

OHARIBAKO



hiro

ABOUT HIRO

hiro has more than 80 years of experience in women's wear, establishes partnerships with many artisans active in traditional crafts in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan.

The collaboration has resulted in the development of entirely new products.

One of the most popular products is a compact set of sewing kit boxes, OHARIBAKO.



九谷の針山

KUTANI PINCUSHION





-古九谷- KOKUTANI

Features five distinctive colors: blue, yellow, red, purple and blue



front



side



back



side



PINK



BLUE



PURPLE



LIGHT PINK



RED



BEIGE





-吉田屋- YOSHIDAYA

Features four colors of green, yellow, purple and blue



front



side



back



side

RED

BLUE

PURPLE

PINK



LIGHT PINK

BEIGE





-飯田屋- IIDAYA

Creates an elegant atmosphere with red lines and red and gold motif



front



side



back



side

PURPLE

RED

PINK

BLUE



LIGHT PINK

BEIGE





-木米-MOKUBEI

Arhats are depicted in the five Kutani colors against a red background



front



side



back



side



PINK



BLUE



PURPLE



LIGHT PINK



RED



BEIGE





オリジナル九谷焼針山セット

Original Kutani Pincushion



黄花

Yellow Flower
(Oval)



唐草

Arabesque
(Hexagon)



ひし形
Diamond
(Oval)





Hiro original designed pincushion comes in a special paulownia wood box.

This set includes:

Paulownia wood box (7.5×7.5×8.5cm)

A kutani pincushion, small kutani dish, and 3 heart-shaped pins

Pincushion available in 6 colors



red



pink



light pink



beige



purple



blue

Kutani
Ware



hiro



**Kutani-ware: a 360-year-old
representative craft in Ishikawa**

三段のお針箱

Three Tier Sewing Kit



Size 5.5cm × 6.2cm × 8.2cm
Small sewing set in
three paulownia wood boxes

Three Tier Sewing Kit

Curved wood collection



-青海波-

Wave Pattern

-麻の葉-

Hemp Pattern

2
patterns
are
available



Comes with
dot pattern crepe fabric belt



The patterned box is suitable for traveling
2 One-touch needles from Hiroshima
3 Needles in assorted sizes from Hiroshima





