From the Editor

Water is essential to life and its importance goes without saying. Yet access to safe drinking water is far from universal, with many areas also lacking sewage systems and other sanitation infrastructure. Japan, too, faces a number of challenges, including the replacement of aging water and sewage infrastructure, and the transfer of industry skills.

Hitachi's Social Innovation Business operates globally, supplying safe and reliable social infrastructure that is enhanced by the use of information technology (IT). Included in this business is Hitachi's water infrastructure business, which draws on close to a century of experience to supply products and services for a wide variety of fields, encompassing the conservation of water sources, flood control, water supply and sewage systems, wastewater treatment, and water production or recycling.

Hitachi is also actively marketing its water industry solutions, which seek to provide comprehensive answers to the many challenges facing the water industry. These activities extend beyond the water industry itself to also include using IT and control to deliver innovations in water treatment and distribution, responding to various types of emergencies, and optimizing energy use by coordinating operation with the electric power infrastructure. Starting with our solutions for the water industry, Hitachi believes that, by helping to improve people's daily lives and overcome the challenges facing cities and catchments we can optimize all aspects of the infrastructure of society and support ongoing development.

With reference to these background factors, this issue of *Hitachi Review* describes recent activities by Hitachi that involve the use of water industry solutions to contribute to the ongoing development of social infrastructure.

This issue's Expert Insights is an article contributed by Professor Hiroaki Furumai of the Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo. In Technotalk, we invited Professor Seiichi Shin of The University of Electro-Communications to participate in a discussion on the use of IT and control for innovation in the water industry. The discussion also touched on social infrastructure security.

In Overview, we present a summary of our water industry solutions along with a review of current trends in Japan and elsewhere. Subsequent articles cover a wide range of topics, presenting the latest technologies for water supply, sewage, wastewater treatment, operation and maintenance, and so on, along with examples of how these are benefiting our customers.

I hope that this issue of *Hitachi Review* will prove useful to people everywhere who are involved in social infrastructure, not just the water industry.

Editorial Coordinator,
"Water Industry Solutions for Ongoing Development of Social Infrastructure" Issue

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