

Message from Chief Administrative Officer

Contributing to a Sustainable Society

The ITOCHU Group upholds as our Corporate Philosophy the spirit of “*Sampo-yoshi*” (good for the buyer, good for the seller and good for society). In addition to pursuing profits for our company, we help to solve social issues to meet to the expectations and trust placed in us by our business partners, shareholders, employees and various other stakeholders. We are aiming to produce a virtuous cycle in society and to contribute to a sustainable society by doing that. To achieve this virtuous cycle and sustainable society each employee is required to voluntarily fulfill their various roles based on our Corporate Guideline of Conduct of “I am One with Infinite Missions.”

We have been focused on fields closely related to daily life such as textiles, food and general products & realty since we started business. We have thought about what kind of services we can provide in each field and then put those ideas into practice as a company responsible for basic industries which support consumer life so that people can continue to live their daily lives without obstacles even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The core business of our company is providing services indispensable to people in their daily lives. Our many years of steady initiatives have become the foundation to be able to continue business even in times of great change. At the same time, that is leading to a management structure which produces profits.

Since 2009, ITOCHU has participated in the UN Global Compact. In 2018, we drafted the ITOCHU Group Sustainability Policy. At the same time, we also identified seven material issues. Each division company of ITOCHU has formulated sustainability action plans and performance indicators based on material issues, and reviews its progress every year to further strengthen its initiatives. In response to the increasingly important issue of climate change initiatives (contributing to a decarbonized society), in May 2019 ITOCHU declared its intent to participate in the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). As part of our participation in the TCFD, ITOCHU conducts analysis in five segments – coal, power generation, oil & gas development, Dole, and pulp, and discloses the results of our analysis.

We began human rights due diligence in our supply chain management in FYE 2020 ahead of the Japanese government formulating the Japan’s National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights in addition to the sustainability survey we were already conducting on suppliers. We are confirming the status of initiatives for respect and consideration for human rights in our supply chain with the advice of outside experts. For example, violations of the human rights of residents in producing areas and illegal logging have become major issues in the natural rubber business. Therefore, we have developed a traceability system that allows us to track the process of procuring natural rubber. This has made it possible for us to differentiate our products as those made with natural rubber kind on the environment and society. In this way, we are providing services that meet the needs of each industry to strengthen our value chain.



Fumihiko Kobayashi
Member of the Board
Executive Vice President
Chief Administrative Officer

All ITOCHU Corporation measures to promote sustainability are overseen by the Sustainability Management Division under the leadership of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who is responsible for sustainability management, including evaluating the impact our operations have on the environment and society. The CAO serves as chair of the Sustainability Committee. As one of our core internal committees, the Sustainability Committee deliberates and decides on important matters related to sustainability. In addition to serving as chair of the Sustainability Committee, the CAO also attends Board of Directors, HMC, and Investment Consultative Committee meetings to provide a perspective on sustainability to all investment proposals and provide reports as necessary to the Board of Directors.

We designate an ESG officer within each division company and headquarters department to support the creation of internal systems that contribute to the realization of a sustainable society through our business activities. Additionally, we promote regular dialogue with internal and external stakeholders through initiatives that include holding regular Sustainability Advisory Board. This information exchange helps us ascertain the expectations and demands of society on ITOCHU Corporation, and we reflect that information in our sustainability activities.