

Independent review

[translation from Japanese]

Asahi Kasei Group CSR Report 2018 Internet Edition Independent Review

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Objectives of Verification

Responsible Care Report Verification was performed by the Responsible Care Verification Center with respect to the *Asahi Kasei Group CSR Report 2018 Internet Edition* (the "Report") prepared by Asahi Kasei Corporation, with the objective of expressing an opinion as a chemical industry specialist on the matters as stated below.

- 1) Reasonableness of methods of calculation and aggregation of performance metrics (numerical values), and the accuracy of numerical values.
- 2) Accuracy of reported information other than numerical values.
- 3) Evaluation of Responsible Care (RC) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- 4) Characteristics of the Report.

Verification Procedure

- At the head office: Examination of the reasonableness and accuracy of methods to aggregate numerical values reported from each site (office, plant) and examination of the accuracy of reported information other than numerical values were performed through interviews of responsible parties and compilers of the Report as well as receipt of internal documents and explanations thereof from each of the responsible parties and compilers.
- At the Ohito Region: Reasonableness of methods to calculate numerical values, and accuracy of the numerical values and information other than numerical values, reported to the head office, were examined. Examination was performed through interviews of responsible parties and compilers of the Report, receipt of internal documents and explanations thereof from each of the responsible parties and compilers, cross-check of reported information with supporting materials, and on-site visits for confirmation.
- Numerical values and reported information were verified by sampling.

Opinion

- 1) Reasonableness of methods of calculation and aggregation of performance metrics (numerical values); accuracy of numerical values
 - Calculation and aggregation of numerical values at the head office and the Ohito Region are performed using a reasonable method, and an RC Performance Data Collection System is used throughout the company for accurate and efficient aggregation of data. It is noteworthy that continuous improvement is applied to this system, such as introducing a function to confirm differences between collected data and the previous year's data, and displaying a list of frequently asked questions on the main screen.
 - Numerical values within the scope of our examination have been calculated and aggregated accurately.

- 2) Accuracy of reported information other than numerical values
 - Information contained in the Report was confirmed to be accurate. Some minor issues related to appropriateness of expression and ease of understanding were identified in the draft stages. These have been revised in the present Report.
- 3) Evaluation of RC and CSR activities
 - It is noteworthy that the company has a substantial framework for CSR advancement under the leadership of the President.
 - It is noteworthy that the company's effort regarding respect for employee individuality includes human resources development, balancing work and family life, and especially enriched measures for balancing work and childrearing or family care.
 - The company makes systematic and concrete efforts to prevent workplace accidents, operational accidents, and environmental accidents as part of its RC program with a PDCA cycle. These efforts are expected to bring further improvements.
 - The Ohito Region has maintained zero lost-workday injuries for over 11 years, and further continuation is expected. It is noteworthy that the company's effort for public outreach includes various events for interaction with the local residents, as well as support for area activities.
 - The company is beginning to clarify the relationships between its corporate activities and the SDGs. It is expected that the Report will present the company's contribution to society in a more easily understandable manner.
- 4) Characteristics of the Report
 - The Report features rich content regarding community fellowship activities as an important focus of CSR. It is particularly notable that the Report describes the company's ongoing support of a national campaign to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and technology.