

Third-Party Comments



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Research focuses on landscape ecology and planning, and sustainability science. His life work has been to reestablish harmonious coexistence between people and nature to build a sustainable and mature society. He has become a leading expert on sustainability science globally. Furthermore, as chairman he has led the Central Environment Council at the Japanese Ministry of the Environment towards building a sustainable society of low carbon, resource-circulating, and in harmony with nature.

As the graphic on the cover of last year's EBARA Group CSR report promised in marking the company's 100th anniversary and following with the tag line "Challenge Next 100", EBARA Group's 2013 CSR report has its sights firmly set on a hopeful future. The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR, is to promote the idea of going beyond the immediate societal responsibilities of the company, that the company's social activities should lead to its own sustainable growth. It's the deep commitment of their leaders that has made CSR mainstream among organizations such as this one. To this point, "We shall carry out business operations with high ethical standards and high-quality communication", a commitment expounded by President Toichi Maeda, is something I hold in high esteem.

Deserving of special mention from this report is the revision of the code of conduct, based on the newly enacted CSR Policy, hewing more closely to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact (GC). Namely, together with clearly stating the responsibilities EBARA Group has taken on by their own initiative, and their responsibilities to stakeholders, they have clarified the relevance of their works to four of the GC10 principles—first corruption prevention and the environment, followed by human and labor rights—which is a major reform of the code of conduct of EBARA Group employees worldwide. I, too, as the newly-appointed director of the Global Compact Japan Network (GC-JN), want to welcome the codifying of the GC10 principles into CSR.

The efforts by EBARA Group towards recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster listed in the report caught my attention. In stricken areas, one task is the prompt disposal of the massive amounts of debris left by the disaster. Ebara Environmental Plant Co., LTD. (EEP)

set up temporary incinerators in the Kesenuma, Miyagi block of stricken areas for refuse processing, and they report that in doing so the waste was utilized as fuel for electricity generation which was then supplied to the local community. Following the serious nuclear power station incident, energy policy has seen significant reexamination, now looking beyond resources to consumption as a turn towards local sustainable production takes shape, and anticipation grows for future development.

Also catching my attention in a broader sense are the EBARA Group CSR efforts noted at the beginning of this report with respect to China, India, and the developing world's water and energy use. These rapidly emerging countries will be a driver of the 21st century global economy, causing great concern for the world's resource, energy, and environmental future. To achieve sustainable economic development, building infrastructure for highly efficient resource and energy use and protection of the environment and natural ecosystems is imperative. In that regard, EBARA Group surely has an important and growing role to play in the international community.

To further advance international development, the internationalization of EBARA Group's workforce is also a task that cannot be avoided. This report describes the implementation of the Global Human Resources Development Program, sending Japanese staff on overseas assignments from early on, and the proactive hiring of employees of foreign nationalities. In bringing employees with different cultural backgrounds together in EBARA Group, building a corporate environment ever more inclusive of diverse values will be essential. Towards creating a safe, supportive workplace as well, we can look forward to this even stronger international perspective.