



Remarks on Special Issue on Steel Sheets for a Comfortable Life

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It gives me great pleasure to be able to deliver this Special Issue on Steel Sheets for a Comfortable Life while we continue to battle with the COVID-19 crisis. The rise of COVID-19 two years ago has forced us to change our way of living. We have to continue living our lives while also expressing concerns about the unknown virus; we need to avoid closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings and we also have to refrain from going outside; it is difficult to communicate with other people. The pandemic has dramatically changed our ways of life and work. I assume that not many people succeeded in adapting to the sudden change quickly. Under such circumstances, Nippon Steel Corporation has quickly developed and commercialized antiviral steel sheets, driven by a desire to give relief to society, no matter how small, and to do what we can for society. People want to return to comfort. We will continue to do what we can and what we have to do as a steel manufacturer.

Another important aspect that has to be addressed for the future is the need to take environmental measures and garner resilience to environmental changes. We have to prepare for increasing natural disasters and their seriousness, as well as climate change now. Under the “Nippon Steel Carbon Neutral Vision 2050,” Nippon Steel started its own initiative to combat climate change that is a critical issue affecting the existence of the human race. In addition to reducing CO₂ emissions from our steel production, we must also devise new ways to use steel that is an environment-friendly material for which CO₂ emissions per unit quantity are small and expand the usage to contribute to resolving the climate change issue. Also from such aspect, I shall be happy to introduce our many solutions, through this special issue, to users who use steel and then to manufacture products in cooperation with the users for the future.

Today, we are surrounded by many things that are made from steel: Home appliances, containers, automobiles, buildings, structures, etc. All of these are essential for our daily living. Customers’ tasks have been increasing in difficulty due to advancing society and diversification of lifestyles, and thus requirements for our products have also become stricter. We satisfy these requirements in detail one by one and continue to propose ways to fully utilize steel. We will enhance the strength of steel and workability as much as possible, extend the service life as long as possible through surface treatment, and enable the omission of some manufacturing processes by providing steel with a beautiful appearance; we will develop steel products that can minimize the environmental stress throughout the entire supply chain considering the life cycles to end products. We will also propose structure and construction methods that can draw the best out of steel, working together with our customers to solve their issues.

This Special Issue on Steel Sheets for a Comfortable Life introduces actual distinctive steel sheets and solutions (technologies). I am certain that we can introduce all of the products with confidence. We will further improve the properties of our products and our technical skills in the future as well so as to meet your expectations. I cordially solicit your further support and guidance.