Three Tier Sewing Kit

Yamanaka lacquerwear Collection



BLACK

-麻の葉-

Hemp Pattern

-青海波-

Wave Pattern

VERMILION



2
patterns
&
colors
are
available

BLACK



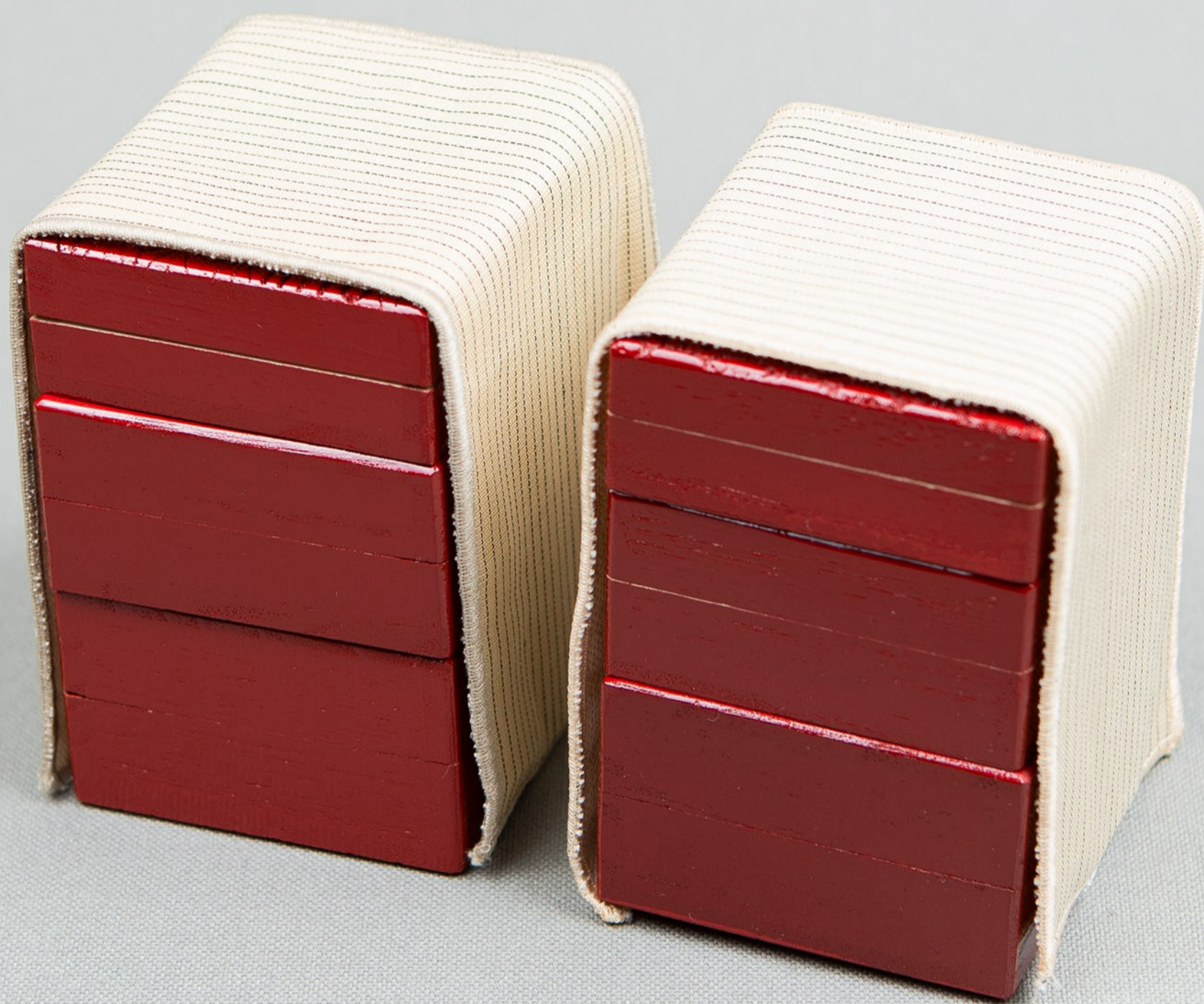
Comes with
black-and-white-striped
Noto-Jofu fabric belt

BLACK



The patterned box is suitable for traveling
2 One-touch needles from Hiroshima
3 Needles in assorted sizes from Hiroshima

VERMILION



Comes with
beige-striped
Noto-Jofu fabric belt



小さいお針箱

Small Sewing Box



Yamanaka Lacquerware Collection



Black



Wave Pattern



Vermillion



Hemp Pattern

Carved Wood Collection



Size 6.0cm × 3.0cm × 2.4cm

Small sewing set includes:

Paulownia wood box

Mini scissors from Niigata

One-touch needle from Hiroshima

Wooden spools of white and black thread

Mini pincushion(available in 4 colors)



ワンタッチ針 “One-touch Needle”





ハリネズミのお針箱

Hedgehog Sewing Kit

a handmade needle-felted
hedgehog pincushion

Box Size

6.0cm×3.0cm×2.4cm

Paulownia wood box
with sliding lid

Mini scissors
from Niigata



5 colors of cotton thread

2 one-touch needles and
3 variable size needles from Hiroshima

Hedgehogs slightly vary from one another





Small scissors from Niigata



"We are here!"

Kanazawa, Ishikawa



One-touch needle from Hiroshima

Kutani & Yamanaka lacquerware from Ishikawa

Paulownia box from Kyushu



針ものがたり

Japanese Folktales



Issunboshi
一寸法師

Inch-Boy

There was once a kindly couple who had no children. One day they went to a shrine and prayed for a baby.

On their way home from the shrine, they heard a tiny crying sound coming from a patch of grass. They looked in the grass, and there they found a tiny little baby boy. "This child has come in answer to our prayers," they said. So they took the little baby home with them and raised him as their son.

Now this baby was so tiny that he wasn't as large as your thumb, and even as he grew older he stayed the same size. He was just about an inch tall, so the couple named him Inch-Boy.

One day, when he had grown older, Inch-Boy said to his mother and father, "Thank you very much for raising me so well. But now I must go out into the world and make my fortune."

The couple kept him from leaving, saying he was too tiny to go out into the world. But Inch-Boy insisted, so finally they said, "All right, we'll help you get ready." And they gave him a needle to use for a sword, a rice bowl to use for a boat, and a chopstick to use for an oar.

Inch-Boy got in his boat and waved goodbye to his parents, promising to return home when he had made his fortune. Then he went floating down the river in his rice bowl boat, paddling with his chopstick.



