Sustainable Supply of Resources, Energy, Materials, Food and Products

Mitsui & Co. has built optimal supply chains, spanning all stages from upstream to downstream, including procurement, production and logistics etc., and contributes to the sustainable supply of metals, chemicals, energy, food and other resources, raw materials, and manufactured products.

As part of its efforts, Mitsui engages in investment and trading business in such areas as oil and natural gas/LNG, to secure and supply the energy resources essential for social development. In particular, we participate in natural gas/LNG development projects in various parts of the world to ensure stable supplies of gas-derived energy, which has a relatively low environmental load compared to other fossil fuels. Our extensive involvement covers the entire value chain, from production to marketing. In addition, looking ahead toward the realization of a low-carbon society, we are engaging in the field of next-generation energy, for example, the commercialization of renewable energy technologies such as biofuels, and the creation of business models for hydrogen transportation and storage.

Mitsui actively participates in the development of mineral and metal resources. We endeavor to ensure stable supplies of iron ore and copper, etc., for Japan and for other markets around the world. We are also building a metal scrap supply network in preparation for the global recycling society of the future. With iron and steel products, we are building supply structures for infrastructure projects to meet buoyant demand in rapidly growing emerging economies. At the same time, we procure and supply iron steel products, including high-environmental-performance parts, for a wide range of industrial sectors such as the motor vehicle industry and the energy sector.

In the automotive sector, we not only export vehicles, but also conduct local logistics business in various regions, and have built a stable global chain extending from production to finance. As regards our rail transport business, in addition to the export of freight cars and related equipment, we also engage in leasing business and other services to meet a variety of needs across the railroad value chain.

In our chemical business, Mitsui is also deepening its engagement in the agricultural sector, including the manufacture of the nutritional element methionine, as well as the development of phosphate rock fertilizer resources and global trading of fertilizer raw materials, such as sulfur and sulfates. We are also developing our chemicals business through wide-ranging transactions and investments that contribute to various industries, including new initiatives focused on carbon fiber and “green” chemicals.

In our food business, we pursue our goal of enhancing nutritional access through the stable supply of food. Against the backdrop of world population growth widening the gap between food supply and demand, and expanding regional imbalances in supply capacity, we strive to ensure the stable and efficient supply of safe, reliable food resources with our food-related business. In addition, we promote the establishment of an optimal supply chain, and engage in projects that contribute to enhancing adaptability to climate change, abnormal weather, and other disasters.

Improving Access to Nutrition through a Shrimp Farming and Processing Business in Vietnam

Demand for sustainable, high-quality protein has been growing, not only in Western countries but also in Asia, especially China, which has seen population growth and the expansion of the middle class. Mitsui’s affiliate Minh Phu Seafood Joint Stock Company (“Minh Phu”), which owns two processing plants and shrimp farming ponds covering an area of 900 hectares in southern Vietnam, is the world’s biggest shrimp producer and processor. In a mangrove forest, it produces shrimp sustainably under conditions similar to the natural environment, while continually monitoring the mangrove ecosystem and managing water quality. A key advantage for Minh Phu is its vertically integrated business structure encompassing all stages from shrimp farming to processing and sales. It exports an extensive range of products, including highly processed, high-added-value products, to around 50 countries and regions worldwide. Shrimp is a low-fat source of high-quality protein that is also rich in the antioxidant astaxanthin. Mitsui is contributing to an increase in Minh Phu’s corporate value through the use of digital technology and AI in farming ponds and processing plants, and through supply chain restructuring and efficiency improvements at all stages from farming to marketing. At the same time, Mitsui is contributing to enable people’s better access to nutrition by supplying shrimp to numerous countries and regions through Minh Phu.