Akashi Masuda, the first president of the former Mitsui & Co.,* stated, “Let not short-term gains tempt your mind, seek only enduring prosperity by embracing grand aspirations.” These words represent the foundation of the Mitsui’s business activities. Mitsui acknowledges companies can only be sustainable if the societies they operate in are sustainable. We want to fulfill our social responsibilities by the sustainable growth of our own company, in order to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society through our business activities.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which lay out 17 goals and 169 targets to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The SDGs clearly underline priority issues on a global basis and the ideal visions for the future. Meanwhile, the megatrends with the potential to impact our business activities are rapidly changing. In response to this, in April 2019 we revised Mitsui’s Materiality, which was originally defined in 2015 as important management issues for our sustainable growth (please see pages 51–54).

As a trading company, we possess various functions and develop a broad range of businesses in diverse countries and regions around the world. As our Materiality has strong association with the SDGs, we believe that we can make wide-ranging contributions to society through our businesses. Our diverse human resources leverage our comprehensive strengths and global network and continuously pursue industrial solutions to social issues.

We consider it important to send a clearer message from a long-term and comprehensive perspective about the unchanging approach of Mitsui’s management and each employee, pursuing sustainable development for both society and us continuously with the aim of creating a future where all aspirations can be fulfilled. Accordingly, we renewed as Integrated Report from the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019. We received more feedback than we could ever have imagined from our stakeholders on our first-ever Integrated Report. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, we made improvements to make Integrated Report 2019 easier to understand while referring to this feedback.

Looking ahead, we will continue to do our utmost to ensure that the Integrated Report serves as an effective communication tool that positively contributes to constructive dialogue with our stakeholders.

In the process, we referred to “the International Integrated Reporting Framework” propounded by International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and “the Guidance for Collaborative Value Creation” formulated by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, in addition to other frameworks. In the course of preparing this report, we have worked closely with each of our internal departments to provide a summary of our holistic perspective on the Group as a whole. Through these means, I can say with confidence that this report was created in an honest and sincere manner.

September 2019
Masami Iijima
Representative Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Chairman of the Governance Committee

* From a legal perspective, there is no continuity between the former Mitsui & Co. and the present Mitsui & Co., and they are totally separate corporate entities.