

# The DNA of the Kuraray Group and Its Strengths Gained through the Years

## Developing Solutions to Social Issues and Contributing to Economic Development through Our Business Activities

Kuraray was founded in 1926 in Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture, for the purpose of commercializing synthetic rayon.

Our founder, Magosaburo Ohara, and second President, Soichiro Ohara, sought to build up the business through technological innovation while emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the Company's social responsibilities, such as the response to environmental issues, focusing on addressing social issues through the Company's business activities.

In 1950, shortly after World War II, Soichiro Ohara established the technology to manufacture PVA fiber and its raw material, PVOH resin. The commercialization of this synthetic fiber did not just benefit one company—it helped revitalize Japan's textile industry. This achievement arose out of management's unwavering conviction that "to produce high-quality products with stable profits, we needed to make a product from raw materials without relying on imports."

The pioneering spirit of the Company's management has been passed down as the foundational DNA of the Kuraray Group. Since the beginning, it has been important to Kuraray, even before the phrase "corporate social responsibility" became mainstream.



Magosaburo Ohara  
First President

**"All the wealth gained from society should be returned to society."**

He established the Ohara Institute for Social Research, the Kurashiki Institute for the Science of Labour (now the Ohara Memorial Institute for Science of Labour) for the improvement and reformation of labor conditions, the Kurabo Central Hospital (now the Kurashiki Central Hospital), and the Ohara Museum of Art. These facilities contributed to the advancement of local medicine, welfare, education, culture, and people's standard of living.



Ohara Museum  
of Art



Kurashiki Central  
Hospital



Soichiro Ohara  
Second President

**"Any profit which a company might gain should be confined to those profits that come from technological innovation and from consideration of the social and economic benefits it brings to the entire nation."**

He was among the first to mention corporate responsibility for emissions at a time when the word "pollution" was still a rarity. In 1950, he pioneered the commercialization of KURALON™ PVA fiber, the first synthetic fiber made in Japan using proprietary technology. He continued to help address social issues and advance economic development through business activities, such as the development and commercialization of CLARINO™, the world's first man-made leather to replace natural leather.



KURALON™  
PVA fiber



CLARINO™  
man-made leather