

Chairman's Message

It is in These Times of Crisis for Humanity that We at the Sumitomo Chemical Group Renew Our Commitment to Contributing Broadly to Society as a Bearer of Innovation.

Since last year we have been going through the major difficulties posed by COVID-19, and we have had to face unavoidable changes on every front. In addition, COVID-19 further intensified two fundamental crises that had already been facing society, namely, societal divisions and the crisis of sustainability. The rise of populism and nationalism caused by widening disparities has caused a rift between generations and between the rich and poor, as well as global divisions, as exemplified by the fight for dominance between the US and China. In addition, ecological damage, such as from global warming and pandemics, is threatening the sustainability of human society.

Against the backdrop of these crises, over the next five or ten years, the world is expected to work to form a new order. In doing so, I think it is critical that we maintain two important viewpoints. One is a viewpoint of justice and fairness. We need to develop a renewed appreciation for the universal values of basic human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. We also need to focus on another viewpoint: social interest. This is a concept that runs through the principle of ESG as well as the SDGs, which emphasize diversity and inclusion. It is also part of Sumitomo's business philosophies—including the credo "*Jiri-Rita Koushi-Ichinyo*," meaning that our business must benefit society at large, not just our own interests—that were handed down in the Sumitomo Chemical Group from the time of its founding.

In achieving societal change with the two viewpoints of justice and fairness, on the one hand, and social interest, on the other, what is essential is science and innovation. Chemistry has its origins in alchemy among others, and has developed as a natural science on the basis of logical positivism. Chemistry, which creates substances that are newly demanded by society or that have characteristics that had never been seen before, is truly the alchemy of our modern society. The chemical industry is an extremely far-reaching industry that touches upon every field, such as the environment, medicine, and food. One can also say that this industry is entrusted to lead innovation to help resolve a variety of complex and increasingly sophisticated issues including the realization of carbon neutrality and to make our society sustainable.

Especially now, as humankind faces the new crisis of COVID-19, we will redouble our efforts to generate innovation based on the credo of "*Jiri-Rita Koushi-Ichinyo*," contribute to the creation of Society 5.0, and continue working to build a Sumitomo Chemical that can be trusted by society far into the future.

We would greatly appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

July 2021



Masakazu Tokura

Chairman of the Board

