

Work Session 10

Technological Innovation Is the Key to the Growth of Human Society – An Example of the Steel Industry

Theses

After World War 2, the Japanese industrial base was practically in ruins. As history proves, steel is indispensable for rebuilding a country. However, because Japan lacks natural resources, it had to import precious resources to manufacture steel and other basic products needed to rebuild the nation. The cost of utilities such as electricity has also been high in Japan. Consequently, the Japanese steel industry had to be creative to boost efficiency in terms of resource and utility usage. Japanese steelmakers have even succeeded in putting into practice energy-saving technologies developed in other countries that have never been applied before.

Other industries have created significant environmental destruction and pollution-related diseases, leading to major social problems. We have learned from this and applied sustainable production technology consistent with our environment.

As a result, Japan and its steel industry lead the world in technology that balances growth and prosperity with environmental protection. Today, I would like to introduce our expertise in this area, which I hope will lead to a productive discussion.

CV

Born in 1945. Hiroshi Tomono holds a Bachelor and Master in engineering from Kyoto University. In 1979, he received his Ph.D. in engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich.

Following his graduation from Kyoto University in 1971, Hiroshi Tomono joined Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd., where he has held numerous positions ever since. From 1993 to 1996, he acted as general manager of the corporate planning department, and was appointed managing executive officer and general manager of the electronics division in 1998. In the years 2003 to 2005, he served as Senior Managing Executive Officer and President of the Steel Sheet, Plate, Titanium and Structural Steel Company within Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd., before his nomination as director. In 2005, Hiroshi Tomono assumed the position of representative director and executive vice president of Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd. and was named Representative Director and President later that year.



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