

May 25, 2016

**Determination of winners of the three JCIA awards
(Safety Award, Technology Award, and Responsible Care Award)
Awards for excellent approaches toward
the further advancement of the chemical industry**

Japan Chemical Industry Association

Today, the Japan Chemical Industry Association (head office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Chairman: Yoshimitsu Kobayashi (Chairman of Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation), hereinafter referred to as “JCIA”) selected the winners for this fiscal year’s three awards: the JCIA Safety Award to commend business establishments engaging in excellent safety activities that serve as models for others; the JCIA Technology Award from among innovative scientific technologies and products that have substantially contributed to the development of the society as a whole and to the improvement of environment; and the JCIA Responsible Care (RC) Award, to commend business establishments, divisions, groups, or individuals for excellent achievements or contributions toward the further advancement and expansion of RC. See the attachments for more details on each award.

A ceremony for presentation of the awards will be held at the Palace Hotel Tokyo (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) on May 26, 2016 (Thurs.). This will be followed by the JCIA Symposium, which is going to be held at the Iino Conference Center (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) on June 16 (Thurs.). At the Symposium, the winners of each award are scheduled to make speeches on their selection.

40th JCIA Safety Award

Safety Award Grand Prize (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 300,000 yen)

Mizushima Plant, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Address: 3-10 Ushio-dori, Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture

Operation started in: 1964

Major business line: Petrochemical products, etc. from naphtha as the raw material

Employee force: 943

Safety record: Labor hours without recorded accidents - 13.6 million; Years without recorded accidents - 4

Major awards: High-Pressure Gas Safety Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Award - Excellent Plant

Reason for selection: Organizations were prepared and operated with a view to having a strong commitment to security and safety permeate the plant in all layers, from the director to each and every worker on the floor. The plant is promoting the development of human resources who think and act for themselves, and the conditioning of workplaces in which determinations are observed as a matter of course. This enables the plant to execute an extremely close-knit management of safety on its own initiative, while making use of a wide variety of chemical substances in large quantities.

Safety Award First Prize (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 100,000 yen)

Nobeoka Plant, Asahi Kasei Microsystem Co., Ltd.

Address: 5-4960 Nakagawara-machi, Nobeoka, Miyazaki Prefecture

Operation started in: 1992

Major business line: Manufacture of electronic components that use semiconductors

Employee force: 429

Safety record: Labor hours without recorded accidents - 10.3 million; Years without recorded accidents - 11

Major awards: Miyazaki Labor Bureau Excellent Plant Award, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Kyushu Industrial Safety and Inspection Department High-Pressure Gas Excellent Plant

Shinryo Corporation

Address: 5F, Nissei Shin-Kurosaki Building, 3-9-24 Kurosaki, Yahata-nishi-ku, Kita-kyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture

Operation started in: 1964 (establishment)

Major business line: Intermediate processing of industrial waste and sales of recycled items. Manufacture of photosensitive resins and pharmaceutical intermediates. Precision cleaning and overhauling of facilities for manufacture of semiconductors and liquid crystal, supply of related parts and surface processing

Employee force: 894

Safety record: Labor hours without recorded accidents - 11.9 million; Years without recorded accidents - 5

Major awards: None

Omuta Plant, Showa Aluminum Can Corporation

Address: 1-16 Misakai-machi, Omuta, Fukuoka Prefecture
Operation started in: 1997
Major business line: Manufacture of can bodies for aluminum cans for beverages
Employee force: 84
Safety record: Labor hours without recorded accidents - 1.76 million; Years without recorded accidents – 11
Major awards: Fukuoka Labor Bureau Director's Award, First Prize, and others

Utsunomiya Plant, Sumitomo Bakelite Co., Ltd.

Address: 20-7 Kiyohara Industrial Park, Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture
Operation started in: 1950
Major business line: Manufacture of semiconductor-use resin and substrate materials for semiconductor packages. Corporate research and development, and research and development of photoelectrical composite interposers
Employee force: 341
Safety record: Labor hours without recorded accidents - 4.7 million; Years without recorded accidents – 7
Major awards: Tochigi Labor Bureau Director's Recommendation Award

* No selection was made for the Special Prize this fiscal year.

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About the JCIA Safety Award

As a part of promotion of security, safety, and health in the chemical industry on its own initiative, the JCIA presents awards to business establishments engaging in excellent safety activities that serve as models for others. This year marked the 40th year of presentation of this award. As in preceding years, the JCIA called for entries and received recommendations (applications) from 23 establishments (including three laboratories). The judging was performed in the Safety Award Council under the leadership of its Director, Dr. Masamitsu Tamura (Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo). The judges narrowed down the list of candidates through both careful and fair examinations from various angles. Five establishments considered particularly outstanding were selected for on-site examinations. This was followed by individual visits to each of these establishments for in-depth on-site examinations, whose findings were reported to the Council. Upon further careful consideration, the judges selected one establishment for the Grand Prize and four establishments for the First Prize.

