

FOREWORD

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With great changes taking place in the world political and economic scene, Japan is being asked ever more strongly to follow a course of development which sets first priority on coexistence with other nations.

Likewise, manufacturing industries are continuing to turn from paradigms which stress quantitative expansion to qualitative change based on technology. For a number of years, the company has followed a policy which aims at becoming a diversified enterprise based on the world's strongest steel business. In giving concrete form to this concept, we have made great efforts to become a world pioneer in the field of steelmaking.

However, the technologies which have grown out of construction and operation in steelmaking are not limited to that field alone. They also include individual technologies which can be applied in other fields, and technologies and others which provide the foundation for total technologies and contain the potential for further development. Our efforts to develop these technologies into assets with global value have produced a number of results which we have cultivated as new technologies, and it is our intention to continue to develop these technologies as the basis for a unique total engineering business.

This special issue introduces only a small number of these new technologies, but we nevertheless hope that our readers will find it interesting.