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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.

To enhance business sustainability, Gunze has declared its commitment to "Achieving Environmentally Friendly Management." Acknowledging that natural capital is the basis of economic activity, Gunze aims to create a sustainable society by coexisting with nature. In this 18th edition, we highlight our initiatives under the theme of "Coexistence with Nature."

Gunze Takes on "Coexistence with Nature": Creating a Sustainable Forest with a Record 57 Participants.

Since 2010, Gunze has supported the Kyoto Model Forest Movement in Ayabe City, Kyoto, where the company was founded. In May 2026, a record 57 participants—including local conservation groups, forestry students, and employees' families—joined Satoyama forest conservation activities.

They repaired hiking trails, installed wildlife fences to protect Mitsuba azaleas, and made beetle observation kits from fallen trees, which were especially popular with children. These efforts help protect local biodiversity and preserve a healthy environment for future generations.

Gunze will continue working with local communities to help build a sustainable society.



Making a beetle breeding kit using wood chips.

My First Experience with the Kyoto Model Forest Movement.

I had long been interested in the Kyoto Model Forest Movement, but the events were held too far away for me to attend. After my workplace relocated closer to the venue, I decided to join for the first time with my family.

During the event, we made beetle observation kits and enjoyed learning outdoors together. The children became fascinated by insects, while expert staff explained beetle ecology, how to distinguish male and female larvae, and the environmental challenges facing Satoyama forests. It was a valuable opportunity for our whole family to deepen our understanding of nature.

The experience gave me a firsthand appreciation of Gunze's long-standing commitment to "Living in Harmony with Nature." I was impressed by how the company creates enjoyable opportunities for families to connect with nature and learn about the environment.

I realized that the Kyoto Model Forest Movement is about more than forest conservation. It strengthens connections between people and nature, fosters environmental awareness, and creates meaningful family memories that help pass Gunze's vision of living in harmony with nature on to future generations.



Mr. Inoue
Gunze, Investor Relations

Hosting a Lecture to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Kyoto Model Forest Movement.

As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Gunze hosted a public lecture for Kyoto Prefecture residents on June 12, 2026, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Kyoto Model Forest Movement. Organized by the Kyoto Model Forest Association, the event was the first commemorative lecture held at a Model Forest site. It took place in Ayabe City's Obata district, where companies and local communities collaborate on forest conservation.

Participants visited the Obata Castle Ruins, a site for corporate-supported forest conservation, experienced bamboo whistle making using local materials at Satoyama Net Ayabe, and toured the Gunze Memorial Hall to learn about the relationship between the region's industrial heritage and its forest resources.

Since joining the Kyoto Model Forest Movement in 2010, Gunze has worked with local governments and communities to conserve Satoyama forests. The company will continue promoting forest management and environmental education to foster harmony between people and nature and help preserve a healthy environment for future generations.



Take a stroll through the "Obata Castle Ruins," a Model Forest site.



Get hands-on experience making "bamboo whistles" using local materials.

Preserving the Satoyama of the Obata Castle Ruins for Future Generations.

We carry out Model Forest activities at the Obata Castle Ruins to help preserve the region's valuable Satoyama landscape and provide opportunities for people to experience its historical and cultural significance. Through proper forest management and hiking activities, we aim to raise awareness of the importance of conserving these natural assets.

The local Association to Protect Obata Castle has 30–40 members. However, population decline and an aging community have reduced opportunities for residents to gather. We therefore value these activities as a way to strengthen community ties while working together to care for the forest.

The Obata Castle Ruins hold special meaning for me. As a middle school student, I witnessed the site being cleared for surveys, which revealed the remains of a mountain castle and sparked my interest in its history. Although the forest has since regrown, I hope to revitalize the site as a place where visitors can learn about the region's history and natural environment.

Going forward, we will continue collaborating with local communities and other stakeholders to preserve the Obata Castle Ruins and pass on the region's natural and cultural heritage to future generations.



Mr. Nakamura, Executive Director of the "Association to Protect Obata Castle"

Gunze Supports the Third Ayabe Beetle Sumo Tournament.

Gunze supported the “3rd Ayabe Beetle Sumo Tournament” in Ayabe City, Kyoto, where the company was founded in July, 2026. In addition to providing the Gunze Museum Park as the tournament venue, the company donated prizes, including the championship trophy.

Many of the beetles that competed in the tournament were raised outdoors by the NPO Satoyama Net Ayabe using wood and bamboo chips produced through the “Kyoto Model Forest Movement in Ayabe”, a Satoyama conservation initiative that Gunze has supported since 2010. The company helped create an event where children could enjoy themselves while learning about the natural resource cycle by making use of materials generated through forest conservation activities.

Now in its third year, the tournament attracted a record 72 teams from across the Kansai region, making it the largest event to date.

Gunze remains committed to building sustainable communities by integrating environmental conservation with regional revitalization. Through collaboration with local organizations and environmental education initiatives, the company aims to inspire the next generation to value and protect the natural environment.



Previous Year's Champion Returns the Championship Trophy.



A scene of beetles fighting.

We Participated in the Ayabe Beetle Sumo Tournament

My family and I participated in the Ayabe Beetle Sumo Tournament for the first time in Ayabe City, Kyoto.

The beetle we entered was raised from a larva we brought home after taking part in a Satoyama conservation activity through the Kyoto Model Forest. Because we first encountered it through our environmental conservation efforts, entering the tournament felt especially meaningful.

The venue was full of energy, and we were amazed by the number of participants. Competing with a beetle we had carefully raised together made the experience a memorable one for our family.

Although our beetle lost its match, my child smiled and said, “It was fun!” Despite the disappointment, meeting so many other families showed us how Satoyama conservation not only protects nature but also brings people together. What began with caring for the natural environment became a wonderful opportunity to create lasting family memories and strengthen our connection with the local community.



The Furuichi family participated in the tournament from Nishinomiya City, Hyogo.

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