

Consideration for the Environment, and Contributions to Society

President,
Chief Executive Officer
and Director
Nobuo Mochida

Thank you for taking the time to look at the Hitachi Metals Group's 2009 CSR Report. This report presents the Hitachi Metals Group's stance toward corporate social responsibility (CSR), and our commitment to fulfilling our responsibility as a member of society.

Corporate Activity Rooted in a Strong Ethical Sense and Self-Discipline

The Hitachi Metals Group has since its founding continually strived to realize its corporate philosophy of being "the best possible company." This means that we must be more than just a corporation working in the pursuit of profit, and scrambling to grow in size. Underpinning the realization of the ideal of "the best possible company" is a strong ethical sense—a principle stipulated in the Hitachi Metals Group's Code of Conduct—along with corporate activity rooted in self-discipline. The economic growth of Japan is certainly welcome, but as has

become apparent in recent years, the more successful a company is financially, the more inclined it is to give priority to decisions based on narrowly rationalized values. Even in such circumstances, fundamentally the company must constantly hold to the principles of a strong ethical sense and self-discipline. This is the hope of the Hitachi Metals Group, and we feel that it is essential that these principles remain a regular part of a company's global development.

Hitachi Metals has unfortunately been involved in compliance-related problems in recent years, which was a cause of significant difficulty and concern for our stakeholders. Following this incident, Hitachi Metals took steps to change the way of

thinking within the Company and revise outdated business practices, working to firmly establish the ethical sense expected by society at large. We cannot avoid the fact that we were involved in illegal activity, and will continue to work over the long term to achieve the goal of a new way of thinking and doing business.

"Thinking about Our Next Generation-An Environmentally Friendly Solution"

The global economy has recently been buffeted by the acute crisis. The Hitachi Metals Group was also severely affected during the second half of fiscal 2008 by the global downturn triggered by the financial

crisis in the United States. However, this did not have a bearing on the superiority of the Group's products vis-a-vis its competitors. Rather, as a development-oriented company in the materials field, it was the degree to which we could extend and expand the nature of that superiority that underpinned our business continuity even during these difficult times.



Specific initiatives developed to achieve this incorporated the principle of "Thinking about Our Next Generation-An Environmentally Friendly Solution." We believe that even in the midst of depression and economic crisis, developing high quality products in harmony with the environment, and pursuing environmentally sustainable manufacturing, is what will allow us to achieve superiority.

It is therefore important for a materials manufacturer to understand the types of products commonly used in global markets, examine ways to make them more environmentally sound, and conduct technological development to achieve this. Conventional business models must be carefully examined and revised. We also feel that Japan's industrial structure will change considerably. As such, amid the conditions demanded by these various changes, it is essential for us to analyze industrial and technology trends to ascertain the product fields

most likely to grow, and pursue further globalization.

To give one example, as a result of the economic crisis and environmental concerns, the global automobile industry is now in the midst of a rapid shift from high-end to mid-range and small cars, and from gasoline to next-generation vehicles. These next-generation vehicles will invariably require electric motors, driving expansion in the market for the magnets used in those motors. Other areas include amorphous metals, where global demand is expected to rise for use in industrial infrastructure, mainly in emerging countries such as China and India. We also anticipate growth in electronics materials in the lithium battery and solar cell fields.

The Corporate Responsibility to Provide Returns to Society

The Hitachi Metals Group considers its stakeholders to be not only its business partners, shareholders and employees, but also its customers, the local communities where its businesses are based, local government bodies, and partner companies.

The profits a company earns are gained through cooperation with these stakeholders, and it is necessary to return a certain portion of the gains to them. Contributions to local communities are particularly important, as it is the understanding of the residents that allows for continued, stable operations. The Hitachi Metals Group is also helping to preserve traditional culture and production techniques through the restoration of *tatara* steel production, the traditional means of producing the *tamahagane* steel used in Japanese swords. This effort reflects the commitment to quality inherent in a manufacturer of steel, while at the same time contributes to society in the broadest

sense.

With the current economic crisis Hitachi Metals must adopt a realistic social contribution program, but in its core business will continue to use a variety of means to support social initiatives, and enhance its corporate value.

The CSR Report Conveys the Essence of Our CSR Activities

The Hitachi Metals Group makes a continuous effort to earn the trust of its stakeholders. From fiscal 2009 CSR disclosure has moved mainly online, with the 2009 CSR Report a type of digest version. In that sense, however, I feel that it is effective in clearly expressing, in an easy-to-understand way, the essence of those aspects of CSR that we consider particularly important.

