

VIII • Outside opinions about the YKK Group efforts to protect the environment

Looking at the environmental management systems of domestic businesses, the environmental management at production sites is established and I feel that the staff members have clear awareness of the environment and safety. I can also see that the company has taken a positive stance toward the environment with their products by adapting their Eco Products Vision for new product development. They can be commended for offering a product concept focused on sustainability that not only considers environmental function, but also emphasizes safety, worry-free use, and a comfortable lifestyle.

On the other hand, some issues still remain and I expect that YKK will grapple with them as they further develop their environmental management and management for sustainability.



Interview with Committee Head Morino

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● Creation of a vision and a system for coping with environmental issues for the entire corporation

Management structure and objective maintenance systems are established at the site level, but the YKK Group as a whole still lacks mid-term and long-term visions and plans. For this reason, there is a lack of performance evaluation, including measuring the overall degree of success and how this is reflected for next year in the annual plan, so it is difficult to see the achievements of the group as a whole. In the future, they must also include business bases abroad in the creation of a system for the whole group.

● Development of environmentally friendly products that respond to the needs of the market

I hope that YKK will further develop products that contribute to society by responding to consumer and community needs regarding the environment. For this purpose, they should have people in charge of not only the development of these eco products, but also people in charge of marketing them. I hope they will become more aware of this connection with the marketplace.

● Awareness of relationships with society and stakeholders

Their current environmental efforts are focused mostly on production management, development systems and internal company affairs, and their perspective on their connection to society is a little weak. For example, in the case of recycling, they should not only consider recycling at plants and the recyclability of their products, but they should strengthen their relationship with recycling as a part of society (such as aluminum reuse), including increasing access to other companies, industries and consumers. Stakeholders and communities want partnerships with businesses, and I expect that in the future, YKK will further develop their communication with them through business activities and product sales.



Interview with staff in charge of LCA



At the Kurobe Recycling Center

海野みづえ

So-Tech Consulting, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer Mizue Unno

Profile of Mizue Unno

- Chiba University Graduate School of Agriculture Master's Degree
 - Founded So-Tech Consulting, Inc. in 1996 after working at a management consulting company
- Special Lecturer for environmental planning at Tokyo University Graduate School
Director of the Environmental Planning Council of Japan