

## Praying for the success of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (this section has been quoted from President Komaba's message.)

Although they should really be called the 2020+1 Tokyo Olympics, the Olympic torch relay was launched on March 25th in Fukushima Prefecture, the site that received enormous damage during the Great East Japan Earthquake, as a symbol of recovery. The relay passed nearby our own Kanuma Plant on March 29th, and following this, it continued its journey around the country and is scheduled to end up in Tokyo on July 23rd to commemorate the Olympic opening ceremony, with the games continuing for two weeks until the closing ceremony on August 8th.

However, as of April 28th, Japan is currently facing a sudden surge in the number of COVID-19 infections.

We are now left with the uncertain question of whether or not the determination to forge ahead with the Olympics will be successful, considering that athletes from around the world have been invited to take part despite the fact that we are now under serious threat from virus variants. The government appears to still be undecided over what it will place the emphasis on for the sake of Japan, and it is impossible to eradicate concerns over whether it is capable of coming to an informed decision or not. From a personal point of view, I love the Olympics, and I can never forget the moving scenes of the closing ceremony at the end of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics when all of the participants, regardless of their nationalities or the color of their skin, all came together harmoniously to hug each other. Encompassing the view that "the purpose is not to win but to take part" as stated by the so-called "father" of the modern Olympic games, Pierre de Coubertin, I believe that the "ideals of the Olympics utilize sports to raise us higher as human beings and overcome culture, nationality and other differences through the spirit of friendship, solidarity and sportsmanship, and contribute to create an even better world through peace" will unquestionably enhance teamwork in the shape of a global team.

I am convinced that the spirit of the Olympics represents a policy that is both noble and extremely easy to understand for us at KSK as we engage in teamwork with a wide range of frontrunners under the concept of "Kaizen" for the purpose of strengthening our intercorporate exchanges.



As a Japanese national, it is with mixed feelings that I regard the holding of the Tokyo Olympic Games this year.

## Automotive area (Israel start-up company getting involved in EV platforms)

It was announced on May 21st, 2020, that REE Automotive, an Israel manufacturer of platforms for electric vehicles (EV), has concluded a strategic partnership with KYB, a Japanese manufacturer of suspension and hydraulic equipment. Israel is known as the Silicon Valley of the Middle East and is a major IT nation boasting a large number of start-up companies, and it is in great demand by companies involved in designing the world's innovations. REE Automotive, which announced the tie-up with KYB, was established in 2013. We interviewed CEO Daniel Barel remotely, and he stated that the company has adopted technologies that no other company is involved in to develop EV platforms that incorporate the concept of a case.

REE Automotive's EV platforms resemble nothing other than square smartphone batteries with wheels attached. Most EV platforms, including Volkswagen's MEB, tend to resemble each other, and the biggest difference that the REE platform has is that there is no sign of a motor, drive train, steering mechanism, suspension, brakes or any of the other units that one would normally expect.

This, actually, is because everything is enclosed within a case-like wheel arch known as the REE corner. Removing the wheels from the REE corner reveals an electric motor, a steering mechanism (bi-wire), a braking function (bi-wire) and a unified suspension unit, each of which is a completely independent unit. All of these units are monitored by a maintenance AI function, which allows defects and malfunctions to be detected before problems occur. All repairs and updates are carried out OTA (over-the-air = online

via the same radio waves used by cellphones), which not only lowers the possibilities of the platform being unable to run, it also lowers maintenance costs.

By incorporating the five available models of the REE corner currently available with different sized chasses that include battery packs, it is possible to create a complete EV platform, bringing to mind the concept of the ultimate module strategy.



EV platform developed by REE Automotive

### Keihin Seimitsu Kogyo (New regular recruitment employees)

As with every year, KSK's new recruits joined the company on April 1st and began their training at the Kanuma Plant.

Having received approximately three weeks of basic training as new employees at the Management Training College, they will then take part in practical training sessions, be temporarily assigned to various positions, and visit customer factories depending on the spread of COVID-19 through until July, when they will be assigned to their official positions, and this year they will also take part in various other training programs, including online training in teams, etc., from remote locations.

