On behalf of Tokyo Electron (TEL), I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders for their continued support and patronage.

In recent years, efforts for building a sustainable society have unfolded on a global level, such as enforcement of the Paris Agreement, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). To help build a sustainable society from a medium- to long-term perspective, companies are required to create and provide diverse value through their products and services, utilizing their management resources effectively.

On the social front, as we enter an age of the Internet of Things (IoT), where almost everything is connected to the internet, it is expected that new business models and lifestyles will develop resultant of big data, new applications such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), as well as artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies are put to practical use. In addition, on the back of the planned introduction of 5G—the next-generation telecommunications standard—progress is also being made in the development of associated infrastructures. Supporting all these trends are semiconductors. In the area of flat panel displays (FPD), in addition to growing demand for small- and medium-sized panels, there also appears to be a shift to larger screens and higher resolution, as well as a widespread adoption of organic electroluminescent displays,* and a broadening of design characteristics and their applications. Semiconductors and FPDs are in a new growth phase, playing a key role in our social infrastructure, and raising the expectation of further development attributable to technological innovation.

Our Corporate Philosophy urges us to “contribute to the development of a dream-inspiring society through our leading-edge technologies and reliable service and support.” We see sustainability as an important focus for management, and in addition to steadily promoting effective governance and compliance, we believe it is vital that we improve our corporate value in the medium- to long-term by contributing through business to the resolution of social issues. We will strive to create value for society through our high-value-added, strongly competitive products and services, maximizing the effective use of precious management resources, such as the funds generated by our business activities, the know-how along the value chain, our world-class personnel, and our trust-based relationships with customers and suppliers. In fiscal year 2017, we redefined the issues that are material in the sustainable growth of TEL, such as enhancing product competitiveness, reinforcing responsiveness to customers and improving productivity. This fiscal year, we will again join together in engaging in various activities aimed at achieving our short-, medium-, and long-term goals related to these material issues. By continuing to promote sustainability-focused management, our aim is to remain a company which is loved and needed by the community, and in which our employees take pride.

To promote sustainability management in line with international frameworks, we became a signatory to the UN Global Compact in 2013, and have since implemented initiatives for SDGs on a company-wide basis.

Your continued support and patronage is very much appreciated by all of us at TEL.

* Organic electroluminescent display: The phenomenon of light being emitted from specific organic compounds when voltage is applied.

Toshiki Kawai
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