

# Fulfilling the Dreams of the Next Generation



As a chemical company that helps realize the dreams of the next generation, Nippon Soda will continue to contribute to creating of a sustainable society through collaborative efforts with stakeholders.

*Akira Ishii*

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## Nippon Soda's CSR management

We have entered the second year of the medium-term business plan that covers the period until 2020, the year that marks the 100th anniversary of the company's foundation. Under the themes of "speed and reform," our efforts have been steadily focused on expanding existing businesses, creating new businesses, promoting development, and enhancing the Group's business foundation.

Nippon Soda regards changes in society, the economy and the environment as business opportunities, and focuses on solving social issues and increasing corporate value through products and solutions in the domains of agriculture, health care, the environment and information. Activities to "further develop CSR management," one of the goals of the medium-term business plan, are essential for Nippon Soda to ensure its sustainable growth and to build a solid business foundation.

CSR is essential to the continued existence of our company. In our CSR management, a major emphasis is placed on the following three categories of activities (refer to page 4): "CSR activities to improve corporate value," which aim to contribute to society by providing products that maximize our positive impact as a chemical company; "CSR activities to protect corporate value," which aim to minimize negative impacts on safety, the environment and quality caused in relation to our business activities dealing with different chemical substances; and "social activities" to maintain harmonious relationships with stakeholders. We are promoting efforts to further improve these activities in line with our management strategy that aims to improve our sustainable corporate value.

As a materiality issue<sup>1</sup> of our CSR management, we aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations in September 2016. We will continue our efforts to produce innovations that take advantage of features unique to Nippon Soda in a speedy manner. We will also continue our discussions on efforts to achieve certain SDGs so that we will be able to improve our presence in the global market as a chemical company that contributes to achieving a sustainable society.

To strengthen the business management foundation that supports the sustainable improvement of the corporate value and sustainable growth of the company, we will continue to promote highly sound and transparent corporate activities in compliance with laws, regulations and corporate ethics based on the Corporate Governance Code.

## Promotion of diversity

A corporate group that values diversity does generate new innovations and increase its global competitiveness. Based on this idea, we consider the promotion of diversity to be an important management strategy. We will place an increased emphasis on a work style reform unique to Nippon Soda by helping employees play an active role passionately and willingly without fear of failure and creating an organizational climate where all employees can maximize their individual abilities.

Nippon Soda will continue to create innovations that fulfill the dreams of the next generation and contribute to achieving a sustainable society as a chemical company sought after by society.

1. Priority issues that should be addressed