

# Wonderful Stories of Higashiosaka

Higashiosaka, a city of Monozkuri  
that enriches people's lives

# HIGASHIOSAKA

## What's "Monozkuri"?

First of all, "Mono" means things, "Zkuri" means producing, so "Monozkuri" is nearly equal to "manufacturing" but it also has a unique concept in Japan. People engaging in "Monozkuri" pursue the quality of products including productivity and precision. And the important point is, they also care about users; imagining the role the product plays and the scene of when it is actually used. In Japanese culture, we have a traditional way of thinking that a good soul resides in all carefully made products, which also underlies our "Monozkuri" philosophy.

## Higashiosaka City

Area: 61.78 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 495,935

Number of households: 228,116

(As of January 1, 2019)



## We are proud of the products made in Higashiosaka.

Higashiosaka is nationally famous for Monozkuri. In this city, there are many manufacturers, which are small in scale but have a challenging spirit and passion. The partnerships among such manufacturers create the capability to produce everything from toothbrushes to artificial satellites supporting people's lives in the world. I hope that this booklet explains the attractiveness and social roles of the manufacturing industry and helps you understand the current situation of the manufacturing industry in Higashiosaka, which we are proud of.

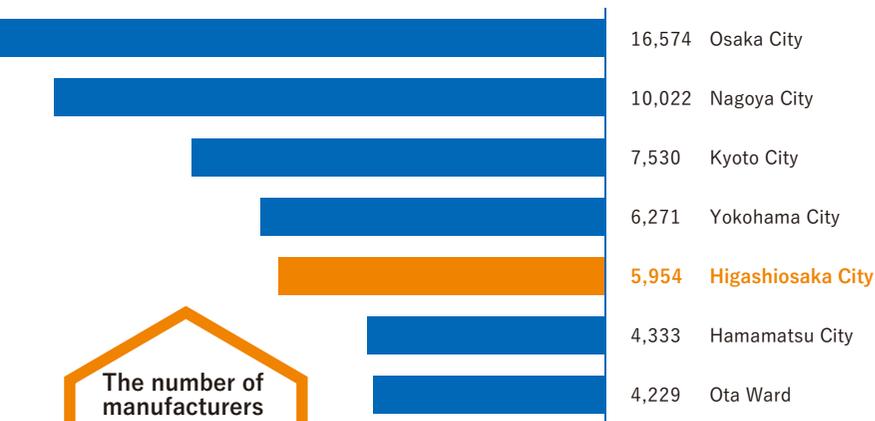
**Yoshikazu Noda**, Higashiosaka city mayor

## A wonderful city of Monozkuri

**One of the leading manufacturing areas in Japan, which is full of a wide variety of products made by lots of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with high technology.**

Higashiosaka is known as a city of the manufacturing industry. It has one of the highest numbers and densities of manufacturers in Japan. Additionally, SMEs with fewer than 20 employees on their payroll account for approximately 90 percent of the manufacturers in this city.

The products, which are created in small factories with reliable skills, play important roles in the country and the world.



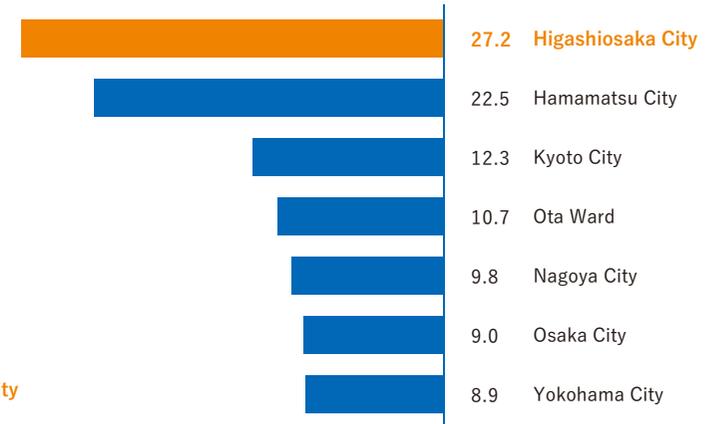
The number of manufacturers  
The fifth highest  
in Japan

## The number of manufacturers in Higashiosaka is the fifth highest in Japan.

The number of manufacturers is 5,954, which is the fifth highest in Japan and the highest with the government-designated cities being excluded. This proves that Higashiosaka is one of Japan's leading cities of the manufacturing industry.

