Enhancement of Quality of Life and Social Infrastructure

Mitsui & Co. continues to contribute to the enhancement of people’s quality of life through its business activities in such areas as electric power, water treatment, water supply and sewerage systems, logistics, railroads, and communications, by developing infrastructure that is essential for the growth and advancement of countries around the world and of local communities.

In the area of electric power and renewable energy, while we engage in power generation and gas distribution, we recognize the importance of reducing of greenhouse gas emissions as a material issue and we are reinforcing our environmental business, such as solar photovoltaic and solar thermal power projects, wind power projects, and biomass related plant projects, with a focus on local production for local consumption.

There is a growing need for improvements in convenience and safety, against the backdrop of growing population, rising living standards, and changing lifestyles. Mitsui is responding to that need by developing and operating sewage and water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities, and by engaging in urban development projects, such as the development of logistics and industrial facilities, especially seaport and airport projects, as well as smart city development projects, to respond to changing societal needs.

With regard to the shipping business in the mobility domain, Mitsui is focusing on vessel ownership and operation and the LNG carrier business, so as to adapt to tighter environmental regulations and the growth of and change in maritime cargo traffic. As regards railroads, which form a major artery for land transportation, we export freight cars and related facilities and undertake rail transportation infrastructure projects using Japanese institutional finance. Other business activities in this area include rail leasing, general freight business, and passenger transportation. In the area of infrastructure-building, our business includes digitalized engineering processes, which not only improve the accuracy, productivity, and safety of construction work, including operational assistance for general construction machinery, but also allow even relatively inexperienced construction machinery operators to carry out precise construction.

Mitsui also promotes the utilization of ICT in such areas as high-speed communications, electronic settlements and other communications and service platform businesses, especially in emerging countries, aiming for the enhancement of quality of life and social infrastructure. At the same time, in our effort to build new social systems, we strive to create new business, including medical and healthcare services, agriculture, and energy management.

Furthermore, in terms of both the application of our business strategy and our contribution to society, besides making efforts to contribute to local communities and revitalize regional economies, we also promote community investments with the aims of encouraging investment and regional development, and creating employment at the regional level.

Helping to Improve People’s Lives by Supplying Electricity to Non-electrified Regions

SDGs: 7.1, 7.2, 9.1, 9.4

Mitsui works to improve the lives of people living in non-electrified areas through the construction of power grids and the development of home power generation environments.

In India, we are promoting the electrification of rural villages through our investment and participation in OMC Power Private Ltd. ("OMC Power"), which is a leading operator of mini-grids, supplying stable electricity using largely renewable energy. Traditionally, in India’s non-electrified regions, fossil fuels such as diesel or kerosene have been consumed as the source of energy. By contrast, OMC Power supplies electricity that is more stable and has a lower environmental impact, at low prices, by combining solar power generation with batteries and other methods. This not only contributes to the development of local economies, but also helps to reduce CO₂ emissions. In the medium term, OMC Power plans to operate 1,000 small solar power generation plants (with total power generation capacity of around 50 MW), and supply electricity to more than one million people living in regions without electricity, thereby contributing to India’s growth.

We also help to supply electricity to sub-Saharan Africa through our investment and participation in M-KOPA Holdings Ltd. ("M-KOPA"). M-KOPA runs a business called the Solar Home System ("SHS"), through which solar panels are installed on the roofs of houses or small stores, and solar power generation is used to provide power for lighting, mobile phone chargers, and home appliances (radios and televisions). Up until recently, more than 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa have been using kerosene, which is a fossil fuel, for lighting and cooking, because of the delayed development of the power transmission grid. However, thanks to the SHS, there has been a reduction in kerosene use, helping to reduce the environmental load. In Africa, a large increase in demand for electricity is expected as a result of the improved living standards and lifestyle changes that will result from future rapid economic growth. By accelerating efforts to strengthen and expand the services M-KOPA provides, we will support more convenient and comfortable lives for people living in Africa.
Helping to Create Workplaces Where People Can Continue to Work over the Long Term

ATOUN Inc. (“ATOUN”) is a Mitsui associated company who is working to develop and popularize wearable robotic devices (“powered wear”) under its corporate philosophy of realizing a society in which the “power barrier” of muscular strength and stamina (due to aging or gender) can be overcome, and making it possible for anyone to continue working without being constrained by physical capacity.

In February 2019, twenty units of powered wear ATOUN MODEL Y manufactured by ATOUN were introduced by JAL Ground Service Co., Ltd. (“JGS”) in its airport ground handling tasks with the aim of promoting work reforms through collaboration between the two companies. The ATOUN MODEL Y is a lower back-supporting wearable robotic device. It is used mostly in the sorting areas that handle customers’ luggage in tasks such as loading onto containers from belt conveyors, and handling luggage at freight warehouses known as “sheds.” The devices have received highly positive feedback from the staff using them. By collaborating on the development of the next-generation model, which includes features such as the “arm support function,” ATOUN and JGS aim to further reduce the workload and realize the creation of workplaces where every employee can be confident of being able to continue to work over the long term.

Improving Access to Water for Children in India, and Contributing to the Elimination of Open Defecation

Mitsui has invested in and participated in TOTO India Industries Private Ltd. (“TOTO India”), which is a joint venture with TOTO Ltd.; TOTO India manufactures sanitary ware at its Gujarat factory. As part of its efforts to contribute to local communities, in which the Gujarat factory is playing a key role, TOTO India is involved in support work for a project entitled “Water Sustainability Project Supporting Indian NGO Deepak for Four Years from 2016.” TOTO India has made use of the Water Environment Fund provided by the TOTO Headquarters. This project has helped to improve water usage, mainly through the new installation and refurbishment of irrigation reservoirs, and through planting. Also, under this project, drinking water tanks and children's toilets have been installed at healthcare facilities built in the Indian state of Gujarat to protect children from hunger and malnutrition. As a result, TOTO India has contributed to improving children's access to water and to eliminating open defecation.

Vice President Awashima (seconded from Mitsui & Co.) cutting the tape at the opening ceremony held at a healthcare facility. On the right is the children’s toilet installed at the facility.