

Towards Achieving “Our Aspirations”

Q. Nikon’s Medium Term Management Plan stresses practicing transparent CSR-oriented management. How would you describe Nikon’s CSR activities?

A. The CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities of the Nikon Group represent the embodiment of our corporate philosophy “Trustworthiness and Creativity,” and are directly connected with the healthy continuance of the Group’s businesses initiatives. The Nikon Group is expanding the IC/LCD steppers and scanners businesses which support progress and development in human society, as well as the Imaging Products business which culturally enriches people’s lives. Continuing to provide products and services beneficial to society incorporating state-of-the-art, proprietary technology in each respective sector, this is the first area in which the Nikon Group is aiming to fulfill its social responsibility. Additionally, we are implementing diverse policies including thorough enforcement of compliance, bolstering risk management and implementing various environmental measures, along with promoting management that is highly transparent.

Q. Nikon has announced its new vision “Our Aspirations.” What are the main points of this new vision and how are you appealing this concept to Nikon employees?

A. In 2007 the Nikon Group will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Our Aspirations is a concept that defines the Nikon Group’s views and determination towards global development and the continued provision of our true corporate value, as we steadily focus on our upcoming 100th anniversary. This concept is not something forced upon us externally, but rather incorporates our own independently-fostered views and ideas of the corporation we wish to become. Premised on our longstanding corporate philosophy “Trustworthiness and Creativity,” and for the purpose of realizing “Our Aspirations—Meeting needs. Exceeding expectations.” the Group and its employees will put into practice the following four key commitments: “Be pro-active,” “Communicate well,” “Seek new knowledge,” “Display integrity.” We believe that by making these commitments this will indeed help bolster the CSR activities of the Nikon Group. (▶ see Page 5 for details)

Q. In the Medium Term Management Plan you emphasize creating a “Strong Nikon.” Please indicate the relationship this has with your CSR activities. Also, what are the reasons behind newly formulating the Nikon Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Charter?

A. In the Medium Term Management Plan we set our aims at being an outstanding company well-respected and genuinely trusted by all of our stakeholders, by creating a “Strong Nikon” that possesses a robust business structure capable of secure and sustainable growth. The supporting pillars behind this are “highly competitive products,” a “solid financial structure” and employees who demonstrate a “strong will” to help us vigorously push towards our targets. Working on the initiatives of the Medium Term Management Plan means putting into practice the CSR activities of the Nikon Group, which are realized via the daily business activities carried out by each and every employee. As such, in consideration of current social conditions, in April 2007 the preexisting Nikon Charter of Corporate Behavior was amended and the Nikon Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Charter was newly established. This was done in order to have the basic policy on social responsibility of the Nikon Group be more readily understood and permeated among all Group employees.

Q. More than a year has passed since the CSR Committee was established. What have been some of the activity results of the Committee, and what has the response been from stakeholders?

A. To have our CSR activities—previously conducted by each respective department—implemented as group-wide initiatives, we established the CSR Committee in January 2006. Under the CSR Committee, five separate subcommittees were also jointly set up to tackle themes of particular importance. Additionally, in April 2006 the Risk Management Committee was newly established under the CSR Committee to bolster efforts for risk management. At the same time the “CSR Section” was created in the Corporate Planning Department and it performs the Secretariat duties for the CSR Committee, and a system facilitating activities with excellent coordination among each subcommittee was put into place. Meanwhile, in terms of responding to the needs of stakeholders, as a result of putting in place an internal system for handling each type of inquiry and request, we feel there have been great changes in being able to more accurately respond to their needs. Furthermore, to proactively promote social action programs, in April 2007 the Social Contribution Section was set up in the Administration Department. The Nikon Group conducts a diverse range of social action programs both domestically and overseas. Across the board, we believe the CSR activities of the Nikon Group are making steady advancements.

Q. From the aspect of global CSR developments, what are your thoughts on international trends in CSR promotion, including ISO 26000, the international standard for social responsibility scheduled to be published in 2009?

A. In terms of global development of the CSR activities of the Nikon Group, we feel there is still more room for improvement. In particular, we will further expand CSR activities for our overseas business subsidiaries and also further enhance coordination of Group-wide CSR activities. As for ISO 26000, while watching the trends and developments, we aim to proactively deploy our CSR activities and not merely sit back and wait for its anticipated publication. International attention and awareness has been rapidly increasing regarding issues such as global warming and sustainable development of global society. We must not ignore the action that needs to be taken to address such environmental concerns.

The fundamental stance of the Nikon Group is to conduct active communication with our stakeholders and to proactively and honestly disclose corporate information. It is our hope that this report will contribute to your understanding of the Nikon Group’s initiatives toward sustainable development. We readily welcome and greatly appreciate any comments or opinions you may have regarding our future activities.

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Michio Kariya
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Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer
Nikon Corporation

Michio Kariya