Society today demands more than ever that a company act with a strong ethical sense. The Hitachi Metals Group is taking a proactive response to this expectation, and by continuing to create and publish a CSR report will promote smooth communication with stakeholders, and convey an open and honest message. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to contribute to a better society.



Corporate Governance

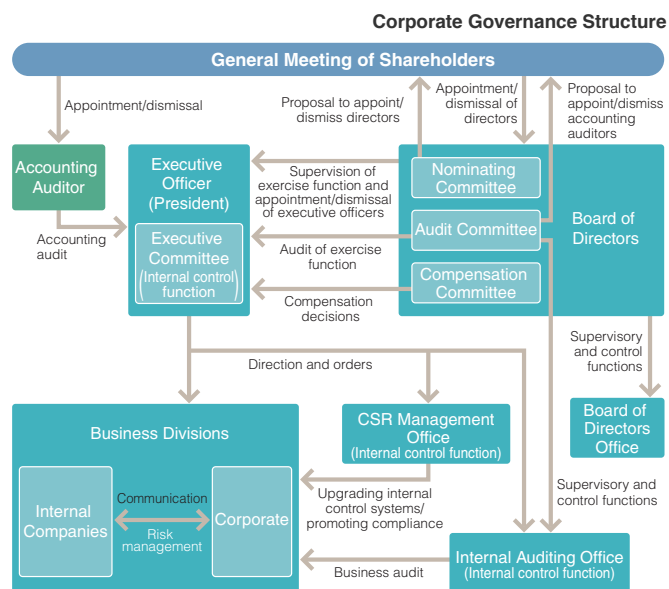
Basic Policy

The underlying basis for corporate governance at Hitachi Metals is to ensure management transparency and efficiency, meeting the needs of our stakeholders, and increasing corporate value. We believe this to be one of the most important management issues within our firm. Accordingly, it is imperative that we create an organizational structure in which management oversight and business operations function effectively and in balance. To this end, we have adopted the "company with committees" of corporate governance at Hitachi Metals. We also believe that timely, high-quality information disclosure contributes to the improvement of corporate governance. In pursuit of this philosophy, we have chosen to go beyond levels of simple financial disclosure, regularly publishing the details of individual business segments and mid-term management plans.

We acknowledge that compliance is the linchpin of corporate governance. We understand that a company should not only demonstrate compliance with laws and company rules at a minimum, but should also value fidelity to social ethics and virtues, engaging in corporate activities that reflect an understanding of the company's role as a member of society.

Consistent with these beliefs, Hitachi Metals has established the Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies, which defines specific standards whereby company executives and employees must conduct themselves.

We have tied director and corporate officer compensation to the increase in corporate value, resulting in a compensation plan that reflects short-, mid-, and long-term corporate earnings. This compensation creates a Company management that is focused on stakeholder contribution, with management responsible for proposing, establishing and executing management policies, mid-term plans, and fiscal year budgets from a mid- and long-term perspective.



Internal Control System

Hitachi Metals has developed the following internal control system.

1. An Executive Committee consisting of all executive officers has been formed to ensure that the business activities of executive officers comply with laws, regulations and the Company's Articles of Incorporation, and are carried out efficiently. Significant business issues that have an impact on the entire company are deliberated by this committee, with the decision made by the executive officer responsible.
2. A Compliance Office has been established in the CSR management office, which designates a manager responsible for the Company-wide compliance system.
3. A CSR Management Office has been established to facilitate a Company-wide approach to compliance, social contributions and corporate social responsibility.
4. A Compliance Hotline has been established for employees at Hitachi Metals and Group companies, when encountering situations that violate laws or Company regulations, to report facts of such incidents that through a specified channel without fear of reprisal. This system ensures early discovery and correction of misconduct.
5. An Internal Auditing Office under the direct control of the president has been established, which conducts internal audits of business divisions and Group companies to ensure compliance with laws, regulations and internal rules, as well as the efficiency of their business activities. The results of internal audits are reported to the president and the Audit Committee to confirm whether directives are being correctly carried out.
6. The Company has continued to implement and expand a system of internal controls based on a standard framework (COSO Framework*), incorporating the requirements of the U.S. Sarbanes-Oxley Act, documenting and evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls related to financial reporting within the Company. Beginning fiscal 2008, the Company has also formalized an internal controls reporting system based on the requirements of Japan's Financial Instruments and Exchange Law, improving and expanding the internal controls infrastructure within the firm.

