

Greetings for 2016

Takashi Amano, President

It is a great pleasure to extend to one and all our most cordial greetings of the New Year, 2016. In keeping with custom, kindly allow me to make a few remarks as the New Year begins.

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Alcoa, a major primary aluminum smelter, declared the shutdown of their Massena West Smelting Plant in New York State to prevent a red ink increase. Reflecting this declaration, Governor of New York State stated, "New York State wants to support \$70million for keeping their operation during coming three years. I understand well the sluggish aluminum market, but the secureness of employment is our greatest target." The Reuters reported above on November 26.

The struggling Chinese economy and the problems of excessive investments affect worse world economy in the New Year. Anyone could not foresee such a Chinese shock, however I expect that Chinese economy will take large next steps in the near future.

Thanks to the lower energy and resources markets, Japanese economy enjoys considerably. Contrarily, the export countries of energy and resources are confronted with severe problems, and we must pay attention over them in the New Year.

Besides, in the Middle East states, the political unstable has continued, and the confusion by the Islamic State's activities expands to whole world. As a result, the people's anxiety invites stronger power of the Right parties or radical nationalism parties. I think it is one of the greatest problems in the New Year.

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In 1989, an American movie "Back to the future the second" looked beyond the world in 2015, last year. Today we are very much surprised to know fantasy things in 1989 have been realized around us today.

Handless and wireless videogame, 3D movie, handy tablet computer, TV meeting, wide screen TV, multiple channels TV and others.

Today, furthermore various machines and systems having artificial intelligence are developed. Most automobile and electric appliances are evolving into our daily life with such the newest systems.

In the New Year, I am anticipating meeting various daring new products, but I think they always must be human-oriented one.

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10 years ago, Kyoto Protocol could not have all countries' agreement, and "COP 21" Paris Agreement was adopted with all countries after a long work last year.

However, Asuka decided to practice Kyoto Protocol ourselves at our new plant, and we could decrease 35% of carbon dioxide exhaustion in 2013 from our old plant. Besides in 2014, we decreased 9% of gas consumption from a year ago, and in the New Year, we are going to cut down 5% of gas consumption from the previous year.

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In the New Year, all staff and I strive to keep up the quality of products and service, and at the same time, would like to wish you great success and good health heartily.

### Testimonial from OISCA

For many years Asuka has supported OISCA, the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement –International, and On December 16, Mr. Akira Muramatsu, Manager of Central Japan Training Center of OISCA, visited Asuka to present a testimonial.

At OISCA training center, so many hopeful foreign youths have studied and trained Japanese agricultural engineering and Japanese culture. Today at many developing countries, they are actively working and contributing for their countries or societies.

The photo on page two shows Mr. Akira Muramatsu and President Takashi Amano having the testimonial at Asuka head office.

### Mikawa Comic celebrates the New Year

Mikawa Comic is one of the New Year events in Nishio area, and it has been performing every January since 750 years ago. It has declared an intangible cultural asset by Japanese government in December 1995.

There are some stories of origin, and the most predominant history is the tradition of Buddhism priest Otsu at Jissoji Temple in Nishio, who went to China and studied Buddhism in 13 century, and brought a Chinese music to home town.

The wood block print on page three is Mikawa Comic performance, which was worked by a pupil at Nishio Primary School.

### Company news

We received a delightful number of greeting cards from various countries' friends, and since then they have been displayed in our dining hall as the photo on page three shows. We enjoy them very much. Thank senders ever so much!

On December 26, a staff convivial meeting was held, at which nine full attendances and a long service senior were awarded as followed

Full attendances: Mr. Kazuhisa Suzuki, Mr. Norio Nagata, Mr. Takuya Kanazawa, Mr. Yasuhiko Nagata, Mr. Mr. Tomohiro Tomatsu , Miss Ayumi Tani, Mr. Tetsuaki Adachi, Mr. Yuta Sukigara and Mr. Hiroo Suzuki.

15 years long service senior: Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki.

Congratulations everyone! Take care of yourself in the New Year.

When it comes to the New Year, Praying Meeting is a feature. Every arrangement is going on powerfully for the best hospitality. All we expect to welcome so many guests at the Kira Kanko Hotel, photo on page four, on January 16.

### The Japan of today

#### New Year's event

The Japanese celebrate the passing of one year and the arriving of the next with great fever. On January 1 families gather to drink a special kind of sake that is supposed to ensure a long life, eat a special kind of soup containing glutinous rice cakes, and generally wipe away any bitter memories remaining from the previous year.

They visit shrines and temples to pray for good fortune in the coming year. The New Year celebration is the biggest event on the calendar in Japan, and all companies and public offices are closed for the first three to seven days of the year.