since
1921

Creating world-class technologies that can compete anywhere in the world

The spirit of Komatsu's founding has been imprinted into its genes over the past 100 years of its history.

Meitaro Takeuchi, founder of Komatsu Co., was born in 1860 in Sukumo Township in Tosa Domain (presently known as Sukumo City, Kochi Prefecture). His father, Tsuna, worked with Taisuke Itagaki and others in the Freedom and People's Rights Movement. Tsuna was also involved in mine development, and entrusted the management of the Yoshinodani Coal Mine in Saga Prefecture to his 27-year-old son, Meitaro. The mine grew steadily, and in 1894, Takeuchi Mining Industry was established and its mining operations were developed throughout Japan.

In 1900, Meitaro traveled to Europe to learn about industrial technology and was amazed by what he saw at the Paris EXPO, causing him to arrive at the idea that "Japan's growth would depend on the development of industry."

Takeuchi Mining Industry acquired the Yusenji Copper Mine in Komatsu City, Ishikawa Prefecture in 1902. While managing the mine, Meitaro established Komatsu Iron Works in 1917 in an effort to develop the industry and also human resources.

In 1921, Komatsu Iron Works split off from Takeuchi Mining Industry, and Komatsu Ltd. was born. Komatsu's founding spirit of 1. Global Expansion, 2. Quality First, 3. Technological Innovation, and 4. Employee Development is in our Komatsu DNA.

Industry provides the foundation for national prosperity

Machines displayed at Komatsu Memorial Area

D50-2-16

The first Japanese bulldozer

It was developed just after the end of World War II. At the time, there were buildings all over Japan that had been destroyed in the war, and it was said that one bulldozer could do the work of 200 people, so it was a huge success.

D50-8

Bucket loader equipped with a bulldozer blade

The bulldozer is the forerunner for the D50(A), being cable operated instead of hydraulic. The bulldozer blade on the front can be moved up and down by winding and unwinding the wire cable. Bucket loaders are equipped with a bucket on the front for loading dirt, but this machine instead has a bulldozer design with a blade instead of a bucket.

D50S-8

The first model of Dozer Shovel

Older dozer shovels had disadvantages that included not being able to handle dirt well, and they would often hit the truck and damage it when loading into it. The D50S-8 was designed to solve these problems. Machines of its kind were rare in Japan at the time, so it garnered a lot of attention.

D50 (A)

Project "A" Model (Serial No. 10672)

With the goal of improving performance and durability to put them on par with foreign-made bulldozers, Komatsu staked the survival of the company on the production of bulldozers. After countless operation tests performed under harsh conditions, it was finally completed. With the development of the D50(A), Komatsu succeeded in creating a bulldozer with unparalleled performance and superior durability.

JH30B

Komatsu's oldest wheel loader

This wheel loader is the oldest of all existing Komatsu wheel loaders. Wheel loaders differ from crawlers in that they run on tires, which results in smoother turning and higher running speeds. Although the body of the vehicle is not large, it is able to load a great amount of dirt in a short time, making invaluable contributions to work efficiency.

LT1200

Agricultural light automobile, Komatsu Unica

The agricultural light automobile realized the dream of farmers to "Change from farming by walking to farming by riding." Load it with boxes and it serves as a small truck, and you can also use it to tow trailers when transporting cargo. The power take-off was used for a wide range of farming tasks from rotary tilling to threshing.

Komatsu no Mori
1 Komatsunomori, Komatsu City, Ishikawa Pref. 923-0869
TEL : 0761-24-2154 FAX : 0761-24-2164

MIX Paper FSC® C013678
2026.●●●●●

Waku-Waku Komatsu History Museum

since
1921

Komatsu: Growing together with communities to become a global company

It all began here...

Komatsu's oldest tractor T25

KOMATSU

100-Year Trajectory

Welcome to Waku-Waku Komatsu History Museum

From the time of its founding in 1921, Komatsu Co. was a manufacturer with an eye on the world. Through our persistent efforts toward the improvement of quality and reliability, we aim to provide safe and highly effective products that best meet the needs and expectations of our customers around the world. The History Museum is a place where you can look back on the History of Komatsu by learning about the epoch-making episodes, the experiences of our predecessors, and the difficulties they overcame, which became the basis of the Komatsu Way. It is also packed with information about the Komatsu Group's "DANTOTSU" technologies, activities, and more. Please enjoy learning about the 100-year history of Komatsu Co.

