



Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund Report 2023-2024



RITSUMEIKAN SOCIAL IMPACT FUND

Foreword

It is an honor to introduce the English edition of the Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund (RSIF) Report 2023–24 as its editor. RSIF is Japan's first university-based social impact fund, created to generate long-term societal value through impact-driven investment. This milestone reflects the dedication of the RIMIX team and all who contributed to its foundation, to whom I extend my deepest gratitude.

Since its launch in 2020, RSIF has championed the philosophy of “Grassroots Innovation,” fostering open innovation through collaboration among industry, academia, government, and citizens. Over five years, RSIF has invested in more than twenty startups tackling challenges such as regional revitalization, renewable energy, inclusive digital education, and sustainable lifestyles—proving that meaningful change begins with local action.

Entering its sixth year, RSIF now focuses on evaluating the societal impact of these investments. Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) is not merely technical; it is a reflective process that reveals the real value created for individuals and communities. RSIF will work with stakeholders to build robust frameworks for impact evaluation, advancing both practice and academic research.

This journey is ongoing—a continuous cycle of learning and innovation. I invite investors, entrepreneurs, researchers, and students to join us in shaping an ecosystem where financial capital drives social good and universities play an active role in building a better future.



Akio Tokuda

Chair, Ritsumeikan Research Society on Social Impact Creation

CONCEPT

Thinking and Creating A Better Society Together

We are standing at a turning point.

**As technology continues to advance, our values,
sense of happiness, and ideas of social progress are changing.
The era focused solely on maximizing profit is beginning to shift.**

**Now, and in the years ahead—
what do we truly need?
What challenges must we face?
What makes us and those around us genuinely happy?**

**There are no easy answers.
Yet, by thinking for ourselves and taking action together,
we can bring about change.**

**Instead of simply consuming what others create,
we can shape the kind of society we wish to live in.**

**From maximizing profit
to maximizing collaboration.**

**Thinking and creating
a better society together.**

**This report introduces the initiatives of the
Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund (RSIF),
which seeks to advance this vision through impact-driven investment.**

OVERVIEW

Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund

The Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund (RSIF) is an impact investment fund established with 100% investment from Ritsumeikan University.

Guided by the philosophy of “Grassroots Innovation,” the fund aims to create social value by connecting investee companies with education and research activities of our University.

3 Features

1 A fund that values social impact, not just financial returns.

2 Fully funded by Ritsumeikan, enabling sustained long-term support.

3 Work with investees on education & research pilots to amplify social impact.

1

2

3



3 Goals

1 Create long-term social impact via joint pilots with investees.

2 Develop innovators through continuous entrepreneurship education from elementary to graduate levels.

3 Build an ecosystem and community of impact-driven people.

1

2

3

OVERVIEW

Fund Overview

Name: Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund Investment Limited Partnership

Investment Focus: Faculty, students, and alumni of Ritsumeikan University who are starting or planning to start mission-driven businesses addressing social issues.

Fund Size: 2 billion yen(Approx. \$12.9 Million)

Established: April 2020

Fund Term: 10 years

Management Company: Plus Social Investment Co., Ltd.

Investment Methods: Equity, share options, corporate bonds, etc.

Investor: Ritsumeikan University

Investment Policy

- 1 In principle, investees must be corporations engaged in social businesses with prospects for growth and business continuity. Projects limited to one-off events or short-term activities are excluded. Priority is given to “seed” and “Series A” stage enterprises.
- 2 Applicants must be Ritsumeikan University students, alumni, or faculty members serving as representatives, executives, or in equivalent management roles.
- 3 Investees must clearly define the social issue to be addressed and the intended social impact in their business plan. They are also expected to collaborate with the fund or the university to visualize and share their impact through their business outcomes.

FAQ

- Q** I'm interested in investment from the fund.
How can I get in touch?
- A** The fund management office, Plus Social Investment Co., Ltd., will explain the fund overview, screening process, and schedule. Please scan the QR code below and contact us via the inquiry form.
- Q** How is the screening conducted?
- A** Applications are accepted about three times a year. After submitting the required documents, the office conducts document review, first screening, and final review before making investment decisions. The process usually takes three to four months.
- Q** When are the public calls for applications?
- A** The schedule varies each year. Please contact the office in advance using the QR code below for information about upcoming application periods and required pre-application meetings.



Contact Form

Fund Management Office
Plus Social Investment Co., Ltd.

WHY WE INVEST?

Why Ritsumeikan Invests in a Social Impact Fund

Ritsumeikan promotes the creation of social impact through mid- to long-term initiatives and invests in impact funds to connect those resources to education, research, and management, creating lasting social value.

1

As a Social Impact Creation Organization

Creating Shared Knowledge with Society

Ritsumeikan conducts interdisciplinary research in natural, social, and human sciences, returning results as shared knowledge to help solve social challenges and create new value.

Fostering Changemakers

By combining education with research and exploration, Ritsumeikan cultivates innovators and changemakers who drive social transformation.

2

Leveraging Ritsumeikan's Unique Strengths

Long-term Perspective on Investment

Solving social challenges requires long-term funding and support. RSIF invests with extended time horizons and regular feedback cycles, drawing on Ritsumeikan's institutional character.

Linking Investment with Education and Research

Collaboration across research fields enhances the social value created through the fund's investments.

3

Contributing to Impact Evaluation

Evaluation within Impact Investment

Impact investment requires measuring and managing the effects created by investees. Ritsumeikan contributes through research and education in this area.

Evaluating Social Value in Academia

Impact evaluation assesses the social value generated by Ritsumeikan's education and research, serving as both a learning tool and a means of dissemination.

POSITIONING OF RSIF

Ritsumeikan Entrepreneurship and Business Development Office

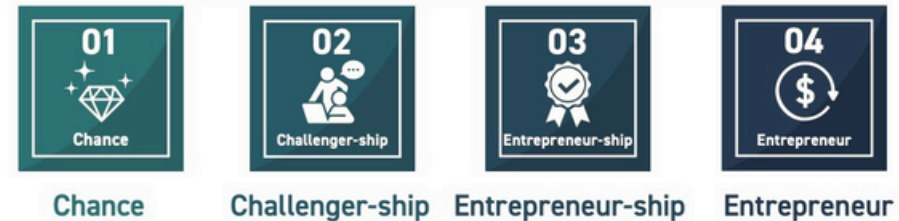
Designing and promoting entrepreneurship and business development across the Ritsumeikan Academy.



Integrated Entrepreneurship Education Program

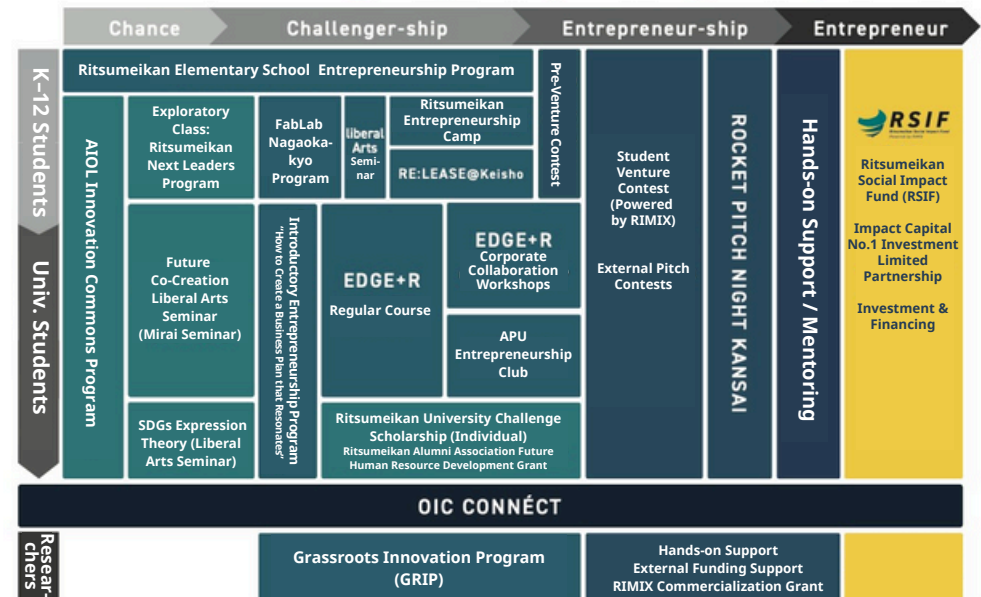
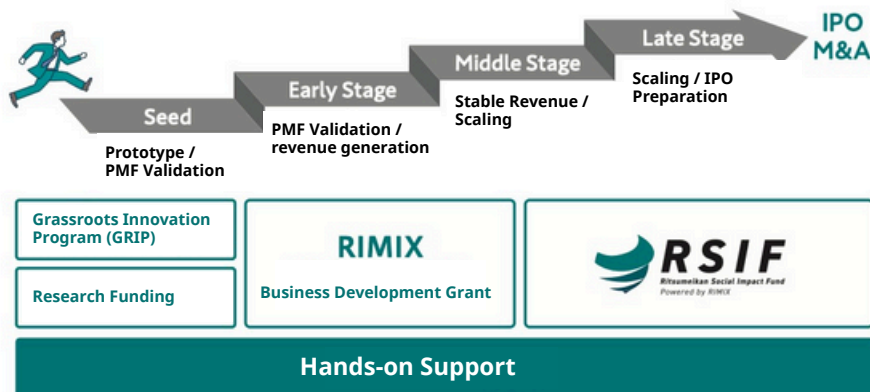
RIMIX offers a unified program from elementary to graduate school, nurturing entrepreneurship through four developmental stages and supporting challenges by children and students. RSIF works together with these programs to advance educational initiatives and invests in student ventures that emerge from them.

Program Structure



Creation of Research-based Ventures

RIMIX provides financial and hands-on support at each stage of research-based venture creation. RSIF not only collaborates with researchers and investees but also considers investing in ventures born from such collaborations.



The programs listed are as of October 2024.