Inch-Boy had floated along for many, many leagues when a frog accidentally knocked into his boat and turned it over. Inch -Boy was a very good swimmer and he swam to the riverbank, where he found himself standing before a great lord's house.

Inch-Boy looked at the house and saw that it must belong to a very wealthy lord. He walked boldly up to the front door and called out. A servant came to the door, but he couldn't see anyone.

"Here I am, down here!" cried Inch-Boy. "look down here!"

The servant looked down at the ground. At first all he could

see was a pair of wooden sandals that his lord used when he went out walking. Then the servant looked closer and saw the tiny figure of Inch-Boy standing beside the sandals. He was so surprised that he hurried off to the lord.

The Lord came to the front door himself and looked down at Inch-Boy standing there proudly, his needle-sword at his hip.

"Why, hello there, little warrior," he said. "What do you want here?"

"I've come out into the world to seek my fortune," said Inch-Boy. "And if You'll have me become one of your guards. I may be small, but I can fight very well with my fine sword."

The lord was very amused to hear the tiny boy speak such bold words.

"All right," he said, "you can come and be a playmate for my daughter, the princess."



So Inch_boy became the companion of the princess. They soon became good friends. The princess even made a bed for Inch-Boy in her jewel box.

One day, Inch-Boy and the princess went to visit a temple near the lord's house. Suddenly, an oni, an ogre, appeared, carrying a magic wand. When the devil saw the princess he ran toward her to carry her off.

Inch -Boy quickly drew his needle-sword and began sticking the oni's toes with it, but the oni's skin was so thick that the tiny sword couldn't go through it. As the oni got closer to the princess, Inch-Boy climbed up the oni's body and out onto his arm. Then he waved his sword at the oni's nose. This made the oni so angry that he opened his mouth wide and let out a roar.

At that moment Inch-Boy gave a big leap and jumped right onto the oni's face and began poking his nose with the sword. Now the oni's nose was very tender and the needle hurt very much. He was so surprised that he jumped up, yelled and went running away. He even dropped his magic wand.

The princess said "Thank you, inch-Boy," and picked up the magic wand. "Now we can make a wish!" She shook the wand in the air and said, "Please, let Inch-Boy grow taller!"

Sure enough, each time she shook the wand, Inch-Boy grew one inch taller. The princess kept shaking it until he was just as tall as she was. They were both very happy, and the lord was very grateful when he heard what Inch-Boy had done.

When they were a few years older, Inch-Boy and the princess were married, and they lived very happily ever after.



oni (ogre) metal club Issunboshi (Little Inch Boy) needle sword magic hammer



5 handmade character dressmaker pins
and pin cushion set in
Yamanaka lacquerware bowl

kaguyahime
かぐや姫

The Bamboo Princess

Long, long ago there lived an old man and his wife in a village. They cut bamboo and made baskets and other things out of it to get money.

One day the man went to the forest as always, and he found a shining bamboo plant. He cut it open, and to his surprise, he found a baby girl inside.

The old man and his wife had no children of their own, so they took her in and named her Kaguya Hime (bamboo Princess).

Every time the man went to cut after that, he found money in it. Soon he and his family became rich. Kaguya Hime grew day by day to be a very beautiful lady. Hearing of her beauty, many young men from various places visited her house because they wanted to marry her.

But she never showed any interest in them. She always looked like she was thinking about something else, and just looked up at the sky.

Her father could not ignore the men who were always visiting, so he told them that the man who brought the greatest treasure in the world would be able to marry her.

Some of the men brought wonderful treasures, but she always said that they were not special enough.

Soon she began to cry every time she saw the moon.

“what makes you so sad? What’s the matter?” asked the father.

“I am all right. Listen to me. I was born on the moon. I must return to



the moon on the 15th of August, when some visitors are coming to pick me up.”

“That is crazy,” said the father. He was very angry. The 15th of August was the next day.

The father found a group of samurai to keep her safe from the visitors. He hoped that she would never return to the moon.

That night, as the moon was rising over the mountains, its light suddenly flashed down on the men at the old man’s house. Many of them shot arrows at the moon, but none of them could hit it. Then, there was a bright flash of light, and they all began to sleep.

An angel came down through the light from the moon to the house.

Kaguya Hime could not help moving toward the light. She slowly flew up to the sky hand-in-hand with the angel. Nothing could stop them.

