

The Making of a Better Company

We at the Komatsu Group are working on a variety of management issues in order to attain further growth. At the same time, we are also engaging in activities designed to co-exist with all stakeholders, in order to remain open to society as a company.



Providing Environment-Friendly Products and Services

Under the slogan of "Ecology and Economy," we are applying our advanced manufacturing technologies to develop products that satisfy reductions in both the environmental impact and the owner's running costs. PC400 and 450 hydraulic excavators, introduced in September 2003, achieve improved productivity per fuel cost and an impressive reduction in noise, compared to the corresponding, conventional models.

< PC450 hydraulic excavator



Delivering Solutions to Customers' Activities for Environmental Conservation

We will deliver high-quality, effective solutions to environmental problems experienced by our customers, and in society. Our mobile crusher/recycler series has ushered in a new age for the "on-site recycling" method, in which construction by-products are processed for recycling at the job site.

Attracting many participants, Komatsu held a seminar for the "on-site recycling" method at this demolition site of the former Kawasaki Plant.



Promoting Environmental Conservation Activities in Business Operations

Our Oyama Plant led the construction equipment industry in Japan by achieving Zero Emissions* at the end of March 2001, and since that time, all other Japanese plants in the Komatsu Group have accomplished Zero Emissions. As of March 31 2004, 31 manufacturing facilities worldwide in the Komatsu Group were certified for ISO 14001, which concerns environmental management. Furthermore, environmental conservation activities were also implemented at the sales, service and administrative operations of the Komatsu Group, according to their respective conditions.

* Komatsu defines Zero Emissions as a recycling rate (recycled amount/generated waste) of 99% or higher.



Promoting Awareness of Environmental Protection

Komatsu offers a basic educational program, which is not limited to the sections in charge of promoting environmental activities, but extends to all employees of the Komatsu Group. This program is designed to facilitate environmental awareness of employees not only as Komatsu Group employees, but also as members of the local community. Through an e-learning system, everyone can take the course by using his/her computer at work according to individual work schedules.





Compliance

Our commitment to Quality and Reliability is not limited to products and services, but is extended to all organizations, businesses, employees and management of the entire Komatsu Group. To thoroughly ensure compliance, Komatsu established "Komatsu's Code of Worldwide Business Conduct," (revised annually since the first edition in January 1998), which stipulates the business rules that all employees of the Komatsu Group must follow when conducting business.



Creating a Safe Work Environment

Having a work environment where every employee can work in excellent health and safety is an important management foundation. Komatsu is working to enhance the safety management level of the entire Komatsu Group through its original programs. For example, the "Komatsu Group Safety and Health Convention" for Groupwide participation, is not only limited to the domain of manufacturing, but also extended to our sales and service subsidiaries. Through the "Safety Inspection" program, the work environment of each plant is objectively inspected and evaluated by external specialist organizations, or safety managers from different plants, and the important findings are applied to other plants to enhance the Groupwide safety management level.

Safety inspection at the Awazu Plant >



< The Association sponsors the annual All Japan Cherry Tree Symposium jointly with municipal governments in Japan.



> Rooftop gardens of the Komatsu Building are open to the public every Friday.

Supporting Community Development with Ample Greenery

Since its establishment over 40 years ago, the Flower Association of Japan, which Komatsu supports, has donated saplings of cherry trees and other plants to many greening projects in Japan and abroad, making a significant contribution to community development with ample greenery. In addition, recent activities of the Association have included the preservation of cherry trees, which are cherished by local residents, and research in revitalization of old cherry trees.



Two Demining Machines Developed for Use in Afghanistan

It is estimated that over 10 million landmines were placed in the ground of Afghanistan during two decades of civil war. After the civil war, from 1998 to 2002, some 260,000* landmines were demined. The remaining demining will require extremely dangerous work for an astronomical amount of time until completion. To overcome this dangerous and difficult situation, the Afghan people are looking for demining machines that are capable of handling a larger number of landmines more safely and efficiently.

* Based on the statistics of Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA)

In March 2003, Komatsu applied to the public offering of subsidies for development by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), and started the development of demining machines based on two types of construction equipment, i.e., the bulldozer and the stabilizer.



These machines are based on Komatsu's construction equipment, which have not only already proven their reliability and durability in punishing environments around the world, but also have lowered their costs. As a result, they should demonstrate cost performance 1.5 to 2 times better than specialized demining machines. When the machines are no longer used for demining, they can be reconverted and modified to regular construction equipment, so they can be deployed for rebuilding the infrastructure of Afghanistan.

By the end of 2003, all tests for these machines were completed in Japan, and they are ready to be tested in Afghanistan this summer under a project led by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS). As part of this project, two members of Omar, a non-governmental organization in Afghanistan, and an employee of Komatsu's distributor in neighboring Pakistan, came to Japan and took a three-week training program in demining machine operation and maintenance.



Comments from NGO Members



Mr. Shir Agha

"I am really impressed with Komatsu's demining machines. Our team is building three schools in Kabul and Jalalabad. These machines will be very useful for our work safety. More importantly, they will be very valuable in providing long-awaited safety for our children, the future of Afghanistan."

"I have operated construction equipment for 18 years, but I have learned many new things from Komatsu's instructors. I am particularly impressed by this machine's capabilities, efficiency, and its easy-to-use remote control."

Mr. Matiullah