GRASSROOTS INNOVATION

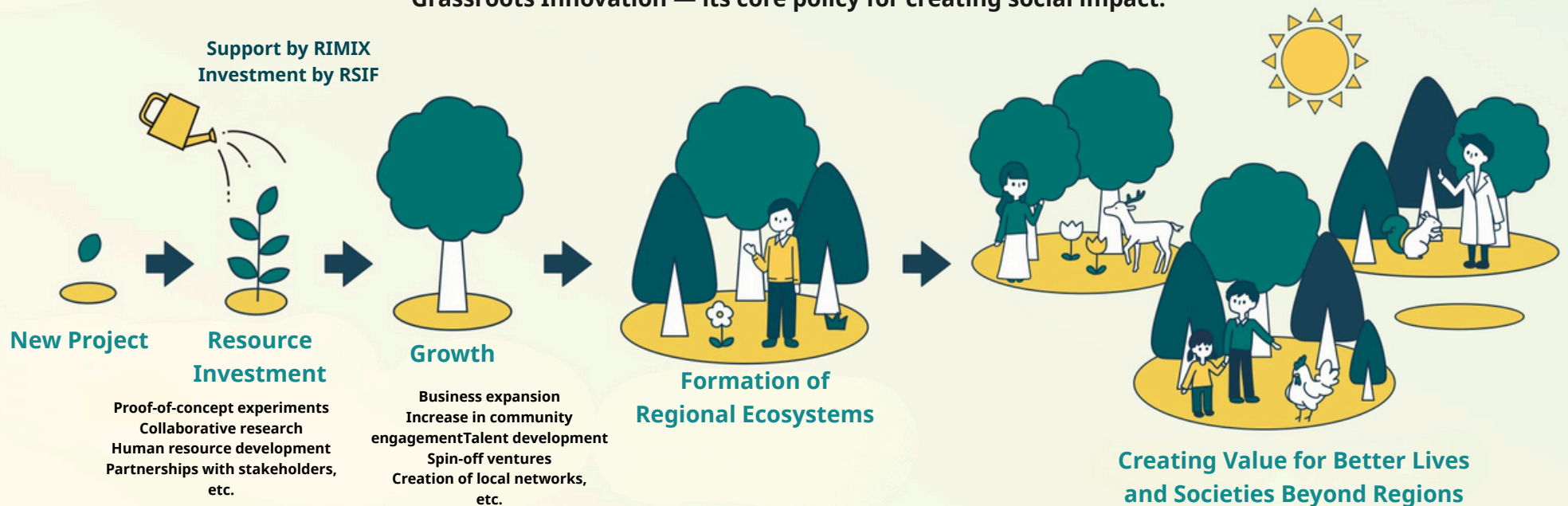
Ritsumeikan's Approach to Innovation

Grassroots Innovation

Grassroots Innovation combines the ideas of “grassroots” and “innovation.”
 “Grassroots” refers to the local roots of society, while “root for someone” also means to be on their side and actively cheer them on or support their success.

By connecting people involved in various regional challenges and sharing their knowledge and experiences, new innovations emerge.
 This is the form of innovation that Ritsumeikan aims for — Grassroots Innovation.

Beyond regional boundaries, Ritsumeikan seeks to co-create social value through collaboration, calling this process Grassroots Innovation — its core policy for creating social impact.



TOPICS

Expansion of Investment Capacity to 2 Billion Yen

Additional Investments to Accelerate Social Impact

RSIF increased its total investment capacity from 1 billion yen to 2 billion yen (Approx. \$12.9 Million) in January 2024, following steady investment performance since the fund's establishment in 2020. This expansion enables broader support for businesses addressing local and social challenges.

Signing the "Impact-Driven Finance Declaration"

First University-Based Fund to Join the Declaration

On November 29, 2021, RSIF became the first university-based fund to sign the Impact-Driven Finance Declaration, an initiative jointly signed by 21 financial institutions committed to addressing environmental and social issues through finance.

The declaration promotes Impact-Driven Finance (IDF), encouraging signatories to share best practices and strengthen collaboration on impact investment, measurement, and management (IMM). As of March 2025, over 75 organizations have joined.

RSIF continues to work with these institutions to enhance its contribution to sustainable finance and measurable social impact.

Message from the Representative

**Masato Noike, CEO, Plus Social Investment Co., Ltd.
Managing Partner, Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund (RSIF)**

Our company was founded in Kyoto in 2016 with the mission of creating a flow of capital that fosters social innovation and contributes to building a more sustainable and resilient society. Through our impact investment platform "en.try", we provide mechanisms that connect local residents, regional businesses, and financial institutions, promoting investment in socially essential initiatives and supporting their growth.

Since 2020, we have also been collaborating with Ritsumeikan University to establish and manage the Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund (RSIF), Japan's first university-based impact fund with a total size of 1.5 billion yen. We will continue to pursue initiatives that catalyze social innovation in local communities and build financial frameworks to support this endeavor.



Japan Impact-driven Financing Initiative



<https://www.impact-driven-finance-initiative.com/>

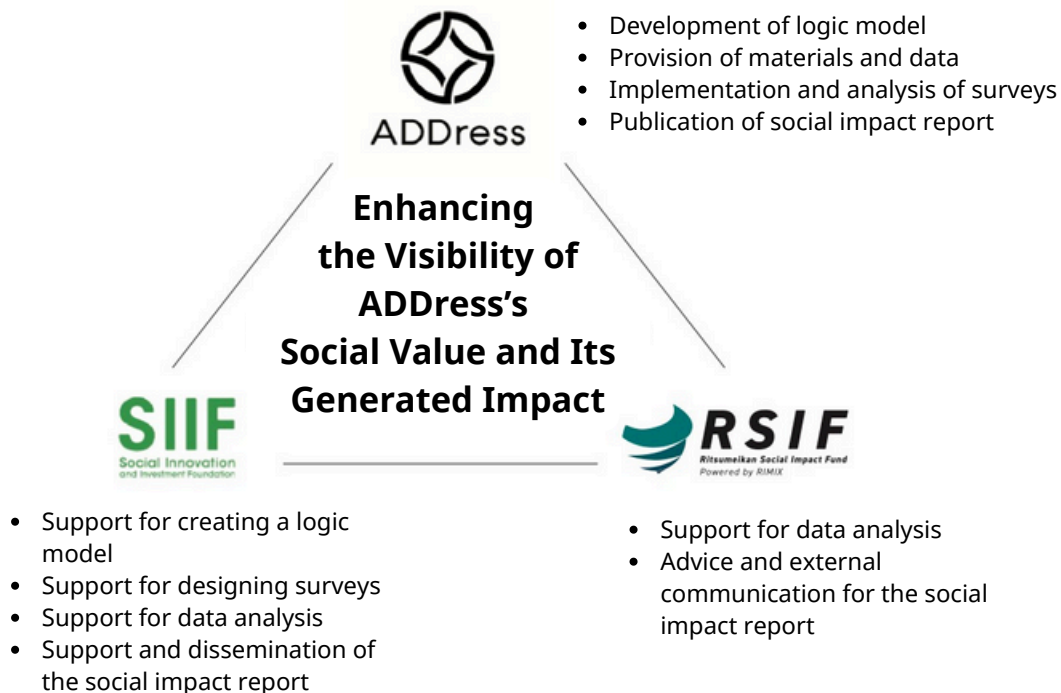
TOPICS

Impact Evaluation of Investee Companies

Supporting the Creation of a Social Impact Report for ADDRESS Inc.

As part of its efforts to evaluate the impact of its investee companies, RSIF has supported the creation of social impact reports. In 2021 and 2022, RSIF collaborated with ADDRESS Inc.—one of its investee companies—and Japan Social Innovation and Investment Foundation (SIIF), an organization dedicated to addressing social issues and fostering autonomous and sustainable social value creation. Together, the three parties launched a joint project to visualize how ADDRESS is engaging with, improving, and solving social challenges through its business activities. The result was the publication of Japan's first multi-site "Social Impact Report" focusing on quality of life and sustainable living.

Project Overview



Impact Reports



2022-2023 Impact Report



<https://address.love/column/?p=6454>



2023-2024 Impact Report



<https://bit.ly/4bPwpTi>

TOPICS

Pioneering New Investment Approaches

Investment in Robo Co-op's ¥100 Million (Approx. \$650,000 USD) Empowerment Fund

In June 2024, RSIF made a new type of investment by establishing the Robo Co-op Empowerment Fund for Digital Inclusion with Robo Co-op, a general incorporated association working to expand access to digital training and reskilling opportunities.

This fund adopts an investment through a silent partnership agreement, marking one of the first large-scale applications of this model by a non-profit organization in Japan. The initiative represents a new form of capital support for mission-driven enterprises, enabling them to pursue socially impactful activities with greater financial flexibility.

RSIF's collaboration with Robo Co-op represents a new model of support for mission-driven enterprises, and it is expected that this approach will expand opportunities for realizing the futures envisioned by social entrepreneurs.

Revenue-Linked Financing: A Rare and Innovative Structure in Japan

Because general incorporated associations in Japan cannot issue shares or corporate bonds, this fund was structured as an Empowerment Fund under the cooperative investment model. The fund's returns are distributed based on Robo Co-op's revenue, allowing investment risk to be shared between Robo Co-op and RSIF.

The Empowerment Fund is an eight-year fund in which profits are accumulated annually and distributed in a lump sum at the end of the term. This flexible design allows adjustments to operational structures in response to market and business growth. The cooperative investment model also meets debt-equity hybrid requirements, strengthening the fund's financial structure and smoothing future fundraising.

If Robo Co-op and RSIF achieve their cumulative revenue targets, early distributions may be made before the fund matures. This structure enables Robo Co-op to continue its initiatives in challenging environments with greater financial flexibility.

In Japan, where social entrepreneurship and impact investment are still emerging fields, this Empowerment Fund serves as a valuable new model for sustainable financing.



Photo taken during Robo Co-op's visit to Ritsumeikan University in May 2024. (From left: Representatives from Robo Co-op, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ritsumeikan University Vice President Tokuda)

Press Release (Japanese)



<https://prtimes.jp/main/html/rd/p/000000012.000108210.html>

RSIF's Vision

A world that generates value in everyday life
through grassroots innovation.



PORTFOLIO

The information on this page is current as of February 2025.

komham

komham inc.

Providing waste-treatment technology using proprietary microbial technology.

13

NAORAI

Naorai Inc.

Collaborates with sake breweries under the theme of "Carrying Japan's diverse and rich sake culture into the future."

15

WOTA

WOTA CORP.

With the purpose of "tackling water challenges from the structural level," develops and implements small-scale decentralized water circulation systems.

17



ADDress

ADDress Inc.

Operates "ADDress," a nationwide multi-location living platform that allows unlimited stays with a monthly subscription.

18



Tantan Energy Co., Ltd.