The old man and his wife could do nothing as they watched her return to the moon.

Kudo, Masahiro. “The Bamboo Princess” Long-ago Stories of Japan vol.2, IBC Publishing, 2009, pp.16-21.





bamboo scrolls Kaguya ox moon
Hime carriage

(Princess Kaguya)



5 handmade character dressmaker pins with pin cushion contained in bamboo cup.

momotarou
桃太郎

PEACH BOY

Long long ago somewhere, there lived an old man and woman.

The old couple's house stood between a mountain and a river.

Each day, the old man went up the mountain to cut wood, and the old woman went down to the river to wash clothes.

One day, as always, the old woman was down at the river. When she finished the wash, she looked up and saw a great big peach. The peach was bobbing and rolling in the water. It was heavy and round and pink, and it looked delicious. But it was just out of reach.

"Come over here!" the old woman called out. "The water's sweeter over here!"

And sure enough, the great peach began to move toward her. It bobbed and rolled and rolled and bobbed, straight into her arms.

The old woman pulled the peach out of the water and smiled. She couldn't wait to share this wonderful fruit with her husband.

That evening, as always, the old man came home with a load of wood on his back.

When his wife showed him the peach, he couldn't believe his eyes. He picked it up and held it in his hands.

"Look at the size of it!" he said. "Let's eat it while it's fresh!"

He placed the peach on the table and picked up a knife. But just then the peach began to move.

"What's happening?" said the old woman.



"It's alive!" her husband shouted.

Suddenly the peach broke in tow, and a healthy baby boy jumped out!

"WAAAAAH!" cried the baby, with a voice as loud as a drum.

The old man and woman were, of course, very surprised. But they were also very happy.

"We always prayed for a child of our own!" the old woman said.

"He's a gift from the gods!" said her husband. "Let's prepare his first bath!"

The old man made a fire and heated some water. When he filled the tub, his wife reached for the baby, but the baby pushed her away and climbed into the hot water all by himself.

"Such power!" the old couple laughed and looked at each other.

"What shall we name him?" the old woman said.

"Well, he was born from a peach," said the old man. "So let's call him Momotaro, Peach-Boy."

Thanks to the old couple's loving care, the "Peach Boy" grew up healthy and strong. Even when he was little, Momotaro was the best sumo wrestler in the village. By the time he was twelve, no man in all Japan could throw him.

And yet he was the sweetest, kindest boy in the land.

Momotaro was only fourteen when he went before the old man and woman and bowed deeply.

"Grandmother, Grandfather," he said. "I must leave you for a while."

"What?" said the old woman. "But where will you go?"

"Demons Island."

"Demons Island?" cried the old man. "Whatever for?"

“To fight the demons,” said Momotaro, and bring back all the treasure.

In these days, you see, demons often came to Japan. They pushed the people around and took away their gold and silver and jewels. Everyone was afraid of them.

“But Demons Island is so far!” said the old man.

“And so dangerous!” said the old woman.

“Please, don’t worry,” said Momotaro. “I’ll be home with treasure in no time.”

The old man and woman didn’t want their boy to go, but they knew they couldn’t stop him. Momotaro always followed his dreams. So the old man gave him a sword and suit of armor, and the old woman made him some millet dumplings-his favorite food. She also made a flag for Momotaro to carry. On the flag was a picture of a peach and the word Nippon Ichi.

That means “Number one in Japan.”

The Peach Boy tied the bag of millet dumplings to his belt, held the flag high, and set out on his journey. He soon left the village behind and started up the mountain.

Now he was climbing the mountain pass. Suddenly a dog came out of the brush.

“Arf! Arf! Where are you going, Momotaro?”

“To Demons Island, to fight the demons.”

“Interesting! What’s in the bag?”

“The best millet dumplings in all Japan.”

“Give me one-Arf!- and I’ll go with you!”

“Here you are, friend. Now follow me!”

Now Momotaro and the dog were marching through a forest. Suddenly a monkey climbed down from a tree.

“Key! Key! Where are you going, Momotaro?”

“To Demons Island, to fight the demons.”

“Interesting! What’s in the bag?”

“The best millet dumplings in all Japan.”

“Give me one-Key!- and I’ll go with you!”

“Here you are, friend. Now follow me!”

Now Momotaro and the dog and monkey were marching across a wide green plain. Suddenly a pheasant flew down from the sky.

