

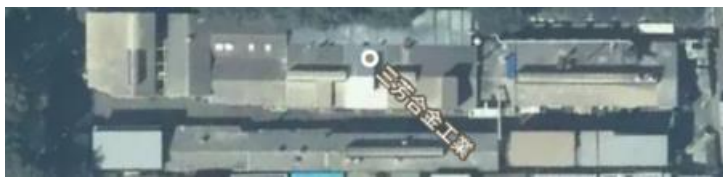


## Miyoshi Town and Yamato Gokin

*This edition is written by a newcomer in our sales department.*

Summer has suddenly turned to fall, and the days continue to pass by quickly. For this month's newsletter, we'd like to introduce the area in which Yamato Gokin is located.

Yamato Gokin is located in south-central Saitama, in the Kamitome district of Miyoshi town, on a long plot of land. The central street within the factory is narrow, and opens to the entrances to various departments including melting, forging, heat treatment, and cutting. People and materials are frequently coming in and out of the various departments, which gives the factory the atmosphere of a bustling market.



Some visitors to our factory may have some strict opinions such as “we were made to walk around endlessly,” or “the facilities should be arranged so that is easier to get from one department to the other;” however, if the facilities are arranged in the opposite direction, it would cause even more confusion.

At first, I found myself thinking that there must be a better area than Miyoshi; however, when I started taking walks near the company as a way to release the stresses of commuting daily by car with little to no physical exercise, I noticed that the surrounding companies, apartment buildings, fields, etc. had the same elongated shape. After all, Saitama is also known for its superb udon, and surely that has an influence on the shape of the land.

Yamato Gokin is located in the corner of “Santome-kaitakuchiwaraiseki” (in the bottom-right of the picture below).



Three hundred and twenty years ago, “Santome-kaitakuchiwaraiseki” was originally a largely untouched area, but it was cultivated under the Kawagoe feudal domain.

“Santome” is a combination of the Kamitome District, where Yamato Gokin is located, the Nakatomi District in Tokorozawa City, and the Shimotomi District, and so it covers a vast area. During the period of land allocation and division over three hundred years ago, and continuing until the present day, the boundaries of the land became an elongated shape with a road surface of 72 meters by 675 meters. In fact, the area is of great value and is even being considered for registration as a United World Heritage Site. If you’re interested, you can see the scale and patchwork-like land distribution using Google Maps.

The scenery of the Santome-kaitakuchiwaraiseki area is said to be comparable to that of Biei, Hokkaido, but as Santome is made up of primarily flat land, you can only see crops for as far as the eye can see. Moreover, the main crop of the area is the sweet potato, so there is not much of a change in color, either.

Although sweet potatoes are famous in the neighboring Kawagoe City, there is also a potato called the “tomi no Kawagoe imo,” and it is produced in the Santome District. From winter, you will be able to try the “tomi no Kawagoe” potato at some of the stalls that usually set up along the road. There is even an annual event called the “World’s No.1 Potato Harvesting Festival” that is held in the area.

You may not have known about the area’s potato production or its patchwork-like, elongated design, but for those who don’t know where Yamato Gokin is located or haven’t particularly thought about it, please remember that Yamato Gokin is just right next door. From Tokyo, take the Tokorozawa exit (IC 2km) on the Kanetsu Expressway, and Yamato

Gokin is just on the left-hand side.

*Thank you for reading and for your continued support.*