

Feb. 6, 1936

The sensitized paper division of Rikagaku Kogyo split off to be established as Riken Kankoshi Co., Ltd. (-1938)

Founder Kiyoshi Ichimura

Ricoh's origins date back to a decision by the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research to commercialize the fruits of its R&D by setting up Rikagaku Kogyo. Since its formation in 1927, the business venture has placed on the market numerous products developed by the research institute, including sensitized paper.

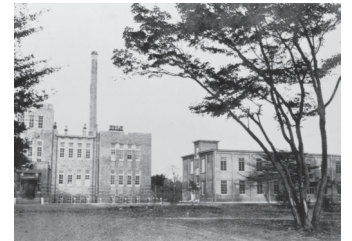
On February 6, 1936, the sensitized paper division was split off to be established as Riken Kankoshi Co., Ltd., a precursor of Ricoh, under the directorship of Kiyoshi Ichimura (1900-1968). As the founder of Ricoh, Ichimura led the successful development of the business that started with 350,000 yen in capital and a staff of 33.

Kiyoshi Ichimura formulated The Spirit of Three Loves: "Love your neighbor," "Love your country," "Love your work," and ever since, they have been respected as the Ricoh Group's Founding Principles, which provide every employee with a guide for business and encourage individuals to constantly improve and contribute to the wellbeing of all stakeholders, including families, customers, and society at large.

The Birth of RICOH

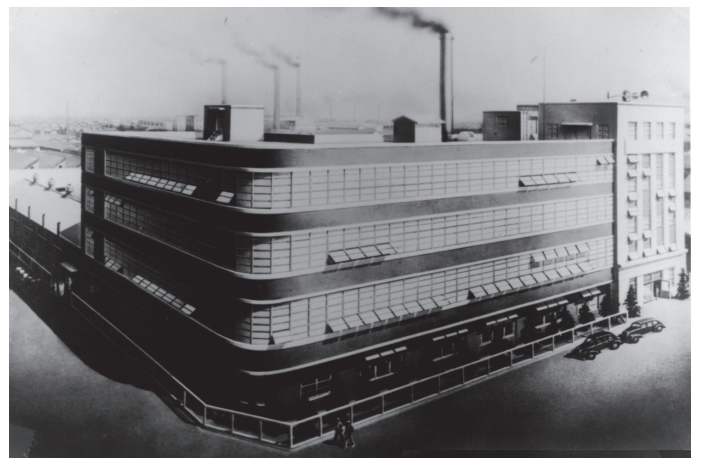


Kiyoshi Ichimura



Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in the earliest days (Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)

Head office of Riken Optical Co., Ltd., renamed from Riken Kankoshi Co., Ltd. (Ginza, Tokyo, 1938)



Oji Plant, the main factory of Riken Optical for manufacturing sensitized paper as well as cameras and binoculars (1938)