The numbers of manufacturers by major city in Japan (based on the economic census activity survey of 2016)

The proportion of employees engaged in the manufacturing industry  
The highest  
in Japan



## One out of four employees is engaged in the manufacturing industry.

The city's employees engaged in the manufacturing industry account for 27.2%, which is the highest in Japan, showing that not only the number of manufacturers but also that of their employees are high. Those who are engaged in the manufacturing industry are supporting Higashiosaka.

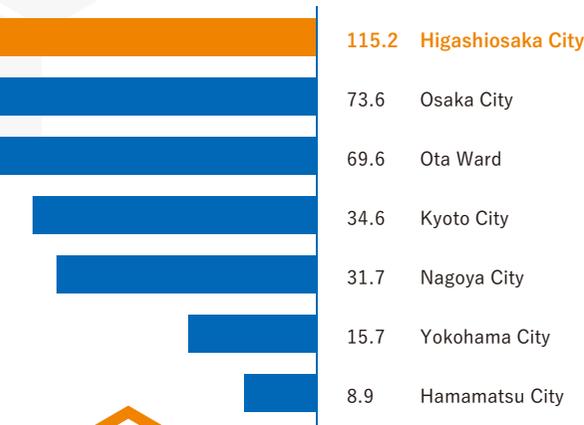
The proportion of employees in the manufacturing industry among employees in all kinds of industries (compared to the cities with 4,000 manufacturers or more through the economic census activity survey of 2016)

## Factories close to people in Higashiosaka

The density of manufacturers in Higashiosaka is 115.2 per square kilometer, which is the highest in Japan. This environment makes citizens feel familiar with the manufacturing industry.

The densities of manufacturers by major city in Japan (compared to the cities with 4,000 manufacturers or more through the economic census activity survey of 2016)

The number of manufacturers per square kilometer of habitable area (calculated using the habitable area described in the Statistical Observations of Municipalities of 2018).



