President's Commitment





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Masahiro Okafuji

President and Chief Executive Officer

Enabling sustainable growth by continuing to provide the abundance that results from our business activities

Infinite Missions that We Must Accomplish

In 2014, ITOCHU Corporation formulated the Corporate Message, "I am One with Infinite Missions." Ever since the foundation of ITOCHU by the founder Chubei Itoh, we have worked under the spirit of *sampo yoshi* (good for the seller, good for the buyer, and good for society), the management philosophy of Ohmi merchants. We have constantly put this philosophy into practice in our business activities. Responding to demands from ever-changing society and providing the abundance that results from our business activities, rather than pursuing only our own profits, is the mission we must accomplish, and it is essential for the survival of the company. The Corporate Message is an easy-to-understand expression of this concept, and of the capabilities of individuals as our greatest management resources. It is also the text of our promise to society for announcing the role of ITOCHU to broader society based on the corporate philosophy of "Committed to the Global Good." Since it may be difficult to understand what *sogo shosha* is actually doing, in FY 2015, we used various media including TV commercials to ensure that the Corporate Message would spread and become firmly established both inside and outside the company. In part to demonstrate our consistent embodiment of this approach in international society, ITOCHU has participated in the United Nations Global Compact since 2009.

Path for sustainable growth

Having announced our new Medium-Term Management Plan, ITOCHU Corporation has now entered a new growth stage. As we expand our revenue base in China and Asia through business and capital alliances with CITIC and CP, the impact of the expansion on society will be diversified and the range of risks will increase. Our value chains, which have grown in scope and complexity, always present the potential risk that the ITOCHU Group could indirectly become the cause of problems with the environment or human rights. To avoid this risk, which could cause damage to our corporate value, we have established a system for the multilateral monitoring of the risk. It is also important for us not only to manage risk but also to resolve social issues through business activities, by making use of the management foundation that we have developed as *sogo shosha*. We believe that these preparations for risk and the creation of opportunities will allow us to gain the unwavering trust of society and customers, and will lead to the development of our businesses. It is not difficult to maximize profit with an eye solely on your terms of office. If you do this, however, you will leave a heavy burden on future generations and the global environment. When I worked at the Textile Company where we created series of new business models based on brands, I was not preoccupied with short-term profits. Instead, I believed that it was important to create a system that would enable us to continue to grow sustainably in the long term. At present, I still believe that it is our mission to resolve social issues by carrying out sustainable business activities in pursuit of the abundance that results from our business activities, because we are a *sogo shosha* that is engaged in diverse businesses all over the world.

Maximizing the strengths of individuals

Our greatest management resources are "human resources." Many individual employees support the ITOCHU Group's stable, ongoing growth. I believe that, no matter how much we strive to expand our operational scale, or to expand our business fields around the world, each of our employees must continue to act as a merchant with a rigorous focus on the customer's viewpoint and the front lines. ITOCHU has a long tradition of making the most of individual strengths and characteristics in an open and active corporate culture, and we are often described as mercenary band. We will continue to seek strong individuals, and powerfully advance measures for maximizing their capabilities.

Continuing to take on challenges boldly, with an eye on the next stage

We have continued to enjoy development for more than 150 years because we have inherited the spirit of *sampo yoshi* and positioned shared values with society as the foundation of our business activities. If a company becomes overconfident, however, it quickly falls into a decline, just like falling down a slope. It is therefore necessary for all our employees to remain conscious of themselves as challengers and ensure compliance, including strong determination to prevent corruption, not to mention observing laws and regulations.

Now that ITOCHU Corporation has entered a new growth stage, we will try to open up a path for sustainable growth by fulfilling infinite missions, aiming to pursue business activities that are best for the seller, the buyer, and society. We will continue to take on challenges boldly, with an eye on the next stage.