Health Management, Occupational Health and Safety Initiatives

Occupational Safety

Mitsui takes various steps to protect its employees from workplace accidents, including periodic inspections by occupational physicians. We have established mechanisms to ensure that any accidents are promptly reported to the Human Resources & General Affairs Division. When accidents occur at Mitsui or its affiliated companies, the immediate submission of reports in accordance with our compliance-related procedures and appropriate actions are ensured by these mechanisms, and at the same time we strive to prevent recurrences.

Targets for FY 2020

- Zero Workplace Accidents
- Zero Fatal Accidents

Security Management

Mitsui promotes various kinds of businesses through its 139 points of global operations (as of April 1, 2019), and a large number of employees go on business trips to many parts of the world almost every day. Ensuring the security of employees and their families is one of the most important tasks for the company.

In cooperation with relevant domestic and foreign offices and security companies, Mitsui obtains and analyzes the latest information on the political situation, security situation and so on, and shares such information with the related staff in order for the employees to be able to raise their safety awareness.

Mitsui has also prepared systems for situations such as accidents, injuries, and diseases, in cooperation with emergency health care service companies.

For employees who will be dispatched overseas and for their accompanying family members, the company has programs for security measures.

Creating New Value

Mitsui & Co. has created the Long-term Management Vision (“LTMV”) to define a clear picture of its future. In the LTMV, the evolution of Mitsui’s role from “connecting” to “creating” is positioned at the core of the company’s pursuits. Essentially, Mitsui has its roots in the work of creating new business and business models. That said, in the past, our functions and roles as a general trading company have often centered on the creation of value through “connecting” companies, products, and other elements. The LTMV sets out our determination to evolve beyond that pattern into a company that proactively “creates” business.

We see our relocation to our new Head Office building not simply as a change in our working environment, but as an important opportunity to accelerate the changes that will allow us to realize our envisioned goals as set forth in the LTMV.

Moon

In August 2018, we established Moon Creative Lab Inc. (“Moon”) to develop and incubate new business for the Mitsui & Co. global group. Moon’s Palo Alto headquarters is located at the world epicenter of innovation, in America’s Silicon Valley. Its base in Japan is the WeWork shared office space in Meiji Jingumae, where it offers next-generation work styles and office environments.

Moon’s mission is to create a future vision for Mitsui by building new business from the ground up. Moon provides an environment and functional capabilities for this “0→1” process, i.e. the process of forming totally new business that provides solutions to specific social issues, thereby accelerating our evolution.

Moon seeks business ideas from the 44,000 Mitsui & Co. global group employees. Ideas contributed from the frontline of business around the world are enhanced through dialogue with Moon’s operating teams. The criteria for the selection of ideas take the form of questions posed to the employees who submit the ideas. For example, “Will your idea result in business that creates new value for society?” “Will your idea alleviate problems affecting large numbers of people and contribute to well-being?” “How will your idea solve a social issue?” “Does the business that you have presented have a vision for the future and a scenario for the achievement of that vision?” “Is there a project leader with the ability, commitment, and passion to thoroughly carry out your project?” Questions such as these clearly reflect the values of Mitsui.

The final selection of projects for which commercial implementation will be initiated is made by the Moon Committee, which also includes external partners who are professional business designers.
Mitsui has identified the reinforcement of innovation capabilities as one of the functions that drives the realization of its Medium-term Management Plan. We aim to achieve full digital transformation, whereby we digitize various information and data that exist in the business frontline and in society, and use digital power, including artificial intelligence, to classify, analyze, and control this information so that it can be utilized for the benefit of business and society. One of the steps taken to realize our digital transformation was the establishment of the DT Team within the Corporate Planning & Strategy Division in 2016 to accelerate the commercial development of new value by making full use of digital technology. In 2017, Mitsui, ahead of any other general trading company, appointed a Chief Digital Officer (CDO). The DT Team was formed by transferring around 15 people from the Information Technology Promotion Division, the IT & Communication Business Unit, and other business units into the Corporate Planning & Strategy Division. The DT Team's task is to work with business units to drive business innovation through digital technology.

Through the DT Team, Mitsui is working to reduce costs and increase sales via efficiency improvements and optimization, to enhance the quality of existing business, and at the same time to create new business models. Examples include the use of AI for such purposes as medical diagnosis, logistics route optimization, ticket price adjustment, and food demand forecasting.

We are also implementing DT initiatives within the company with the aim of achieving major improvements in the efficiency of day-to-day operations, energizing communication, and facilitating knowledge sharing and utilization. The first organizational structures to make the transition to fully paperless meetings using IT tools were the Board of Directors and the Corporate Management Committee. Various units have since enhanced the utilization of IT tools and shifted toward paperless operations. By January 2019, these efforts had resulted in a 26% year-on-year reduction in the amount of paper used to produce documents on copiers.

Mitsui is planning to move into its new Head Office building, which is scheduled to be completed in February 2020. Under a project called “Workplace Experience” (“Work-X”), we are considering a vision for workplace experiences in the new building, and the mechanisms needed to turn that vision into reality.

For example, one concept under consideration for the new building is the introduction of the group address system to support the flexible and mobile formation of teams according to operational and project requirements. Under the group address system, while specific areas are allocated to each organizational unit, employees can choose any desk or spot within those areas. This will allow employees to follow a task-oriented approach to work by selecting the locations in which they work according to their individual objectives. To encourage face-to-face communication, we are also considering the creation of inner stairwells connecting all office floors, and the establishment of communication zones where people naturally gather and ideas are actively generated. These measures and ideas will result in chance encounters within each floor and activate casual communication, thereby fostering a sense of unity among employees and triggering “intellectual chemical reactions.”

Mitsui has defined the new Head Office building as an environment where Mitsui’s diverse individuals produce a stir of “intellectual chemical reactions” with colleagues and partners inside and outside the company, generate a wave of changes, and create the future of Mitsui. We see the relocation to the new building not simply as a change of address, but as an opportunity to accelerate innovation that contributes toward the realization of our LTMV.