The density of manufacturers  
The highest  
in Japan

Story  
**1**

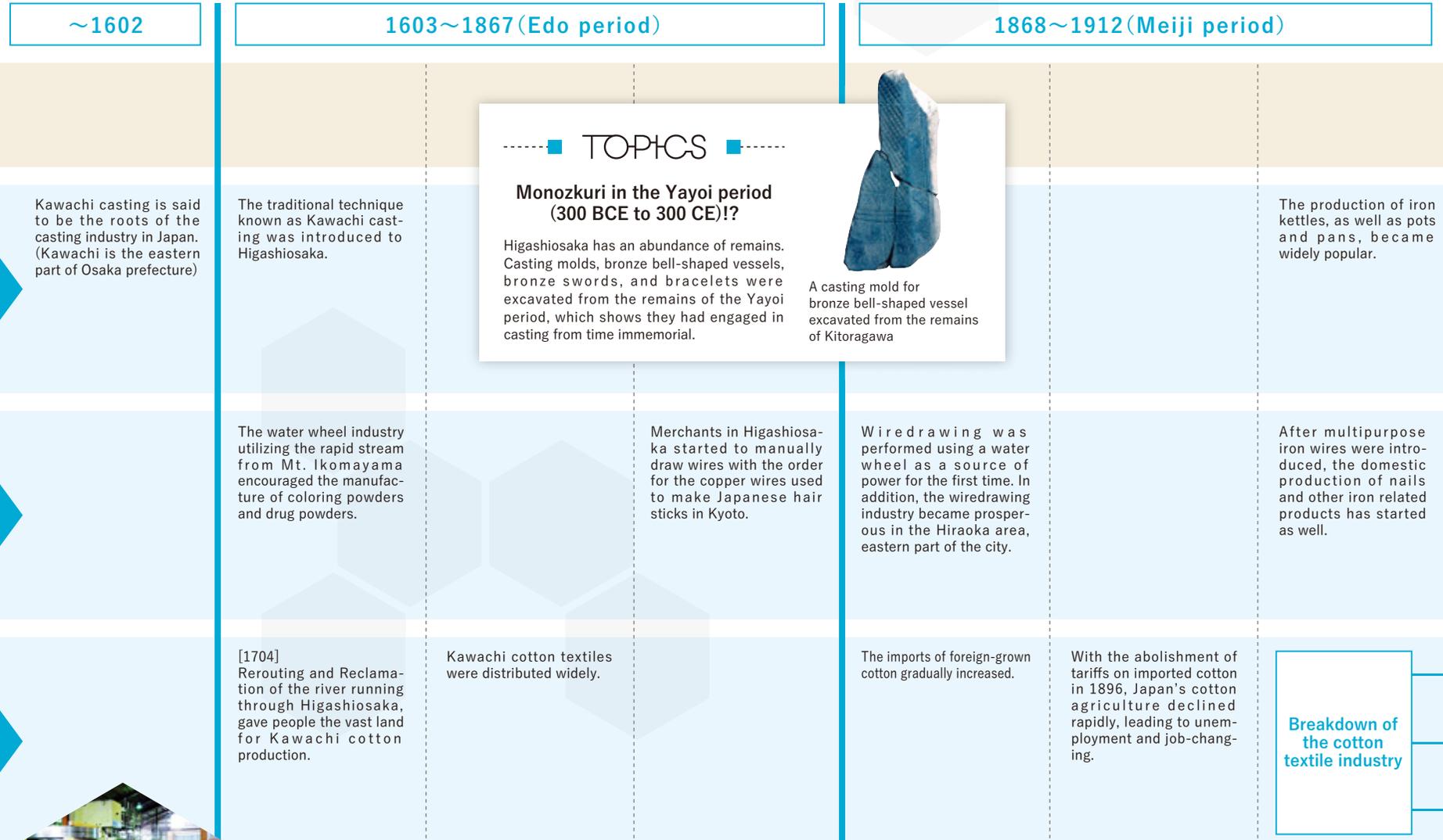
## Three origins of industry

From long ago, the casting, wire drawing, and cotton textile industries have been prosperous in Higashiosaka. Let's trace the history of a wide variety of industries derived from these three industries.



# Wonderful roots of the

As it is said that there is nothing that cannot be made, there are a  
The origin of the manufacturing industry in this city started in the



# artisan spirit to try to make anything

wide variety of categories and styles of industries in the current Higashiosaka.  
Edo period.

## 1912~1926 (Taisho period)

[1914]  
Osaka Electric Tramway opened.

The production volume of iron kettles in Higashiosaka increased and became famous.

In the wake of the tramway, the grid electricity became available, leading to better productivity.

Switched to yarn twisting and towel industries by making use of traditional weaving of Kawachi cotton textiles.

Started toothbrush bristles processing and button holing.

Started production of wire meshes and hairdressing tools (electric shaver) after mastering expertise in Osaka.

## 1926~1988 (Showa period)

[1936]  
Osaka-Hiraoka Route of Osaka Prefectural Road opened.

Main products of casting changed from household products into machine-related cast parts, the city's primal industry.

Traffic improvement efficiently connected Hiraoka with Osaka (market).

[Rapid growth period (1955-1973)]  
The number of SMEs increased dramatically.

The manufacturing industry for electrical equipment, shipbuilding, industrial machinery, and automobiles has developed. In the period of high economic growth, the casting industry also reached its peak.

The wiredrawing industry in Higashiosaka accounted for 40% of the market nationwide and became the largest local industry.

[1983]  
The number of factories in Higashiosaka exceeded 10,000, reaching record high.

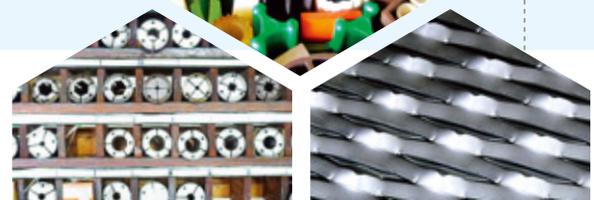
The number of casting factories decreased because of changes in the market demand and increasing pollution problems, while the technology of Kawachi casting was sophisticatedly adapted to highly evaluated products of fine arts and crafts.

The wiredrawing industry declined because of the labor shortage, pollution problems, and fierce competition with foreign companies. In the meantime, some companies became specialized in new business fields.

The casting industry originated from Kawachi casting built the foundation of the current development of the machinery and metallic industries.

The wiredrawing industry, includes production of, not only wires but also nails, wire meshes, bolts and nuts, leading to the development of the overall wire processing industry.

After the decline of the cotton textile industry, people started new business such as toothbrush, button and various kinds of products.



Story  
**2**

# Wonderful Higashiosaka products around us

From the moment we wake up until we go to bed, so many products made in Higashiosaka are supporting our lives.

