rich and historic area for 73 years now, and that is all thanks to the unwavering support of our local customers. Looking ahead, while continuing to enhance the Oyama Main Store and our other existing locations, we will pursue employee training and aim to open new ones. At the same time, we are committed to giving back to Itabashi and our valued customers through various community-focused initiatives.







**Mr. Antoine Santos**  
Chef Pâtissier

**Ms. Ai Okada**  
Creative Director

“CRIOLLO” is a popular patisserie run by French pâtissier Mr. Antoine Santos. On the day of the interview, as the store shutters opened, hordes of customers rushed in to buy cakes and chocolates. The original sweets are very popular, combining a uniquely French sense with the delicate sensibilities of a chef who loves Japan. It is Mr. Santos who thinks up and makes the sweets. His wife, Mrs. Ai Okada, leads the creative side. Mr. Santos is charming, and says, “I’m about half-Japanese already.” With the support of his wife, their dreams are expanding.

### World Champion! “Gaia” and “Nirvana”

It has been 30 years since I came to Japan. I struggled when I first came, because Japan and France have different ways of thinking, and different food. But now, I’m totally used to it, and feel about half-Japanese. Every day, we make cakes that both children and the elderly can enjoy. I recommend “Gaia,” which is made with vanilla mousse and caramel cream, and “Nirvana,” which is made with blackberries and chocolate. “Gaia” won the World Patisserie Competition held in Japan. (Santos)



**Sweets made by Antoine Santos to suit the times**

Our shop sells sweets that suit the times, based on a management philosophy of “Happiness through delicious food that suits the times.” Compared to the sweet, rich cakes of the old days, cakes that are smoother and less sweet are more popular these days. “MABOROSHI NO CHEESE CAKE” is a product that’s often mentioned on social media, and we’ve gradually altered its flavor and texture to suit the times. That’s why it’s been so popular for so many years. (Santos, Ai)

### Aiming to be a place where each member of staff can play a leading role

Currently, we have an online shop in addition to the main store in Kotake-Mukaihara and branch stores in Nakameguro and Azabudai Hills. Here at Kotake-Mukaihara, we also sell delicious products such as bread, wine, and ingredients besides cakes and baked products. In the future, we’d like to stabilize our products and the way we work and invigorate the stores through each member of staff playing a leading role, while firmly carrying on the will of our founder, Antoine Santos. (Ai)



While the Ingredients for Dashi (Japanese Soup Stock) May Change over Time, an Eye for Quality Ones Never Will

## Utsuboya Ikeda Foods Co., Ltd.

1-6-7 Shingashi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo  
URL | <https://www.utsuboya.jp>



**Mr. Takefumi Ikeda**  
President

Founded in 1934, Utsuboya Ikeda Foods Co., Ltd. began by shaving katsuobushi (bonito flakes) and delivering them to soba restaurants. However, as times changed, the company expanded beyond katsuobushi to include niboshi (dried sardines), kombu (kelp), shiitake mushrooms, and other ingredients used to make dashi. At the same time, they diversified their products' forms, offering options like ground powders and convenient packaging, while also expanding their product lineup and selling to a wider range of customers. The key to achieving this lies in their ability to carefully select the highest-quality ingredients. Their customers range from major food manufacturers to small local restaurants. "I'm sure most people have tasted our products at least once, even without realizing it," says President Takefumi Ikeda.

### Quickly responding to consumer needs: Flexibility is our greatest strength

We believe that the ability to carefully select high-quality ingredients is essential for meeting the detailed needs and wants of our customers. Our factory is the largest privately-owned facility of its kind in Tokyo, and its location in Itabashi City provides a significant advantage. This proximity enables us to respond quickly to feedback and requests brought in by our sales team from customers and consumers. We take pride in this ability to respond, which we consider our greatest strength.



### Katsuobushi for somen noodles on hot days: Change your dashi based on the dish and season

There are so many types of dashi, but the basic one is katsuo (bonito) dashi. We recommend change the dashi to suit to the dish and season if at all possible. For example, katsuo dashi goes well with somen on a hot day, while sababushi (mackerel flakes) are perfect for warm dishes like hot pot, soba, and udon during the colder months. For ramen, niboshi can enhance the flavor and add depth. Try experimenting with different kinds of dashi yourselves, too.

### Expanding operations to achieve stable procurement and a better work environment

Looking ahead, we will focus on strengthening our procurement, enhancing our manufacturing precision, improving our inventory and sales management, and taking our operations to the next level. Our goal is to expand our business further, but this is not simply about increasing sales. By expanding our operations, we aim to stabilize procurement and create a secure, supportive work environment for everyone involved in our business. We believe that this will ultimately lead to greater stability and growth for all.





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The content reflects information available at the time of the interview and may differ from the present.



# Good Job ITABASHI

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 **ITABASHI Quality**  
～世界に誇るメイド・イン・イタバシ～



ゼロカーボン  
by 2050

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



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