Aims to create sustainable communities where energy is generated and consumed locally, promoting regional energy self-sufficiency.

20



Seventh Generation Project Co., Ltd.

Operates a community "social design park" that supports local place-making through sports and art.

22



COSOJI inc.

Provides a co-living and work-sharing service that connects property management with residents' daily lifestyles in local communities.

24



ARK Inc.

With the mission of "Democratizing Aquaculture," develops systems that enable fish farming anywhere.

25



AIVICK Inc.

Develops the "FIT FOOD" business, providing personalized health support through ICT technology.

26



Innovare Co., Ltd.

Promotes the spread and implementation of green energy technologies.

27

AmaterZ Inc.

AmaterZ Inc.

Develops network-connected miniature sensors to support environmental monitoring and control.

28



Patentix Inc.

Engages in the research, development, and commercialization of next-generation semiconductors using germanium oxide (GeO₂).

29



NINZIA Inc.

Develops food tech businesses that create new forms of dining experiences.

30



Robo Co-op

(General Incorporated Association)
Aims to expand digital training opportunities using RPA to make skill acquisition more accessible for everyone.

31



Behomal, Co., Ltd.

Develops and manufactures biodegradable plastic products using biomass-derived CO₂ reduction technology (DAC Plastic initiative).

32



ShiruBe, Inc.

Develops and operates "Philosophy Cloud," a management platform that promotes reflective thinking and organizational dialogue.

33



VCGT Inc. (VC Gene Therapy)

Engages in the research and development of gene therapies for rare genetic diseases.

34

komham

komham Inc.

株式会社komham

かぶしがいいしゃ こむはむ

CEO: Suno Nishiyama

Founded: January 29, 2020

Location: Techno Park 1-11-10, Teine-ku,
Sapporo, Hokkaido

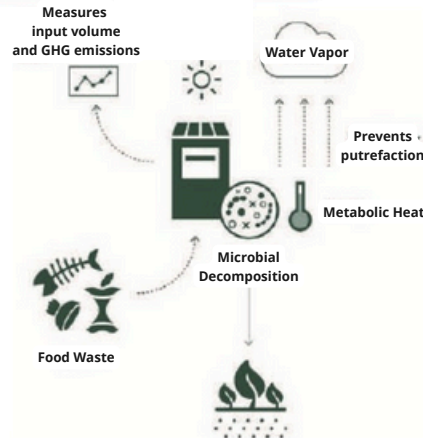
Initial Investment: 2021

Creating Sustainable Living Environments Through Microorganisms



Microbes for a Greener, Circular Lifestyle

komham develops a microbial consortium called Komham that converts organic waste into carbon dioxide and water within approximately one day. Using this technology, the company provides a biomass recycling system that enables decentralized waste treatment and supports a sustainable lifestyle. The company is also engaged in developing new composting solutions and related products using this system. In August 2024, komham acquired a patent for a new strain of microorganisms capable of decomposing biodegradable plastics.



PROFILE



CEO Suno Nishiyama

Born in Hakodate, Hokkaido. After graduating from Ritsumeikan Keicho Senior High School, she earned her degree from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU). She began her career at a major apparel company, then worked in public relations at PR and game companies. After serving as a PR specialist at the creative lab PARTY and working as a freelancer, she founded komham in 2020.

Social Issue & Importance

High Costs for New Waste Facilities and Declining Population

Over 80% of Japan's incineration facilities are nearing the end of their service life, and rebuilding them requires substantial financial investment. At the same time, population decline is gradually reducing total waste volume, making efficient and flexible waste treatment systems increasingly necessary.

Food waste accounts for around 40% of total waste, and composting has gained attention as a potential solution. However, conventional composting is slow and requires significant space. komham's microbial system shortens the composting process to as little as 12 days, and reduces the final residue to less than 2%, offering an environmentally friendly and cost-efficient alternative to conventional disposal.

NEWS Patent Acquired for Plastic-Degrading Microorganism

komham obtained a patent for microorganisms that can decompose biodegradable plastics. These microbes can break down materials such as PLA and PBAT in as few as 4-5 days. Together with its Smart Compost® system, komham aims to develop sustainable resource cycles with minimal environmental impact.

Impact Aimed For

Building a Sustainable Living Environment Through Microorganisms

Smart Compost Units Installed

21

Total Food Waste Processed

2252.89kg

Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

273.1kg-CO₂

※1 Figures are based on data from Smart Compost SC10, recorded between 2022 and 2024.

The Smart Compost® developed by komham is an autonomous, solar-powered food waste processor that operates without the need for AC power or wastewater treatment. It features a proprietary microbial community, “Komham,” that efficiently decomposes food waste in a self-contained environment. Between 2022 and 2024, a total of 21 Smart Compost units processed approximately 2,252.89 kg of food waste, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 273.1 kg-CO₂.

Although the company has not yet set formal social impact targets, komham continues to operate with a strong focus on balancing economic and social value creation. To this end, the company aims to establish a structure that enables large-scale deployment and visualization of operational data obtained through Smart Compost use.

※2 Greenhouse gas reduction estimates are based on avoided emissions from conventional food waste treatment processes (collection, transportation, and incineration).

Data from Smart Compost SC10, operated between 2022–2024, was used.

Food waste is assumed to generate 0.17 kg-CO₂ per kg when treated through conventional incineration.



Feedback from Local Experiments

It was convenient because I could use it anytime, regardless of the day or hour.

I felt less guilty about throwing away leftovers as regular trash.

There was no odor or insects, so it felt hygienic.

It's convenient to have one near my home — I'd like to see more installed around town.

I'm glad to see the amount of burnable waste clearly reduced.

I'm happy that, even in a small way, I could do something good for the environment.

Supplying “Komham” Microbial Agents to Composting Businesses

The microbial agent “Komham” is sold to existing composting operators and used to improve their processing efficiency. Because these facilities handle larger waste volumes than Smart Compost units, they also achieve a greater reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

NAORAI

NAORAI Inc.

ナオライ株式会社

なおりい かぶしがいいしや

CEO: Koichiro Miyake

Established: 2015

Location: 3960 Kubi, Toyo-cho, Kure City, Hiroshima
Prefecture Mikado Island(Headquarters)

Initial Investment: 2020

Revitalizing Japan's Sake Breweries through "JOCHU"



Preserving Cultural Heritage through Sake

Naorai Inc., based on Mikadoshima Island in Hiroshima's Seto Inland Sea, revitalizes Japan's sake breweries through innovation. With its distillery in Jinsekikōgen, the company preserves the cultural and regional values of sake by creating Jochu—a new, low-temperature distilled Japanese spirit. Starting in Hiroshima, Naorai is expanding nationwide and launched a brewery revitalization project on the Noto Peninsula in 2024. Selected for J-Startup WEST.



PROFILE



CEO Koichiro Miyake

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture, Koichiro Miyake grew up in a family deeply connected to the sake brewing tradition. After graduating from Ritsumeikan University's College of Economics in 2007, he spent nine years in Shanghai promoting Japanese sake overseas. In 2015, he founded Naorai Inc. and introduced Jochu, a low-temperature distilled sake that redefines the spirit of Japanese brewing.

Social Issue & Importance

Division Between Economy and Nature

Rice is indispensable to sake brewing, yet Japan faces a shortage of rice farmers. To maintain production, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are increasingly required, leading to concerns about environmental and health impacts. While demand for organic farming is growing, organic rice remains costly, and surplus rice often goes unused. Naorai addresses these challenges by cultivating organic and naturally grown lemons, creating added value while promoting sustainable agriculture.

Decline of the Sake Industry

Japan's sake industry is shrinking as fewer people drink sake and more breweries stand idle. Meanwhile, global demand for Japanese food and sake continues to rise, but quality control and logistics pose challenges. Naorai's Jochu, a refined sake spirit that can be matured at room temperature, offers a new way to use surplus sake. By revitalizing idle breweries across Japan, the company aims to build a global system for sustainable sake production and delivery.

Impact Aimed For

Expanding the Brewery Revitalization Model Nationwide

Establishing the Brewery
Revitalization ModelNOTO Naorai Brewery
to Open in April 2025

Stores Offering “Jochu”

450 Stores

Naorai Individual Partners
over

9,000 members

Hiroshima Model
Partner Companies

5 companies

※1 Figures are based on data from Smart Compost SC10, recorded between 2022 and 2024.

Through its projects, Naorai ultimately aims to expand its Brewery Revitalization Model nationwide to strengthen rice farming and local economies. Since 2015, the company has operated from its base on Mitsugashima Island in the Seto Inland Sea and, since 2019, in Jinsekikōgen, Hiroshima, conducting proof-of-concept projects with local breweries.

By sourcing 2,000 liters of pure sake from local brewers—equivalent to about ¥2 million—and producing 800 liters of Jochu (worth approximately ¥11,260,000), Naorai established a business model that revitalizes regional breweries. The amino acid extract created in this process is commercialized as “Naorai BIO TECH.”

Building on these achievements, Naorai will open its second production site, NOTO Naorai Noto Brewery, in April 2025, continuing its work to revive Japan's traditional breweries and create a sustainable local ecosystem where nature and brewing coexist.

The third Base: NOTO Naorai Brewery, Ishikawa

In April 2025, Naorai will establish its third production site, the NOTO Naorai Brewery in Noto, Ishikawa Prefecture. In preparation for this new initiative, Naorai invited comments from local sake brewers.

Naorai's Jochu is a groundbreaking sake that can be stored at room temperature. We're proud to support this initiative, which we believe will contribute to the revitalization of Noto.



Local sake brewery,
Nakanoto Town



Watch Naorai Inc.'s
'Jochu' concept video
via the QR code.



WOTA

WOTA CORP.
WOTA株式会社

うおーた かぶしきがいしゃ

CEO: Yosuke Maeda

Established: October 24, 2014

Location: 1-13-13 Nihonbashi Bakurocho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

Initial Investment: 2021

Illuminate and Protect the Lives of All Beings



Development of Decentralized Water Systems

WOTA has developed autonomous water treatment control technology to realize a “small-scale decentralized water circulation system” that reuses household wastewater for maximum efficiency.

These technologies support emergency water use during disasters and improve public hygiene.

In January 2024, when the Noto Peninsula earthquake struck, WOTA provided its water circulation shower system “WOTA BOX” and hand-washing unit “WOSH”, supplying showers and handwashing stations throughout the affected areas for a full year.

