

Uninterrupted Thoughts on Those who Still Face Difficulties (this section has been quoted from President Komaba's message.)

This edition of the KSK Report looks back on the volunteer activities we have carried out between April and May every year for the past nine years since they were started in April 2011 to provide words of enormous comfort to the people victimized in the immediate aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as the issues pertaining to the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. Although we were unable to visit the area this year owing to the spread of the novel coronavirus, I would like to express my thoughts in writing.

In April 2018, we visited the No.1 Plant at the Fukushima Power Plant and were deeply impressed by the earnest way in which the employees of Tokyo Electric Power Co. were approaching the decommissioning of the reactors. According to the latest road map for reactor decommissioning (released on May 28th), the removal of the fuel rods from the spent fuel rod pools has been completed for reactor No.4 and scheduled for completion in 2020 for reactor No.3, with removal scheduled for 2028 for the No.1 reactor and 2026 for the No.2 reactor. The removal of the molten nuclear fuel (debris), which is the most difficult phase, is scheduled to start for the No.2 reactor in 2021, but no plan has yet been established for the No.1 and No.3 reactors owing to extreme difficulty in carrying out surveys with robots alone due to the extremely high levels of radioactivity.

Although we were impressed by the hard work put in by Tokyo Electric Power Co. employees, there is no way in which we, as citizens of Japan, can accept the restart of nuclear power plants while knowing the staggering expenses involved in decommissioning nuclear power generators.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide mental care for the victims of the disaster this year, but we are considering embodying our uninterrupted thoughts and actions for the people who still face difficulties to produce a booklet that will provide a tangible item for observing the scope of our volunteer activities up until now.

We hope that this will provide a sublime item crammed full of scenes showing the delight of the disaster victims and the serious looks of our employees, as well as the thoughts of the storytellers and officials who collaborated with us.

Automotive Area (Mobileye Data Project Launched)

The EyeQ image processing chip series is what Mobileye is touting to anchor its position of growth over the course of the coming one-hundred years. The concept is to syphon up data on the areas surrounding vehicles mounted with EyeQ chips. Mobileye has already concluded data provision contracts with six automobile manufacturers (Fig.1). The companies announced so far are Nissan Motors, and BMW and Volkswagen of Germany. Contracts have also been concluded with China's manufacturers. The intention is to create a system consisting of two million vehicles worldwide within 2020, expanding to exceed six million vehicles by 2022, to gather data from these vehicles.

An example of the revenue acquired by this data project includes using it for road repairs. Images taken by car-mounted cameras will detect potholes and other indentations in the roads (Fig.2).

These indentations will be evaluated in five levels, and the information obtained integrated into map data.

The sections of the roads that require repairs will then be determined in accordance with this data. “Using data to determine road repairs, which has been carried out by human-wave tactics up until now, will help government and municipal offices to cut down on costs.”

The revenue acquired by Mobileye will then be “shared with automobile manufacturers.”

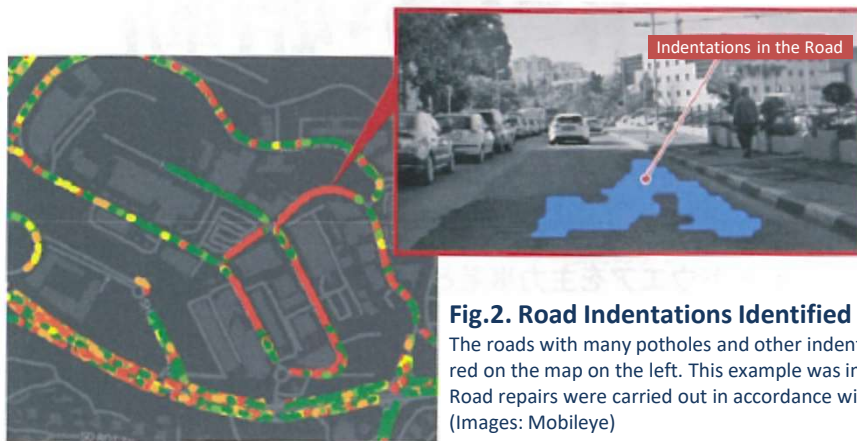
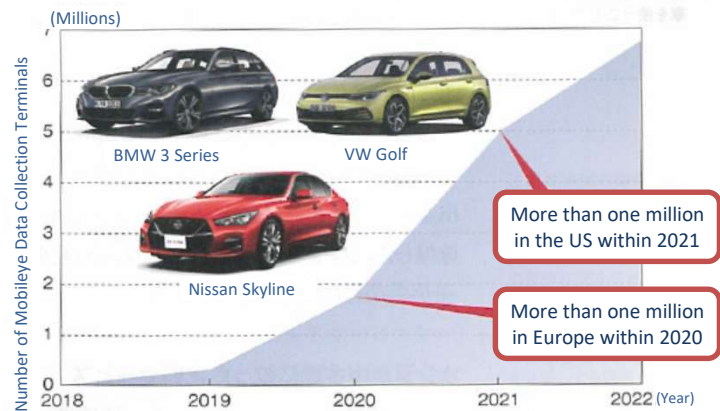


