Message from the top

Rebuilding Japan and THK's contribution

Our hopes in rebuilding after the Great East Japan Earthquake

A tragic event befell Japan on the March 11, 2011. Many people lost their lives and many went missing in the earthquake and the ensuing tsunami. My heartfelt sympathy and condolences go to all the victims of this disaster.

When I saw the dire situation in the devastated areas, I again appreciated the admirable character of the Japanese people. Under these severe circumstances, many victims of the disaster placed priority on keeping order and helping the weak. I was deeply impressed and even awed seeing how they tried not to complain and acted in a level-headed manner.

Witnessing these heroic, proud-spirited people, I am of the firm conviction that the disaster-stricken areas will recover quickly and Japan will soon overcome this national crisis. It will embark on a road toward continued growth.

THK's disaster response

Although THK was affected by the earthquake and tsunami, it was lucky to suffer only minor damage given the unprecedented severity of the disaster. Thanks to the information gathering activities of our Earthquake Task Force and support from plants and business sites that were not affected, we were able to act quickly and effectively under my leadership immediately after the disaster struck and implement our recovery plans. While all of our employees were safe, homes were destroyed and loved ones were lost. Yet, despite all this misfortune, they devoted themselves to restoring plant operations so we could fulfill our responsibilities to our customers. The employees in our sales offices including their families also responded quickly to the earthquake disaster

and were able to maintain the company's operations without interruption. I am deeply impressed by THK's concerted offensive to press ahead with recovery work and would like to thank everyone for their efforts.

Preparing to rebuild Japan

Damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake was enormous in all affected prefectures, and recovery from this disaster will require time and a huge amount of public funds. In addition, problems in handling the accident at the nuclear power plant and finding solutions to radioactive contamination in the surrounding areas will weigh heavily on Japan. As a citizen of this nation and a businessman, I am highly motivated to contribute to the best of my ability toward an early recovery for Japan.

To this end, THK as a whole will urgently review ways of dealing with power shortages, improving supply chains, and implementing our BCP (Business Continuity Plan), so that we can contribute to reviving the Japanese economy throughout our production activities. I am acutely aware of the need for THK to accelerate its production so that, no matter what kind of disaster we face, the company can maintain a stable supply of products. This, in turn, will enable its many customers to supply their clients with products, machines, etc., and by extension, contribute significantly to economic and social development.

This disaster may lead to Japanese companies shifting production to overseas locations and customers switching to overseas manufacturers rather than buying from Japanese companies. Even if this trend should materialize, THK has already optimized its local production in line with demand and is able to meet its delivery responsibilities by drawing on plants in Japan and in various parts of the world. As

far as demand is concerned, I take pride in knowing that THK and all its production sites, both in Japan and overseas, are making a significant contribution to revival of the Japanese economy by continuing to meet its delivery deadlines.

40th anniversary

On April 10 of this year, THK marked its 40th anniversary. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to our customers for their loyalty, to our partner businesses for their support, to all our shareholders and to our tireless employees for having made this possible.

This 40th anniversary is a turning point for us. THK has set "Global 10 21" as a major goal. As a pioneer in linear motion systems, we must continue to develop and supply products to satisfy the needs of customers worldwide. We fully realize from the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster how seriously we would be impacted by an interruption in the supply of THK's key products. Luckily our company has pursued full-scale globalization and operates production facilities throughout the world. If disaster should strike anywhere in the world, our product supply would not be interrupted and would be capable of meeting the demands of our customers. Let us all pitch in and unite with the employees of our group companies in implementing "Global 10 21," understanding the meaning of corporate social responsibility and feeling proud of being a part of "THK - Always at the service of our customers."

Akihiro Teramachi
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