

Details regarding the International Friendship Center Kagoshima

- 2015 June – Donation ceremony
- October – Establishment of the IFCK Construction Council (provisional name)
- 2016 November – Basic development plan formulated
- 2017 March – Acquisition of building site
- 2018 August – Execution of final design
- December – Commencement of construction work
- 2020 February – Construction work completed
- 2020 April – Opening

In June 2015, Dr. Kazuo Inamori donated 1 billion yen each to Kagoshima Prefecture and Kagoshima City, with the goal of further developing the international relationships of Kagoshima.

“I wish for these donations to be used by prefecture and city together, to establish a base for active exchange between local citizens and people from overseas, as well as for the continued acceptance of international exchange students.” In accordance with the intentions of Dr. Inamori, the prefecture and city together established the International Friendship Center Kagoshima Construction Council (provisional name) in October 2015. The International Friendship Center Kagoshima opened in April 2020.

With our deepest and most sincere gratitude for the generosity of Dr. Inamori, here we will introduce some of his many achievements.

Kagoshima Prefecture

Kagoshima City



About Kazuo Inamori



Kazuo Inamori was born in Kagoshima, Japan in 1932.

He graduated from Kagoshima University in 1955 with a Bachelor's of Engineering degree and joined Shofu Industries, an insulator manufacturing company in Kyoto. In April 1959, he established Kyoto Ceramic Co., Ltd. (now Kyocera Corporation) with a 3-million yen investment from acquaintances. He served as president and chairman of the company until 1997, when he assumed the title of founder and chairman emeritus.

When Japan's telecommunications industry was deregulated in 1984, Inamori quickly took the initiative to establish DDI Corporation, and became the chairman. In October 2000, DDI merged with KDD and IDO to create KDDI Corporation. Inamori served as KDDI's chairman emeritus. He was named honorary adviser in June 2001.

He became chairman of Japan Airlines ("JAL," now Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.) in February 2010 in order to rebuild the company's operations after bankruptcy. After serving as representative director and chairman of the company, he became chairman emeritus in April 2013, and honorary adviser in April 2015.

In 1984, Inamori made a personal endowment to establish the non-profit Inamori Foundation, which he served as president. At the same time, he created the Kyoto Prize, an international award presented by the Inamori Foundation each November to recognize individuals and groups worldwide for outstanding contributions to the betterment of the global community and humankind.

His volunteer service also includes serving for 36 years as principal of the private management school "Seiwajuku", devoting himself to the education of business owners and entrepreneurs.

Kagoshima and I

From the literary works of Kazuo Inamori

Discipline through Kagoshima's unique Goju education (traditional vertically-structured education for samurai in Satsuma province)

As I ran about with other rambunctious children, I eventually parted from my tears, but in the process, I also parted from my studies. What tempered the weakling and put him straight was the goju education, unique to Kagoshima.

Gaki no Jijoden [Autobiography of a Hungry Spirit]



Panorama of Nishida Elementary School (1944)

The basics of business management from peddling paper

I began peddling paper bags. I piled the paper bags my father was making as a side job onto a bicycle and walked about the city selling them. At first, I had no idea of how best to go about it and would stride at random into shops and make my sales pitch. That, though, was inefficient. There are seven days in a week, and I divided Kagoshima City into seven sections, visiting the same section on the same day of each week. Having passed through the same areas repeatedly, the shopkeepers began to recognize me and started calling me into their shops. Peddling paper bags was my starting point in business management.



In high school, with Sakurajima in the background

Gaki no Jijoden [Autobiography of a Hungry Spirit]

Pushing myself to study hard



With his friends at Kagoshima University (Inamori in the front right)

Though my goal was to attend university, going to the university of my first choice was not meant to be. I therefore enrolled in university courses near my home, with the Kagoshima University Faculty of Engineering, Department of Applied Chemistry. During my four years at university, I studied earnestly, to the extent where I was that student who always had his “nose in a book”.

From a lecture during the Seiwaikyoku Chubu/Hokuriku Districts Jyukucho Meeting, November 4, 2009

Kazuo Inamori and Kagoshima

Dr. Inamori has made significant contributions to the development of his hometown, Kagoshima. Some of his contributions are introduced below.

Serving as executive of the world-class company Kyocera, Dr. Inamori contributed greatly to the development of industry and securement of employment in Kagoshima. He also established and served as head of the Kansai-Kagoshima Prefectural association, hosted the Kagoshima Lecture Meeting featuring Kyoto Prize award-winning speakers for the youth of Kagoshima, and in various other ways has devotedly strived to better his hometown.

In addition, through significant contributions to the advancement of international relations in Kagoshima, as well as improvements to the education and welfare of the next generation of youth, he has brought hope for a brighter future to many citizens of both Kagoshima City and Kagoshima Prefecture.

In celebration of his many distinguished contributions, he was awarded the Kagoshima Prefectural and Kagoshima City People's Honour Award in November 2015, and in June 2019 became the first recipient of the title of honorary citizen of Kagoshima Prefecture.

- Contributed to the development of Kyoto Ceramic Co., Ltd. (now Kyocera) Kagoshima plant (now Kagoshima Sendai plant), Kagoshima Kokubu plant and Kagoshima Hayato plant
- Donated to and served as administrative director for the Kagoshima Culture Promotion Foundation, gifted sculptures to the Kagoshima City Culture Park
- Served as the first 'Kagoshima Hometown Ambassador', promoting Kagoshima nationally and internationally
- Contributed to the establishment of fully-equipped education research facilities and learning environments at Kagoshima University, including the 'Inamori Auditorium' and 'Inamori Hall', the 'Inamori Engineering Scholarship' and cross-departmental education research facility 'Inamori Academy', as well as awarding the university with 1 million shares of Kyocera Corporation.
- Donated to Kagoshima Prefecture and Kagoshima City including contributions to the establishment of the International Friendship Center Kagoshima.



Receiving the title of honorary citizen of Kagoshima



Kyoto Award Laureate Lectures in Kagoshima



Ceremony receiving the People's Honour Award



Kagoshima University Inamori Memorial Building