Innovative cooking devices are widely used not only in kitchens at home but also in the food-service industry.



**Cooking and eating**  
Pots, cups, seasonings, etc.

**Drawing and expressing**  
Colored pencils, utility knives, rulers, clips, etc.



Easy-to-use, good-looking stationery products are preferentially used by many people.

**Going outside**  
Bags, umbrellas, walkers, baby car seats, etc.



A lot of safety-conscious, idea-filled products are created.

TOPICS

**The Higashiosaka brand**

Higashiosaka certifies and promotes superior products as "Higashiosaka brand". The quality of those products keep improved continuously to provide their users with comfort and pleasure. Probably, you may use them today!

There may be products you already know!  
<https://www.higashiosakabrand.jp>



A wide variety of toys are made that offer a sense of nostalgia and help develop creativity.



## Playing

Intellectual training blocks, yo-yos, wires for handicrafts, etc.



## Interiors

Furniture, lights, wall stickers, etc.

Functional, well-designed, environment-conscious interior goods decorate our lives.

## Wearing

Clothes, caps, hats, sunglasses, goggles, etc.

There are many high-quality products, including the goggles professional sports players prefer to wear.



## Higashiosaka products widely used in our daily lives.

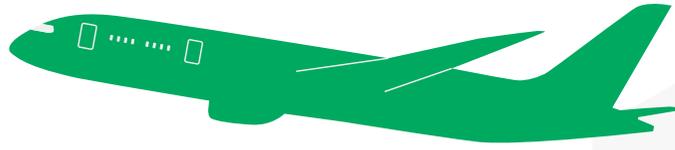
Higashiosaka is famous for industrial products, such as screws, bolts, and nuts. In addition, we are creating many familiar products. The more you know about the variety of products made in Higashiosaka, the more you realize that you find yourself familiar with them.

Story

3

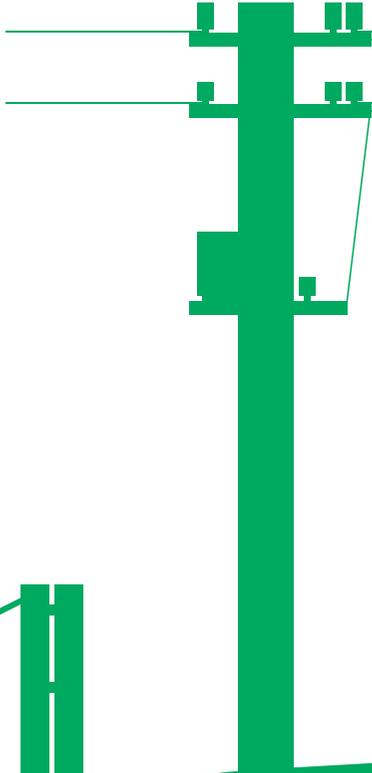
# Wonderful techniques supporting our society

Higashiosaka products technologically supports our infrastructures, such as transportation and skyscrapers.



# Establishing unwavering trust with superior techniques!

Our highly evaluated techniques are applied to a wide variety of products such as automobiles, motorcycles, radio towers, IC cards, and aircraft. This is because our products are made under severe quality control and quality assurance, which connects them with the society.



## TOPICS

### Higashiosaka's Rube Goldberg gadget.

You can enjoy our Rube Goldberg gadget made of Higashiosaka products on YouTube.



Scan this QR code to watch the video!



Story  
4

# Wonderful network among companies in Higashiosaka.

Strong partnership among the companies in different kinds of industries will lead to new businesses and our future possibilities.