The company is also developing a small-scale decentralized water circulation system for residential buildings, allowing wastewater to be treated and reused on-site. Demonstration projects are underway both in Japan and overseas.

By introducing this system, water pipelines become unnecessary, offering a sustainable water supply model and policy innovation for regions with aging infrastructure.

PROFILE



Director, Global Operations Ryo Yamada

Graduated from Ritsumeikan University with a degree in Environmental Systems Engineering (2011). Completed a Master's program in Sustainability Science, the Graduate Program on Innovation for Sustainability (GPIS) at the University of Tokyo. Having grown up in Silicon Valley, he has been deeply interested in water issues since middle school. After working at the NPO ETIC, to support social entrepreneurs in Japan, he joined WOTA, first as a product development leader and now oversees global operations.

Impact Aimed For

A “Best Mix” Between Large-Scale Centralized Water Consumption Society and Small-Scale Decentralized Water Circulation Society

Social Issue & Importance

Even if 100% of the world were covered by water infrastructure, the water crisis would remain unresolved.

Modern lifestyles require about 200 liters of water per person per day.

According to UN estimates, existing water resources will meet only 60% of global demand by 2030. While the development of water and sewage systems helps alleviate water shortages and pollution, maintaining aging networks imposes heavy financial burdens on governments—especially in aging or shrinking populations.

Moreover, highly efficient urban water networks still face high maintenance costs and climate-driven scarcity. For a sustainable future, new technologies and solutions beyond conventional water infrastructure are essential.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

“WOTA BOX and WOSH provided critical water access during emergencies,” said evacuees, describing them as “the best showers of their lives.” In residential systems as well, local residents and municipalities have expressed high expectations for WOTA's technology as a sustainable water infrastructure for depopulating regions.



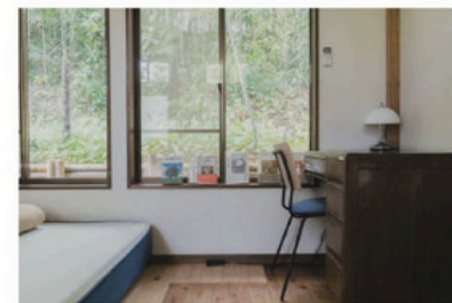
CEO: Takashi Sabetto

Established: November 30, 2018

Location: 3-5-3 Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

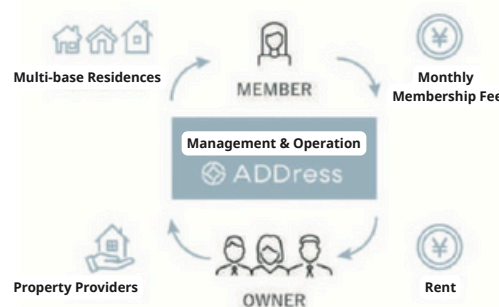
Initial Investment: 2019

Making Multi-Base Living a New Lifestyle Norm



Providing Multi-Base Living Services

As of September 2024, ADDRESS operates 276 residences across Japan, offering a shared multi-base living service for members. Vacant houses and leisure properties are renovated into shared homes, allowing members to stay freely at any location by paying a reservation fee. These spaces serve various purposes — as places for workations and remote work, as a “second hometown,” as weekend retreats, or even as bases for exploring future relocation options.



Social Issue & Importance

Lack of Infrastructure to Support Multi-base Living

In recent years, more people have begun seeking a lifestyle that is not tied to one place but allows them to live across multiple regions. Yet only 5.9% actually practice such living. Many cite the financial burden of maintenance, relocation costs, and the difficulty of finding affordable housing as major obstacles. As interest grows, the lack of social and physical infrastructure to support this new way of living has become increasingly evident.

Decline of Regional Communities

Regional communities across Japan are facing depopulation, aging, and economic decline. Revitalization requires not only tourism but also building long-term relationships with “connected residents” who engage with the area over time. The number of vacant houses has increased by 9.5% since 2013, and neglected homes now pose risks such as structural collapse or crime. Turning these vacant homes into shared residences offers a promising way to address both social and regional challenges.



CEO Takashi Sabetto

Born in Osaka. Graduated from the College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University in 2001, and joined Gaiax Co., Ltd. In 2015, he established the Japan Sharing Economy Association, serving on government committees under the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Motivated by the need to revitalize local communities through shared housing, he founded ADDRESS in 2018.

PROFILE

Impact Aimed For

Increase in People Living with Greater Happiness

Through its business activities, ADDRESS ultimately aims to increase the number of people who live with a sense of happiness. As social beings, humans derive happiness from friendships, community belonging, and social connection. By providing opportunities for communication and community engagement, ADDRESS seeks to help members find emotional connection and reduce feelings of loneliness.

People who found a sense of belonging

46.63%

People who felt less lonely

33.16%

People whose happiness increased

72.02%

Average satisfaction level compared to before using ADDRESS

3.98 /5

Source: Extracted from ADDRESS Impact Report 2023–2024

In individual responses to the member survey, some commented that “meeting people outside of family and work made me feel less lonely,” and that “I can step back from everyday life and gain perspective.”

While many members reported changes in their sense of loneliness and happiness through these interactions, the survey also revealed that a certain number of members use ADDRESS simply to “enjoy time alone from time to time.”

Voices from Users & Stakeholders



Meeting people outside of my family and workplace has made me feel less lonely. Through various encounters and exchanges, I've gained new perspectives and values. I believe many members share the same feeling of wanting to connect with others in this way.

Woman in her 50s
(Member for less than 1 year)



Woman in her 30s
(Member for over 1 year)



By creating a healthy distance with my partner and family, we've been able to value our own time while appreciating each other more. We also deepened our ties with others through the ADDRESS community. Even after moving away, we still visit and stay at other ADDRESS homes. Our relationships have grown beyond physical distance, and now that we have a child, we plan to continue using ADDRESS as a family.



To assess its social impact, ADDRESS has developed its own impact logic model, setting 180 outcomes and 330 KPIs. For details, please refer to the ADDRESS Impact Report.



Tantan Energy Co., Ltd.
たんたんエナジー株式会社

たんたんえなじー かぶしがいいしゃ

CEO: Hiroki Kihara

Established: December 10, 2018

Location: 3-chome, Shinooshinmachi, Fukuchiyama City,
Kyoto Prefecture

Initial Investment: 2021

Revitalizing Northern Kyoto through Local Energy Production and Consumption



Providing Locally Generated Renewable Energy

Tantan Energy provides renewable energy generated in the Tango and Tanba regions directly to local communities, promoting local production and local consumption of electricity.

Through its community-based on-site PPA projects, the company installs solar power generation systems on the roofs of public facilities and supplies the generated electricity to those facilities.

The company also contributes to strengthening local disaster resilience.

By raising part of the installation costs through citizen investment, it has built a system that allows residents who cannot install solar panels at home to participate.

Functions of Tantan Energy



Social Issue & Importance

Shortage of Renewable Energy Supply

Climate change continues to take countless lives and assets.

To stop it, greenhouse gas emissions must effectively be reduced to zero, and international conferences already emphasize “phasing out fossil fuels.”

In Japan, fossil fuel imports total around 30 trillion yen annually, making renewable energy utilization increasingly critical. Currently, renewables account for only about 20% of Japan's total electricity generation. As the use of renewable energy becomes more widespread, competition for limited power resources may intensify. Therefore, it is crucial to develop systems that allow local communities to utilize renewable energy derived from local natural resources.

Outflow of Energy Costs Outside the Region

Each year, more than 10 billion yen in energy costs flows out of Fukuchiyama City alone. Tantan Energy aims to improve efficiency by utilizing locally generated renewable energy and circulating energy within the community. It also creates new mechanisms that enable residents to support local initiatives simply through their electricity purchases, without paying additional costs. Through these efforts, the company contributes to building a sustainable society encompassing Kyoto's environment, economy, and community well-being.



CEO Hiroki Kihara

Born in Gifu Prefecture. While studying at Ritsumeikan University, Kihara began volunteering with the NPO Climate Network, engaging in climate change prevention activities.

After graduation, he joined the organization as a staff member, and since 2003, has worked at the Kyoto Prefectural Center for the Promotion of Global Warming Prevention Activities.

He became Executive Director in 2011 and Deputy Director in 2020.

In 2018, he founded Tantan Energy Co., Ltd. as a spin-off from the same center and assumed the position of CEO. He also serves as a lecturer at Ritsumeikan University.

PROFILE

Impact Aimed For

Expansion of Communities Engaged in Building Prosperous, Decarbonized Regions

In 2019, Fukuchiyama City and four other partners signed an agreement on promoting community-based renewable energy projects, and have since implemented a citizen-participation, nonprofit-based renewable energy model. By 2030, the goal is to collaborate with government and research institutions to establish and implement regional energy policy models, positioning the company as a social enterprise that fulfills this role and spreads the Fukuchiyama model to other areas. Looking ahead to 2040, the aim is to see many successful examples of prosperous, decarbonized communities across the Tamba and Tango regions, and for local residents to tangibly feel these benefits. It also seeks to increase both the “acceptance” of renewable energy and the number of individuals and companies who actively introduce or support its adoption.

Impact in Fukuchiyama City (2023–2024)

Total renewable energy equipment introduced

592kW

Total number of participating investors

146

Total shelter capacity covered

4,920

Expansion from Fukuchiyama City to Other Regions (2023–2040)

Partner municipalities (investment/agreements)

1 municipality ▶ 10 municipalities

Source: Impact Report 2023–2024



Combining Energy with Local Challenges

A portion of profits from individual power sales is donated to support activities by SDGs partners registered in Fukuchiyama City. In FY2023, a donation was made to the “Showa Fubuku Shokudo” children’s cafeteria.

Tantan Energy also collaborates with Fukuchiyama United to support initiatives promoting urban–regional exchange and relocation.

Thanks to Tantan Energy’s support, we were able to hold the “Spring Fukuchiyama Market Fair” at the gallery space of Fuchiko Crafts. Many people came to enjoy the event, and we also received numerous words of gratitude from parents and visitors.

Shota Katano, Representative,
Fukuchiyama United



Investment from Fukuchiyama City

In line with the “Fukuchiyama City Energy and Environmental Basic Plan” formulated in FY2022, the city invested 1,000,000 yen in Tantan Energy Co., Ltd., which is actively advancing concrete renewable energy initiatives.

