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Gunze Limited

In May 2025, Gunze announced its mid-term management plan, "VISION 2030 Stage 2," which declares the company's commitment to achieving sustainable business operations that balance "social value" and "economic value." This commitment will build a sustainable business foundation and establish Gunze as a company that will continue to be chosen globally. Gunze was founded to promote the silk industry, which was regional at the time. Therefore, the company established the philosophy, "Respect for humanity and the production of high-quality products as the foundation for achieving mutual prosperity with all stakeholders," and has advanced initiatives aimed at revitalizing the local community. In this 13th edition, we'd like to highlight our efforts to create a better community and society.

Gunze holds underwear workshop at career education event for kids in Kadoma City, Osaka

In April 2025, Gunze held an underwear workshop at the Kadoma City Children's Lobby in Osaka. Six elementary school students from the first to fourth grade, along with their parents, participated. It was the second workshop Gunze held at the Children's Lobby.

This time, the workshop was titled "Unravel the Mysteries of Underwear! Answer Quizzes and Try Your Hand at Silk Cocoon Crafting." Participants answered quizzes about Gunze's connection to cocoons and the role of underwear. Those who answered correctly got a character's cocoon ball.



Underwear workshop at career education event

Children's Lobby Career Education Event

"Children's LOBBY" is a third place that was set up in 2021 through a partnership between the public and private sectors to support children's daily lives outside of school and home. Around 2,000 kids use the facility each year. At Children's LOBBY, kids can hang out and feel like they belong, and parents can get counseling support and learn about careers. The facility serves as a place for children to interact and as a community watchpoint.

We team up with about 70 local organizations and companies that support the city's initiatives to offer diverse programs to help children connect with future careers and society. One example is the underwear workshop that we held with Gunze's help. We hope these experiences will inspire children to dream big and take the first steps toward achieving their goals.

Here in Kadoma City, we're working on projects that bring kids' futures together through teamwork between the government and the people. We're looking forward to everyone in the community and local businesses joining in. Let's team up to grow the circle of support for our children's futures.



Mr. Kuramoto
Children Policy in Kadoma City

"Sericulture Festival" Held — An Experiential Event Connecting the History of Sericulture to the Next Generation

In May 2025, Gunze collaborated with Santo Grants, a local organization for people with mental and developmental disabilities, to host the festival. The event took place at the Gunze Museum. The festival aimed to pass on the history of the region, once known as "Silk City" for its thriving silk industry, to future generations. The second event since its inception last year further enriched opportunities for hands-on experiences related to silk farming, allowing many visitors to experience the charm of silk culture.

During the hands-on workshops, participants picked mulberry leaves in the "Mulberry Garden," renovated to commemorate Gunze's 100th anniversary, and fed them to silkworm larvae. Participants also spun thread from silk cocoons produced in Ayabe and used it to make coasters and lampshades on small looms.

Through these experiences, we aimed to evoke nostalgic memories for those who once worked in sericulture and to instill a deep appreciation for sericulture in those experiencing it for the first time.

Gunze will continue to leverage the history of the silk industry—the foundation of our company—to contribute to the revitalization of local communities.



A visitor pulls thread from cocoons and makes lampshades at a workshop.



Mr. Yamazaki, the mayor of Ayabe City, stopped by the workshop to show his support.

Comments from the co-organizer of the "Sericulture Festival"

I represent a self-advocacy group based in Ayabe City, in the northern part of Kyoto. Our group is dedicated to supporting employment opportunities for individuals with mental and developmental disabilities. And I explore ways to transcend the boundaries of traditional welfare systems and foster deeper connections with the local community. Then I focused on the history of sericulture in Ayabe City because it is known as a "silk town." I believed that uncovering and sharing the valuable intangible assets nurtured in this region with the entire community could foster connections that transcend generations.

To this end, we planned and hosted an experiential workshop blending learning and play, designed to engage people of all ages. Our goal was to create a meaningful experience that goes beyond simply viewing exhibits by encouraging participants to actively engage.

Through this initiative, we hope to foster new connections and collaborative efforts within the local community and ultimately contribute to addressing social challenges.



Mr. Kyuma
Representative, Santo Grants

Gunze employees teaches an environmental education program for local elementary school

From May 14 to 23, 2025, Gunze employees were instructors for a local environmental education program hosted by the City of Moriama.

During the first half of the program, the employees led a session that began with an explanation of the characteristics of plastic film. They also talked about environmental issues related to Lake Biwa and used quizzes and games with recycling symbols to help the kids learn about proper plastic usage. At the end, participants wrote messages about protecting Lake Biwa on bookmarks made from scrap material from the plastic film produced at the plant.

In the second half, Ms. Takeda from the environmental policy division at Moriama city gave a lecture based on fieldwork, explaining the creatures that live in Lake Biwa and how plastic waste affects the ecosystem.

In 2019, Gunze took responsibility as a manufacturer and seller of plastic film packaging materials and set up a Basic Policy on Plastic Resource Circulation. So, we came up with an Environmental Action Plan based on this policy, and we were able to achieve zero plastic waste emissions by March 2025.

Gunze will keep being involved in social and community activities, building friendly relationships with the community, and pursuing sustainability.



Gunze employees act as instructors at environmental programs



Elementary school students taking a quiz on how to sort trash

Teaching students about the environment with Gunze

Shiga Prefecture has led the way in environmental issues nationwide since the 1970s, focusing on preserving its natural environment, including Lake Biwa. In 2017, Moriama City became an "Environmental Education City" after a citizen proposal, aiming to enable residents to learn, think, and take action on environmental issues.

In 2021, the city opened the Moriama Eco Park, which focuses on hands-on environmental education and fieldwork.

We asked Gunze to be an environmental education instructor because their code of conduct says, "In doing business, we will deal with environmental issues and try to live in harmony with the Earth," which is the same as Moriama City's philosophy. Moriama City's environmental education programs have been run by the government or companies in the past. This is the first time the city has worked with a private company to make lessons for elementary school students.

We hope this program will inspire the next generation to take environmental issues seriously.



Ms. Takeda
Environmental Policy
in Moriama City

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