

Chairman's Message

From the address by Chairman Koji Arima at the Ordinary General Meeting (May 25, 2023)
I am Mr. Koji Arima, Chairman of the Board. Thank you very much for joining us today at the Ordinary General Meeting.

The G7 Summit in Hiroshima, which you have all been paying attention to, was a very significant summit, as it demonstrated the G7 leaders' strong unity and will to defend the international order amidst the world's growing tendency toward division and confrontation. In the areas of climate and energy, which are closely related to the automobile industry, the leaders expressed their will to work together on a global scale, including developing countries, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Also about the diverse paths that can be taken according to the circumstances and societies of each country, I felt that the circle of empathy is expanding around the world.

Through the G7 Hiroshima Summit, we were reminded of the importance of "collaboration," "diversity," and "empathy," and in retrospect, I think these three were also keywords in JAPIA activities over the past year.

When I was appointed chairman one year ago, I talked about our desire to contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the entire supply chain based on "collaboration" in response to issues such as green, digital, and resilience, and we have deepened our cooperation with JAMA and companies in the Tier 2 and lower tiers.

In addition, in order to take advantage of the "diversity" of JAPIA, which brings together more than 400 companies from various regions and industries, we have been promoting activities to make small and medium-sized enterprises stronger and more energetic by holding serious discussions with Vice Chairmans of JAPIA every month while maintaining close relations between the headquarters and branches.

As a result of JAPIA's own efforts, for example, in the area of fair business practices, through the activities of the Task Force for Fair Business Practices, we have been able to have honest discussions with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and JAMA, and we feel that a trend toward mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's value has emerged. In the area of carbon neutrality, we started with activities to "correctly understand" the issue together with JAMA, and through meetings with the Mobility Committee of the Japan Business Federation and the Prime Minister's Office, "sympathy" for a unique Japanese way of climbing mountains spread both inside and outside the industry.

I believe that our will and actions of JAPIA are surely leading to a swell in the entire supply chain.

Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.

And this year, we will move into the phase of more practical activities to be implemented by each company, making it a year in which members themselves can feel the effects and responses of their activities.

For carbon neutrality and appropriate business transactions, we will spread the use of practical manuals and tools, deliver them deep into the Tier, and link them to actions that match the realities of small and medium-sized companies.

Similarly, for resilience and digitalization, we will share leading examples and know-how that will be useful when you think, "Okay, let's try it," and we will also focus on ease of use for small and midsize companies in creating new mechanisms.

We would like members to actively utilize the manuals and tools for each activity and send us real feedback such as "it is difficult to use" or "I would like it to be more like this".

By further deepening the cooperation between the head office and the branch offices, and by working together in a cycle of speedy improvement based on real feedback, it is important to connect these efforts to initiatives that will increase their effectiveness.

The more we do this, the more we will encounter new obstacles, but each time we overcome them one by one, the view we see will change. I would like to experience this kind of response with you all.

If you move, the scenery will change.

And at the Japan Mobility Show in the fall, it is important to show the world the new landscape created by the Japanese automobile industry.

JAPIA would like to accumulate as many results and responses as possible so that the small and medium-sized enterprises that support the automobile industry can show how they are taking on the challenge of realizing diverse paths forward in a uniquely Japanese way, utilizing the strengths they have cultivated over the years.

To this end, as I have been saying since the beginning of the year, let's do the troublesome things. The accumulation of troublesome things will create great value.

Let's also be cheerful, have fun, and be mischievous.

Let's work together as one so that other organizations will think, "Sounds interesting," and "I want to work with JAPIA".

Let us work together this year to show that the parts industry can continue to contribute to society and become more "indispensable" than ever before.

We look forward to your continued understanding and cooperation in our JAPIA activities.

Thank you very much.