Biographies

Toru Nishikawa
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Preferred Networks, Inc.

Toru Nishikawa is the Chief Executive Officer of Preferred Networks, Inc. (PFN), a Tokyo-based technology company that he co-founded in March 2014 to advance deep learning towards practical use across industries. Under his leadership, MN-3, PFN's supercomputer powered by its proprietary AI processor MN-Core™, has topped the Green500 list of the world's most energy-efficient supercomputers three times.

Prior to co-founding PFN, Nishikawa was the CEO of Preferred Infrastructure, Inc., PFN's predecessor for natural language processing and other software development. He co-founded Preferred Infrastructure with a PFN co-founder Daisue Okanohara and others while he was a graduate student in 2006.

Nishikawa obtained his Master's degree from the University Tokyo's Graduate School of Information Science and Technology in 2007. An avid programmer since childhood, he reached the 19th place at the 30th International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC) in 2006. He is a recipient of the 2013 Software Japan Award from the Information Processing Society of Japan.

Daisuke Okanohara
Co-Founder, Chief Technology Officer, Preferred Networks, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer, Matlantis Corporation
Chief Executive Officer, Preferred Elements, Inc.

Daisuke Okanohara is the Chief Technology Officer of Preferred Networks, Inc. (PFN), a Tokyo-based technology company that he co-founded in March 2014 to advance deep learning towards practical use across industries. He currently leads PFN's research projects on foundation models and other AI technologies.

Okanohara also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Matlantis Corporation, a PFN subsidiary for the sales of the Matlantis™ universal atomistic simulator for materials discovery. He is also the CEO of Preferred Elements, another PFN subsidiary focused on development of multimodal foundation models.

Okanohara co-founded PFN's predecessor Preferred Infrastructure with PFN CEO Toru Nishikawa and others when he was a graduate student in 2006. He received a Ph.D degree in Computer Science from the University of Tokyo in 2010. He has authored and co-authored several books in Japan on AI, deep learning, diffusion models and foundation models.