Supporting Sustainable Social Development through Cooperation with Partners and Leading-edge Technologies

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HOW to combine sustainable economic growth with reducing the burden on the environment is currently an issue for the entire world. In emerging economies whose characteristics continue to include remarkable economic growth and rising populations, an important issue is how to take action to environmental problems: the expansion of their social and industrial infrastructure is proceeding at a rapid pace, responding to the increasing demand for energy and water, improving transport infrastructure, and strengthening industrial fundamentals. Meanwhile, in developed economies and regions that have already achieved a certain level of social infrastructure, demand for investment in equipment that takes account of the environment and other upgrades to the social and industrial infrastructure utilizing advanced IT (information technology) will continue to expand.

In response to these issues, Hitachi supplies social and industrial infrastructure systems on a global basis that feature not only safety, peace of mind, and high reliability but also a high level of environmental performance. The scope of these is not limited to Hitachi's extensive range of high-value-added products, its highly reliable control systems, its engineering, construction, and its support for operation and maintenance management. It also extends to undertaking a variety of activities that utilize new social innovation technologies that fuse together information technologies to link these elements in an organic way.

This issue of Hitachi Review presents examples of these activities. The first is the examples of introducing solutions and other products aimed at energy efficiency and reducing CO_2 (carbon dioxide) emissions to help achieve a low-carbon society. Secondly, steel industry systems that meet customer needs for high-quality production and energy efficiency are described. Then the electrification solutions that contribute to both the expansion of oil and gas resource development and environmental protection, environmentally conscious railway systems and their global deployment, and finally, how Hitachi deals with the global water environment. Other topics in this issue include power electronics technologies that support the implementation of these systems, solutions, and other products and what Hitachi is doing to help realize a sustainable society.

Achieving this requires not only individual product technologies and solution development but also the development of total solutions and business models that draw on the comprehensive strengths of Hitachi and an approach that involves new future-oriented innovation achieved by collaborating and joining with customers and a wide range of other partners. Hitachi's role is to apply its wide range of products and other solutions and its expertise built up through collaboration with customers and other partners to these new social and industrial needs, and to their solutions.

This year, Hitachi celebrates the centenary of its formation. Supported by a large number of customers over many years, Hitachi has built up its technology and expanded the scope of its business. The contents of this issue include actual results as well as future-oriented technologies and business concepts, and I hope that it will prove useful for identifying the solutions to problems for those of you considering the introduction of social and industrial infrastructure.