48th JCIA Technology Award

Grand Prize: Presented for a creative product or technology makes a contribution to scientific and technological progress, and have a high industrial value (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 300,000 yen)

MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.

Subject achievement: “Development of a special polycarbonate resin with a high refractive index and low birefringence”

Description: Development of polycarbonate resin for use in camera lenses mounted in devices such as smartphones, mobile phones, and tablets. The resin makes possible both a “high refractive index” (for a thinner lens), which is extremely important for lenses, and a “low birefringence” (for more vivid images), and therefore leads to success in work to reduce camera size and increase the number of pixels. Lenses made with this polycarbonate resin are now mounted in a wide range of devices, including dashboard cameras and game machines as well as smartphones and tablets, and are making a vital contribution to the advancement of the related industries.

Special Technology Prize: Presented for a creative product or technology makes a contribution to scientific and technological progress, and are technically excellent even if on a comparatively small scale (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 200,000 yen)

FUJIFILM Corporation

Subject achievement: “Development of thin double-sided sensor film for touch panels, applying photographic technologies”

Description: The main type of touch panel sensors so far has been made of indium tin oxide glass or film. The company developed a thin double-sided sensor film using thin polyethylene terephthalate (PET). This development was based on high-conductivity silver image formation applying photographic technologies. As compared to the conventional type, the sensor has low resistance (for quicker response) and is thinner. The company also succeeded in making the sensor free of “indium,” which is a rare metal and has been designated as a “specified chemical substance” requiring concern for the safety of its compounds. The film also offers excellent flexibility and is anticipated to find use in flexible sensors and 3D sensors.

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Subject achievement: “Development of the world’s first ‘practical nonwoven fabric with excellent flexibility and elasticity”

Description: The company developed nonwoven fabric for the use in disposable diapers for babies. In addition to the conventional features, the fabric has excellent characteristics such as “gentleness to the skin” and “amenability in design.” The company translated the feeling of “gentleness to the skin” into its original evaluation indices for items of “smoothness,” “fluffiness,” and “fitness.” It succeeded in the development of the fabric by making extensive use of resin design technology and controlling technology for fiber configuration. Disposable diapers are finding an expanding demand worldwide, and helping to improve the quality of life for people across the globe.

* No selection was made for the “Environmental Technology Prize” this year.

10th JCIA Responsible Care Award

RC Grand Prix Award (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 300,000 yen)

Kao Transport & Logistics Co., Ltd.

Theme: “Activities for reducing traffic accidents and environmental load for delivery”

Awardees: Hirohito Yamaguchi, Masami Ehara, Masao Shinohara, Nobuo Harima, Susumu Nakamura, Manabu Sasaki, Seiju Suzuki

Activity: The company is continuing with activities under the banner of “aiming to be the most reliable and safest logistics firm in Japan.” Its activities for safety, health, and environmental preservation in its logistics work have a history of more than 10 years. It has placed particular emphasis on eradicating traffic accidents and reinforcing energy conservation, and is achieving significant results in these areas.

Jury’s Special Award (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 200,000 yen)

DIC Safety Culture Working Group, DIC Corporation

Theme: “Reduction of the number of labor accidents through activities by the DIC Safety Culture Working Group”

Awardees: Toshiyuki Tanaka, Kenji Fujii, Takatoshi Okawa, Tetsuya Morita, Kaoru Maeda, Yoshio Hirukawa, Tsutomu Oya, Jun Takeuchi (and 4 others)

Activity: The Working Group was instituted in 2011, within the company’s domestic group. In its efforts to breed a culture of safety, it prepared proposals for revision of companywide policies related to safety, stickers to call attention to safety, and safety posters featuring the corporate president. As a result, the number of labor accidents fell from 60 in fiscal 2010 to 22 in fiscal 2014.

SUCCESS Project Team, Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited

Theme: “Global Promotion of Chemical Management ”

Awardees: Yosuke Nakamura, Kazuhiro Ochiai, Hideo Sato, Yukinori Ozato, Yasuo Tosa, Toshihiko Hiromori, Hideki Mutsuyoshi, Masayuki Sato (and 2 others)

Activity: The chemicals management systems used in the company’s group for GPS/JIPS activities had been customized for the needs of the particular company. In response, the company decided to “standardize these systems globally” and then began to have this standard system operated at its overseas group companies. In addition, besides being linked to further improvement of system quality, this activity also paved the way for extensive use among JCIA members.

Outstanding Award (certificate, prize medal, and cash prize of 150,000 yen)

Daicel Logistics Service Co., Ltd.

