

A Message from the President

The 21st century can be called the century of the environment. Economies and societies have been dramatically affected by the rapid development of IT (Information Technology) and other examples of the astonishing wave of technological innovation in the last 10 years of the 20th century. We now live in an age when information transmission is instant and not affected by distance, enabling the environmental protection trend that began in Europe to sweep the world. The world is realizing that environmental protection is a matter of survival for humankind in the 21st century.

Against this background, Toyota Industries Corporation is diversifying its mainstay businesses—textile machinery, vehicles, engines, material handling systems, car air-conditioning compressors, and electronic products—and is increasing the scale of its production. Over the last 10 years, we have also rapidly globalized our operations, setting up a string of overseas production bases and acquiring some foreign companies. At the same time, we keep a close eye on environmental protection trends in Europe and North America, and pursue economic development in harmony with the environment in the belief that environmental protection is a management priority. As a part of this effort, Toyota Industries unveiled its Third Environmental Action Plan in August 2000, with the goal of providing products that are clean, safe, and of superior quality by stepping up environmental protection activities.

Toyota Industrial Equipment, S.A. (TIESA), of France, has become the latest member of the Group to acquire ISO 14001 certification following Toyota Industrial Equipment Mfg., Inc. (TIEM), and Michigan Automotive Compressor, Inc. (MACI), our U.S. subsidiaries. Some of the manufacturing bases of BT Industries AB, a Swedish warehouse truck maker that we acquired in June 2000, have been ISO 14001 certified. We are working to obtain certification for all remaining domestic and overseas plants, to establish a consolidated Groupwide environmental management system covering operations at home and abroad.

We are upgrading and making better use of design guidelines for evaluating the environmental impact of substances contained in newly developed products and for improving their recyclability. New Design Review methods enable us to assess the environmental impact of products at the initial stage of development. Simultaneously, we launched our Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program and introduced a method for carrying out environmental evaluations of newly designed products.

To recognize the importance of making environmental protection activities and progress public, and of contributing to society, we support voluntary activities by our employees and interact with local communities. In these and other ways, we are able to closely monitor local public opinion.

It is my firm belief that, by ensuring that our products and services are environment-friendly, Toyota Industries is making a small but significant contribution to the establishment of a sustainable global community.

This is our third environmental report since we began producing them in 1999. We will be very glad if we have succeeded in giving people a better idea of what we are doing to improve the environment and how we are going about it. We invite readers to give us their comments on this report and suggest how it could be improved.

August 2001

Tadashi Ishikawa
President

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