

An Aggressive Stance Regarding Environmental Issues

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a global chemical manufacturer, Shin-Etsu is firmly committed to dealing responsibly with environmental challenges. The company's success in achieving official recognition for its efforts, both within Japan and internationally, bear testimony to Shin-Etsu's resolve and the efficacy of initiatives adopted.

Support for Tokyo University's Global Environmental Engineering Chair

As part of events to mark its 70th anniversary, Shin-Etsu became a sponsor of a chair at the Global Environmental Engineering Laboratory at the University of Tokyo. For three years beginning in April 1997, Shin-Etsu will support the development of technologies to protect the world's environment. On April 14, a symposium on the theme "Toward Solving Global Environmental Problems" was held at the university to commemorate the opening of the first seminar. The seminar sparked interest in a variety of topics relating to global environmental engineering. Among them are development of a comprehensive system to utilize solar energy; studies on methods to absorb carbon dioxide over oceans and land; and the development of solar and fuel cells as well as systems to effectively use natural resources. This project's achievements will contribute directly to improvements in the environment.

Celebrating its 70th anniversary in 1997, Shin-Etsu is sponsoring a chair of the Global Environmental Engineering Laboratory at the University of Tokyo.



Two Shin-Etsu Production Bases Earn ISO 14001 Certification

Two of Shin-Etsu's largest production facilities have received ISO 14001 certification, a widely respected international standard for environmental management. The first to be certified was the Gunma Complex, a research and manufacturing base for silicones and electronics materials. The July 1996 certification, from the Japan Chemical Quality Assurance Co., was the first ISO 14001 certification earned by a Japanese chemical major. In January 1997, the Shirakawa Plant of Shin-Etsu Handotai earned this certification from the United Kingdom's certification body, SGS Yarsley, representing a first among Japanese makers of silicon wafers. Obtaining this certification requires passing examinations to confirm stringent compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Certification also mandates that a company constantly and actively seek ways to make improvements. At both of these Shin-Etsu facilities, the company is setting even higher numerical targets to reduce energy consumption, the use of natural resources and the generation of waste. Ultimately, Shin-Etsu intends to obtain ISO 14001 certification for its other plants in Japan and around the world.

Rigorous Safety and Quality Assurance Programs

Since its inception, Shin-Etsu has placed priority on safety and quality assurance at all of its plants. Total quality management activities are at the heart of the activities of group companies as well. This steadfast commitment has earned numerous accolades from outside the company. Recognition has come in the form of awards for excellence in safety, hygiene and environmental efforts. In October 1996, the Gunma Complex was named an Outstanding Production Facility at the Pressurized Gas Safety Association's National Conference, and received the MITI Minister's Award. In June 1996, the Shirakawa Plant of Shin-Etsu Handotai received the Prime Minister's Award. Overall, plants in Japan have been selected as winners of five awards from cabinet ministers over the past five years.



The Gunma Complex, pictured above, and the Shin-Etsu Handotai Shirakawa Plant have received ISO 14001 certification for their environmental programs.

In June 1996, SEH's Shirakawa Plant received the Prime Minister's Prize for the promotion of greenery.