*COSO framework: The most commonly used basic framework for internal control in the United States, also adopted by the Hitachi Group.

Compliance System

The Hitachi Metals Group established its compliance system in October 2005, when it created a Compliance Committee with a representative executive officer serving as general administrator, and a Compliance Secretariat, which is managed by the CSR Management Office. Under this system the General Managers of each corporate division serve on the Compliance Committee, which supports the Compliance Secretariat based on special findings, and the managers of each company or office have the responsibility of serving as compliance administrators.

Compliance extraordinary audits

Hitachi Metals conducted extraordinary audits of all its business offices, and the consolidated subsidiaries that operate commercial businesses or independent businesses. We reviewed documents related to these businesses (billing and documents relating to membership of industry organizations) and relevant materials, and took statements regarding operations from all general managers responsible for sales to determine whether there were any violations of the Antimonopoly Act. We also reviewed the record of attendance at industry organizations (Compliance Record*) to confirm that no misconduct was involved.

Extraordinary audits:

December 2008 - March 2009, 23 business offices, 117 general managers and above responsible for sales.



Training for newly-appointed junior executive

* Compliance Record : A record stating that attendees at meetings of industrial organizations or other events, when having no choice but to meet with employees of competing firms, took no action that would be in violation of applicable laws.

Compliance Hotline

Hitachi Metals formulated the policy for its Compliance Hotline in April 2005, and launched the internal reporting system at Hitachi Metals and Group companies in order to help prevent legal violations or improper actions, and to quickly correct the situation should violations occur.

This system allows all employees at Hitachi Metals or its Group companies to report incidents in their workplace by email or sealed letter. Employees can use this system to directly report and resolve issues when they are unable to consult with their supervisor, or receive no response.

In this system, employees can not only report anonymously or through a specified channel for the Compliance Hotline but also directly to the Audit Committee.

An explanation of the Compliance Hotline system is included in all company-wide compliance training to ensure a high level of awareness of its existence is maintained among all employees.

Compliance Reporting System

Thank you for visiting the Compliance Reporting System web site. In order to use the Reporting System appropriately, please carefully read the following explanations in advance.

1 Purpose of the Reporting System.

The Compliance Reporting System provides the employees of Hitachi Metals, Ltd. and Hitachi Metals Group companies [collectively "Hitachi Metals Group"] with an opportunity to directly report to the Compliance Division in the event they become aware of any violation of laws or misconduct concerning the business of the Hitachi Metals Group. The Compliance Division reports directly to the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Officer in charge of Corporate Administration, and the Audit Committee of Hitachi Metals, Ltd.

The purpose of the Reporting System is (i) to prevent violation of laws or misconduct by officers or employees, (ii) to correct thereof at an early stage, and (iii) by improving self-governing capabilities, to contribute to high ethical standards of business conduct.

2 Relationship to the existing internal remedial system.

-1 In the event you find any violation of laws or misconduct concerning the business of Hitachi Metals Group, report the issue first to your immediate supervisor. In the event your immediate supervisor is the person involved in the violation or misconduct, report the issue to the superior of the immediate supervisor.

-2 If the issue is not or is not likely to be resolved by your supervisor, you should first use the hotline or consulting service within your business division or company.

3 Eligibility.

Risk Management

Hitachi Metals has formulated and established internal rules and guidelines for a risk management system concerning compliance, finance, procurement, environmental issues, natural disasters, quality assurance, information and export control for each business division. All employees are educated in risk management and an audit is undertaken to ensure that internal companies and related operating divisions effectively prevent and manage overall risk.

CSR at Hitachi Metals Group

Driven by a management philosophy that impels us to "contribute to society by creating the 'best possible company,'" the Hitachi Metals Group established a new "Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies" in July 2006, incorporating CSR considerations. This new code of conduct includes a declaration to "obey the law and walk the path of virtue," serving as the basis for our corporate conduct.

This philosophy encompasses more than mere legal compliance, serving as a policy specifically described as an advanced degree of self-discipline; guiding our conduct as a corporation and as individuals within the corporation.

This policy specifically explains our CSR initiatives, as well as proclaiming our commitment to actively pursuing the continued development of society from our perspective as a corporate citizen.