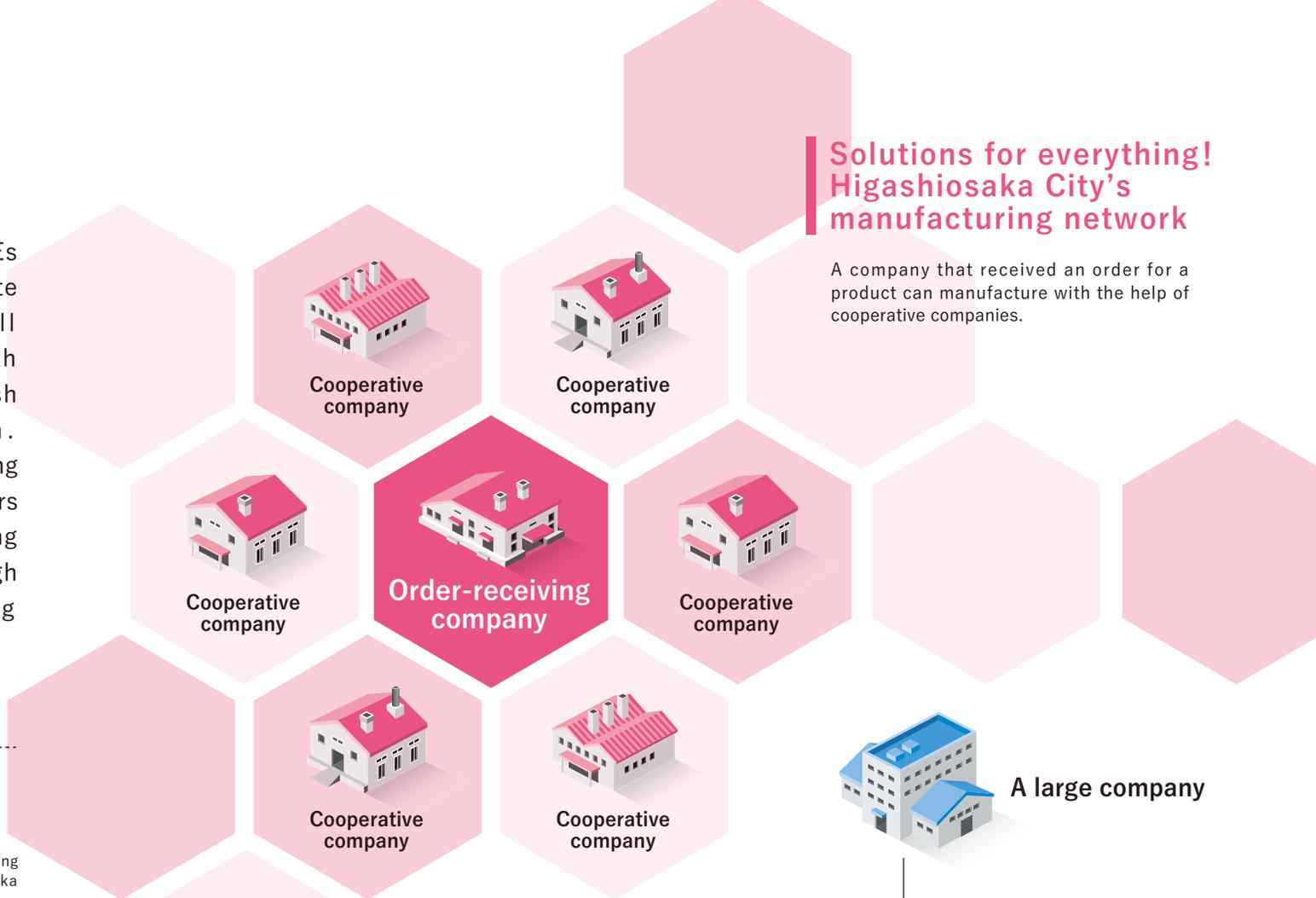


## “Collaboration” is the best strategy.

The strong point of Higashiosaka’s SMEs is that they are always trying to promote various intimate relationship in all directions enabling them to cope with challenging businesses and to establish new relationships among them. Higashiosaka’s SMEs could be both strong competitors and good cooperative partners with each other. We believe that building up international competitiveness through our challenging spirit and strong collaborations is very important for us.

## Solutions for everything! Higashiosaka City’s manufacturing network

A company that received an order for a product can manufacture with the help of cooperative companies.