A declining birth rate in Japan is resulting in a reduction of high school and university graduates, which is placing our regular recruitment activities in jeopardy. There were approximately 2-million youths aged 18 years old in 1990, but this dropped to 1.15-million in 2020 and is forecast to drop even further down to approximately 900,000 by 2040, and although there has been no comparative reduction in university graduates between 1990 and 2020, the number of high school graduates has been halved.

In order to put greater effort into our recruitment procedures and policies and ensure that the human resources that enter the company are provided with high levels of training amid this environment, we have modified our operations to create an organization that comes under the direct jurisdiction of company administration. We are currently faced with a once-in-a-century situation, and we will leave no stone unturned to ensure that we put everything into acquiring and training the human resources that will carry the company into the future.

### Post-editorial Notes: (One day when working from home)

I woke up on Friday morning to the sound of a Japanese bush warbler singing, and went to put out the trash in front of the nearby park.

I then had breakfast in our combined kitchen, dining room and living room. I glanced at the faces of my daughters, who had fallen asleep in the living room, and the photograph of their shichi-go-san ceremony (to celebrate children reaching the ages of three, five and seven) taken in America and marveled at how they had grown up into fine young women, which enabled me to enjoy a brief moment of leisure before starting work.

I began working with the sun streaming through the windows. Once you get used to working from home, it gets easier to marshal your thoughts and promotes creativity!!!

(Yeah, right... v(^o^v)

→ Work completed! The weekend starts today → Off to see the sun setting over the ocean! I walked from Koshigoe, which is a familiar place for members of the KSK Marine Club, through to the Katase coast. Enoshima Island stood out clearly against the sky just before the sun set, and I felt in great spirits. And then... I saw a couple of around 20 years old standing on the steps facing the beach and looking out to sea while rubbing shoulders, and was reminded how great it was to be young... A closer inspection revealed that the boy had his arm around the girl's waist, and I (an old man) was momentarily struck by a sense of indignation! (I remembered back to when a girl I was friendly with indignantly stating that she was okay with boys putting their arms around a girl's shoulders, but couldn't forgive them if they became more intimate and wrapped their arms around her waist → Having said that... we also... eventually... went for the waist...)

In the evening that weekend, my daughters arrived home and the living room was filled with their laughter!

Their voices echoed around the tall ceiling, but for some reason, this sounded like background music to the author...

Recently I have been working at a low table I placed in my bedroom, which is very convenient, and after we have finished our happy family gatherings, I lie down on my futon mattress and listen to music by Eiichi Ohtaki or Tatsuro Yamashita, who sing about the joys of spring and gently cuddling while staring into each other's moist eyes (brilliant!), while I partake in a small plate of cheese and a glass or two of wine... And, when the sandman arrives, I just drop into a dead sleep. (Instead of losing my way and requiring three times the amount of time to stagger home drunk, as I do when going out to drink, I become a creature of a different color and move gently into the land of dreams when I drink at home). Oh, yes! Something that amazed me recently is the fact that a girl who closely resembles the one shown

in the picture below visited me in a dream... We stared into each other's moist eyes... and our faces were so close that I would swear that I could smell her sweet perfume.

When I was younger, I saw a news story about an old man in his seventies who had been cautioned by the police for trying to hand a love letter across to a high school girl, and I remember wondering what on earth this old geezer was thinking at the time, but I now seem to have turned into an old geezer of the same ilk (although, I'm still in my sixties...)

Well, I guess this proves that cute girls remain cute no matter how old one gets... A long time ago (this is a story that I will not be telling my own daughters...), my father, who was rather handsome and popular with the girls, told me with a big grin of pleasure that men concentrate on the faces of girls when they are young, but as they grow older, their line of site tends to travel lower down their bodies. Believing that the fact that I still tend to concentrate on girls' faces is evidence that I am still young at heart was something that kept my stupid mind occupied on that long spring night.

