

1. Support for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake (Newly Established Cooperative)

Tarochan Cooperative Headquarters (Iwate Prefecture)



- Supporting the lives of people living in temporary housing by quickly resuming business -

Overview of the association

Business lines: Retail sales of food, food and drink industry, beauty and barber industry, etc.
Established: 2011

Details of operating activities

People who suffered catastrophic damage and lost their stores due to the tsunami run Tarochan Tent (provisional stores) in the parking lot of Green Pia Sanriku Miyako.

Results

This provides the people living in temporary housing with the daily necessities and services that they need. It has quickly restored the peace of mind and vibrancy of the residents in temporary housing.



2. Manufacturing / New Product Development

Astro-Technology SOHLA (Osaka)

- From Maido No. 1 to space robots -

Overview of the association

Business lines: Machinery and metal processing (production and development of machinery for the space industry and others)

Established: 2002

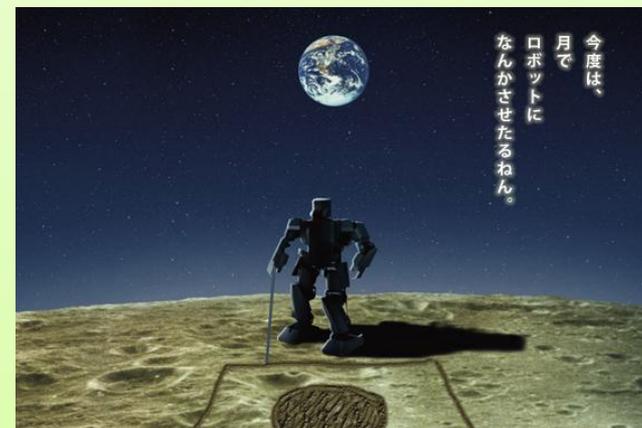
Details of operating activities

On January 23, 2009 Maido No. 1, an artificial satellite developed by an SME cooperative in Higashi-Osaka, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center.

The SMEs brought together technology from each company to make the launch of the artificial satellite a success.

Results

Utilizing the results from Maido 1 for robotics technology, they are working on developing a two-legged walking robot with the aim of having it stand on the moon to draw the Japanese flag on the surface and to do “Banzai.”



3. Overseas Expansion

Toyama Metal Mold Cooperative Association (Toyama Prefecture)

- Setting in place an overseas central factory in Indonesia-

Overview of the association

Metal mold production **Established: 1969**

Details of operating activities

A local corporation was established in Indonesia in July 2011 that the association invested in. It invested 150 million yen in project costs into an industrial park located approximately 35 kilometers away from Jakarta, the capital, which was completed in February 2012.

There are ten people operating it, including both Japanese engineers dispatched from the association and technicians who were hired locally.



Results

The association was able to establish a local corporation in Indonesia, set in place a factory, and even get it operating in a short time span through its own determination.

This has offered the association members enormous opportunities such as expanding their businesses out internationally without delay.

4. Formulation of a Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

Plating Industries Association of Kanagawa (Kanagawa Prefecture)
Niigata Electro Plating Industry Association (Niigata Prefecture)



- Conclusion of a cross-regional BCP agreement -

Overview of the association

Business lines: Plating industry
Established: 1964 (Kanagawa Prefecture)
1972 (Niigata Prefecture)

Details of operating activities

The associations formulated a business continuity plan (BCP) for carrying out mutual coordination for things like alternate production between the companies of both associations in the event of a large-scale disaster, and concluded an agreement for this (April 2011). They have held briefing sessions and training sessions to build mutual relationships of trust, and concluded the agreement as a result.

Results

This is the first time in Japan that industry groups have concluded a BCP agreement between themselves across prefectural borders, for which there are no other examples in any other industries.



5. Ensuring and Establishing Human Resources (1)

Chubu Metal Heat Treatment Association (Aichi Prefecture)

- Jointly fostering the core engineers that will take the lead in future generations -

Overview of the association

Business lines: Metal heat treatment and processing industry **Established:** 1971

Details of operating activities

The association formulated an educational curriculum for training core human resources at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and holds educational lectures (Metal Heat Treatment Challenge Course) to train engineers.

Results

The association has developed an educational system for training core human resources with the ability to develop new technologies, improve productivity, and solve problems, which has contributed to boosting the technical capabilities of the industry as a whole.



5. Ensuring and Establishing Human Resources (2)

Nagasaki Erector Cooperative Business Association (Nagasaki Prefecture)

- Establishing human resources through practical training for industrial high school students -

Overview of the association

Business lines: Reinforcement construction work **Established:** 1998

Details of operating activities

The association aims to impart cutting edge skills on factory floors to industrial high school staff through the use of skilled technicians from the industrial world as teachers in the aim of boosting the students' teaching abilities.

Results

The courses that have been seen include: (1) improving the understanding of industrial high school teachers and students regarding reinforcement construction work, (2) establishing human resources, and (3) stabilizing the supply of human resources to SMEs, and these have strengthened the creation of pipelines for supplying human resources in a continuous manner.



6. Social Business (Cooperative Start-ups)

Business Cooperative Office 21 (Fukuoka Prefecture)



- A business start-up for young families and mothers struggling with childrearing -

Overview of the association

Organizational configuration: Business cooperative
Established: 1997

Details of operating activities

The office offers fixed-time childcare, temporary childcare, baby sitters, family care providers (at-home childcare), sitters during post-partum bed rest, nursing circles, event nurseries, and company nurseries that are centered around the nursing business.

The cooperative employs 17 people in total, roughly half of which are childcare workers. There are 32 people entrusted for childcare on a full-time basis, and if the number from temporary childcare is included then there are about 50 people everyday.

Results

The office has installed a full-scale facility and carries out a variety of initiatives pertaining to the business of supporting childcare and childrearing, thereby lessening the burden on working housewives.

