

“Time Flies, 50 Years Have Gone By” — The Story of an Engineer Mr. Maeda



When Mr. Maeda first joined AEC 50 years ago, the company was a small operation with just 20 to 30 employees and three company vehicles. Today, AEC has grown into a thriving organization with over 1,200 employees—and Mr. Maeda has been part of that journey every step of the way. As he prepares to retire in June 2025, we sat down with him to look back on his remarkable career.

◀ Mr. Maeda, with a bouquet and certificate of appreciation in his arms.

■ Looking Back on the Early Days

■ Looking Back on the Early Days

“When I started, there were only about 20 or 30 of us, and just three company cars,” Mr. Maeda recalls with a smile. “We didn’t have all the tools we needed, and other companies would often be surprised by how basic our methods were. But we made it work. It was tough, but those challenges have become fond memories.”



▲ Circa 1975, when the head office was located in Nodake.



▲ Around 1982, as the company began to expand steadily.

■ A Company in Transition

At first, we only took on small-scale projects. But then, seemingly overnight, we began landing major construction and renovation contracts.”

That shift ushered in a busier—and far more exciting—era.

“I was just focused on doing my job every day. And before I knew it, the company had grown into something much bigger.”

■ His Motto

■ What Mattered Most

Throughout his career, Mr. Maeda held two principles above all: “build exactly according to the plans” and “never miss a deadline.”

“Planning ahead is everything,” he said. His words carry the quiet authority of someone who’s lived them.

■ The Key to Longevity

“Even if I am convinced I am right, others may have a different view. The key is to keep your passion for the work alive,” he said.

What sustained him through five decades wasn’t just technical skill—it was the adaptability and passion he nurtured through collaboration.



▲ ▼ On his final day, the company president and department manager shared their heartfelt stories and memories with Mr. Maeda.



■ Looking Forward to Retirement

First, I’ll probably start by decluttering the house,” he said with a smile.

And there’s one promise he’s especially eager to keep—with his wife

“When we got married, we promised to take a trip once a year. But we never really got around to it...” Now, he’s ready to finally enjoy those long-overdue adventures together.

Fifty years is no small milestone.

Mr. Maeda’s words were filled with warmth and wisdom, and his legacy will no doubt inspire the generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Maeda, for your incredible dedication and service.