Hitachi's Initiative for Total Security (HITS)

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IN November 1989, the Berlin Wall, the symbol of the cold war after World War II, was torn down at an amazing speed. In December 1991, the Soviet Union, one of the world superpowers, collapsed. More than a decade has passed since the end of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union. At that time, everyone thought that the world would become more stable and peaceful. The 007 James Bond series became a thing of the past. People all over the world believed that the 21st century would be a time of peace and prosperity for all.

However, since September 11, 2001 the world has started to move in a much different direction than we expected. It is very difficult, even for experts, to predict what will happen next, and where, and when. In this new era of turbulence, Japan has jumped into the turbulent waters and is swimming alone with a whole new set of international responsibilities.

Looking at our domestic situation, the violent crime rate is increasing, while there is a drop in the number of offenders being brought to justice. We must now take some action to protect ourselves in order to live peacefully and safely. I could say that the time when water and safety were free in this country is gone forever.

Almost everybody knows about protecting personal information and has experienced the expenses and frustrations caused by computer viruses. People understand the need for web security software, whereas, the need for personal, physical protection and security has not yet been recognized. Now that war and antiterrorist measures have become an international responsibility for all countries, we have to take action to protect our society, while not disturbing the world order.

Hitachi, Ltd. is now providing some solutions for physical security as well as for information security, and contributing to making Japan a safe and secure society once again.

In this special issue on physical security systems, we will introduce our long-term research and development technologies, such as biotechnology for finding imposters, sensor technologies for preventing unauthorized approaches, detection technologies for finding explosives and illegal chemical agents, and screening technologies for checking containers with a large amount of goods.

With these technologies, Hitachi wants to contribute to the protection of our airports, seaports, train stations, and other important public or private facilities.

We are developing and applying state-of-the-art technologies to ensure a safe and secure future for everyone. "Inspire the Next" — this is our mission.