

ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

A Decade of Contribution to Environmental Preservation

1991 Minebea organizes the Anti-CFC Committee with the aim of phasing out the use of specified chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and ethane as cleaning agents.

1993 Minebea develops a water-based washing system, which it installs at all of its plants, becoming the first bearing manufacturer in the world to completely eliminate specified CFCs and ethane from all production and assembly processes.

The parent company and Minebea's Thai subsidiaries receive the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for eliminating specified CFCs and contributing to overall efforts to encourage environmental protection by actively disclosing technical information on its water-based washing system.

Minebea's Anti-CFC Committee is replaced by the Environmental Protection Committee.

Minebea formulates its own "Charter for Environmental Protection."

1995 Former president Goro Ogino receives the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for individuals from the U.S. EPA.

1996 Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai) Ltd. establishes the Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund, aimed at protecting the quality of the water in Lake Daishan-hu as well as the surrounding environment.

1997 In April, the Karuizawa Manufacturing Unit and U.K. subsidiary Rose Bearings' Lincoln plant obtain ISO 14001 certification, making Minebea the first bearing manufacturer to do so. In October, seven subsidiaries and four sites in Thailand, home of Minebea's largest production base, and two plants in China also received this endorsement.

The Minebea Group is selected as winner of the U.S. EPA's Best-of-the-Best Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award.

1998 In January, Minebea's Singapore plants obtain ISO 14001 certification. This endorsement is also awarded to five plants and three subsidiaries in Japan and one subsidiary in Germany during the year.

1999 One plant in Japan, two plants of a subsidiary in England and one plant in the United States obtain ISO 14001 certification.

2000 One plant of a subsidiary in the United Kingdom obtains ISO 14001 certification.

Cleanup measures were implemented promptly after an investigation at subsidiary Minebea Onkyo Co., Ltd.'s Ichinoseki Plant, in Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture, confirmed trichloroethylene and trichloroethane contamination of the soil and groundwater.

(As of June 28, 2001)

Topics

Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund Increased

On May 23, 2001, subsidiary Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai), in the PRC, increased the Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund to Rmb110 million, from Rmb75 million. This was done in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the parent company, which was observed on July 16, 2001.

The Shanghai-Minebea Environmental Protection Fund was established in April 1996 as part of Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai)'s commitment to environmental protection. The purpose of the fund is to support activities aimed at preserving the quality of the water in Lake Daishan-hu and the environment of the surrounding area, particularly the town of Xicen. The fund is endowed by Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai), and accrued interest is used to finance activities. To date, the fund has assisted efforts to:

- install 4,000 chemical toilets in Xicen;
- build green belts in and around the Shanghai and Xicen plants;
- clean up Lake Daishan-hu and the nearby highway, No. 318; and
- provide saplings to the Shanghai Sapling Center.



The Shanghai Plant of Minebea Electronics & Hi-Tech Components (Shanghai) Ltd.



Speech by Minebea President Yamamoto at a commemorative presentation ceremony on May 23, 2001



Sapling donation ceremony at the Shanghai Sapling Center