(Executed in June 2023, registered in July 2023)

SEVENTH
GENERATION
PROJECT

株式会社

Seventh Generation Project

かぶしきがいしゃ せぶんすじえねーしょんぶろじえくと

Representative: CEO Takashi Maki

Established: December 21, 2018

Location: 1-1 Nihonmatsu, Ōtsu City, Shiga Prefecture

SG Park, Inside Branch Ōtsu Kyo

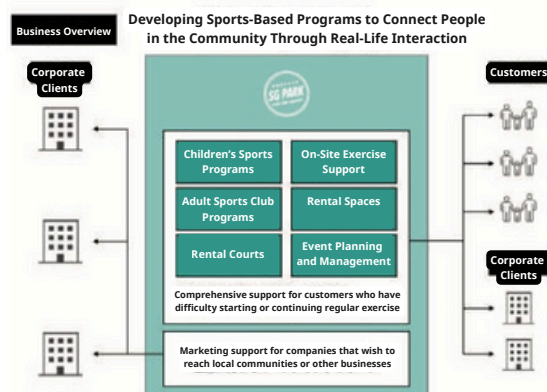
Initial Investment: 2020

Creating a Sustainable Community for the Next 200 Years Through Sports



Multi-Generational Community Sports Club "SG-Park"

SG-Park was established in Ōtsu City, Shiga Prefecture. It features a restaurant offering locally sourced, health-conscious menus and an adjacent community sports facility. Within a 30-minute driving radius, SG-Park provides opportunities for physical activity to a wide range of generations—from children to seniors. Its operations include children's programs, adult sports clubs, rental courts, corporate fitness support, rental space management, and a variety of local events. The club also supports people who struggle to start or continue exercise by offering ongoing opportunities for physical activity.



PROFILE



CEO Takashi Maki

Born in Ōtsu City, Shiga Prefecture. After graduating from Ritsumeikan University's College of Business Administration in 2004, he worked in sales before founding catchtheclimax.inc in 2005, where he engaged in web service development, new business creation, and startup support. In 2011, he returned to Shiga and, after working at Loftwork, established Takatsuki Kikaku, a firm specializing in research, planning, and concept design. He has held his current position since 2018.

Social Issue & Importance

Toward Designing the Next-Generation Society – The Potential of a Decentralized, Self-Reliant Community

The concept of Seventh Generation comes from a Native American teaching: "Live with gratitude to the seven generations before you, and act with prayer for the seven generations to come."

At SG-Park, through experiences of trying to engage local people in discussions about community building and the future, we realized that to truly inspire awareness, we needed to approach it from a different angle. Thus, we began operating the Multi-Generational Community Sports Club.

From past experiences, workshops and events centered on "community building" often reached only those already interested, failing to resonate with many local residents. In contrast, sports are universally embraced across generations. With more people becoming aware of their lack of exercise and growing interest in physical activity, we saw sports as an ideal entry point to foster new connections and interaction among residents. Moreover, in today's information-driven society, the tangible and shared experiences that sports provide are expected to become even more valuable.

Impact Aimed For

Creating a Sustainable Community Where People Can Live Comfortably 200 Years From Now

SGP aims to build a sustainable community where people can live comfortably even 200 years from now, focusing on sports as a starting point for practical action. Particular emphasis is placed on three powers inherent in sports — the power to move people emotionally, to foster intergenerational exchange, and to promote health. Through these, SGP believes that improved life skills and mutual understanding across generations can revitalize local communities and contribute to long-term sustainability. A member survey conducted in November 2024 revealed not only physical changes such as “gaining muscle” or “improving shoulder and lower back pain,” but also mental and social benefits such as “finding exercise enjoyable” and “feeling more positive throughout the day.” These results demonstrate the positive social impact of engagement through sports. Moving forward, SGP aims to expand its programs in the Ōtsu area of Shiga Prefecture to strengthen local engagement and achieve its intended impact.

Number of Participants in Sports and Program Activities via SGP (FY2024)

Approx. **35,000** people

One-Year Retention Rate for Sports Club Members

92%

Percentage Reporting Improvements in Health and Lifestyle

91%

Number of Partnering or Supporting Companies/Organizations

25社

All figures are based on the 2024 SGP Member Survey results.



Voices from Users & Stakeholders



Male
Adult Beginner,
Basketball Class
Participant)

I never imagined I'd start a new sport in my 40s. I've become more active, and even my work performance has improved. I'm truly grateful to have joined.

I participate in the health exercise program. I always find it fun and enjoyable, and I really love it. I was injured in an accident and still have whiplash symptoms, so movements that put strain on my neck and hip joints are difficult for me. However, I am able to join the sessions comfortably within my range of ability, and I truly enjoy participating. I look forward to continuing the program.

Female
Member for
Over One Year



SGP's New Challenges

Starting in April 2025, a small childcare center will open on-site, making it a place for people from ages 0 to 80. In collaboration with the city and several organizations, SGP also plans to establish a U-15 basketball team. SGP will continue to serve as a community platform open to the public, fostering connection and active participation in local life.



CEO: Nozomi Fujibayashi

Established: May 25, 2020

Address: Shin-Tokyo Building 1F, 3-1 Marunouchi 3-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Initial Investment: 2021

Updating the Real Estate Industry with Expertise and Technology



Work-Sharing Service for Real Estate Management

COSOJI develops a work-sharing platform that connects real estate management tasks nationwide with residents' lifestyles. By providing opportunities for local residents to take on paid assignments and short-term jobs, the service aims to improve both customer satisfaction and regional employment opportunities.



Through this platform, COSOJI offers solutions for long-standing industry challenges such as labor shortages and management inefficiencies in the real estate sector. By connecting communities, industries, and property owners, COSOJI strives to deliver a service that allows everyone involved in real estate to experience "comfort, safety, and peace of mind."

PROFILE



CEO Negau Fujibayashi

Born in Tokyo. After graduating from Ritsumeikan University, he entered the real estate industry and later worked in new business development at a major company. In 2020, he founded COSOJI, Inc., driven by his desire to create a more flexible and inclusive way of working in real estate management. He continues to lead the company with the vision of using technology and local partnerships to revitalize the real estate sector.

Impact Aimed For

Supporting Society by Updating Real Estate Management

Social Issue & Importance

An Industry Without Innovation for Over a Century

For more than 100 years, the real estate management industry has operated through analog methods centered on paper and Excel. This has made appropriate and efficient management difficult, especially as multi-layered structures and geographically dispersed properties increase complexity. On-site staff shortages, the lack of standardized procedures, and the inability to grasp real-time conditions have long hindered effective operations. COSOJI aims to modernize the industry through digital tools and IT skill development, bringing long-overdue innovation to the sector.

Flexible Work Styles That Match Local Lifestyles

Real estate management jobs often require flexible arrangements, allowing people to work close to home regardless of age or background. However, these roles tend to be irregular and short-term, limiting employment stability. By providing an efficient system for matching available tasks with skilled workers in the community, COSOJI not only supports the real estate industry but also creates new local job opportunities and enables rapid problem-solving on-site.



CEO: Koyo Takenoshita

Established: December 23, 2020

Address: 5-7 Sengokukashi, Hiratsuka-shi, Kanagawa

Initial Investment: 2021

ARK ZERO Closed Recirculating Aquaculture System

ARK is based on the concept of “LET THE OCEAN REST, CREATE YOUR OWN.” With the aim of creating “oceans on land,” the company develops, manufactures, and operates small, distributed, closed-loop land-based aquaculture systems.

Starting with the ARK ZERO series — a research and development platform designed for lightweight, high-performance, and sustainable aquaculture — ARK provides technologies that enable anyone to become a producer of marine life on land.

The company offers comprehensive solutions for land-based aquaculture and water environment management, focusing on practical applications for marine species such as high-value fish.

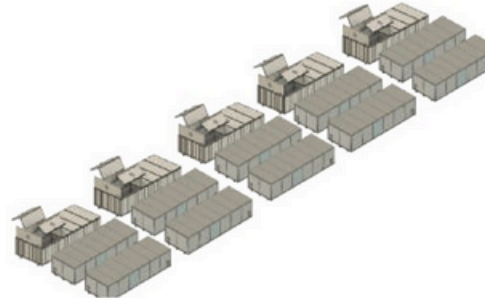
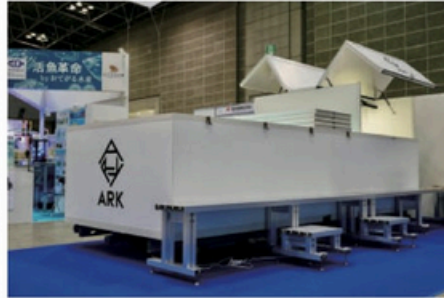
PROFILE



CEO Koyo Takenoshita

Born in Kagoshima Prefecture. After studying electronic control engineering and mechatronics at a technical college, he transferred to Ritsumeikan University, where he majored in robotics and biomedical engineering (Master of Engineering). After graduation, he worked at a hardware startup, handling product planning, development, and production technology. He has authored multiple books and holds several patents related to IoT. In 2016, he joined Uhuru Co., Ltd., serving as an evangelist and technical manager. In 2020, he co-founded ARK. His favorite fish is horse mackerel.

“LET THE OCEAN REST, CREATE YOUR OWN.”



Impact Aimed For

Creating a mechanism and culture where anyone, anywhere, can become a seafood producer on land

Social Issue & Importance

Global Average Sea Surface Temperatures Reach Record Highs

According to data analyzed by the BBC and the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, global average sea surface temperatures have reached record highs in consecutive years. The impact has been particularly significant in Japan's coastal waters, where sea surface temperatures off the Sanriku coast have remained around 6°C higher than average since 2023. This situation represents one of the most extreme cases of ocean warming in the world.

Impact of Changing Sea Temperatures on Fisheries and Land-Based Aquaculture

Rising sea temperatures and changing ocean conditions are greatly affecting marine ecosystems, the livelihoods of people, and fishing industries. As a result, the environments in which humans and marine life coexist are being lost. In recent years, there have also been reports of fish health deterioration and reduced harvests in conventional marine aquaculture. To address these challenges, ARK focuses on land-based aquaculture, a new approach attracting global attention as a sustainable solution. Through its platform “ARK SEA,” the company aims to build networks and cultures in which anyone, anywhere, can become a seafood producer on land — realizing a future where safe, delicious seafood can be enjoyed sustainably around the world.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Thanks to ARK's support, we were able to start a small-scale aquaculture business, the 'Micro Aquaculture.' By working together with local restaurants and retailers, we are building new relationships within the community.



