

Message from the President

The rich resources of our planet Earth have given birth to many forms of life and have supported the wide-ranging and ambitious activities of mankind. Nevertheless, recent activities have exceeded this life-sustaining ability of the Earth. This poses a threat not only to our coexistence with other forms of life on this planet, but also to the future of the human race itself.

In order to leave a rich, fertile world to future generations, each of us must reduce the environmental impact caused by our activities. For that to happen, governments, companies, citizen groups, and even individuals must be aware of the environmental impact that is affecting the entire planet and actively seek to reduce it. Mutual consultation and cooperation are also critical to further advance.

For the Ricoh Group, as a global citizen, safeguarding this precious planet is one of our corporate missions, and the environmental conservation activities of the entire Group are a part of our management philosophy. Specifically, we believe that the following two ideas are crucial: (1) we must reduce the environmental impact of our products and (2) we must reduce the environmental impact of all of our corporate activities, including development, manufacturing, sales and services, product take-back, and recycling. We have taken the initiative in establishing an environmental management system by developing our own environmental accounting system, which we use to understand the efficacy of our activities and to handle our findings to better management.

To survive in the new century, a company needs to excel in environment-conscious management and social responsibility. We have already been through a Passive Stage, in which we dealt with regulations, and a Proactive Stage, in which we voluntarily took measures to reach higher goals in conserving the global environment. We are now in a Responsible Stage, in which we are increasing our economic value as a company by continuing environmental conservation activities. We need to work with communities and citizens groups in global activities that contribute to the environment in addition to practicing information disclosure and active communication. In this way, we will vigorously help build a society that recirculates resources, which is essential if the existence of mankind is to continue.

This report, which is made publicly available, summarizes the details and results of our global environmental conservation activities in fiscal 2000. We hope that this report will help as many of you readers as possible to discover the extent of the Ricoh Group's environmental measures. We welcome your honest opinion to further improve our activities in terms of both quality and effectiveness.

Masamitsu Sakurai

President and Chief Operating Officer
Ricoh Co., Ltd.

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