

Introduction

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■ Being a corporate leader in "the Century of the Environment"

The 21st century has begun, and with awareness of the importance of environmental protection already high, action is underway around the world to create sustainable economies and societies.

The debate on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to combat global warming is drawing to a conclusion, and in Japan as elsewhere, environmental legislation is being enacted and implemented. Action to protect the environment is at last really underway.

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) will this year be strengthening its alliance with DaimlerChrysler, and has begun implementing its turnaround plan to reinvent itself and revamp its organizational and management structure. On the environmental front, MMC continues to regard the environment as a management priority, and will pursue action to protect the environment being aware of its position as a leading company in the 21st century.

We shall work to minimize the environmental impact at every stage of our activities, from vehicle development, procurement and production through to the sale and servicing of vehicles. We shall therefore strive to reduce the impact on the environment of each vehicle supplied to the consumer, recycle as much of the content of end-of-life vehicles as possible, and make our plants and other facilities more environmentally friendly.

Automobiles improve the convenience of everyday life, and their central role in the logistics system makes them vital to the growth of industrial activity. It is also true, however, that they have a considerable impact on the environment. The challenge we face, then, is to produce vehicles that have high fuel efficiency so as to protect the global environment, and that emit clean exhaust so as not to harm the urban environment.

All of our production plants have already been certified as being compliant with the ISO14001 environmental management standard. Accordingly, we are continuously implementing measures to protect the environment around plants, conserve energy, and reduce waste emissions. We are also working in collaboration with our suppliers and dealers to protect the environment.

By using the Internet and producing pamphlets such as this, we aim to provide full information disclosure and keep the public fully informed and up-to-date concerning our activities to protect the environment.

And I can promise you that MMC will continue to take voluntary action to protect the global environment for the benefit of future generations.



Takashi Sonobe
President & CEO

■ On the publication of the 2001 Environmental Report

Protection of the environment has become a priority for both business and society at large, requiring swift and effective action.

When MMC reorganized its internal structure in June this year, it also revised the organization of its Environmental Council. The main improvements were to streamline the council's setup to enable more vigorous discussion than in the past, to establish a new study team enabling a more rapid response to the Automobile Recycling Law in Japan, and to clarify the shared and separate components of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles. We will continue to enhance the activities.

Concern for the environment is an important pillar of our product development policy. As well as developing GDI engines offering outstanding fuel efficiency and clean energy vehicles such as fuel cell vehicles, electric vehicles, CNG vehicles and hybrid vehicles, we are also promoting the recycling of vehicles and the reduction of use of hazardous substances such as lead.

In FY2000, we also began introducing Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and further enhanced our environmental accounting.

Regarding our production activities, we eliminated the landfill disposal of waste at our Nagoya and Kyoto Plants in March this year, and aim to eliminate such disposal at all our other plants in Japan by the end of March 2002. All our plants in Japan have in addition been certified as ISO14001 compliant, and aim for all our affiliates, both within Japan and overseas, become compliant in the future. In addition, as part of our drive to promote "Green Procurement" begun in November last year, we have requested that our suppliers also become ISO14001 compliant.

As regards our sales operations, we set up a system last December in cooperation with our dealers to facilitate action to protect the environment.

Our intention in the future is to actively work hand in hand to protect the environment with not only other businesses, but also the national and local governments, customers, investors and the general public.

The 2001 Environmental Report was therefore published to inform our stakeholders and the public in general of our activities in the environmental arena. We shall continue with our efforts to protect the environment, and look forward to receiving any comments our readers may have concerning how to make our activities even more environmentally friendly.



Tadayoshi Juge
Environmental Officer & EO