

Interview with Executives at King SkyFront No.8

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(At the time this video was filmed, Mr. Ogura was Executive Vice President of JFE Steel Corporation)

Something I often say to the workers at the steelworks is that they must ensure the place is well maintained.

Building a new one costs a lot of money.

But careful maintenance will ensure a longer life, and a greater chance of survival.

They must do this on their own.

The same thing can be said about research at research institutes and on-site technologies.

It's important to come up with new ideas all the time.

It's also important to hone your current techniques as you develop new things.

Our steel products too, are made to be environmentally friendly.

They may all look the same.

But if you take the automobile for example, most of them are currently made of steel.

And making the steel too thin will compromise its strength.

We developed steel that is thin, yet strong.

This achieved a reduction in weight.

And reducing weight means a reduction in CO₂ emissions.

As a result, technology for developing high-strength steel is also an environmental technology.

This is a technology unique to Japan.

It has yet to be copied by other steelmakers overseas.

Therein lies the strength of Japanese manufacturers.

When you think of recycling, Used plastics can be incinerated in a blast furnace, which then produces a by-product known as slag that is separated from the iron by melting.

This slag is used as material for cement at a cement plant.

The generated exhaust gas is also used as a source of energy by chemical manufacturers.

This is the kind of inter-corporate recycling that will become possible.

It is not a simple matter of recycling wastes.

It's steelmaking with the simultaneous manufacturing of raw materials for other industries.

This is different from recycling.

But inter-corporate recycling is actually not so easy.

A characteristic of Kawasaki Eco-Town is that it enables this recycling.

This is unprecedented.

We could set up an energy recycling society and a variety of other systems, and if we could do this between companies,

it would create an ideal eco-town.

Kawasaki coastal areas is where many companies are trying to achieve this.

Its proximity to Tokyo International Airport is an important factor.

With the increasing importance of globalization,

its proximity to the hub airport of Tokyo International Airport is an advantage.

What's more, the role of the Keihin Industrial Region is about to change.

The structure of domestic industries are also starting to change.

While domestic plants are moving overseas, technology departments are staying in Japan.

Many companies are not moving their R&D centers overseas.

The Keihin Industrial Region is turning into a research center.

This is highly significant.

It means that King SkyFront will play a leading role in the future as a center of research that represents Japan.

Kawasaki is also in a geographically unique location.

The Yamanote area to the north is a high-end residential area.

The industrial area used to be in the south,

but commercial redevelopment began around Kawasaki Station and progressed to residential areas to the north.

This research center will be located in the middle.

Kawasaki has an oblong shape, but will become an extremely well-balanced city.

There are many things we can hold great expectations for from a life sciences perspective.

For example, for people with incurable diseases,

we can publicize data on the patient, with the person's approval,

to analyze the symptoms and give advice, or introduce that person to an expert.

When expert technicians gather in Kawasaki from a wide variety of sectors,

it will allow them to be matched with other companies that they can collaborate with.

I think it will be interesting if companies of various industries could join hands as they expand out into the world.

There's a limit to what can be done alone nowadays.

Rather than concentrating on specific research and going no further than that,

what's important is the fusion of research,

gathering of information, and meeting the needs of the local community.

So much can be done through soft measures alone.

That's why you also need an open center for gathering information.

Achieving this requires the help of private corporations and administrative agencies.

Establishing King SkyFront based on revolutionary concepts will attract many participants, and change the country.

This will begin in Tonomachi.

When this happens, we can expect innovation that goes beyond our imagination.