

Opening Remarks

The human race has come face to face with the 21st Century.

Through scientific and technical advance the 20th Century laid the foundations of a society of affluence, but at the same time it has raised concerns about pollution of the earth's environment and depletion of its natural resources through indiscriminate consumption.

I believe that the 21st Century will be crucial in determining whether we human beings go on enjoying a bounteous environment and continue to flourish.

We are charged with the duty of conserving this global environment, so essential to mankind's continued existence, for the sake of our children and our children's children. It is therefore incumbent of us to develop ways for mankind to live in harmony with the environment -to build an environment-friendly society. And this will require us to turn away from traditional mass consumption and profligate waste.

In anticipation of such a time, we at Furukawa Electric are ever more aware that we must treat harmonization with the environment as an important part of our management strategy, focusing people on the environment and focusing our Company on people.

In the past Furukawa Electric has been deeply involved in enterprises that were basic to industry, and our activities have had an important impact on the environment. We have made significant contribution toward a more affluent society-whether by recycling copper and aluminum, by developing ultrahigh-voltage power cables, fiber-optic cables and wavelength-division multiplexing technology, thereby promoting conservation of earth's resources through energy and resource saving.

And in the years to come we will continue to contribute to protecting the global environment and conserving natural resources by developing environment-friendly products incorporating sophisticated technology.

In 1999, Furukawa Electric pledged that we would obtain ISO 14001 certification for all of our production facilities by 2002. Following the Chiba and Mie Works, certification was obtained in 2000 for three facilities - Hiratsuka, Osaka and Kambara- and our other facilities are proceeding according to plan.

We have also been actively working in other areas of environment protection, including reduction in organic chlorine compounds, energy-saving measures, reduction of industrial effluents, and elimination of the use of CFCs, as well as in the publication of environment information.

This report summarizes Furukawa Electric's efforts in the field of environment protection for fiscal year 2000.

We realize there are still areas where improvement can be made, and we are most open to any opinions or suggestions that you may have to offer.



Junnosuke Furukawa
President