While we acknowledge that day-to-day compliance with laws and corporate rules is important, this is really the minimum level expected of corporate citizens. Beyond this, it is important that each and every employee follows principles of common decency accepted within modern society, pursuing everyday corporate activities reflecting awareness of the demands society makes of corporate citizens. We believe this to be the core meaning of compliance at the Hitachi Metals Group.

Fiscal 2008 CSR Activities Report

Production of training video entitled, "What is CSR of the Hitachi Metals Group?"

Hitachi Metals produced a 26-minute video entitled, "What is CSR of the Hitachi Metals Group?" as a learning resource for use in promoting Group-wide CSR awareness within Hitachi Metals.

Training of the Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies

Using the Guidebook as a text, the Company has conducted Code of Conduct training in parallel with training related to the Anti-Monopoly Act.

Domestic

Target: Managers and above at Hitachi Metals manufacturing facilities and laboratories
Management and all personnel involved in sales at Group company headquarters and sales offices

October 2008 through January 2009

No. of Sessions: 83 sessions conducted at 42 locations covering 153 business offices
(including joint and multiple sessions)



Head Office training session



Manufacturing plant training session

Overseas

Target: Managers and above at overseas offices (15 offices)

January 2009 through March 2009

No. of Sessions: 11 sessions in 11 locations (some joint sessions)



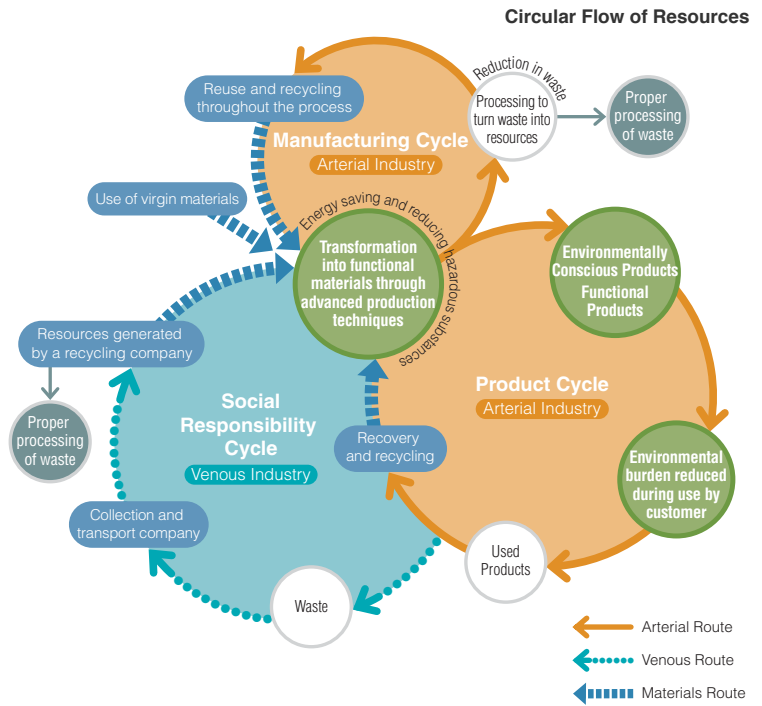
Overseas office training session

Hitachi Metals Group Sustainable Business Model: Resource Recycling

Since our inception, the Hitachi Metals Group has valued resource recycling as an indispensable business mechanism. We are an upstream materials manufacturer acting as an arterial industry*1. At the same time, we also act as a downstream venous industry*2, adding new value to industrial waste output from various industries, reconstituting this waste as useful resources. The Hitachi Metals Group has continued to be a leading entity in developing resource recycling mechanisms, even before the phrase "recycling-oriented society" became popularized.

Our mission, and a driver of our business growth, is to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society, reducing the burden on the environment not only during the manufacturing process but also throughout the entire product lifecycle, from raw materials procurement to customer consumption to disposal.

