

Special contribution

Crucial year to be only one

I wish you a Very Happy New Year. Today, the government's bold monetary easing policy brought money rate almost zero level, and at the same time, exchange market a big yen depreciation. Most papers and economists say this economic policy is appropriate and effective for recovery.

However the beneficial business groups are only stock market and export concerns, and contrarily, the price of imported materials are going up, and it gives ill affects against inland business, smaller business and household expenses. Today, this economic policy seems to be extending the gap between export business and domestic business, high income and low income or city and country. I hope these gaps will dissolve and we will be able to enjoy a legitimate recovery.

On the other hand, we always have to make every effort to seek better quality, lower cost and exacter delivery. Regarding the quality problem, Japanese major car producers experienced an extensive quality claim on safety system recently. This shows us how the guarantee against quality is important. We must realize the consequence of quality problems again.

About the cost problem, the effects of yen depreciation bring us the price up of major material, aluminum alloy, and other consumable goods. We have to put in serious effort to save energy. Today, the future of shale gas is our bright dream.

Concerning the delivery, we can't transfer the increased costs for better delivery against customers. We have to study and to get over.

After all, we have to seek the lower costs every day to build up our substantial business qualities. I believe we can produce the highest quality diecast through these efforts, and we don't want to be number one but want to be only one. I think that only one business would be effective to stop hollowing out, moving to overseas. This year will be crucial to exist in 21 century for us, I believe.

I hope everyone at diecast business will be in good health and enjoy excellent business results in 2015.

Seisuke Matsuo

Chairman, Middle Japan Diecasters

Cooperative Association

President, Toa Diecast Industry, Ltd.

The 31th New Year praying meeting opens

On January 16, the 80 delegates from scrap dealers were invited at the Kira Kanko Hotel, and keeping custom, Chairman, Hisashi Amano addressed "New Year rundom talk" as the above photo on page two shows.

Then, the attendants visited Kannon Temple on the top of Mt. Sangane by bus, where the praying meeting was held solemnly for business prosperity and traffic safety New Year. In the evening at the hotel, everyone thoroughly enjoyed a New Year grand party in traditional Japanese fashion as the below photo on page two shows.

Chairman, Hisashi Amano's address is summarized on the reverse page.

War and a youngster

It has past 70 years since the Pacific War ended. Those who experienced and realized the war will disappear soon. As one of survivors, I would like to speak a short story, my experienced war.

Looking upon my growth period, there were the Manchury Incident (1931) – kindergarten; the Shanghai Incident (1932) – kindergarten; the China Incident (1937) – primary pupil; the Pacific War (1941) – J. high student; Japan surrendered (1945) – college student. Thus I grew up with wars and free from peace. I eyewitnessed the wars and the citizen life through my youngster's eye. Though I was one of normal boys, I realized the decline of national power got clearer year by year. The commodities at shops were decreasing obviously, and at last disappeared just before the end of war.

War and a lad

In 1945 all high school and college students were forcibly sent to munition factories to make up the deficit of workers. I worked for Tokyo Aero Gauge Co. as a student worker. At midnight on May 25, many US bombers attacked Tokyo and at last my boarding house was bombed by fireballs.

At that time, I was at the second floor, and seeing the sheets of flames of the first floor, I gave up downstairs. I was obliged to jump off from a window onto the garden. With so many people, I ran and evacuated toward more safety area, and fortunately, we made it over into the garden of Meiji Shrine without being caught by fire. There, many evacuated people and I waited dawn. Becoming composed, I noticed that the right half of my face got burnt and ached, but there were no doctor and no medicine.

In the morning, I received only one rice ball and a train ticket, and could return home in Nishio without any belongings. In this way, most citizens lost everything by frequent air-raid fires in Tokyo and major cities. Today, I wonder why so many rice balls could be arranged at that time under such a hard air-attack, and at that night, the flames crawl and flow so rapidly on the ground surface, I realized.

The darkest days

The five years, from the end of war, 1945, till the outbreak of the Korean War, 1950, were the darkest days in Japan, I experienced.

I suppose that any historians never want to face up and to write out this worst period. Though some were kept during wartime, the break-down of law and order began as soon as the war ended. Government's control of prices and distribution couldn't work well, and at the same time, the spiral inflation attacked us instead of the US air-attack. In 1946 government restricted to pay bank savings against the swelling cash, but the economic situation went on worse and worse.

Every price freeze policy had no effect, and the price up during post-war five years reached really 50 times, by which the citizen life was dropped to the worst bottom. However fortunately, the Korean War occurred and the US post-war policy turned away. The purged leaders came back, and the big orders for the war enriched all Japan economy, which gave the chance to our rehabilitation.

At the battlefield, by the air-attack or under the poorest circumstances, many promising friends passed away. I can never forget these unhappy memories.