Fig.2. Road Indentations Identified with Cameras

The roads with many potholes and other indentations are shown in red on the map on the left. This example was implemented in Israel. Road repairs were carried out in accordance with this data. (Images: Mobileye)

Source: Nikkei Automotive

Keihin Seimitsu Kogyo (Aiming at even higher levels of vitality)

In order to ensure even higher levels of vitality in our Kaizen activities, KSK has begun a transition across to a state in which “everyone can think for themselves and align their wills with same-thinking colleagues to implement Kaizen activities” by training human resources capable of discovering and solving Kaizen issues without waiting for directions, and by aiming at the establishment of groups of people who are able to approach Kaizen initiatives with responsibility and pride.

We forged ahead with initiatives based on a “top-down” style for ensuring the speedy implementation of Kaizen when we first began to promote our Kaizen activities, and then moved onto a “bottom-up” style for ensuring skill-centric Kaizen, but we are now concentrating on a style of Kaizen that involves the integration of “top-down” and “bottom-up” styles.

While continuing with initiatives to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we will move ahead to systematically institute a wide variety of confirmation, selection and initiative training programs, etc., to ensure Kaizen vitalization.

Post-editorial Notes: (Small trip along the Old Tokaido Road: from the company to home)

I suddenly remembered... If my memory serves me correctly, the Old Tokaido Road runs past both the company and my house...

This brainwave 💡 hit me one sunny Friday in June, and having confirmed the coordinates of the Old Tokaido Road, I decided to walk along it as part of my constant quest to enrich my life. I left work early and joined the Old Tokaido Road from behind the Oguchi shopping district, and walked past the tree-lined former Kanagawa-Juku post station as I headed toward the Miyamae Dori road. I felt my mood soaring as I climbed a hill that I probably last walked up four years ago. The innocent road that led me home on weekends suddenly took on the aspect of a glittering hiking resort! I increased my pace as I strode ahead. Having reached Tennocho Station on the Sotetsu Line and passed by the Hodogaya-Juku post station, I finally arrived!! The first steep hill since leaving Nihonbashi; Gontazaka. I puffed and panted my way up this steep incline, and after a brief rest I moved toward the Totsuka-Juku post station. Realizing that everybody would already have arrived home by this time, I stopped by a convenience store... I cracked open a can of beer and drained it in a single gulp! Delicious! Although I was tempted to stroll along with a beer in one hand while soothed by the cool evening breeze, I didn't... I picked up my pace again and continued walking. Although the trip home took a lot longer than I expected, it turned out to be a small trip that completely dissipated the stress that I had been building up.

The following morning, I went jogging along the coast. Small blisters were forming on the soles of my feet owing to the previous day's extended walk, so I was unable to run very far. Instead, I jogged lightly along while gazing at the ocean and catching the sight of pretty girls wearing hot pants out of the corner of my eye (I saw about ten of these...), all the while thinking that Japanese girls had finally caught up with Caucasian girls style-wise, and praising the benefits of face masks (which prevented people from seeing me drooling)... Hiding these thoughts from others and trying hard to avoid looking like a lecher or dirty old man, I continued to jog slowly home.

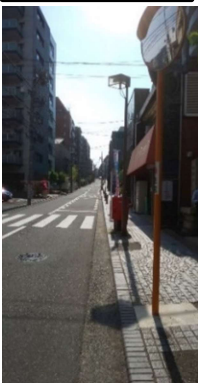
Having reached home, I jumped into the shower and then slaked my thirst with a beer... Absolutely amazing...! I thought back on those voluminous teenage legs poking out from hot pants, and realized that even when a man is deep into his sixties, he is bound to mentally remain a man until he dies... And so, Saturday afternoon wore on with me thinking stupid thoughts with a lecherous grin on my face.

--- I'm sure that even death itself will not be able to cure me of my foolishness (or lecherousness) 🤪, but I surely was in a good mood that day.

P.S. I'm sure men all over the world are just the same, but unfortunately, I don't have any photographs of those bare legs to show you.

→Sorry for not being able to put my best foot forward... lol

Bottom of
Kanagawa-Juku



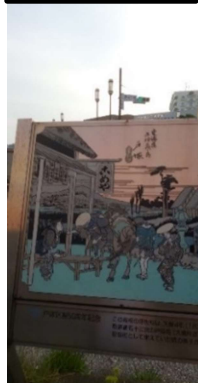
Tennocho
Station Square



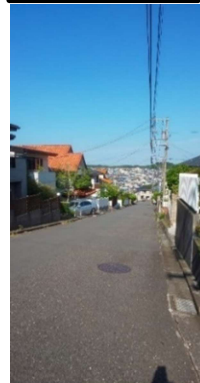
Gontazaka



Totsuka-Juku
Signboard



Shichiri
Residential Area



Inamuragasaki