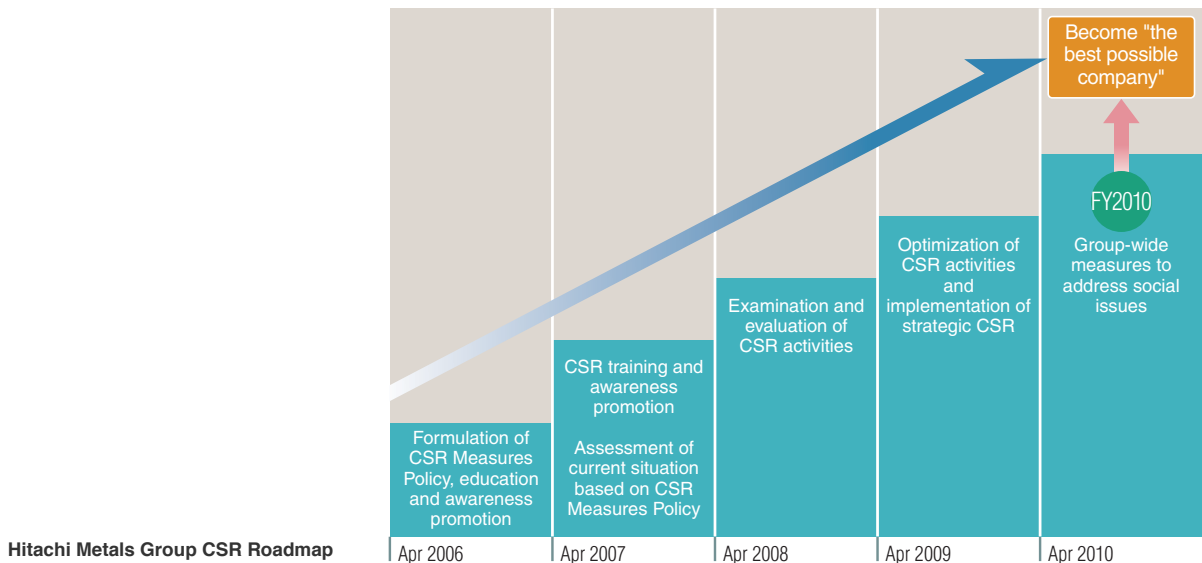
*1 An "arterial industry" primarily uses natural resources to manufacture products utilized in everyday life.
 *2 A "venous industry" collects, separates and processes used products and the waste generated from households and factories to turn them into resources.



CSR Measures Planning

Hitachi Metals newly formulated the Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies in July 2006. This code states as the fundamental principle for CSR that "The Company, in its business activities and relationships with stakeholders, will remain conscious of social and environmental issues and take responsible action, thereby allowing for the sustainable development of the Company and society." To fulfill its corporate philosophy of "contributing to society by creating 'the best possible company'", the Hitachi Metals Group has made its Code of Conduct the cornerstone of Group CSR activities. In line with this policy, we have formulated the Hitachi Metals Group CSR Roadmap, which covers the period through fiscal 2010, and are now implementing the specific measures contained therein.

During fiscal 2008, the Company conducted self-assessments based on a self-assessment tool utilized across the entire Hitachi Group. These self-assessments monitored the progress made in the implementation of the "Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies" and the "CSR Measures Policy," and also gauged the level of CSR awareness achieved within the Hitachi Metals Group.



Hitachi Metals formulated its Code of Conduct for Hitachi Metals Group Companies in July 2006, and has conducted CSR on a foundation of "Obey the law and walk the path of virtue".

Nevertheless, violations of the Anti-monopoly Act were uncovered in November 2006 and March 2007, prompting the Japan Fair Trade Commission to issue a cease and desist order and impose a fine. In response, Hitachi Metals implemented measures that included extraordinary audits, and an internal training program.

Hitachi Metals has no intention of sidestepping this issue, and will continue to implement similar measures during fiscal 2008 to prevent similar cases from arising in the future.

Internal Training

1

On-site training seminars conducted by the sales director and the Compliance Department regarding compliance with the Antimonopoly Act and the Code of Conduct

October 2008—January 2009

Persons receiving training

Hitachi Metals: Sales managers and employees at Hitachi Metals' head office, branch offices and sales offices
 Management level employees at manufacturing plants and research centers

Group Company Head Offices and Sales Offices: Managers and sales staff

Number of sessions

83 seminars at 42 locations for 153 business offices (including joint and multiple sessions)



Head Office training session

2

On-site compliance training seminars at overseas locations conducted by the Compliance Department

January—March 2009

Persons receiving training

Managerial employees at overseas business offices (15 business offices)

Number of sessions

11 seminars at 11 locations (including joint sessions)



Group company training session

3

Compliance training for specific levels and positions

2008

- Apr. Training for new hires
- Jul. Training for newly appointed junior executive
- Aug. Sales accounting training
- Sep. Training for newly appointed section managers
- Oct. Quality control training for managers

2009

- Jan. Training for group company managers



Group company training session



Training for newly appointed junior executive

One year on from the group meeting,
Employees provide their views on what compliance training has achieved

In the Hitachi Metals Group's 2008 CSR Report, we featured a group meeting of young and mid-level Group employees at which participants discussed the significance of compliance and CSR issues in their every-day business activities. For this year's report, we conducted interviews with each of the participants from last year to find out about ongoing compliance training programs and the results achieved so far.

