



Social Contributions

One of the three pillars of “The ITOCHU Credo” is to make societal benefits a reality—to make the world a richer and more comfortable place to live. To that end, we engage in social contribution activities from an international perspective and are fully aware of our obligation to be a good corporate citizen.

Social Contributions through Business

ITOCHU promotes businesses that seek to achieve a “harmony of corporate benefits and social benefits” and that make use of our own information, know-how, and marketing expertise. A unique example of such efforts is our promotion of regional development-type businesses through alliances with local governments both in Japan and overseas. Through alliances with Gifu, Fukui, and Shimane Prefectures in Japan; Shandong Province, Jiangsu Province, and Nanjing City in China; and New Mexico in the U.S., we are providing diverse supports for the development of local industry through our businesses.

After establishing the Gambare Japanese Company Fund in July 2003 to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with high technical capabilities, we also developed the locally-oriented Gambare Kansai Fund in January 2004, as well as the Gambare Hokkaido Company Fund and Gambare Gifu Fund in December 2004. ITOCHU will promote the growth of SMEs, which are considered as the backbone of the Japanese economy, by providing investments and sales supports to promising SMEs through such funds, the total amount of which is now worth ¥4.3 billion. At the same time, we wish to contribute to the revitalization of local economies. (Three photos from the left: ZERO/SPORTS Co., Ltd. in Gifu Prefecture, invested by both “Gambare Japanese Company Fund” and “Gambare Gifu Fund”)

Social Contributions as a Corporation

ITOCHU focuses on five areas of social contribution activities: welfare; education, culture, and art; the environment; international exchange; and local regions.

In the area of education (culture and art), the ITOCHU Foundation was established in 1974 to provide activities to help in the sound upbringing of children. Such activities include the year-round operation of Tokyo Elementary and Junior High School Students’ Center, outdoor education programs such as summer and winter camps, and children’s library assistance projects.

In the area of environment, ITOCHU and its group companies have been supporting the University of Tokyo’s Center for Climate System Research (CCSR) in basic research on global warming since 1992, and the results are disclosed to the public at the annual ITOCHU Symposium.

To promote our coexistence with local communities, we hold the ITOCHU LOBBY CONCERT every year. We have been inviting the New York Symphonic Ensemble for a summer concert performed in the first floor lobby of our Tokyo Headquarters Building since 1992. We invite employees and their families, as well as local residents, school officials, and those from facilities for disabled persons to come and enjoy the performance.

Employees’ Social Contribution Activities

The ITOCHU Group’s volunteer organization, “Fureai no Network,” which currently has approximately 130 members, was established in July 1994. The organization is planned and operated on a volunteer basis. To allow for more specialized activities through the acquisition of qualifications and skills, four subcommittees were created: nature watching, disaster relief, contribution by articles, and reading aloud at senior welfare centers. As part of our efforts to support these employee volunteer activities, we have put in place a volunteer time-off system (a leave of absence was taken by eight employees in fiscal 2005). We also provide a matching system for fund raising activities for disaster relief, as well as subsidies to help support employees who wish to attend training courses.