Environment-Compatible Plants Emphasising Harmony with Historical Heritage and Sanctuary Concerns

T. Kurihara
Fuji Electric

Some manufacturers have sited their factories in urban areas, others prefer to have them dispersed in rural areas. They should consider carefully how they should operate from their chosen locations. Factories of both types are discussed and suggestions are made for dealing with various matters, and for what corporations or factories should do in the 21st century. The NKK Corporation and Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd are described as examples of factories or plants located in urban areas and the Hoshizaki Electric Co. Ltd as a good example of a factory located in a rural area.

Keywords: Community; Environment-Compatibility; Harmony with nature; High productivity

1. Introduction

There has been a great change over several years in Japan in the methods by which enterprises decide where to locate their new plants or factories, and how to have them constructed. Coming into the stabilised growth period, manufacturing industries have shifted their emphasis to assembly industries, which caused a tendency for them to have their factories in rural areas such as inland areas. This is partly due to the availability of a workforce and land in those areas, and partly due to the high added value of products and comparatively small production lots which are not affected by the handicaps in rural areas. The completion of the highway network has also encouraged this trend. Furthermore, the improvement of the communication network, thanks to the development of micro-electronics, and information-gathering facilities have solved the handicap of distance from big cities.

Modern high-technology factories need adequate conditions for high-level research and development. When they are engaged in high-level development, as in the software business, they need some high-quality services, or cultural functions, related to their business and their life, which can easily be obtained in urban areas, in addition to a comfortable natural environment.

On the other hand, manufacturers are expected to help to achieve an affluent society by providing consumers and clients with a variety of necessities. For that, they should improve their development capability. They should also develop products which have a high added value and high technology. They are also expected to improve the fundamentals of their production.

Some manufacturers decide to site factories in urban areas, others prefer to have them dispersed in rural areas. In the latter case, they might be able to give employment to local residents, thereby improving the economic situation of people in those areas. In both cases, they should consider carefully, from all viewpoints, how they should perform in the locations they have chosen. Factories of both types will be considered, and views offered on how manufacturers should deal with various matters, and what corporations or factories should be aiming for in the 21st century.

As examples of factories or plants located in urban areas which strive to maintain harmony with the residents and their environments, the NKK Corporation and Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd are described. Their mottoes are “plants with amenity which are considerate to human beings”, “a city resort with water and greenery”, “an interchange with near-by residents” and “close relations with clients”.

In addition the Hoshizaki Electric Co. Ltd is a good example of a factory located in a rural area. It has a park inside the site, keeping nature as it is. It aims at “harmony with nature” and “contribution to the area”.

2. Some Examples of Factories of a New Type in Japan

Tables 1 and 2 show good examples of factories in harmony with local residents and their environment. They are categorised into the following types: harmony with the environment, cultural space, an open-to-the-public policy, assimilation to the environment and local residents, harmony with historic sites, harmony with the community, factories of the sanctuary type, and amenity [1].
3. Some Examples of New Types of Factories

3.1 Keihin Steel Mill of NKK Corporation (refer to Table 3) [2,3]

“Keihin Steel Mill in the van of the era, located on the island full of flowers and greenery”