

Preface to the “IT Solutions for the Age of Globalization” Special Features



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THE world today is in the midst of many changes. Last year, Japan was struck by a great earthquake that was truly a national disaster. Consequently, the manufacturing industry has been unable to obtain parts that were previously sourced from the northeastern part of Japan, causing setbacks in production. In addition, governments of Arab economies have been collapsing one after another due to people's revolutions, leading to disruptions in the flow of oil and making the procurement of energy difficult. The downturn in the American economy, the European financial turmoil, and other factors have caused a rapid and strong appreciation in the yen, dealing a major blow to export industries as the global economy's future has grown uncertain.

On the other hand, markets are rapidly expanding in developing economies such as China, which has surpassed Japan to achieve the world's second largest GDP (gross domestic product), as well as India, Russia, and Brazil. For this reason, corporations that are expanding their businesses must treat developing economies, together with Europe, USA, and Japan, as one of the key markets.

In addition to social infrastructure businesses such as electrical power and transportation, Hitachi is also expanding globally in the field of information and telecommunications. These special features, which describe the IT solutions that Hitachi is deploying on a global scale, are intended to benefit anyone who is considering global business operations. The first article “Hitachi's IT Solutions for the Age of Globalization” starts out by presenting Hitachi's global strategy, and is followed by articles introducing our global efforts in the areas of “IT solutions for global market needs” as well as “IT solutions for global corporations.”

It is true that global business operations involve a greater amount of risk than domestic business operations do. Nevertheless, it is also true that many businesses cannot grow without global expansion. My hope is not only that these special features will help you to understand Hitachi's efforts in providing global IT solutions, but also that the solutions we provide will help you to expand your businesses further.