Theme: “Transport safety and quality for customer satisfactions
~Mutual Education by employees~”

Awardees: Koji Kojima, Susumu Ikenoshita, Akihiro Hase, Shinji Horiuchi, Toshiyuki Murakami, Hiromi Koyama

Activity: To improve know-how for operating cargo handling equipment, the company instituted its own training facility and is educating its employees based on an original curriculum (which it calls “co-education”). This training program has continued for the last five years. The company reviews the program every year and holds an in-house skill contest involving operation of tank trucks.

Ichihara Works, Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Theme: “‘Contribution to the local community’ by the Ichihara Works, Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.”

Awardees: Tadanobu Kurazono, Atsushi Nakamura, Yasuhiro Ueda, Kenta Sugawara

Activity: Grounded in management revolving around the three axes of “society,” “environment,” and “economy,” the activity was aimed at making the Ichihara Works a secure and safe one in the eyes of its various stakeholders. To this end, the personnel are vigorously pursuing RC activities and contribution to the local community on an ongoing basis. This activity is posted in the Works’ operating policy and attracts the active participation of all its personnel.

General Affairs and Safety & Environment departments, Fuji Plant, Polyplastics Co., Ltd.

Theme: “Maintaining reliability with members of local areas -continuous communicative activities-”

Awardees: Kunitomo Yamamoto, Norihiko Mochizuki, Toshihisa Hirayanagi, Akinori Suzuki, Miwaji Mochizuki

Activity: Since 1974, more than 40 years ago and before the start of RC activities in Japan, the Fuji Plant has continued to engage in exchange of views on a regular basis with residents in its vicinity. Each year, representatives of the residents in the area are invited to the plant to give their frank opinions. Their views are reflected in the subsequent activities.

Award for Effort (certificate and cash prize of 50,000 yen)

Environment & Safety Promotion Department, Production-Logistics HQ, Toyo Ink SC Holdings Co., Ltd.

Theme: “Continuation implementation of safe trainings for environment and safety managers of overseas affiliates”

Awardees: Hiromi Uchida, Tomoatsu Kitamura

Activity: Since fiscal 2011, the Toyo Ink Group has been continually providing training to personnel responsible for environmental safety at affiliated overseas firms. Since fiscal 2014, it has been implementing this training for groups of personnel assembled at its major overseas sites. This training is also helping to raise awareness and motivation at the sites where it is held.

Responsible Care Department, Sakaide Plant, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Theme: “Activities to reduce risks through integrated risk assessment”

Awardees: Teruhisa Kato, Kenji Yamamoto, Motoyuki Shimomura, Kazuhiko Motoyama

Activity: The Sakaide Plant has incorporated enterprise risk assessment as an effective means of preventing the actualization of risks, and is continuing to take action to lower risks. The plant has defined risk items in aspects including security, safety, the environment, and quality, for cases such as near-accidents and defects or malfunctions found on patrols. For all such items, it makes a visual indication and assessment of the degree of impact on the business. Through this activity, it is continuously working to lower risks.

HD Sector, Showa Denko K.K.

Theme: “Approaches to energy conservation at the HD manufacturing plant”

Awardees: Toru Matsumori, Hiroyuki Yamazaki, Daisetsu Suzuki, Toshio Shirai, Koji Fukuda, Yusuke Awataguchi, Masato Saito, Nobuyuki Fukihara

Activity: The HD plant bolstered its approaches to energy conservation after the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. As a result, its amount of power use in 2014 was only 76 percent as high as in 2010.

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Criteria applied in selections for the JCIA Responsible Care (RC) Award

- Cases of outstanding achievement through activities related to the six RC pillars (security and disaster prevention, industrial safety and health, environmental preservation, communication, chemicals and products safety, and logistics safety)
- Cases of outstanding contribution through promotion of in-house RC activities at the company’s own initiative
- Cases of contribution to RC activities overseas

About responsible care

Problems related to “the environment, safety, and health” are widening along with the expansion of global environmental problems and industrialized regions. Meanwhile, new problems are arising along with advances in technology. In this situation, it has become more difficult to protect the environment, safety, and health from chemical substances solely with regulations. Today, more than ever before, businesses handling chemical products are being called upon to take responsible action on their own initiative to assure the environment, safety, and health.

Against this background, the chemical industry is promoting activities by all companies that handle

chemical substances. Acting on their own initiative, the cooperating companies protect the environment, safety, and health in the entire process sequence of development, manufacture, transportation, use, final consumption, and disposal of chemical substances. They also publicly disclose the results of their activities and engage in dialogue and communication with society. This chain of activities is referred to as “responsible care.”

The Responsible Care initiative was born in Canada in 1985. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) was founded in 1989. Its member associations in each country are cooperating in approaches for improvement of safety and the environment and in dialogue with society through responsible care. They are also engaged in activities to encourage the spread of responsible care in developing countries, etc. Responsible care is now being practiced in 60 countries and regions around the world (as of May 2016).