Male, 50s,
Company
Executive



CEO: Tomoko Yatsuda

Established: February 18, 1997

Address: Yonezawa Kyoto Hachijo Building 6F,
Hachijo-machi, Minami-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto

Initial Investment: 2021

Providing the Optimal “Food” Using the Latest Food Technology and ICT, Without Stress or Difficulty

AIVICK aims to solve issues related to diet caused by factors such as body type and lifestyle habits, providing each individual with “optimal meals” suited to their needs, without unnecessary effort in their daily lives. Through the realization of a society that can practice “FITFOOD,” which allows people to eat well

effortlessly, AIVICK utilizes the latest food technology and ICT. The company offers customized meal delivery services that take into account food preferences and allergies. Its ready-to-eat meal service “Chef’s Additive-Free Meal”, praised by users as “Even my vegetable-hating child eats this,” has received high satisfaction and continues to expand steadily.

	ファミリー事業 Family Business	パーソナル事業 Personal Business
事業	小さなお子さんのいる共働き世帯	産前産後の体質改善ダイエットに悩む方
サービス	シェフの黒豚 うくりおき 食品添加物無添加調理 冷凍宅配サービス (1日、冷凍宅配サービス)	#100 ALL100kcal パーソナライズサービス (100kcal style) ※100kcal → AIVICKオリジナルのレシピ
社内	ソフトウェア開発支援 System Engineering Service	

PROFILE



CEO

Born in Fukuoka Prefecture. After working at a venture company developing software for Purikura (photo sticker booths) in their early days, she founded AIVICK Co., Ltd. in 2005. After experiencing a collagen disease in her early thirties, she became aware of issues related to food, which led her to shift the company's focus from its original core business of software development to the food industry. She aims to realize a society where “people can live long and healthy lives as they are meant to.”

To enable everyone to live a healthy life until they reach their natural longevity



Impact Aimed For

A world where everyone can live a healthy life until their natural longevity, supported by food technology that seamlessly supports healthy eating without requiring extra effort.

Social Issue & Importance

“Time Poverty” Leading to Reduced Wellbeing and Lower Quality of Life

About 30% of the working population suffers from “time poverty” due to insufficient time for childcare, nursing care, and rest. Especially among working mothers, nearly 80% experience time constraints, leading to fatigue, decreased happiness, and a decline in quality of life. Daily time poverty stems primarily from housework and meal preparation, and AIVICK addresses this issue by providing convenient and nutritionally balanced meals that reduce household burdens and improve overall wellbeing.

Extending Healthy Life Expectancy and Increasing the Number of Healthy Years

In Japan’s aging society, extending healthy life expectancy and preventing lifestyle-related diseases are urgent national priorities. As of 2023, the number of patients with such diseases has reached about 17.86 million. One factor in this increase is diet. By providing appropriate nutritional balance through food, AIVICK aims to support the extension of healthy life expectancy and contribute to creating a society where individuals can live healthily and comfortably in their own ways.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Female,
40s

I used to believe that parents must cook meals for their children. But after using this service, my perspective changed — I realized that it's enough to simply provide healthy meals. This, in turn, led me to a new way of thinking: “I want to cook when I have time, and enjoy preparing and sharing the meals I truly want to make.”



Innovare Co.,Ltd.
Innovare株式会社

いのべあ かぶしがいいしや

CEO: Mitsutaka Kawatani

Founded: April 1, 2020

Location: 3-2-123 Umeda, Kita-ku, Osaka City

Initial Investment: 2022

Connecting Our Blue Planet to the Future with Green Technology



Creating Value from Underutilized Resources

The global biofuel market is expanding due to the shift away from fossil fuels. The main raw materials—used cooking oil and animal fats—are already largely utilized, raising concerns about future shortages. Therefore, Innovare focuses on the “natural rubber fruit,” which has been overlooked as an unused resource despite producing over one million tons annually in countries like Thailand, and is building a new raw material market. To maximize the use of the natural rubber fruit, the company has also obtained patents aimed at utilizing the shells and residues of the fruit for energy purposes.



PROFILE



CEO Mitsutaka Kawatani

Born in Oita Prefecture. After graduating from Ritsumeikan University, he worked as a power plant engineer at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. from 2008. From 2016 to 2020, he engaged in international cooperation in the environmental and energy fields at Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting Co., Ltd. He established Innovare Co., Ltd. in 2020.

Impact Aimed For

By realizing the practical use of new bio-based raw materials, contribute to reducing fossil fuel consumption and create solutions for climate change and resource recycling.

Social Issue & Importance

Risk of Business Closure for Plantation Farmers in Developing Countries

Due to large fluctuations and falling prices in the natural rubber market, plantation farmers in Southeast Asia are facing the risk of business closure. By establishing a market that uses previously unused natural rubber fruit as raw material, new sources of income are created for farmers, leading to improved living standards and resource recycling through biochar and other means.

Depletion of Biofuel Resources

The biofuel market, which uses carbon-neutral fuels, is expected to reach USD 96.7 billion by 2027. The share of main raw materials such as used cooking oil and animal fats is projected to exceed 94% by 2026, raising concerns about shortages. Since biofuels are a practical solution to climate change, using the previously unused “natural rubber fruit” as a raw material contributes to achieving carbon neutrality.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Innovare's initiative to utilize unused resources as raw materials is interesting, and since it can also be used as a material for our own products, we would like to support it.



Manufacturer
in Japan

AmaterZ Inc.

AmaterZ Inc.
株式会社AmaterZ

かぶしきがいしゃ あまてるず

CEO: Masakazu Yajima

Founded: December 10, 2016

Location: 2-23-1 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Initial Investment: 2022

Digital transformation of animal zones

"tukumo2," developed by AmaterZ, is a small sensing device that measures temperature and humidity in any location without power supply, without wiring, and without maintenance. In particular, it conducts stable sensing in animal zones (livestock housing environments), which are the harshest in primary industries, and establishes a productivity improvement approach that reduces livestock disease. It can be used not only in livestock farming but also in a wide range of fields such as agriculture (e.g., rice paddies) and maintenance environments.



PROFILE



CEO Masakazu Yajima

While studying at Ritsumeikan University, he researched micromachines (MEMS power generation devices). He completed a master's program in Information Systems in the Graduate School of Science and Engineering, and then joined Sony Corporation. After working on environmental power generation technology, he joined AmaterZ in 2018. He was appointed President & CEO in December of the same year.

Illuminate and protect the lives of animals, plants, and people.



Impact Aimed For

Forming industrial communities that can be maintained even with labor shortages.

Social Issue & Importance

The shortage of personnel with livestock management know-how and the threat of declining food self-sufficiency.

The increasing heat and temperature fluctuations year after year, climate change, weakening of livestock, and labor shortages including the disappearance and aging of skilled workers, are making it increasingly difficult to prevent livestock deaths due to diseases and other factors, despite the increasing global demand for meat. In fiscal year 2022, the number of birds culled due to avian influenza reached 17.71 million. Due to the collapse of the supply chain, the factory price of compound feed soared from 61,419 yen in fiscal year 2020 to 88,698 yen in fiscal year 2023. The job opening ratio in livestock farming increased from 1.28 times in 2012 to 3.11 times in 2018, indicating a serious labor shortage. In addition, animal welfare and GHG reduction measures are also required. We aim to accurately understand animal zone data and achieve animal zone DX (digital transformation) by interpreting and managing the data that skilled workers have traditionally managed intuitively. With this "Animal Zone DX PF," we will solve the challenges facing livestock farming and connect it to the future by balancing economic sustainability, reasonable animal welfare, and GHG reduction measures, and updating livestock farming to what it should be.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Digital transformation has made it easier to work on improvements, and performance has improved.



30s
Cross-industry
career switcher

We shifted from relying on craftsmanship-based management to considering the future and adopting data-based management.



30s
Livestock
business owner



Patentix Inc.
Patentix株式会社

ばてんていくす かぶしがいいしや

CEO: Toyosuke Ibi

Founded: December 1, 2022

Location: 1-1-1 Nojihigashi, Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture

Ritsumeikan University BKC Incubator

Initial Investment: 2023

Research, development, manufacturing, and sales of germanium dioxide (GeO₂) power semiconductors.

Research, development, manufacturing, and sales of germanium dioxide (GeO₂) power semiconductors. The “new next-generation semiconductor GeO₂ (germanium dioxide) power semiconductor” developed by Patentix can reduce loss to less than one-third of that of SiC (silicon carbide) semiconductors, enabling overwhelming low loss, high breakdown voltage, and miniaturization. The market size of SiC is predicted to reach 969.4 billion yen by 2030, and we are promoting the social implementation of GeO₂ power semiconductors targeting that market. *SiC is known as a semiconductor that can significantly reduce energy loss and is used in essential applications such as high-speed rail and home appliances.

PROFILE



CEO Toyosuke Ibi

Born in Kyoto. Graduated in 2000 from the Department of Polymer Science, Faculty of Fiber Science, Kyoto Institute of Technology. Engaged in patent and trademark work at Iwatani International Patent Office and Shikawa Sokan. After working at Kyoto University-originated and University of Tokyo-originated ventures, he became President of Patentix in 2022. Also serves as a Visiting Professor at Ritsumeikan University.



CTO Kentaro Kaneko

Completed a doctoral program at the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University in 2013. After serving as an Assistant Professor at Kyoto University, he became a Professor at the Institute for Comprehensive Research in Science and Technology at Ritsumeikan University in 2022 and co-founded Patentix. He has received 20 awards including the Young Scientist Award from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Aiming for the social implementation of next-generation power semiconductors (GeO₂).



Impact Aimed For

Promoting the social implementation of GeO₂ power semiconductor devices and realizing a sustainable low-carbon society.

Social Issue & Importance

Low Energy Loss

From substations through transmission lines and until being converted to optimal high voltage and current for equipment use, approximately 5–10% of electric power is lost. Compared to SiC semiconductors currently used in applications such as bullet trains, Patentix's GeO₂ power semiconductors can reduce loss to less than one-third.

Difficulty of Development / World-Leading Technology

Until now, both domestic and international efforts have attempted to develop technologies aimed at reducing energy loss. However, the deposition of GeO₂ crystals successfully achieved by Professor Kaneko has not been accomplished by foreign competitors, making Patentix a world-leading player in this field.

