I have read Tokyo Electron’s Environmental and Social Report 2012 and received a further explanation of the company’s environmental and social activities from the director of Tokyo Electron’s Corporate Environment Promotion Department and others. Here I express my views on this report as a third-party expert. I would also like to note that I had an opportunity to visit Tokyo Electron Yamanashi Limited, a Group company responsible for manufacturing and development, as part of this review and inspected sites where semiconductor and FPD production equipment is manufactured.

1. The new Environment Vision
Under the new Environment Vision, the company has set new specific environmental goals, including those for the reduction of energy consumption, with a view to becoming a company that addresses global environmental issues through technology. The new Environment Vision specifies the company’s priority issues, which include not just the reduction of the environmental impacts of the company’s plants, offices and logistics operations but also the development and sale of more environmentally friendly products with lower CO2 emissions. This, I think, will allow Tokyo Electron to share a common environmental policy and goals and create common value with customers, thereby helping it to maintain a favorable relationship with its customers and society at large, which will in turn facilitate the company’s sustainable growth.

2. EHS management
The company’s goal set in 2008 was to reduce CO2 emissions generated from its business activities by 50% over the fiscal 2008 levels by fiscal 2015. However, because this goal is expected to be achieved in fiscal 2012 in terms of both per-unit emissions and total emissions, Tokyo Electron has decided to set even more challenging goals. This proactive attitude to continue improvement efforts rather than simply be content with achieving the goal ahead of schedule is praiseworthy. With regard to the company’s consumption of water, a precious limited natural resource, the figure increased slightly over the fiscal 2008 level and by approximately 9% year on year. I hope, therefore, that the company will work even harder to reduce its water consumption.

3. Relationship with employees
Tokyo Electron is making efforts to create a work environment that encourages employees to take on new challenges. The personnel evaluation system, which focuses on the process of achieving goals, various career advancement support systems, and the internal educational institution are some examples of these efforts designed to help each employee realize their full potential, and I think they are beginning to show results in the form of good business performance. In order for the company to continue growing as a global company, it needs to embrace a diverse range of employee experiences and views. I would like to know what activities are undertaken and what policy is adopted by the company with regard to this kind of diversity management, including that for employees of Group companies overseas.

4. Future issues
From this report, I was able to get a clear sense of the earnest efforts made by the company toward environmental preservation and social contribution as well as the effects brought about by such efforts. I could also understand the efforts made by the company as a global corporation to also build trust in overseas markets, such as the completion of the environmentally considerate Kunshan Plant in China. However, the semiconductor industry is currently confronting major changes amid fierce global competition. In these circumstances, if the report focused more on clearly explaining the position and role of Tokyo Electron throughout its supply chain rather than just detailing its products, the company’s corporate value would become clearer to stakeholders.

Note: The third-party comment above does not constitute an opinion on the accuracy or completeness of the information included in this report.

Response to the Third-Party Comment
I am deeply grateful to Prof. Nakamura, who once again took time out of his busy schedule to visit our development and manufacturing sites and talk with members of the General Affairs Department at the Yamanashi Plant (Fujii/Hosaka). I furthermore appreciate Prof. Nakamura’s efforts to understand our environmental and social activities. This year marks an important year for us, the year we begin enhanced environmental and social activities with the aim of achieving the new environmental goals. We take Prof. Nakamura’s recommendations concerning the reduction of our water consumption, diversity management, and activities across the supply chain seriously and will work even harder to further broaden and deepen our activities and to report them in the next and following issues of this report.