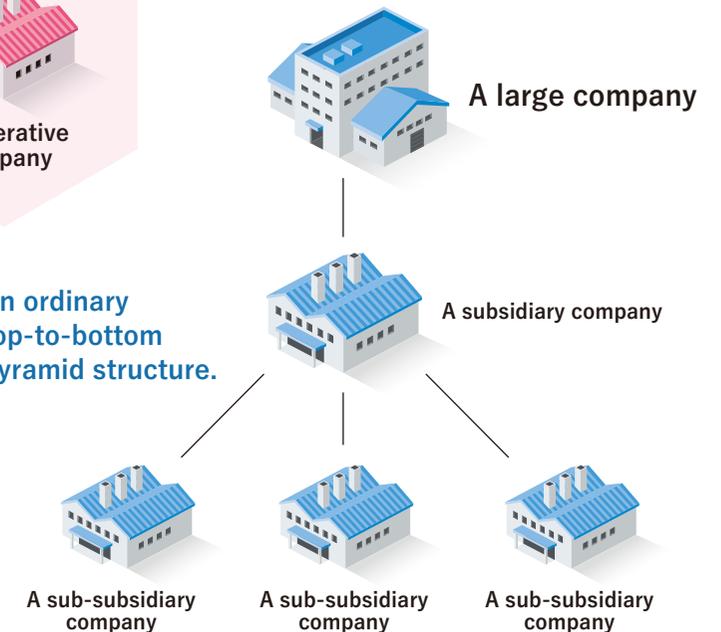
## TOPICS

### Higashiosaka’s technique on the satellite “Maido No. 1”

A small satellite, the *Maido No. 1*, was launched in 2009, becoming a popular topic nationwide. Our collaboration of Higashiosaka technology can be seen in the satellite.



### An ordinary top-to-bottom pyramid structure.



Story

5

# Master craftsmanship creates wonderful products.

The expertise of each manufacturer is supported by a lot of workers with solid techniques. They are Higashiosaka's treasures.

**“I'd like to pass down my passion and experience in Monozkuri to the next generation.”**

We are specializing in hexagonal polished nuts. What we believe is important in terms of the quality is keeping condition of our cutting machines and tools even at the simple process of cutting and threading materials. Now, I'm trying to leave my job to younger generation and help them only when necessary. It is very

important for me to make the most of my all senses, including “six sense” to supply the products to the best degree possible all the time. Precision of every 0.1mm counts for us for better products. Carefully polished cutting tools do good work, even if it seems to be a waste of time polishing them too much carefully. I learned things like that from my seniors. I'm also working every day to pass down my techniques and passion to younger generations.

**“The place where I can feel happy to try challenging jobs.”**

Higashiosaka is a city of the manufacturing industry. I expect young people to improve their skills with their own ideal goals. Me personally, I still keep my first product I've made in my life. I'm looking forward to seeing young people making efforts every day with their own future prospect.



interview

Fuji Seisakusho Co., Ltd.  
Toshiaki Yamamoto

Since joining the company in 1968, he has been manufacturing reliable nuts with careful craftsmanship. After serving as a factory manager, he is supporting the company as a highly skilled technician and a master craftsmanship development advisor at present.

**“I just started my job, thinking that Monozkuri sounded something interesting.”**

We are working in the car-related Machine Manufacturing Department . And we grew up in an environment where there were many small factories around us, and we were vaguely proud of our skilled products but not just interested in “Monozkuri” at that time. Later, I became interested in our “Monozkuri” after recognizing it as a place to work. When I decided to go for it professionally, I hit the ground running, trying to read the drawing, understanding technical term thanks to my senior’s help so that now I can understand my jobs a little by little.

**Now is the time to learn techniques. Someday, I want to be in the position to pass on my techniques.**

Machines do the jobs such as cutting and threading, but it is us, operators that manipulate the machines. We have to make an effort as much as possible to grow and get expertise. Now, we are enjoying “Monozkuri” and very proud of making highly evaluated products. I believe I can be a skilled worker being useful in various fields in the near future after getting many expertise. I’m always considering about what I should be. I would like to be an useful manpower for my company and the society.

Nakano Manufacturing Co., Ltd.  
**Hajime Nishio** (in the middle)  
**Kazuki Sakai** (on the right)  
**Hitoshi Sakamoto** (on the left)

Mr. Nishio, who joined the company with no experience after he got married, transferred from a clerical position as he was attracted to manufacturing. Mr. Sakai decided to join the company with no experience when he was impressed by the wonderfulness of the products he encountered at a job fair. Mr. Sakamoto’s family runs a welding business and he aims at acquiring a wide range of techniques.

interview





# A city of Monozkuri brings a **wonderful** relationship between people and manufacturers.

Higashiosaka promotes community development  
where citizens and manufacturers understand each other and live together.

## To be a comfortable city for both citizens and manufactures.

Higashiosaka is a vital city where SMEs in the various fields of industries with high technology are clustered. As they support our daily life and industrial activities all over Japan, they also have important roles to bolster the local economy and revitalize local residents. It is important to preserve and create a comfortable living environment for citizens and a superior business environment for manufacturers.

