

Preface to Solutions for Factories and Industrial Plants



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ALONG with the growing global demand for social and industrial infrastructure systems comes the need to make these systems more advanced. Emerging economies in particular are experiencing a dramatic rise in demand for social and industrial infrastructure against a background of rapid population growth and economic progress, where social infrastructure includes water, energy, and large urban developments, and industrial infrastructure includes industrial estates and resource development. In Japan, meanwhile, moves to restructure global supply chains that were triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 are accelerating, and this in turn is leading to a rapid expansion in overseas operations by Japanese companies.

To respond to this global demand for infrastructure construction, Hitachi is engaged in a wide range of activities that extend beyond products, systems, and plant engineering to encompass new social innovation technologies powered by information technology (IT) that organically link these elements together.

This issue of Hitachi Review describes how the different divisions of Hitachi work together to provide

a global, one-stop shop for total solutions that cover: (1) components based on competitive core products, (2) engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) solutions that support plants through every step from planning and design to construction, and (3) services that extend across the lifecycle of components and plants, from maintenance and operation through to business activities.

With a focus on solutions for factories and other industrial plants, articles in this issue cover the establishment of collaborative arrangements with customers for plant construction, case studies describing the construction of pharmaceutical and chemical plants and water treatment systems, example applications of energy management and energy efficiency technologies, and the after-sales services that Hitachi supplies for plants.

I hope that you will find these articles on Hitachi's advanced technologies and involvement in social innovation in the fields of social and industrial infrastructure to be worthwhile, and that they will prove useful to your business.