

# A Message from the President

## Our Precious Earth-

According to some estimates, the Earth's origin dates back some 4.6 billion years. During the history of its evolution, the Earth has fostered various forms of life. The human race as we know it today is one of the life forms that developed during this astounding process. And our rich material civilization owes its evolution to the many benefits we have received from Mother Earth.

The price we are now paying for this material affluence, however, is the appearance of various global environmental problems. Today, we are faced with a hazardous situation that puts the existence of the entire human race in jeopardy. Regardless of whether it be on an individual or corporate level, we must rethink our global economic activities, lifestyles, and in particular our moral values.

In recent years, reflecting the growing severity of this situation, we are seeing more activity aimed at resolving these environmental issues. Since the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, focus around the world has turned to the prevention of global warming. Today in industry, technological development and production activities are conducted with the reduction of environmental impacts in mind. Many governments are establishing laws to protect the environment, and academic institutions are making various recommendations. Moreover, on an individual level, consumers are becoming more adamant regarding environmental issues.

While it is expected that we will face further complications, I believe environmental activities should be handled independently at various levels—private, regional, corporate, government, and global. I strongly feel it is necessary to work together on a global level, putting together all our knowledge, to create a sustainable society.

As an assembler of automobiles and a developer and manufacturer of automotive parts, forklift trucks, and other materials handling equipment, we have made various contributions to society and industry on an international level. At the same time, however, we cannot deny the fact that our production activities and the life cycle of our products have an impact on the environment.

We recognize this fact and therefore position environmental conservation and management as one of our top priorities. These activities, which we strongly promote, are outlined in our basic philosophy, policy, and action guidelines.

We are currently in the second year of our Third Environmental Action Plan, which specifically details our strategies. All of us at Toyota Industries are striving to accomplish our targets related to the following concepts:

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

The Environmental Report 2002 contains the major results of our activities carried out between April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002. The purpose of this report is to promote a wider understanding of Toyota Industries' actions in response to environmental issues.

We plan to continue reporting responsibly on our activities. In addition, we invite readers to give us their valuable opinions. Working together with the community, Toyota Industries strives to make a contribution to helping to save our precious Earth.

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*Tadashi Ishikawa*

**Tadashi Ishikawa**  
President and Chairman of  
the Environmental Committee  
TOYOTA INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