NEWS Received the Special Jury Prize at the “Keizaikai Golden Pitch 2023”

In 2011, Keizaikai (Japan Business Publication) launched this award to discover and support promising entrepreneurs in Japan. Over the past 12 years, the total cumulative funds raised by award recipients has exceeded 18 billion yen, and many have gone on to represent Japan through IPOs and M&A. Patentix received the Special Jury Prize at this award.



NINZIA Inc.
株式会社NINZIA

かぶしきがいしゃ にんじあ

CEO Masahiro Yoritama

Founded: April 5, 2016

Location: 56 Naniwa-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo (inside KiP)

Initial Investment: 2024

Texture-creating technology using dietary fiber

Konjac, which has been eaten daily in Japan since ancient times.

By using "NINZIA Paste," which is made mainly from konjac and is low in sugar and low in calories, as a binder or coating in various foods, the company sells sweets and foods that can be eaten even by people with diseases such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and allergies.

Because it is plant-based and gluten-free, it is expected not only to promote people's health but also to expand overseas.



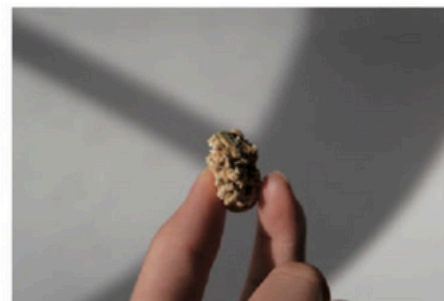
PROFILE



CEO Masahiro Yoritama

Born in Hyogo Prefecture. After graduating from the College of Social Sciences at Ritsumeikan University, he joined Yamaha Corporation. In 2014, he studied Japan's traditional food culture inheritance systems at Keio University Graduate School. In 2016, he returned to his hometown to found Sydecas Inc. (now NINZIA). The company initially developed apparel and daily goods for medical and nursing care. Inspired by the experience of his grandmother requiring long-term care, he later expanded into the food-tech business.

Meals that can be enjoyed even by those with dietary restrictions.



Impact Aimed For

Expanding Food Choices Around the World

Social Issue & Importance

Dietary Restrictions

Globally, there are 537 million people with diabetes, 1.28 billion people with hypertension, and it is said that over 10% of adults in the U.S. have food allergies. Many people in Japan also have their enjoyment of food limited due to health conditions. In addition, as people age, chewing becomes more difficult and they increasingly rely on pureed or liquid meals. Such meals, where the original form of the ingredients is no longer recognizable, significantly reduce the joy of eating.

Texture Challenges in Alternative Foods

Climate change, marine environmental degradation, and food shortages caused by rapid population growth can also be seen as forms of "food restrictions." While plant-based alternatives and cultured meat have gained attention in recent years, there are still very few companies focusing on improving texture, which is essential for enjoyable eating.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

It's impressive that such strong binding can be achieved without using sugar, allowing products like granola to be made.

There are very few gelling agents that maintain their structure even in retort processing. This expands the options for emergency and shelf-stable foods.



Developer at a
soy-based foods
company



Developer at a
soy-based foods
company



Robo Co-op
一般社団法人 Robo Co-op

いっばんしゃだんほうじん ろぼこーぷ

CEO: Jintae Kim

Founded: September 3, 2021

Location: 2F Kuwano Building, 6-23-4 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo

Initial Investment: 2024

Supporting Economic Independence Through Digital Skills

Robo Co-op provides reskilling in digital and IT-related work opportunities within a cooperative model shared with refugees around the world and single



mothers in Japan. Participants engage in democratic self-management. Participants form teams of five to learn collaboratively, strengthen motivation, and develop practical teamwork skills, ultimately leading to real employment opportunities.

PROFILE



CEO Jintae Kim

Born and raised as a third-generation Korean resident in Japan. Experiencing strained Japan-Korea relations and limited access to stable educational environments taught him the importance of supportive communities and financial resilience. He joined a program enabling him to earn credits at both Ritsumeikan University and a U.S. university, then studied abroad in the United States. After obtaining a U.S. Certified Public Accountant qualification, he began his career at Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting. He later founded Robo Co-op to pursue his long-held goal of becoming a social entrepreneur.

Towards a society where everyone can shine just as they are.



Impact Aimed For

Economic independence and the creation of digital talent among people from diverse backgrounds, such as single mothers and refugees

Social Issue & Importance

Opportunity gaps for refugees, migrants, and single parents and the shortage of digital talent

There are currently over 130 million refugees worldwide, with more than one person forced to flee their home every second. In Japan, relative poverty affects over 20 million people, and among single mothers, the rate reaches one in two households, impacting children's access to opportunities. Meanwhile, the global shortage of digital talent is estimated to reach 100 million people. Robo Co-op sees this gap as a chance, providing services that connect refugees and others with digital job opportunities. By recognizing and including diverse individuals as digital talent, Robo Co-op aims to create a society where everyone can shine just as they are through the democratization of digital transformation.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

**Robo Co-op
Member
(Refugee, Female)**



After evacuating from Afghanistan, I began learning new digital skills through Robo Co-op. Now I work as a digital professional while raising my child, and I have also realized my dream of teaching other Afghan women.



CEO: Mayuko Nishihara

Established: November 2, 2022

Location: 1-1-1 Nojihigashi, Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture

Ritsumeikan University BKC Incubator, Room 201

Initial Investment: 2024

Turn Everyday Life into a CO₂ Capture Space



Resin Additive Capable of Absorbing CO₂

They develop, manufacture, and sell biomass-based CO₂-absorbing materials, and they are also developing and proposing "DAC Plastic," a CO₂ adsorption-desorption plastic created by mixing the material as a resin additive. By simply blending this absorbent into everyday plastics, the plastics gain the ability to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, enabling a society where anyone, anywhere, at any time, can absorb and utilize CO₂.



Impact Aimed For

A society where anyone, anywhere, can capture CO₂ at any time

Social Issue & Importance

Implementing CO₂ capture and removal remains difficult

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 requires not only reducing emissions but also capturing and removing CO₂. However, current methods rely mainly on plants or large-scale equipment, making social implementation difficult.

Environmental action often means sacrifice

Efforts like saving electricity, using paper straws, or higher costs from renewable energy often require personal sacrifice. What's needed are environmental actions that are unconscious, enjoyable, and beneficial rather than burdensome.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

There are no other safe CO₂-absorbing materials like this, and the idea of mixing it into plastics and resins is innovative. Let's work together toward commercialization.



Product Development Manager, Major Chemical Trading Company, Male (40s)

PROFILE



CEO Mayuko Nishihara

Born in Osaka Prefecture. From a young age, she admired the environment and heroes, and aimed to become an engineer. After graduating from university, she joined Iwata Shokai Co., Ltd. in 2007, where she was involved in materials development and gained experience from development through to mass production. In April 2022, she entered the Graduate School of Project Design to study how to create 0-to-1 businesses. In November of the same year, she founded Behomal Co., Ltd. Since December of the following year, she has been conducting joint research with Professor Yamamoto at Ritsumeikan University, and she currently serves as a visiting researcher.



CEO: Seiya Kamidate

Established: April 15, 2022

Location: 8-4-13 Nishi-Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo

Gotanda JP Building 2F, co-lab Gotanda with JPRE 501

Initial Investment: 2024

Supporting Management Based on Philosophy

While data-driven management has accelerated corporate growth in recent years, it has also caused companies to lose sight of what truly matters.

ShiruBe is a consulting firm that supports organizational and business transformation based on “philosophy,” a discipline that has been exploring and articulating human-related questions for over 2,500 years, combining both organizational development and business development approaches.

PROFILE



CEO Seiya Kamidate

He began studying philosophy from a young age to overcome the sense of discomfort he felt toward his parents' religion. He studied business administration at Ritsumeikan University, where he also gained entrepreneurial experience while still a student. After working at the forefront of the HR industry at companies such as Link and Motivation and Recruit, he founded ShiruBe Inc. in April 2022.

Creating a society that confronts what truly matters through the power of philosophy



Impact Aimed For

Realizing the social implementation of the humanities
Creating opportunities for humanities researchers to thrive in business

Social Issue & Importance

Postdoctoral Challenges and Career Support

Japan's advanced academic research underpins its industry and society. However, approximately 60.5% of postdoctoral researchers are employed at universities or public research institutions on contracts of one year or less, forcing them to manage both research and university duties while continuously searching for their next position. In particular, humanities postdocs have even fewer employment opportunities than those in the sciences, and their contributions to society are often undervalued. To support the future of Japan, it is essential to establish systems that help humanities researchers continue their work and build careers that make use of their expertise.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Project Leader, Major Manufacturer
 Male, 40s



The value we create in business ultimately goes to people, so understanding the essence of ‘human beings’ is key. Philosophy provides that foundation, and I believe it will be indispensable in the coming era. I look forward to this service supporting that pursuit.



CEO: Masayo Takahashi

Founded: August 7, 2020

Location: 5F, Kobe Eye Center, 1-8 Minatojima Minamimachi
2-chome, Chuo-ku, Kobe

Initial Investment: 2024

Developing Gene Therapies for Ultra-Rare Diseases

VCGT is working on developing gene therapies for ultra-rare diseases in collaboration with Kobe Eye Center Hospital. Our goal is to deliver high-quality treatment as early as possible to patients who are waiting for therapies. We are initially targeting the rhodopsin (RHO) gene as the first step, with the aim of expanding our gene therapy platform to additional genetic targets for retinitis pigmentosa and other outer retinal degenerative diseases.

We also aim to continuously and rapidly advance clinical development for other gene targets, ultimately establishing an ecosystem in which patients with retinitis pigmentosa — both in Japan and abroad — can come to Kobe for treatment.



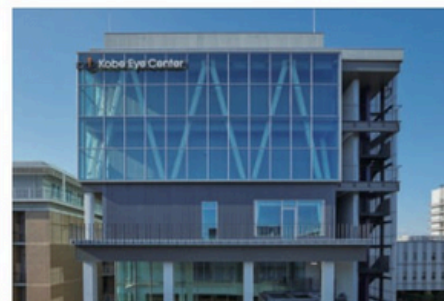
PROFILE

CEO Masayo Takahashi

Ritsumeikan Advanced Research Academy (RARA) Fellow. Ph.D. in Medicine. Since 2019, serving as President & CEO of Vision Care Inc. (current position). As part of the Vision Care Group's efforts to commercialize retinal regenerative medicine, she founded VC Gene Therapy Inc. in 2020 to develop gene therapies, and VC Cell Therapy Inc. in 2021 to develop cell therapies.



