

Inspiring the World with Open Innovation

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your ongoing support of the *Hitachi Review*.

With the rapid urbanization currently taking place around the world, especially in emerging economies, there is an urgent need for infrastructure to support ever-increasing populations, including the maintenance of energy security and the construction of transportation networks. Meanwhile, developed economies are searching for better ways to provide healthcare in order to cope with an aging population and to ensure that people enjoy long and healthy lives.

While environmental changes and other trends present challenges for societies throughout the world, they can also be seen as part of a broad movement that is shaping our future. Hitachi recognizes these developments as a major opportunity for innovation, and we are working to deliver solutions to the challenges faced by customers and communities around the world. Our Social Innovation Business, which combines advanced information technology (IT) with infrastructure technologies developed over many years, provides us with a strong foundation upon which to approach and try to solve these issues.

As more societies become globalized, these challenges broaden in scope and impact greater numbers of stakeholders. There are also many cases where it is beyond the capabilities of any one organization to find appropriate solutions. To achieve solutions that deliver greater value, it is essential to adopt an approach based on open innovation that transcends the borders and barriers between companies and industries, between industry, government, and academia, and between national and community levels. Hitachi calls this “collaborative creation” and is working in partnership with customers and other companies on projects in fields such as water, energy, and transportation.

The leading article in this issue of the *Hitachi Review* draws on the perspective of experts who are familiar with the true nature of open innovation. The content describes how Hitachi is implementing new service platforms using advanced data utilization technologies. Other articles focus on solution developments that anticipate reforms to the electricity system in Japan and on collaborative creation in the field of railway services, which is a key part of the transportation infrastructure. In addition, there are articles that demonstrate how Hitachi and a customer are combining their expertise to improve the efficiency of hospital management, and to make logistics smarter through tools that can be used to promote group-wide collaboration and collaborative creation with customers.

The explosive growth in the use of communications devices and sensors in recent years is ushering in a new era of the Internet of things (IoT) in which numerous different devices are connected by networks. With the IoT, which is expected to transform people’s daily lives and business activities, there is the possibility of causing revolutionary changes, right now in the 21st century, that rivals the industrial revolution of the latter half of the 18th century. Hitachi’s Social Innovation Business with its foundation in the advanced know-how in IT utilization that the company has developed over many years demonstrates its true value even more so in a time like this. Beginning with the case studies covered in this issue, we hope you will look forward to the challenges we plan to address in the future as well.

During this inspiring time in history when revolutionary changes are taking place, Hitachi is holding steadfast to its Mission of “contributing to society through the development of superior, original technology and products.” Working closely with numerous partners, we will strive to live up to the expectations of the world.



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