Interview Questions

- Q1** | In the year since the group meeting, the Group has conducted internal training programs and extraordinary audits. Do you think that there has been in a change in compliance awareness within the Hitachi Metals Group?
- Q2** | In the past year, there have been several corporate scandals reported in the media, some involving violations of Japan's Antimonopoly Act. How did you feel when seeing these scandals unfold?
- Q3** | In your opinion, in which areas of its compliance measures does the Hitachi Metals Group need to exert particularly strong efforts?
- Q4** | Please tell us about compliance and CSR activities that you are presently undertaking or are aiming to carry out in the future.


Compliance activities have a real impact on society's prosperity and are closely linked to CSR.

Kenji Ichihashi
Overseas Sales Group
Piping Components Company



In the past two years, in my workplace awareness of compliance issues has risen considerably thanks to internal training programs and extraordinary audits. In conversations among employees, one often hears such phrases as "From a compliance standpoint." I think that the general atmosphere of compliance awareness among employees is much stronger than in the past.

In contrast, I think that the scandals reported recently involving various companies are extremely regrettable. To avoid any recurrence of such impropriety, it is crucial to be aware that, ultimately, compliance activities have a real impact on society's prosperity and are closely linked to CSR. To achieve that level of awareness, it is important not only to have regular training programs and compliance audits but also an awareness by each employee in his or her day-to-day operations of environmental issues and recycling. For example, we need to be aware of labeling methods for products that include recycled materials.

At the Piping Components Company to which I belong, our  Brand® products enjoy a strong reputation in Japan and abroad. We are acutely aware of the need to protect that reputation. Hence, in all our business dealings, we pay close attention on a daily basis to keeping Compliance Records for any interactions that may occur with competing companies, confirming that no questionable behavior took place.

We are very conscious of the large-scale damage caused by violations of the law.

Shinya Kohno
Tool Steel Business Unit
Specialty Steel Company



Although I have heard that in the past awareness within the Company of compliance issues was low, I think that participation in training programs has facilitated much greater awareness. For example, we are conscious of how important it is to strictly adhere to export-related laws and regulations and the Antimonopoly Act as well as prevent information leaks. We are also now more aware of the damage that can be caused by compliance failure.

If a situation occurred in which the Antimonopoly Act were violated, the Company and individual employees may be criminally liable and subject to punishment. I think most people who commit acts of malfeasance justify their behavior with the logic of it being all right so long as it is done for the purpose of boosting their company's profits. However, in reality, violations of the law can cause a huge amount of damage for a company and we need to be strongly aware that a scandal can really derail an individual's life and hurt their family.

In the past, the Group has twice been subject to on-site inspections by the Japan Fair Trade Commission and we have had to closely examine our own failings that led to these situations. As Hitachi Metals Group employees, we must make every possible effort to ensure that this does not happen again. If a corporate scandal occurs in a company with the Hitachi Brand name, it may lead to a loss of reputation for the entire Hitachi Group. So we must act with a strong sense of responsibility.

In my workplace, when a scandal involving Antimonopoly Act violations is reported in the newspaper or other media, everyone's attention is drawn to such cases at our morning meeting. In our day-to-day operations and at industry meetings attended by competing companies, we take particular care not to do anything that might be construed as legally dubious.

To ensure compliance awareness becomes ingrained, a system for implementing employee suggestions is needed.

Yoshinari Shinya
NEOMAX Company
Tokyo Sales Office



Through internal company training, we have seen awareness grow regarding the close relationship between compliance and corporate activities. However, despite a significant increase in awareness of the law prohibiting cartels, at present I do not think that much debate has occurred regarding CSR.

I think the recent spate of legal non-compliance cases reported for such a broad range of companies is extremely lamentable. I get the impression that consciousness of the importance of compliance has not yet taken root in society as a whole. In our daily operations, without thinking carefully about what is right and what is wrong we run the risk of making bad decisions. I think this reflects a weakening in the organization's decision-making capabilities.