“Whirr! Whirr! Where are you going, Momotaro?”

“To Demons Island, to fight the demons.”

“Interesting! What’s in the bag?”

“The best millet dumplings in all Japan.”

“Give me one-Whirr!- and I’ll go with you!”

“Here you are, friend. Now follow me!”

Now Momotaro and the dog and monkey and pheasant were marching down to the sea. A fine ship was waiting there on the beach.

“All aboard!” said Momotaro. “we’ll sail to the ship to Demons Island!”

It was a fine day, with a good wind. The ship raced like an arrow across the deep blue sea. The dog was rowing, the monkey was steering, and the pheasant was standing watch. Before very long, the pheasant called out:

“Whirr!Whirr! I sea an island!”

Momotaro ran to the bow. He could just make out the high black walls of Demons Castle.

“That’s it!” he shouted. “Demons Island dead ahead!”

The dog pulled on the oar-Arf! Arf! The monkey held the ship steady-Key!Key!
And the pheasant flew ahead to the island.

The demons on the beach didn’t see the pheasant. But they saw the ship, and they were very afraid. They ran inside their castle and locked the big black gate. When the ship landed, Momotaro and the dog and monkey jumped out. They marched right up to the castle.

“Open up!” the dog shouted and kicked at the gate. “Open up, or prepare for war!”

The demons pushed against the gate from inside, to hold it closed. But the pheasant flew down from the castle tower and pecked at their eyes.

“It hurts!” the demon cried. “Run for your lives!”

Now it was the monkey’s turn. He climbed over the wall and opened the gate from inside.

“Momotaro of Japan!” the dog called out as the Peach Boy marched into the grounds.

The king of Demons stepped out of the castle to meet them. He had ten or twelve of his biggest, strongest demons with him. All of them carried iron clubs.

“Who do you think you are?” said the king.

“I’m Momotaro of Japan. And I’ve come to take back our treasure.”

“Now without a fight, you won’t!” The king held up his club.

“As you wish,” said Momotaro, and the fight began.

Demons are big and mean, but they are weak of heart. The pheasant flew from

one to another - Whirr! Whirr! - and pecked at their eyes. The dog ran from one from another - Arf! Arf! - and bit their legs. And the monkey jumped from one another - Key! Key! - and scratched their faces. Before very long, the demons all threw down their clubs and ran away in tears.

The only one left was the king himself. He stepped forward and tried to hit Momotaro with his club. But Momotaro jumped out of the way and threw him to the ground. Then he locked the king's head in his powerful arm.

"Stop! I give up!" cried the king. "You win, Momotaro! Please don't kill me! You can have the treasure!"

Finally Momotaro let go. The king got down on all fours and thanked him again and again. Then he ordered his demons to fill a cart with all the gold and silver and jewels in the castle. They loaded the cart on the ship. "We'll never bother your people again!" the King of Demons promised.

"See that you don't," said Momotaro. And he and the dog and monkey and pheasant jumped on the ship and sailed for home.

Back home, the old man and woman were waiting for their Peach Boy. "I hope he's all right," the old woman said. "Oh when will he return!"

"Look!" said the old man. "Here he comes now!"

Momotaro was marching down the hill toward the village. Behind him, the dog and monkey were pulling a cart full of gold and silver and jewels. Above the cart, in the clear blue sky, the pheasant flew in circles.

"That's our boy!" cried the old man. "We knew you could do it, Momotaro!"

"We're so glad you're safe!" the old woman said.

Everyone cheered, and the cherry trees were blooming.



5 handmade character dressmaker pins
with peach pincushion made of felted wool

Yamanaka
Lacquerware

hiro



Yamanaka Lacquerware:
450 years of traditional craft

We want to share and enjoy
japan's culture of sewing together.

We believe, cute sewing boxes give an opportunity
for all generations together
to enjoy using a needle and threads,
sewing a button or patching torn clothing.

We believe that “kawaii” is precious.

We produce items using
Japanese traditional craft techniques
and quintessence of manufacturing
to the “kawaii”.

For example,
needles we use show a history treasured in Hiroshima.

Also, our paulownia boxes are born in Kyushu
and scissors are made in Niigata.

Hiro's sewing box is kawaii with the identity of Kanazawa
as well as other various local specialties.

Although getting rid of things is easy,
I hope to pass on things
which have been inherited until today,
and to create a sustainable society.