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[Areas of Specialization] His areas of specialization include regional environmental planning, environmental learning, and education for sustainable development (ESD). He conducts empirical research on sustainable development while integrating the approaches of natural science and social science. In Japan, he helps promote participatory regional development and collaborative urban development among citizens, businesses, and local governments, whereas he conducts field-oriented surveys and research on the development of a sustainable society overseas centering on the developing regions in Asia.

This report was first issued as a CSR report in fiscal 2017. The ways that the Yazaki Group can help build a sustainable society according to clear policies and ideas outlined by top management executives are summarized in an easy-to-understand manner.

Showcasing the Yazaki Group CSR policy (pages 9-10)

The Yazaki Group presents social responsibilities and contributions through the five key pillars—customers, business partners, employees, local and global communities, and the global environment—in accordance with its CSR policy. The key pillars can be seen as an expression of the Group's desire to define and promote an integrated and sustainable business administration and its contributions to local communities within an expansive framework. Through this report, the Yazaki Group introduces numerous projects tied to environmental conservation and revitalization as undertaken by the Group companies in different locations worldwide. Such exceptional projects help to conserve the global environment and constitute important contributions to the local communities. Perhaps it is possible to emphasize in its CSR policy that projects encompassing multiple pillars are being carried out.

Remembering the value of proactive innovations and the founding principles

Message from the President (pages 7-8) clearly alludes to two different points: that the Yazaki Group is engaged in constant efforts to innovate in response to the expected emergence of automobiles equipped with the IoT, AI, and other forms of information technology in the near future and that the Yazaki Group will promote its business without losing sight of the principles upon which the Yazaki Group was founded as a manufacturing company. Even as the Yazaki Group continues to treat wire harnesses as a product for which the Yazaki Group enjoys a commanding lead in terms of global market share, a commitment to focusing on the future without forgetting its founding principles will be an important key to guaranteeing sustainability as the Yazaki Group deploys a broad range of activities tying together automobiles, lives, and society, such as those involving instrumentation and energy (pages 5-6).

Clarifying its responsibilities to local communities (pages 27-28)

The withdrawal of its business, which began in 1991, from Samoa and its efforts to make societal contributions in connection with this withdrawal are featured in Close Up. While the closure of the production plant may be unavoidable because of the changes in the socioeconomic environment, it is noteworthy that this issue was dealt with in a frank manner in its CSR Report. Message from the Chairman (pages 29-30) states that the Yazaki Group has a culture that encourages the Group

to respectfully have the other party invite it back again someday, even when the company shut down operations at a particular location. The Yazaki Group can be proud of the job training it provided to employees over the years in Samoa, in particular in support of long-term career development for women, and the education provided to support re-employment prospects after the decision to withdraw represents concrete examples of adherence to a corporate policy where the Yazaki Group strives to become "A Corporation in Step with the World" and "A Corporation Needed by Society".

Deploying businesses for the resolution of local issues

Yawaraka cable is covered in Close Up (pages 17-18). The value to society corresponds to certain societal issues, such as a product development perspective and the added value obtained when comparisons are made with conventional products. This can be seen as a direct manifestation of the creating shared value concept in solving community issues through the expansion of corporate activities. The Yazaki Group has proactively sought to establish new business tied to the resolution of community issues in response to changes in the business environment. The Yazaki Group also believes, however, that it would be meaningful to present the value of business in line with the idea that Creating Shared Value.

Making steady progress in terms of global environmental management

That the Yazaki Group has already managed to attain the targets for most of the items in the Yazaki Environmental Plan (page 32) is exceptional. In particular, the Yazaki Group has already reduced CO₂ emissions for fiscal 2020 by 23.8 percent (over fiscal 2010). (The initial target called for a 20 percent reduction.) This can rightfully be seen as a significant achievement resulting from its efforts for environmental management on a global scale. As is shown in Topics (pages 36-37), in addition to initiatives by domestic production plants, the Yazaki Group has accelerated the environmental initiatives of each overseas corporation and recognizes that unique initiatives are being undertaken as befits the circumstances in a given country. In addition, many internally certified products are being introduced each year as environmentally friendly products (pages 39-40) to help achieve large reductions in CO₂ emissions relative to conventional products. It is important that customers recognize that reductions in CO₂ emissions are being achieved in this manner.

Conclusion

First conceived as an environment report in fiscal 2002, this booklet became the Social & Environmental Report in fiscal 2003. This report subsequently evolved into the CSR Report in 2017. The Yazaki Group strongly expect to continue to grow as a company that remains firmly accountable to society.