

ITOCHU History

About Chubei Itoh, the Founder of ITOCHU Corporation



Chubei Itoh I

Chubei Itoh I built an extensive array of very self-reliant businesses during a period of great turmoil.



Chubei Itoh II

After taking over the business from Chubei Itoh I, Chubei Itoh II reformed and modernized the management and bolstered the product lineup, while expanding overseas operations.



Yae Itoh, the Wife of Chubei Itoh I


When looking at the great achievements of Chubei Itoh I and II, Yae cannot be overlooked as a wife and mother.





Chubei Itoh Museum

Tracing the footsteps that led the way from textile wholesale dealer to "general trading company", the museum exhibits a lot of materials including favorite belongings of Chubei Itoh I and Chubei Itoh II.

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Year	ITOCHU History
1858	ITOCHU's founder, Chubei Itoh, commenced linen trading operations. (ITOCHU Corporation established)
1872	Chubei Itoh establishes the "Benichu" drapery shop in Osaka.
1884	An expanded Benichu is renamed "Itoh Honten" (Itoh Headquarters).
1893	Chubei Itoh establishes Itoh Itomise (Thread and Yarn Store), to which ITOCHU traces its roots.
1914	Itoh Itomise is reorganized under the name C. Itoh & Co.
1918	C. Itoh & Co. is transformed into a public stock company-C. Itoh & Co., Ltd. The New York branch office is opened.
1928	The CI logo  is created for use outside Japan.
1941	Sanko Kabushiki Kaisha, Ltd. is established by merging of C. Itoh & Co., Marubeni Shoten Ltd., and Kishimoto Shoten Ltd.
1944	Sanko is merged with Daido Boeki Kaisha, Ltd. and Kureha Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd. to form Daiken Co., Ltd.
1949	Daiken Co., Ltd., a company created from the merger of trading and manufacturing firms during World War II, separates into C. Itoh & Co., Ltd., Kureha Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd., Marubeni Co., Ltd., and Amagasaki Nail Works,

	Ltd.
1950	The Company lists on the Osaka Securities Exchange and the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
1952	C. Itoh & Co. (America) (currently, ITOCHU International Inc.) established.
1957	The Company completes construction of a new Tokyo Branch Office building (at 2-chome, Nihonbashi Honcho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo).
1967	The Company renames the Tokyo Branch Office the Tokyo Head Office, to join the Osaka Head Office in a dual head-office structure.
1969	To mark the 100th anniversary of its founding, the Company opens the new C. Itoh Head Office building in Osaka.
1971	The Company assists in arranging a basic contract for cooperation between General Motors Corporation of the United States and Isuzu Motors, Ltd. of Japan.
1972	The Chinese government welcomes C. Itoh as a friendly trading company, the first such recognition given to a Japanese <i>sogo shosha</i> .
1974	ITOCHU Foundation is established to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Company's postwar rebirth.
1977	The Company acquires Ataka & Co., Ltd., a <i>sogo shosha</i> involved primarily in steel-related business.
1980	The Company completes the construction of a new head office building in the Aoyama district of Tokyo.
1989	Japan's first commercial communications satellite 'JCSAT-1' was successfully launched.
1992	Implementation of ITOCHU's New CI program leads to a new expression of the official corporate ideals, the adoption of the current English-language name, and the creation of a new corporate logo.
1996	The ITOCHU Group becomes the largest private shareholder of Sakhalin Oil and Gas Development.
1997	Division Company system introduced. ITOCHU becomes the first <i>sogo shosha</i> to receive environmental certificate ISO14001.
1998	The ITOCHU Group acquires stock in FamilyMart Co., Ltd.
1999	"Executive Officer" post introduced.
2001	Marubeni-Itochu Steel Inc.  established.
2002	Chubei Itoh Memorial Museum opened.
2005	The Company launches its new medium-term management plan "Frontier—2006: A Shift to Aggressive Business and Enhancement of Solid Management." The Company's consolidated net income exceeds 100 billion yen. The Company forms a capital and business alliance with Orient Corporation.

2006	The Company begins the ITOCHU DNA Project, a project for business process reengineering.
2007	The Company launches its new medium-term management plan "Frontier+ 2008: Enhancing Corporate Value on the World Stage."
2008	The Company acquires a stake in a Brazilian iron ore mining business .  (224KB) The Company announces the social contribution programs commemorating 150th anniversary .
2009	The Company launches its new medium-term management plan "Frontier ^e 2010: Enhancing Corporate Value on the World Stage, Shaping the Future." The Company announces the ITOCHU Mission , Values & 5 self-tests.
2011	The Company launches its new medium-term management plan "Brand-new Deal 2012: Earn, Cut, Prevent" The Company Invests in Drummond Company Colombian Mines The Company relocated its Osaka Head Office to Osaka Station City (Umeda)
2013	The Company launches its new medium-term management plan "Brand-new Deal 2014: Aiming to be the number one trading company in non-resource sectors"
2014	The Company formulated the Corporate Message, " I am One with Infinite Missions ."
2015	Strategic alliance and capital participation with CITIC Limited (China) and Charoen Pokphand Group Company Limited (Thailand) The Company launches its new medium-term management plan " Brand-new Deal 2017 : Challenge "