

## Opening Remarks

The human race is entering upon a new millennium.

In the course of the 20th century mankind has made scientific and technological progress to a degree never before seen in his history. The economically advanced nations have created a civilization of material abundance and the developing world is on the way to escaping from poverty.

But these same trends have, in advanced countries, given rise to a culture of mass production, consumption and waste, and in the developing nations have led to the problem of an exploding population. The result is a progressive destruction of our environment, with depletion of the earth's resources of fossil fuels, water, and minerals, damage to the ozone layer, global warming, and the dispersion of harmful chemicals.

Man's activities are on the verge of exceeding the earth's own capacity to regenerate the environment.

If we are to bequeath to coming generations the earth's irreplaceable resources and environment, we must create, in the coming century, a model for sustainable growth-an environmentally sound society. We must not forget that mankind is an inextricable part of the global environment.

Furukawa Electric has long recognized that protection of the environment is one of the most important issues facing society, and we have made environmental awareness the cornerstone of all phases of our corporate activities.

In 1974 we established the Environmental Control Department and in 1999 upgraded it to the Safety, Environment and Health Promotion Department. In 1993 we enunciated a voluntary plan for environmental protection entitled "Basic Thinking on the Protection of the Global Environment" and in 1998 we announced our "Basic Environment Policy." To make our manufacturing processes more environment-friendly we are working to eliminate the use of materials damaging to the ozone layer, to save energy and prevent global warming, to reduce industrial waste, to promote recycling, and to promote the development of environmentally sound technologies and environment-friendly products.

We are on our way to acquiring ISO 14001 certification for all of our facilities, and are moving aggressively with such initiatives as eliminating the use of organic halide compounds and expanding the range of environment-friendly products.

This report summarizes Furukawa Electric's activities in the field of environmental protection for fiscal 1999, ended March 31, 2000.

We welcome your opinions and suggestions.



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President