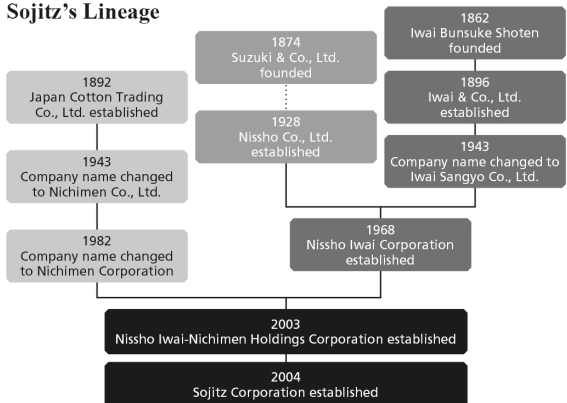


# Sojitz : A new company inheriting over 160 years of history

— Returning to our origins as a general trading company —

## Sojitz's Lineage



In 2003, Nichimen Corporation and Nissho Iwai Corporation integrated their businesses and merged to become Sojitz the following year in 2004. Nissho Iwai originated from Iwai Bunsuke Shoten (founded in 1862) and Suzuki & Co., Ltd. (founded in 1874). Nichimen got its start from Japan Cotton Trading Co., Ltd., which was established in 1892. Suzuki & Co. and Iwai & Co. established many companies that continue to be leading manufacturers today. Japan Cotton Trading Co., Ltd. was a vanguard for Japan's expansion overseas for the procurement of cotton from around the world and for the sale of cotton products. As a general trading company, Sojitz carries on the entrepreneurial and frontier spirit of the merchants who led Japan's remarkable industrial revolution spanning the Meiji and

Taisho eras after the opening of the country, and these merchants were responsible for building the foundation for Japan's economic growth and establishing the country's manufacturing industry. Sojitz has inherited the customers, products, and spirit — the tangible and intangible assets — of its predecessor companies and developed these assets as well as taken on challenges in new fields.

In Sojitz's Integrated Report 2021, President Fujimoto announced his intent to go "back to the basics as a general trading company." The president resolved that by setting the achievements of Sojitz's predecessors as an example, the company will grasp the latest changes to society and continue to undertake investments in new businesses and places that are "in season." The essence of Sojitz can be found in its corporate culture, which emphasizes speed and the openness of its organizations. This culture encourages all employees to act based on a strong sense of responsibility and to develop the individual skills necessary to identify market needs and propose solutions to address these needs.

Sojitz's vision for 2030 is to "constantly cultivate new businesses and human capital" as it builds the next generation.



**Masayoshi Fujimoto**  
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