

## Third Party Opinion



Mitsuru Hirota, Ph. D.  
Professor

Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology,  
Faculty of Agriculture, Shinshu University

Today, we are witnessing a chain of events that is affecting the environment on a global scale. Rising concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> are a cause of global warming, which is associated with unusual weather patterns. At the same, the increasing cost of crude oil is raising the production of bioethanol, which is in turn causing the price of grain to climb. How should people, countries and the world respond? What should companies do to deal with these rapid economic shifts? Never before has the world been faced with such difficult decisions.

I was given the opportunity to read this year's TOK Environmental and Social Report, as I also did last year. The 2008 report places greater emphasis on corporate social responsibility, with particular focus on environmental accidents

and occupational safety and health. There is information on the safety and health programs at individual business sites and other information. I was impressed with TOK's dedication to the safety and health of its workers from the standpoint of a company that recognizes the importance of its employees.

Regarding TOK's environmental activities, I want to see TOK work even harder at making improvements based on a unified recognition of issues. In addition, TOK should not limit its environmental activities to manufacturing. I hope to see TOK use its technologies to adopt a more aggressive stance toward making a contribution to dealing with the environmental changes occurring worldwide.

## TOK's Response



Susumu Ichikawa  
General Manager, Safety & Environment  
Control Division,  
Manufacturing Department

TOK continued to conduct a variety of environmental and social programs during the past year while reflecting the suggestions and comments of Mr. Hirota. Regarding goals, we established fiscal year targets for reducing the environmental impact of each TOK plant and incorporated those targets in our daily activities. However, we are aware of the need to establish even more practical and clearly defined targets from a long-term perspective.

In the current fiscal year, in addition

to existing programs to lower our environmental impact, we are making environmental programs an even greater element of our business activities. For example, we have started developing a manufacturing process for solar cells. Through R&D activities, we want to create more ways to use TOK's technologies to protect the environment. TOK will continue to use the feedback of Mr. Hirota and others to enhance our environmental and social activities.

## Editor's Note

Thank you for taking the time to read the TOK Environmental and Social Report 2008.

We hope that you have found the information in the TOK Environmental and Social Report 2008 to be interesting and useful. This year's report contains a variety of information and data on environmental and social activities. There are also feature sections that discuss advances

in TOK's technology and our efforts to prevent environmental accidents. Since this publication is distributed to all our stakeholders, we have used a format that makes the information easy to understand for a general audience. This year, some information that was supplied in last year's report has been posted instead on our website. This allows us to supply more detailed data about environmental and

social activities. Please visit our website to see more information about the subjects in this report. Also, please take the time to complete the attached questionnaire so that we can use your comments and suggestions to make next year's report even better.

September 2008  
Safety & Environment Control Division