Let's see and realize a city where citizens and manufacturers live together and stride forward together.

### TOPICS

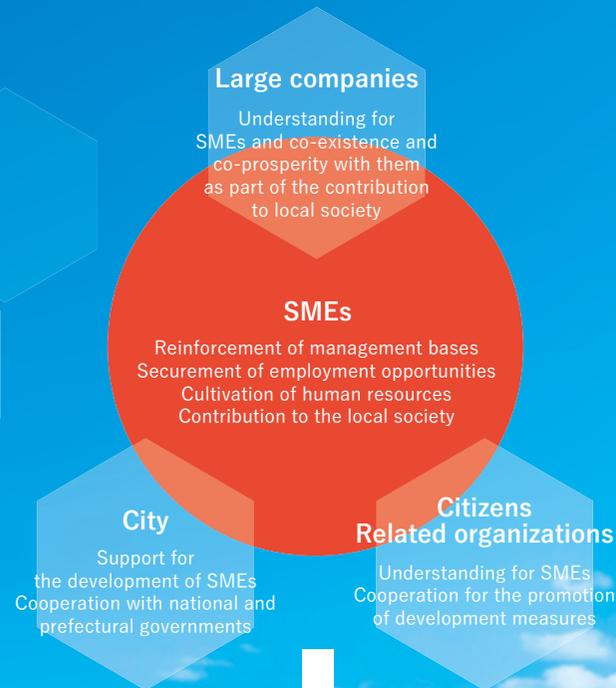
#### Manufactures' activities for citizens

An open factory event "Let's go to a factory!" was held primarily by manufacturers. Guests visited the factory and had a chance to learn about manufacturing process directly. They also enjoyed the artworks showing the possibilities of the functions of factories as a culture transmitter. We expect them to build good relationships through those activities and we hope people have more interest and understanding of manufacturing.



## SMEs are the main players in the local economy.

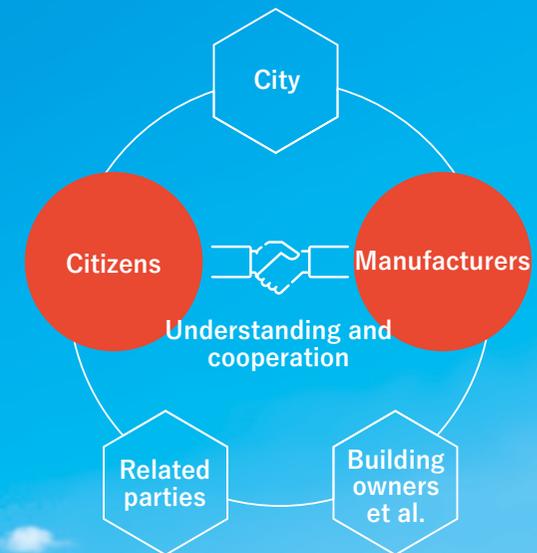
It is necessary to understand the importance of roles played by SMEs and to work on their development cooperatively. Higashiosaka established the "Higashiosaka City ordinance on the development of SMEs" to promote the development of SMEs.



SMEs stimulate the local economy!

## Creation of a city where citizens and manufacturers live together

Higashiosaka City promotes the creation of a city where citizens and manufacturers live together in order to keep the living environment clean and comfortable for citizens, as well as to secure the business environment for manufacturers. We hope that brings industrial clusters, which are treasure-trove of the city, for a bright future.



Promoted in cooperation with each other

For more information, scan this QR code.



**Higashiosaka font** HIGASHIOSAKA

Higashiosaka font is an original and unique because of its successive-letter pattern, representing our hope that strong partnerships among companies in the city could lead to new businesses all over the world.

**Tagline “WHERE THE ANSWER IS”**

It's a strong message from manufacturing companies in Higashiosaka representing a sense of dedication and pride that they can always respond to the needs, no matter how demanding they are.

MONOZKURI CITY

HIGASHIOSAKA

WHERE THE ANSWER IS

Published by  
the Manufacturing Support Office, Economic Department, Higashiosaka City  
1-1-1, Aramotokita, Higashiosaka-shi, Osaka 577-8521 Japan  
TEL: +81-6-4309-3177 FAX: +81-6-4309-3846  
Email: monodukuri@city.higashiosaka.lg.jp  
March 2019



Click here to visit our branding site. ▶▶▶▶▶▶