

Foreword

Reinforcement of “Manufacturing” Competitiveness



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Several years have passed since Komatsu kicked off a variety of activities aiming at reinforcing its “manufacturing” competitiveness in a broad sense. As some results of these activities, “Dantotsu” products have been delivered to the market where they are enjoying a good reputation. The reader knows that the “manufacturing” competitiveness as defined by Komatsu is comprehensive, embracing the entire value chain from research and development, to production, selling and services, as well as the administration segments, suppliers and distributors that support them.

As part of these activities, the production sector has also kicked off its “OX (optimum manufacturing) Activity.” We believe that significant results can be accomplished. The spirit, aim and implementation method of the “OX Activity” are explained below.

- 1) To achieve the overall optimum by considering items all the way from materials to assembly as well as the operation and resale by users.
(To consider the entire life cycles of products from production and shipment to operation, periodical repairs, resale and scrapping at user sites)
- 2) To be thorough and scrupulous in pursuing the principles of being devoted to sites, products and reality, establishing the correct framework, finding challenges by comparing ideas and reality and constantly making improvement.
- 3) To incorporate the state-of-the-art and best technologies available to attain QCD of the highest level in the world.
(To widely study the world to collect information and to correctly gauge the level of the current status in an effort to challenge the best in the world)
- 4) To place the young generation at the center of activities and to discuss with the heads of divisions and departments at each step of activities.
(To foster the young-generation and to activate communications in a true sense)

In the beginning, the themes of the activities were mostly single parts. At present, however, themes that focus on the entire value chain are increasing. The young-generation who have experienced these activities are growing and are now making a contribution.

The Osaka Plant is undertaking the OX Activity involving all departments and sections and is challenging various issues and problems. The more we spend our energy in pursuing the correct framework, the more we encounter issues and problems. This is indeed what we are experiencing. There will be no end to our improvement activities because the ideal level increases the more the technology of the world advances and the more the capability of the people and groups taking part in activities rises. At present, these identified issues and problems are prioritized and each of them is constantly and steadily being dealt with for improvement.

Improvement activities like the OX Activity are kicked off by not only the production sector, but also all the sectors and segments of Komatsu. The driving force to undertake these activities are, above anything else, the passion of each person toward “manufacturing” and a workplace environment that respects and fosters such passion. It is our wish to blend them in the DNA of our organization for sustainable continuity.

Believing that each improvement produced from such passion for “manufacturing” accumulates and leads to innovative products and production methods that trigger a paradigm shift, we will implement and promote the improvement activities.