

2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake (this section has been quoted from President Komaba's message.)

At 03:08 on the morning of September 6, Hokkaido suffered its largest ever earthquake. According to information issued by the Meteorological Agency, the epicenter of the 6.7-magnitude quake was in the Iburi district of Hokkaido, and a powerful magnitude of 7 on the Japanese scale was recorded in the town of Atsuma.

Forty-one people lost their lives to this earthquake. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all concerned.

The element that received the greatest impact from this quake was electric power.

It was announced immediately after the quake that a total of 2,950,000 households accounting for nearly all of the residents of Hokkaido were experiencing power cuts.

The effects of the earthquake caused all of the thermal power plants to go into emergency shutdown. And, steam leaked from the No.1 and No.2 generators of the three generators in the coal-powered power plant located in Atsuma town, which recorded the quake at magnitude 7 on the Japanese scale, and fire was confirmed nearby the No.4 turbine, all of which resulted in the authorities walking a tightrope with regard to the supply of electrical power. Power supply was forecast to be running at a 10% reduction after September 10th, and the government and Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Ltd. called on residents to cut down on electricity usage by 20%.

The above-mentioned No.1 generator resumed operations at 9am on September 19th and the No.4 generator on September 26th, which has resulted in an available power supply that exceeds peak demand prior to the earthquake.

Owing to this, power-saving demands caused by the quake have been rescinded throughout Hokkaido. None of our employees suffered any damage, and all are safe. Fortunately, the earthquake struck when the Hokkaido Plant was on a break and there was comparatively little damage, so power was restored swiftly on the same day.

Despite this, we recommenced operations in consideration of our customers while observing the call for energy-saving.

With regard to our customers, one company in Hokkaido had to shut down operations during the latter part of the week, and another had to shut down for about one day the following week owing to a shortage of supplies, but both continued with production following this.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

We also thank you for your understanding.

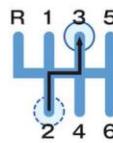
Automotive area (What is the newly-developed iMT?)

A Co., Ltd. has developed a new manual transmission. Named the iMT (Intelligent MT), the nation's first vehicle to use this newly-developed MT is the C sports car, which was recently released onto the market. The C sports car uses a conventional 1.2L 4-cylinder engine with a CVT and MT. The manual transmission in the newly-developed transmission is the one that A Co., Ltd. has named the iMT. The car made its debut with only a CVT, and the iMT option was made available in August. Two-pedal transmissions are the common type seen in Japan's market, but manual transmissions are still comparatively common on a global scale. A Co., Ltd., believes that developing compact, lightweight, high-efficiency manual transmissions will help reduce CO2 emissions. The new 6-gear MT jointly developed by A Co., Ltd. and B Co., Ltd. has reduced the weight by 7kg and shortened its overall length by 24mm, which provides it with the world's top-class transmission efficiency. It was announced that the allowable torque is 280Nm and the weight is 40kg.



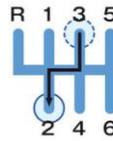
iMT Control

When Shifting Up



Automatically aligned with engine revolutions
Supports smooth gear changes

When Shifting Down



Automatically aligned with engine revolutions
Supports smooth gear changes

iMT control that automatically aligns with engine revolutions when shifting up and down. Engine revolutions are actively reduced when shifting up.

(Source: Motor Fan TECH)

Keihin Seimitsu Kogyo (NKI trainees return home)

Two trainees from PT. Nusa Keihin Indonesia (NKI) who were in Japan studying the work involved in quality assurance since September 15th, 2017, returned home to Indonesia on September 14th, 2018, after learning much about various work practices and technologies.

One of the trainees learned the organization behind and the way of moving ahead with quality assurance and quality control, while the other one learned the methods and points pertaining to a wide range of component inspections, and in addition to this, I'm sure that they built up many experiences coming into contact with Japanese culture and visiting many towns.

I pray for the happiness of these two trainees, who will be entrusted with NKI quality assurance in the future.

The next trainees will consist of two people who will be studying about the work involved in manufacturing for a period of six months.

Post-editorial Notes: (It's Time to Drink, It's Time to Drink, It's Time to Drink Again...! Ha, ha, ha...)

For people like me (the crazy ones), our company is an amazing company when considered in terms of the familiar song *Nihon Zenkoku Sakenomi Ondo*, the lyrics for which start with something like "It's Time to Drink, It's Time to Drink, It's Time to Drink Again..."

There are numerous events held throughout the year for drinking, such as the Donto-Yaki festival, the Eho-Maki festival, cherry-blossom viewing, fishing and summer festivals.

Our barbecue party, which all started when the president announced that we should "beat the summer heat," was held at the Kirin Beer Village on September 21st (Friday).

Director K from the Kanuma Plant took part while firmly gripping an application form (like always), and although we had rain showers, around twenty people gathered together inside a tent and enjoyed a barbecue.

The first toast was raised as the president arrived, and for two hours we drank as much draft beer (draft, draft, draft!) we could. Luckily, the place where I was sitting later became filled with some of the beautiful ladies from the head office, which led to enjoyable conversations and delicious grilled meat... Following this, the president was doing his rounds and came over to where I was sitting, and although I can't remember the details, we ended up discussing something about somebody being "big" or "small" from a human point of view or "big" or "small" from a stature point of view, but one of the pretty ladies mistakenly thought we were discussing something else, which immediately brought down the level of the conversation and caught the president up in a situation that was similar to my own "lipstick event" and "sleepwalking event" and had everybody roaring with laughter.

We returned to the neighborhood of the company after the barbecue to continue the party at a karaoke bar, which was attended by nearly everybody, including the ladies. We started off singing quietly, but by the end of the evening, more than half of the party, mostly consisting of young people, were singing loudly and dancing to "USA" by Da Pump.

The trains were still running, so the author headed toward the nearest monorail station... The devil in my brain whispered "It's Friday! The weekend! Time for a little relaxation before returning home, right?" I could hear a little chirping from the angel in my alcohol-befuddled brain, but stopped off at the family restaurant near the entrance to my street anyway. I sat in a seat that had probably been vacant for about 24-hours, and ordered a draft beer and chocolate parfait. Cold beer and ice-cream to cool my glowing body. Mumbling something unintelligible about a "beer float instead of a soda float!" to myself, my late-night snack was absolutely delicious, and I began to doze off a little as I read my paperback... I tried hard but failed to remain conscious... The next thing I knew, it was two o'clock in the morning. Resting along the way, it took me fifteen minutes to walk up the hill to my house, which usually only takes five minutes. Staggering along at a snail's pace, I realized that when my dotage finally arrived, this was the way that I would always be walking. The weather is getting a little cool as we move toward the cold winter ahead... But for me, it was a long autumn night that warmed the soul.

