

Message from the Planner

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While the international trend toward urbanization accelerates, the world also faces a number of challenges that are becoming increasingly more serious, including sharp resource depletion driven by population growth and environmental problems on a global scale. This is creating a need for smart cities that can confront these challenges in a comprehensive way and sustain ongoing growth while minimizing carbon emissions.

Hitachi, Ltd. established its Smart City Business Management Division (currently Social Innovation Business Project Division) in April 2010 to develop and coordinate business activities in the smart city sector in collaboration with other parts of Hitachi and with partners inside and outside Japan. What we are aiming to achieve is the creation of a well-balanced relationship between people and the Earth. Hitachi's vision for smart cities involves creating a sustainable society in terms of both economics and how we deal with the environment, with a well-balanced natural harmony between the "eco" value of reducing the impact on the environment, and the human-centered "experience" values of comfort, safety, convenience, and well-being. What establishes this well-balanced relationship between "eco" and "experience" is the numerous public infrastructure systems that manage our cities and our way of life.

Hitachi has been involved in the construction of various different types of infrastructure systems for many years. These infrastructure systems are undergoing major changes that are closely related to the rapid progress currently taking place in the field of IT (information technology). Possibilities that are now being realized include the generation of new value through the utilization of large quantities of information collected within infrastructure systems, and the creation of new services through interoperation between different types of infrastructure. In this way, the creation of smart cities is about more than just the use of new technologies in the development of cities. Rather, Hitachi also believes in the importance of opening up new possibilities for the people, businesses, and other stakeholders who live in these cities.

The Technotalk article in this issue features a discussion on the system technologies that manage public infrastructure between Professor Seiichi Shin of The University of Electro-Communications and Yutaka Saito, President & CEO, Infrastructure Systems Group and Infrastructure Systems Company, Hitachi, Ltd. Meanwhile, in this issue's Special Contribution, Hiromichi Iwasa, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd., has contributed an article about the Kashiwanoha Campus City, which seeks to provide a growth-oriented and fine-tuned Japanese model for smart cities.

Other articles in this issue describe service infrastructure (such as finance, administration, and healthcare), public infrastructure (such as energy, transportation, water, and telecommunications), and the IT platforms and other system technologies that support this public infrastructure, with a focus on Hitachi's capabilities, activities, and philosophies in the field of smart cities.

Through this issue, I hope you will find Hitachi's involvement in the field of smart cities to be both interesting and helpful.

Planner for this special issue on Hitachi's Vision of the Smart City



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