

## Message from the Planners

IN 2008, Hitachi, Ltd. established its Environmental Strategy Office, announced its long-term plan Environmental Vision 2025 which aims to help reduce annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 100 million tonnes by fiscal 2025, and decided on a policy in which the environment plays a pivotal role in its business activities. Following on from a 2008 issue of Hitachi Review dedicated to global environmental strategy, the contents of this issue include a summary of Hitachi's next Environmental Action Plan and an overview of Hitachi's environmental activities in its R&D (research and development) and business.

Concern about global environmental problems continues to strengthen through the international negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which seeks to establish a framework to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In Japan, meanwhile, a change of government has led to the establishment of a new target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% compared to 1990 levels by 2020, the updating of the government's Basic Energy Plan, and debate of the Basic Act on Prevention of Global Warming.

Against this background, the recent Great East Japan Earthquake has forced a rethink of existing policies. In addition to stepping up its efforts to improve energy security, including nuclear power generation, Hitachi intends to pay close attention to environment and energy policy trends in Japan and overseas. In addition to its consideration of the global environment, Hitachi also intends to contribute to earthquake recovery and reconstruction.

This issue opens with "One Person's View" in which Dr. Naoki Adachi, Chief Executive Officer of Response Ability, Inc., gives us his views on a sustainable society that makes use of biological resources. In another article, Nobuo Tanaka, former Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) speaks with Hiroaki Nakanishi, Representative Executive Officer and President of Hitachi, Ltd. about the current state of world energy policy and the outlook for the future.

This issue also covers Hitachi's worldwide involvement with next-generation smart cities that combine concern for the environment with urban sustainability, articles on electricity supply systems that contribute to the creation of a low-carbon society, green mobility, power electronics and energy saving solutions for industry for making further progress on improving the energy efficiency of society and industry, and home electronics that help save energy in the home. Other articles describe water environment solutions that help preserve the ecosystem, resource recycling in which rare earth metals are an important topic, and high functional materials that support environmentally conscious products.

We hope that this issue will be of some assistance to activities aimed at reconstructing social infrastructure and building a sustainable society as well as work on protecting the global environment.

### Planners for this special issue on Hitachi Group's Global Environmental Strategies



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