

A Message from the President

Contributing to a Vibrant Future

When I consider the distant future that awaits humankind and then look back at the long march of history, I am reminded that the present is not simply a point in time, but part of a continuous and inexorable stream of events. This one continuous stream also includes the business activities of corporations.

Corporations have been in existence for only a fraction of humankind's long history, but they have made a major contribution to improving our living standards. However, the business activities of corporations have also resulted in various environmental problems which threaten the environment that supports human life on this planet. It is our responsibility to recognize this fact and to use this opportunity to work collectively for the greater good. We must combine our knowledge and wisdom to create an enriched global community where future generations can live in harmony with the planet.

Since early on, the Toyota Industries Group has reacted swiftly to the increasing demand for industrial machinery and advances in automation. We are proud to have developed products and systems that have contributed to enhancing the quality of daily life. At the same time, these products have had an undeniable impact on the environment. There are a range of issues to address, from the use of chemical substances to the emissions and waste produced by developing, manufacturing and using our products.

The company's acknowledgement of its environmental impact led Toyota Industries to form its own Environmental Committee in 1993. Since then, we have been strongly committed to carrying out activities that help to reduce the environmental impact of our business activities. During FY 2002—the second year of deployment of the Third Environmental Action Plan—we earnestly strove to achieve the targets.

These targets are based on the following major policies laid down in the Third Environmental Action Plan:

- Develop and provide clean products with minimal environmental impact
- Promote manufacturing that strives for zero emissions
- Expand the environmental management system
- Actively participate in public environmental conservation efforts as an upstanding corporate citizen

One of our achievements in FY 2002 was to foster the establishment of environmental management systems at our subsidiaries, thus expanding the scope of our environmental management system beyond Toyota Industries itself. Furthermore, in January 2003 we issued the Toyota Industries Group Corporate Commitment to the Environment, which has led to an even greater commitment to environmental efforts at all our subsidiaries worldwide.

We have now reached the halfway point for the Third Environmental Action Plan. Through FY 2005, when the Plan reaches its conclusion, we will continue to make environmental conservation and management one of our top priorities. Each and every employee of the Toyota Industries Group is striving to accomplish the five-year targets set forth in the Plan.

The Environmental Report 2003 presents the principal results of our activities carried out between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003. However, it is impossible to describe the full scope of our environmental activities within this report. Therefore, we invite readers to share their invaluable questions and opinions so that we may respond to them openly.

We at Toyota Industries are committed to working diligently to contribute to a bright future for all.

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Tadashi Ishikawa

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