Developing and Solving Treatment Methods for Intractable Outer Retinal Diseases as a Whole



Impact Aimed For

Realizing a Patient-First and Sustainable Business Model for Gene Therapy Approval of Rare Retinitis Pigmentosa

Social Issue & Importance

A Treatable Condition in Scientific Terms, Yet Hard to Reach Those Who Need It

Retinitis pigmentosa is a hereditary rare disease for which there are very few fundamental treatments. It is a progressive condition that gradually narrows the field of vision and reduces visual acuity. In Japan, retinitis pigmentosa is the second leading cause of blindness after glaucoma, with about 1.5 million patients worldwide and 30,000 in Japan. Conventional systems for therapeutic development assume low-molecular drugs and large-volume manufacturing. These assumptions do not align with gene therapies for ultra-rare diseases, resulting in high development costs and long approval times, making it difficult for treatments to reach patients. In addition, as profits are limited, fewer companies are able or willing to pursue development. Advanced therapies also require significant time and labor, but this burden is not compensated, placing pressure on hospital management. Currently, developers, patients, and hospitals are all under strain.

Voices from Users & Stakeholders

Patient with Retinitis Pigmentosa



Knowing that research like this is underway gives me great encouragement. I hope that safe and effective treatments will become available as soon as possible. I will continue to follow the progress of this research with hope.

PICKUP NEWS

komham



- Obtained a patent for a newly identified microorganism that decomposes biodegradable plastics.
- Installed a smart compost system on the Osaka Ibaraki Campus of Ritsumeikan University.

NAORAI



- Announced a collaboration product with Tokyo Kitcho.
- Launched Medicarent® × Jochu low-GI chocolate.

WOTA



- Installed handwashing stations and water-recycling showers in areas affected by water outages due to the Noto Earthquake.
- Installed water-recycling handwashing systems on Ritsumeikan University's Biwako-Kusatsu and Osaka Ibaraki Campuses.

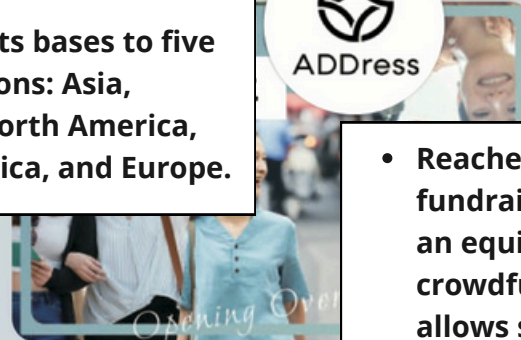


- Transitioning electricity at Ritsumeikan-affiliated schools to 100% renewable energy.



- Expanded its bases to five global regions: Asia, Oceania, North America, Latin America, and Europe.

- Reached a record-breaking fundraising total through an equity-based crowdfunding platform that allows service users to invest.(As of February 2024)



PICKUP NEWS



- Renamed the company to "COSOJI."



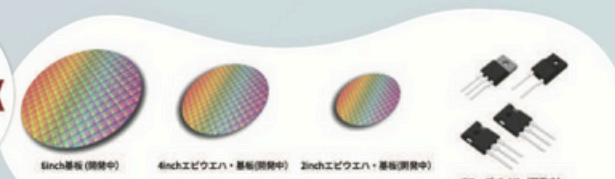
- Released two types of gluten-free, additive-free rice flour bread.



- Expanded services that make calorie control easier.



- Plans to open a small-scale nursery school in April 2025, creating a place where diverse generations can gather.



- Selected by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for the "Growth-Oriented SME R&D Support Program."



- Co-created sustainable sushi
- with partner companies.

- Installed a land-based aquaculture system on Ritsumeikan University's Biwako-Kusatsu Campus.

- Introduced a co-CEO system to strengthen growth strategy in the UK and global markets.
- Yosuke Kurihara appointed as Global CEO.



AmaterZ Inc.



- Began the world's first voluntary carbon credit program covering cattle, pigs, and poultry, in collaboration with three partners.
- (Utilizes the Ministry of Agriculture's livestock emission reduction framework to issue credits based on verified reductions.)

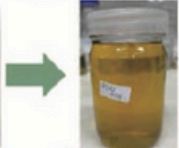
PICKUP NEWS



- Selected as a "Startup Core Member" for the third term of the Environmental Energy Innovation Community.



天然ゴムの実

バイオディーゼル
燃料

バイオ炭

- Developed an upcycling technology that generates energy from natural rubber seeds.

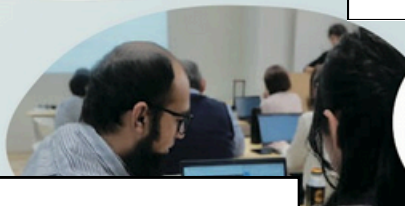
- Obtained a fundamental patent for "Bio-Refinery Derived from Natural Rubber Seeds."



プラスチック (樹脂)

バイオマスCO₂吸収材CO₂を吸うプラスチック
DACプラ®

- Received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award at the 8th "Value Design Contest" hosted by the Japan Junior Chamber.



- Refugees working with the organization lectured at the UN on AI.



- Selected as Japan's only NGO delegate to the 2nd Global Refugee Forum.

- The only Japanese company selected as a finalist for the Health Food Award.



NINZIA

- Formed a global team including members from France and entered overseas markets.



- The Human Resources Division of Yamaha Corporation adopted the Philosophy Cloud system.



GENE THERAPY

- Signed a partnership agreement with Ritsumeikan University and Kobe City Medical Center Organization.

TOPICS

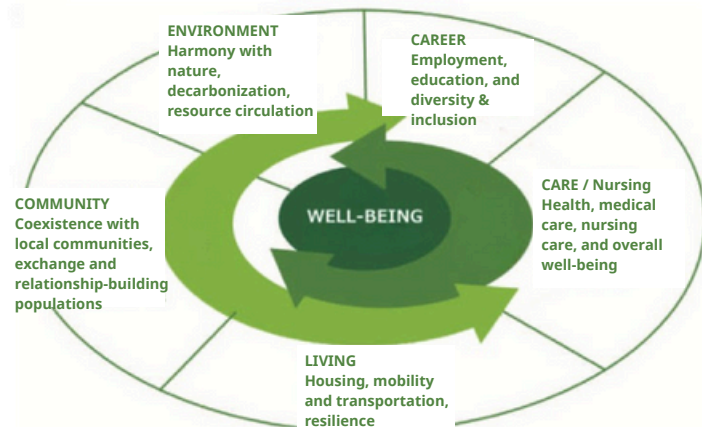
Investment in “Impact Capital Fund No.1 Limited Partnership,” Following RSIF

Advancing Impact Investment Through Partnership with Japan Post Insurance Co., Ltd.

Ritsumeikan Educational Corporation has invested in the Impact Capital Fund No.1 Limited Partnership, an impact investment fund organized by Impact Capital Inc. The fund was established based on a memorandum of understanding on collaboration and cooperation signed in March 2023 between Ritsumeikan and Japan Post Insurance Co., Ltd. Impact Capital was founded by Ms. Huang and Ms. Takatsuka, both of whom have extensive experience in managing impact investment funds. With the mission of “pursuing human well-being,” the fund aims to foster a vibrant society where diversity is embraced and individuals are empowered to make value-based choices, achieving both financial and social returns through impact investment.

Fund Characteristics

- Places people at the center, ensuring that diversity is recognized and individuals can make value-based choices, thereby contributing through investment to the creation of a vibrant and inclusive society. Selects investees that contribute to generating social impact, defines
- Selects investees that contribute to generating social impact and works with them to define strategies for achieving the outcomes they aim for. Progress is evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively, and these evaluations are used to inform decision-making and reporting to investors and stakeholders.



Fund Overview

Name: Impact Capital Fund No.1 Limited Partnership

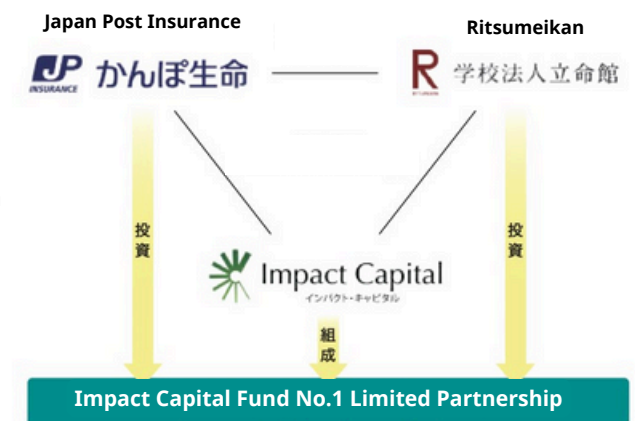
Management Company: Impact Capital Inc.

Established: May 2024

Ritsumeikan Investment Amount: 3 billion yen

Background of Formation

Ritsumeikan, Japan Post Insurance, and Impact Capital have been jointly exploring the establishment of an impact investment fund. Moving forward, the three parties plan to leverage their expertise and experience in impact investment to promote collaboration in financial education, human resource development, and other related fields.



OUR TEAM



Chinatsu Hagiwara

**3rd-year Student, College of Gastronomy Management, Ritsumeikan University
Intern, Plus Social Investment, Inc.**

"Through the creation of this report, I was able to learn deeply about the work of Ritsumeikan alumni and those involved in related initiatives. It was a great honor to take part in this opportunity, receiving both inspiration and encouragement from their passionate efforts toward building a better society. I hope this report will connect readers to awareness and concern for social issues."



Kotomi Shimoyama

**1st-year Student, College of Gastronomy Management, Ritsumeikan University
Intern, Plus Social Investment, Inc.**

"I was deeply inspired by the entrepreneurs who dedicate themselves to making society better. Through impact funds and their support, I learned how social issue-driven initiatives are gaining practical recognition and momentum. By taking part in creating this impact report, I gained valuable experience and insights. I hope this report will spark greater interest and engagement among many readers."



Masato Noike

**President & CEO,
Plus Social Investment, Inc.**



Miho Masaki

Plus Social Investment, Inc.



Katsuya Sakai

**Director of Finance,
Ritsumeikan Trust**



Saki Tomita

**Office of Planning and Business
Development, Ritsumeikan Trust**

