



Takao Yamanaka, Chairman (Fiscal 2014), Japan Urethane Raw Materials Association

I would like to sincerely congratulate Japan Urethane Raw Materials Association (JURA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

According to the Overview on the association's home page, and I quote, "[JURA] was established in August 1965 by a group of polyether ester and isocyanate producers with the objective of advancing the polyurethane raw materials industry in a healthy and moreover stable manner through joining together to improve application development and technology, and in doing so advance the polyurethane industry as a whole."

Undoubtedly, looking back over this past half century, our industry has traced a path running parallel with the history of development of industry in Japan over the past 50 years.

Looking back at the changes in member companies and company names over the years, one can see a reflection of the history of Japan's petrochemical industry and the structural changes that it has undergone over the years. Further, accompanying rapid market globalization that has been evident in recent years, the association's scope of activities is no longer limited to Japan alone. As a constituent association of the Japan Urethane Industries Institute (JUUI), one of our important roles has been to liaise with relevant associations and organizations from overseas.

The environment and safety-related efforts of JURA implemented over the past half century of its history have played an important role not only in Japan, but also in neighboring developing countries as tools for them to accelerate their industry's development. There is broad consensus in the association that this contributory role will continue onwards in the future.

Further, I am certain that further contributions from the association will be sought with regards to energy conservation in the future in Japan in line with the government's guidelines.

Companies and corporations alike fully understand that before debating energy supply in any way, we must first discuss efforts to reduce consumption of energy in Japan because we as a country lack natural resources.

We are aware of the need for the association to proactively disseminate and popularize the potential of polyurethane foam as a thermal insulation material with an impressive energy conservation effect and to this end, activities have commenced.

The 50th anniversary of JURI is indeed a timely juncture to shift from the defensive approach that we have used in the past as part of the development process of the polyurethane industry to an outward-looking proactive approach that would mark the beginning of a new era for the organization.

Moving forward, I look forward to your continued support of JURA in the years to come.

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