[History] Komatsu's 100-Year history

1921	Established Komatsu Ltd.
1924	Produced the first commercial press
1931	Completed the first domestically produced agricultural tractor
1943	Completed the first domestically produced bulldozer
1951	Relocated head office to Tokyo
1961	Started Project "A" Program and introduced a quality control (QC) method throughout the company
1964	Technological partnership for wheel loaders
1968	Started production of hydraulic excavators
1975	First offshore production of bulldozers in Brazil
1985	Started local production in the US and UK
1995	Developed world's largest dump truck
1998	Small servo press machine driven by a full-fledged servomotor
2001	Launch of the standard equipment KOMTRAX
2006	Establishment of Komatsu Way, Komatsu's management philosophy
2008	Market release of Autonomous Haulage System for dump trucks and hybrid hydraulic excavators
2012	Market release of the FH and FE series forklifts
2015	Introduced Smart construction
2021	100th anniversary of our founding

Waku-Waku Komatsu History Museum floor map

5 Index table
2F

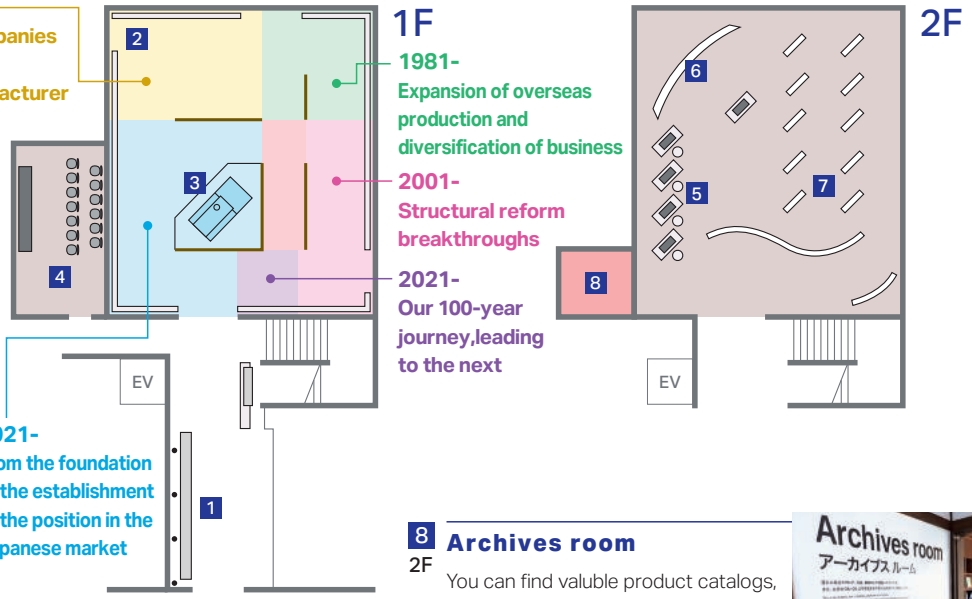
You can view the detailed history topics of Komatsu individually.

6 History wall
2F

Select from content such as product history and factory history and view them in chronological order.

7 The Komatsu Way
2F

Learn about the creation of "The Komatsu Way", which can be considered the DNA and legacy of the company, along with examples of our predecessors who overcame difficulties and various situations that reflect the Komatsu Way.



4 Theater
1F

Look back on Komatsu's 100-year history via archival film footage.

1 Multi screens
1F

See the Komatsu machines working in the powerfully and cleverly way on the large screens.

8 Archives room
2F

You can find valuble product catalogs, albums and books from the past.

3 Epoch exhibition
1F

Dramatic reenactments and graphics of events, technologies, and products that were turning points in Komatsu' s history.

2 History & Chronology
1F

Look back on each era with the chronology of the exhibition on the walls.