



Amid mounting expectations and demands from society regarding corporate initiatives to address global-scale issues such as poverty and climate change, we interviewed the President of Yazaki Corporation about the activities of the Yazaki Group aimed at the realization of a sustainable society.

**First of all, please tell us about the current status of business, which is the foundation for the Group's CSR activities, and the outlook for fiscal 2018.**

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In fiscal 2017, although the global economy sustained a moderate recovery overall, uncertainty remained on the political and economic fronts. In the automotive industry, it was a truly turbulent year that can be described as a once-in-a-century period of major upheaval due to factors such as the rapid introduction of advanced technologies exemplified by CASE\*<sup>1</sup> and a paradigm shift from cars to mobility in general.

The Yazaki Group perceives such an environment as an opportunity rather than a risk. Rising to the challenge by creating an organization that can adapt promptly to the changing times, we managed to achieve an all-time high consolidated net sales of 1,926.6 billion yen. In the Automotive Business, we rebuilt our production system, located primarily overseas, and started full-scale operation of a joint project established with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) with the aim of further enhancing our technical capabilities. Yazaki Energy System Corporation launched an online service in Thailand to match shippers' with carriers, aimed at providing concrete solutions for improving safety, security, the environment and energy conservation in addition to efficiency and convenience in the transportation industry. We expect that such efforts will be key for the Yazaki Group not only from the short-term perspective of responding promptly to drastically changing social expectations

and customer needs but also from the long-term perspective.

In fiscal 2018, we will once more revisit the purpose and goals of our business in accordance with the "GEN" (Japanese word meaning "source, origin") of the President's Policy with the goal of wanting to return to our origins as a manufacturing company. Through revisiting our origins and by further strengthening our manufacturing base and collaboration between divisions, we aim to be a company that can continue to provide the highest value to our stakeholders by capitalizing on the strengths of Yazaki.

**Recently, there has been an increase in the demands for corporate initiatives aimed at the realization of a sustainable society. This trend is exemplified by the incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Keidanren\*<sup>2</sup> Charter of Corporate Behavior. What are the thoughts of the Yazaki Group on this trend?**

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I think that the SDGs raise questions about how companies can achieve sustainable corporate development and social contribution in unison. This echoes our aspirations to contribute to the society through manufacturing based on the Yazaki Group Corporate Policy, which indicates that Yazaki is "A Corporation in Step with the World" and "A Corporation Needed by Society." It is important to keep the Yazaki Group Corporate Policy as the foundation that guides us, just as it did in the past, in order for the Yazaki Group to take account of the SDGs and

\*1. Connectivity, Autonomous, Shared & Service, Electric \*2. Japan Business Federation

## Message from the President

# Yazaki develops in step with the community and contributes towards realizing a sustainable society



President, Yazaki Corporation

work on resolving social issues through its business activities. Since its establishment, the Yazaki Group has always operated its businesses while asking itself what it can do to contribute to the world, to the communities, and to the people. Going forward, we will backcast our vision for the Yazaki Group from images of the society in 10, 20 and 50 years' in order to consider how we can keep on contributing to the realization of a sustainable society.

### **Could you tell us which areas out of the 17 goals set out in the SDGs does the Yazaki Group hope to focus on going forward?**

We believe that rather than being separate from each other the goals set out in the SDGs are interconnected. For example, they include topics such as poverty, good health and well-being. To translate these into what the Yazaki Group does, the manufacturing of wire harnesses, our mainstay product, is characteristically labor intensive, which means that it generates a lot of employment. Generating employment in turn helps to solve the problem of poverty. We firmly believe that the goals are interconnected, meaning that if hunger is eradicated and poverty is resolved, it creates an opportunity to turn people's awareness to the importance of environmental conservation and other issues. Given this, we will give special consideration to areas where the Yazaki Group can make a contribution going forward.

### **Can you tell us what will be important for the Yazaki Group in continuing to promote CSR activities aimed at the realization of a sustainable society?**

The Yazaki Group has been supported by people in a numerous countries and regions, and we have grown to operate at 596

sites in 46 countries. Going forward, in order for the Yazaki Group to maintain sustainable development in step with its communities, it is very important to think globally and act locally. In other words, it is vital to understand the culture, history, customs and values of individual countries and regions while having a global perspective. The social issues faced by the individual countries and regions are not necessarily the same. It is for this reason that we not only want to look at the issues themselves but also to better understand the background to the issues in individual countries and regions as the starting point for the further promotion of our CSR activities. There is no greater pleasure than if we can bring happiness and joy to our fellows, friends, and family around the world through such initiatives.

### **Lastly, can you tell us the message that you want to communicate to stakeholders through this report?**

We think that it is necessary to highlight how we contribute to solving social issues through the Yazaki Group's business activities in such a way that it is easy to understand for stakeholders. To this end, we have been studying the material issues (priority issues) for the Yazaki Group by considering the degree of importance of each issues for the company and for its stakeholders.

In a drastically changing business environment, we will continue to further develop our "connecting" technologies while anticipating the demands of people and society in order to contribute to the realization of livable communities and an affluent future by providing new value. Going forward, we will continue listening to feedback from our stakeholders as we work on our CSR activities, and we hope to disclose the current status of our activities through this report. We appreciate your continuous support and look forward to serving you in the future.