

Third-party opinion

I met Takeki Shirai, who was then General Manager of the Engineering Division at THK, about 20 years ago. That's the first time I remember hearing the term "corporate social responsibility." At that time, LM Guides were being installed on many machine tools. It was a very active period for converting from sliding guides to rolling action. Now, 37 years after it was founded, THK is one of the world's leading companies. So what exactly is THK's driving force? When I read the *CSR report* I understood very well how THK absorbs customers' needs and gathers seeds along with product sales, and how new products are continuously being proposed, created, and developed. THK's growth is due to the establishment and passing on of the basic technology of products utilizing a rolling phenomenon that no other company has utilized, and this has led to the development of an environment-friendly and customer-oriented product lineup. I expect them to "faithfully execute principles boldly and swiftly," to further enhance the sophistication, precision, and reliability of their products and pursue and elucidate the principles and rationale for their products through experimentation and theory.

The use of robots for the first time in the development of areas like medical and welfare will, I think, be a technology that really makes a CSR contribution. While this will involve system technology that goes beyond THK's technology, the essence lies in superior mechanical parts. I expect THK to strive to meet the needs of society as part of its CSR efforts. The lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake have given rise to the development of seismic isolation and damping systems, which have become giant products. These are products that play an important CSR role by protecting cultural assets and social infrastructure, and we can look forward to the development of more lightweight and high-strength products.



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Born 1942. In 1969 Professor Shimizu earned a master's degree from the Meiji University Graduate School of Mechanical Engineering. In 1980 he completed his dissertation, *Linear Motion Bearing Life and Load Distribution* (Tokyo Institute of Technology). He has conducted research on rolling mechanical elements, reliability engineering, and tribology.
Publications: *Dynamic Load Capacities of Rolling Mechanical Elements* (Kosaido), *Approach to Reliable Design for Mechanical Systems* (Surikogaku-sha).
Prizewinning papers: *Load Distribution, Accuracy and Rigidity of Linear Motion Ball Guide System* (Japan Society for Precision Engineering, 1991), *Fatigue Limit Concept and Life Distribution Model for Rolling Contact Machine Elements* (STLE, 2003).

There's never been a time of greater upheaval in corporate compliance and adherence to corporate philosophies than today in Japan. At THK, to ensure that the company is operated transparently, based on their corporate philosophy, they have created a corporate governance system, provided security systems, actively practiced disclosure and provided information about the achievement of objectives, established internal reporting systems, and practiced thorough risk management through their Risk Management Division. By doing these things, they've succeeded in creating an organization devoted to achieving CSR. Please be an organization that can practice *monotsukuri* in good conscience, to help create a sustainable society. *Monotsukuri* is also about people building. Through the various types of internal education and training systems devoted to expanding the individual strengths of employees, through workplace safety systems, through Group-wide communication activities, through the global company magazine, please strive for good relations with local communities and people-friendly CSR activities.

In mechanical *monotsukuri*, maintaining a low risk of large-scale environmental pollution is distinctive. THK's commitment to CSR can be seen through its efforts to manage and recycle plant waste from cutting and grinding processes and the like, and through its compliance concerning the handling of harmful chemical substances. Like all bearing manufacturers, however, THK should make environmental improvements on its parts-processing lines.

As globalization continues to advance and as its products flow out into the world, I understand how THK, through its passion for *monotsukuri*, its compliance efforts, and its management systems, is steadily working to carry out its corporate social responsibility.

Postscript

The *THK CSR Report 2007/2008* is THK's first such report. While editing this report we engaged in thoroughgoing discussions within the company concerning the question of what CSR means to THK. As a result, we were able to seriously reconsider the role of THK and its products and view our company from the viewpoint of social responsibility.

As noted in the feature section of this report, CSR is THK's core business, and it is through the processes of this core business that THK contributes to society to the greatest possible extent. For the first time, we realized that we should take great pride in this mission as we go about our daily work. Committing ourselves to business activities in which stake-

holders have placed their trust leads to greater stakeholder satisfaction with THK's progress.

Many sections of this *CSR report* still seem somewhat incomplete. There are many levels at which the THK Group as a whole can contribute, including the environment, employment, and local communities. We will make a Group-wide effort to further enhance the contents of the next report.

We would like to hear the views of you, the reader, so that we can use this valuable feedback as a reference resource for THK's future CSR activities and in creating the next report. We will greatly appreciate your candid thoughts and opinions.

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