

### **Production of secondary aluminum alloy dwindles in F 2015**

On May 17, the Japan Aluminum Alloy Refiners Association revealed the total production and the total shipment in fiscal 2015, started in April 2015 and ended in March 2016. According to the announcement, the total production dwindled 4.7 per cent from the previous fiscal year to 776,115 ton, and the shipment also shrank 4.9 per cent year on year to 785,920 ton.

Both tonnages showed year-to-year decline and fell below the 0.8 million ton mark, which is the first time in past four years. The previous year below the 0.8 million ton mark was in 2011, when we experienced great two natural disasters, the huge earthquake in Northeastern Japan and the long-term flood in Thailand.

It is said that the reasons of stagnation in fiscal 2015 are the effect of increased consumption tax, the decreased output of mini-car and the brisk import of Chinese made aluminum alloy ingot.

The classified shipment showed that all sections decreased except extrusion. The main demand, for diecast and cast, dwindled under the standstill production of automobile. The market of sheet was excellent supported by brisk coffee can, but the demand of recycled UBC ingot decreased under the lower primary aluminum market. As the effect, a lot of UBC scrap was exported to Korea

The demand for extrusion was brisk brought by a good number of houses under construction. Contrarily, the steel production remained low and the demand for steel mill plunged.

The table on page one shows the production and shipment of secondary aluminum alloy in fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2015, in which from top total production, total shipment and classified shipment – diecast, cast, sheet, extrusion, steel and alloy smelters. The bracketed shows the comparison percentage with the previous fiscal year.

### **Monthly productions of aluminum alloy and steel kept watch**

The Japan Aluminum Alloy Refiners Association recently revealed the monthly production of aluminum alloy in March, which rose 2.5 per cent from the same month last year to 66,890 ton, and this monthly increase marked for the first time in 18 months.

At the same time, the total shipment of aluminum alloy in March increased 1.2 per cent from a year earlier to 69,189 ton, and this increase of shipment was for the first time in 26 months.

Besides, the total crude steel production in April was released by the Japan Steel League on May 20. According to this announcement, it showed a 1.2 per cent increase from a year earlier, and was 8.498 million ton. This increase of year on year production marked for the first time in 20 months.

Most people don't think the domestic steel market improves these days, however in South Eastern Asia, the market improves by the production curtailment of Chinese steel mill.

The metalmen watch these indexes for glad tidings.

### **Toyohashi Univ. of Technology develops new Mg alloy**

Toyohashi University of Technology, Aichi Prefecture, recently disclosed that they developed a next generation's new magnesium alloy, which has very high strength without high priced rare earth metals.

Professor Hiromi Miura revealed that this new magnesium alloy will be marketed soon cooperating with Kawamoto Heavy Industry Corp.

The Nihon Keizai Shinbun reported on May 23.

### **The 42nd. general meeting of JARA opens on May 17**

On May 17, the 42nd. general meeting of the Japan Aluminum Alloy Refiners Association was held at Kazankaikan in Tokyo, at which Mr. Takaaki Yamamoto, President of Daiki Aluminum Corporation, was elected as new chairman. At the same time, Asuka Industries, Inc. President Takashi Amano was re-elected as an executive director.

At the meeting, Mr. Goji Matsukawa was awarded the Aiji Takahashi Prize, which was originated by the late Aiji Takahashi's donation in 1979, and since then the association honors some excellent employees every year

After the meeting, one hundred attendants, association members and guests from business bodies, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and media, enjoyed a grand party.

The upper photo on page three is Mr. Goji Matsukawa.

### **Nishio Combustibles Safety Association celebrates commendation ceremony**

The Nishio Combustibles Safety Association always practices various safety campaigns against inflammable risks at private business cooperating with the Nishio Fire Station.

On May 20, the 55th.annual general meeting of the association was held at the Resort Links in Kira Waikiki Beach, Mikawa Bay national Park, where the association celebrated commendation ceremony. Asuka was elected as the best company of safety policy, and President Takashi Amano received an award as the below photo on page three.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Mikio Matsuzaki, Chairman of the association, and President Takashi Amano were classmates at Tokyo University of Science.

### **Mt. Sangane Hydrangea Festival in June**

The automobile road of five kilometer between Nishio City and Katahara Spar is surrounded by 70,000 stems of hydrangea, which blossoms are in full bloom throughout June every year.

In this season, many visitors enjoy the whole mountain covered with hydrangea various colorful blossoms, and at the same time enjoy an excellent birds eye view of Mikawa Bay. Throughout June," Mt. Sangane Hydrangea Festival" is held, and various joyful events are going to be arranged.

The photo on page four is hydrangea blossoms and birds eye view of Mikawa Bay from top of Mt. Sangane.