

1858

Origin

Sampo Yoshi

ITOCHU was founded in 1858 by Chubei Itoh, a merchant involved in the linen trade.

The base of Chubei Itoh's business was the spirit of *sampo yoshi* (good for the seller, good for the buyer, and good for society), which was a management philosophy of merchants in Ohmi, the province where he was born. That spirit is evident in Chubei Itoh's personal motto, "Trade is a compassionate business. It is noble when it accords with the spirit of Buddha by profiting those who sell and those who buy and supplying the needs of the society." This spirit has been carried down through the Company's DNA to this day as "ITOCHU-style" sustainability.

The new head office, built in 1915 (Osaka)
The building was unusual at the time, being a large-scale building fitted with elevators and other modern equipment.

Our Inherited Phi

Passing on the Management Baton



Chubei Itoh I



Chubei Itoh II



Takenosuke Itoh



Uichiro Kosuga

1949–1960



Masakazu Echigo

1960–1974

Period of appointment
as President
(after the establishment of
ITOCHU Corporation in 1949)

Present

I am One with Infinite Missions

The Corporate Message—I am One with Infinite Missions—comes to mind when pondering the corporate philosophy of “Committed to the Global Good.”

The Corporate Message incorporates our promise to society, that we will continue to provide the abundance that results from business activities, and it also incorporates diverse aspects “typical to ITOCHU,” such as the rich personalities of our employees, our free-spirited corporate culture, and “individual capabilities.” In this way, the Corporate Message expresses the values that must be shared by all employees as we take on further challenges.

Keeping ITOCHU’s spirit in our hearts and minds, we will aim for business activities to benefit the seller, the buyer, and society. In this way, we will fulfill our responsibility to society—our “infinite missions.”

Philosophy

ITOCHU has maintained its merchant spirit and the “*sampo yoshi*” management philosophy for 159 years; this core belief has sustained our activities to date. Going into the future, as well, we will strive to sustainably increase our corporate value as we fulfill “infinite missions” for all manner of stakeholders.



Seiki Tozaki

1974–1983



Isao Yonekura

1983–1990



Minoru Murofushi

1990–1998



Uichiro Niwa

1998–2004



Eizo Kobayashi

2004–2010



Masahiro Okafuji

2010–