

Role of Hitachi IT in Supporting Social Innovation



Takao Nakamura

*Officer, Information & Telecommunication
Systems Company
Chief Strategy Officer, Information &
Telecommunication Systems Company
Hitachi, Ltd.*

HITACHI, which in 2010 celebrated the 100th anniversary of its formation, has a history of developing and supplying many different technologies and products that support the social infrastructure.

In the field of IT (information technology), Hitachi has supplied products with distinctive technologies including Japan's first crossbar switch telephone exchange (in 1955), mainframe computer system (in 1965), and supercomputer (in 1983). In addition to these products, Hitachi has also developed important social infrastructure systems for the transport, electricity, finance, and other sectors, including a railway reservation system (in 1964).

As use of the Internet has become widespread, not only has IT become much like transport, electricity, and other parts of the social infrastructure in that it is vital both to business and other areas of our daily lives, it has also brought new innovations in lifestyle and business that utilize various different types of information. Creating a society that is more prosperous, considerate of the environment, and in which people play the central role will make IT increasingly important and further technical innovation aimed at achieving this is becoming ever more essential.

This feature issue of Hitachi Review contains an Overview that presents Hitachi's IT vision followed by articles describing products powered by leading-edge technologies for the networks that support cloud computing, storage solutions, and environmentally conscious data centers, as well as what Hitachi is doing in the field of green IT. The issue also introduces a KaaS (knowledge as a service) platform that obtains information from collected data and feeds it back to various activities, sensor networks for collecting information, and spatial design based on pedestrian flow simulation which provides an example of how information assets can be put to use.

In addition to this feature issue providing you with an opportunity to see what Hitachi is doing in the field of IT, I also hope that the solutions Hitachi has to offer will prove of some use for innovations in society and in your own businesses.