

Message from the top

THK's efforts to protect the environment

Environmental issues and business activities

Global environmental problems and global warming in particular are critical issues for human beings, since human life can only be sustained by partaking in the planet's bounty. Industrialized countries and advanced civilizations have produced societies that consume energy at levels the world has never seen before. If we opt to simply cling to our existing industrial structures, we will surely be headed down a one-way path to a destination from which there is no return. To prevent this, we must constantly look for ways to save energy and strive to achieve a transition to renewable energy resources.

Business activities were once driven almost exclusively by the desire to earn profits and create affluent societies. As science and technology have advanced, however, the world has come to realize that business activities need to be conducted with careful attention to environmental repercussions.

THK, meanwhile, continues to expand. We have set up production sites in each of our four territories—Japan, the Americas, Europe, and the rest of Asia—based on the idea that the site of demand is the optimal site of production. We are aware that this means leaving a larger environmental imprint, which provides all the more motivation to squarely address the issue of global warming.

Fortunately, THK products are part of the solution. Our LM Guides contribute significantly to reduced energy consumption, making it possible to consume only one-tenth the power required when conventional sliding-motion guides are used. As THK products become incorporated into more and more industrial mechanisms, energy conservation will improve ex-

ponentially.

In accordance with THK's corporate philosophy, "providing innovative products to the world and generating new trends to contribute to the creation of an affluent society," I sincerely hope we can continue to contribute to energy conservation through our business activities, together with our customers.

Establishment of the Committee for the Promotion of Energy Conservation

THK is carrying out an initiative called TAP2* at its production facilities, in an effort to improve operational efficiency. TAP2, which incorporates the just-in-time principle, is devoted to eliminating waste wherever possible and achieving the minimum possible use of material resources and energy. In addition to the primary objective, which is to raise productivity, TAP2 has a number of secondary goals, including conservation of resources and energy and the minimizing of waste.

By themselves, however, such efforts are insufficient for preserving and improving the global environment. We have therefore established a Committee for the Promotion of Energy Conservation at THK headquarters and have held energy conservation meetings at our plants to promote further energy-saving activities.

* TAP: THK Advantage Program. There are three types: TAP1 (sales), TAP2 (production), and TAP3 (administration).

Contributing to energy conservation through our products

THK's LM Guides and Ball Screws help reduce environmental burdens. They are used in machines that turn out products requiring high positioning accuracy, such as semiconductors, and products that require high rigidity and operate at high speeds, such as machine tools and industrial robots, as well as in automotive components, for which their lightweight design and high rigidity help reduce energy consumption. THK is now developing products intended for use in electric cars and experimental wind-power stations—products that contribute directly to energy conservation. We will continue to actively develop new markets and applications and provide our customers with a broad range of products designed for use in new environmentally friendly fields.

I would like to add a final thought. The cost of confronting environmental problems may present a gloomy prospect for industry, but there is a bright side: Japanese companies, in particular, have a unique opportunity to pursue and achieve important technological innovations. In the past, the need to overcome pollution problems and oil crises led Japanese companies to develop advanced technologies and innovative products. I'm convinced that they can once again come up with technologies and products that will win worldwide acclaim in the areas of energy conservation and natural energy resources. THK, for its part, will continue to explore these areas and present new ideas in the hope of making a meaningful contribution.



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