Inside the Company, I think we need to have more discussions among employees about the Group's management principles and corporate code of conduct. In some instances, we may need to overhaul the content of our CSR Guidebook. We shouldn't simply have a one-way flow of directives and training from the Company. We need to have a two-way flow, including a system for implementing employee-generated suggestions. Without some kind of bottom-up approach, I doubt that compliance awareness among individual employees will really take hold.

Personally speaking, I always aim to realize the products that my customers demand, which I see as an important way for us to contribute to good of society. As I do my job, I constantly have this ultimate goal in mind. Another aspect that I am always conscious of is the need to take meticulous care in not leaking information received from one customer to other customers. We are constantly receiving all sorts of information, and so we must be very vigilant in how we handle it.

There needs to be an integrated approach to compliance training programs across the entire Hitachi Group.

Noriaki Kobayashi
Hitachi Metals America, Ltd.



Through compliance training conducted by senior management of the Group's sales organization, I reaffirmed the standard operating procedures that must never be contravened and was able to develop an ongoing compliance awareness. Personally, thanks to the group meeting I participated in last year, I was able to receive the training programs and extraordinary audits with an extremely high level of compliance awareness.

On the other hand, whenever I see news reports about corporate scandals, my first reaction is invariably "I can't believe it!" It really seems like these violations will never be stamped out. Even after the scandals involving Hitachi Metals Group, other acts of non-compliance emerged at other Hitachi Group companies. It made me particularly angry that the people involved seemed to have learned nothing from the past scandals at companies in the same group.

To prevent the recurrence of impropriety, there needs to be an integrated approach to compliance training programs across the entire Hitachi Group and a rigorous approach to remedying any matters raised during extraordinary audits. At the same time, each individual employee should be encouraged to participate in volunteer activities for the good of society. I think that environmental activities and other contributions to society are very important.

Personal Information Protection/Information Security Initiatives

The evolution and spread of IT, particularly in the form of the Internet, has resulted in expanded litany of security risks. Managing and protecting corporate information, including the private information of individuals, is more important than ever as a corporate social responsibility. The Hitachi Metals Group established a "Basic Policy of Information Security" in April 2004, followed by a "Personal Information Protection Policy" in January 2005, establishing a system of personal information protection/information security based on these policies. The Company continues to update information security measures on an ongoing basis.

Personal Information Protection/Information Security Initiatives

Hitachi Metals has instituted a set of rules related to the handling of Company information (including personal information), the use of information equipment, and information security, working to instill an understanding of these rules throughout the entire Company. The Company conducts an annual review of these rules to keep up to date with changes in legal and environmental conditions.

In fiscal 2008, the Company amended its rules for the regular renewal of passwords and related procedures to improve the confidentiality of information security equipment.

Information Security Measures

Hitachi Metals has systematically implemented measures against external threats from unauthorized access and computer viruses, internal threats such as the unauthorized removal or loss of company information, and other threats including natural disasters, etc.

Since fiscal 2007, the Company has also requested its business partners to deploy equivalent measures to prevent business information leakage via file-sharing software on personal PCs.

During fiscal 2008, the Company implemented an e-mail filtering system to avoid business information from being taken outside the companies, and reviewed the management of mobile phones as measures against the loss of high-function mobile communication devices we designed to further strengthen measures to prevent information leakage.

Employee Education

Each year, the Company conducts information security education for all employees (including temporary staff, etc.) who use IT equipment. This education is designed to instill an understanding of rules related to the use of IT equipment, including the handling of information (including personal information), and the prohibition against using personal PCs for work. During fiscal 2008, the Company conducted on-site training at Hitachi Metals Group locations (simultaneously with compliance training), while also instituting e-learning training. Both initiatives were designed to improve the security awareness of every Hitachi Metals Group employee.

■ On-site training at domestic business offices October 2008 - January 2009

Training recipients: All persons with e-mail addresses of the Hitachi Metals Group
 Number of sessions: 83 sessions conducted at 42 locations covering 153 business offices
 (including joint and multiple sessions)

■ On-site training at overseas business offices January - March 2009

Training recipients: Managerial employees at overseas business offices (total: 15 business offices)
 Number of sessions: 11 sessions at 11 locations (including joint sessions)

■ e-learning February - March 2009

Training recipients: All persons with of the Hitachi Metals Group e-mail addresses

Self-Audit

Each year, the Company conducts a self-audit of personal information protection/information security, confirming the status of the rules compliance, and improving any areas that need to be addressed.

