



My Congratulations on the Centennial Commemorative Issue of Shinnittetsu Giho

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President

I am delighted to see the publication of the Centennial Commemorative Issue of “Shinnittetsu Giho”, the technical report of our company.

Shinnittetsu Giho actually started out in 1911 as the “Seitetsu Kenkyukai Report” of the Seitetsu Kenkyukai (steelmaking study group) of the then state-owned Yawata Steel Works. It was renamed “Seitetsu Kenkyu” in 1925. When Japan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. was divided into Yawata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. and Fuji Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. in 1950, Seitetsu Kenkyu was handed down to Yawata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. and “Fujiseitetsu Giho” was started afresh at Fuji Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. In 1970, when Yawata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. and Fuji Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. were merged to form Nippon Steel Corporation, the above two technical reports were merged into Seitetsu Kenkyu, which was later renamed to its present form of Shinnittetsu Giho in 1991.

Since our foundation, Shinnittetsu Giho and its predecessors in print have played a part in enhancing the company’s ability to develop technologies to meet the needs of the times. In addition, it has continued to supply technical information to not only employees of the company but also others in the steel industry and steel-related industries and societies. In this regard, I consider that Shinnittetsu Giho has contributed to the progress of technology in Japan.

This commemorative issue of Shinnittetsu Giho is going to be published for the first time in thirty years since the publication of the 70th Memorial Issue of its predecessor, Seitetsu Kenkyu. Looking back at the economic situation surrounding Japan in the past thirty years, we have experienced a number of dramatic changes—a recession caused by the strong yen triggered by the Plaza Accord in 1985, the collapse of the bubble economy in the early 1990s, the Asian financial crisis in 1998, the Lehman Shock in 2008. And now, we are faced with new problems—what should be done to capture the expanding markets through the rise of the newly industrializing economies and ensure stable procurement of natural resources—given that any significant expansion of the domestic market can hardly be expected in view of the ever-aging and declining

population, among other factors. In addition, there is the major problem of restoration and recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred last March.

Following that disaster, I have recognized anew the high morale of the Japanese people and the strong conscientiousness of young people to contribute to society. I think that these attributes come from the Japanese sentiment of attaching importance to the “workplace” and that they have something in common with the “longing for technology” that our company has long cherished. We are determined to do our best to help with reconstruction work in the future.

At the same time, we must make a concerted effort to further consolidate our position as a world-class steelmaker in terms of both quality and quantity by securing the required energy and resources in a timely manner while expanding overseas production bases so as to speedily respond to overseas demand, which is expected to continue growing in the future. To this end, it is necessary to forge ahead with technological development from a standpoint more original than ever before. In this regard, my recognition is that greater expectations are entertained of our company. Taking the opportunity afforded by the publication of this commemorative issue, we intend to make an all-out effort to contribute to modern society.

Finally, I look forward to the continuing cooperation of everyone concerned.