

## ***Daiwa House — aiming for the perfect interfaces between housing and nature, and between housing and people***

### **Creating a company-wide organization centered around the Environmental Technology Division**

On October 1, 1997, the Company established the Environmental Technology Division as a research section to work exclusively on environmental issues. In November we launched a new environmentally-oriented management policy under the theme of “aiming to be an even more fruitful ‘comprehensive life-related enterprise’ by pressing ahead with the ‘industrialization’ of construction while being in harmony with the environment.”

Based on this policy, we set up the “Environmental Promotion Committee,” with President Ishibashi as general chairman, and by establishing six subcommittees on reducing energy consumption, waste products, environmental pollutants, lifestyle-related information, the workplace, and environmental assessment, we have lined up a full-fledged promotion system. In particular, with its own special standards and ways of thinking that take a global viewpoint, it will promote house-building and urban development that achieves comprehensive reductions in energy consumption. In addition, we are making vigorous efforts to expand environmental conservation activities at head office, the plants, display sites, and construction sites, with the medium to long-term aim of completely eliminating emissions and waste products.



***Through experimental housing we are aiming to develop housing that is in harmony with the environment, based on three themes.***

### **“Healthy Housing Specifications” used as standards for all products to deal with chemicals**

As part of our environmental measures, we have been applying our “Healthy Housing Specifications” to all our single-family housing and apartment building products since the plant shipments of March 1, 1998. These specifications are designed to deal with formaldehyde, a chemical that can be given off by building materials and other substances into the atmosphere and can cause dizziness, headaches, and other symptoms.

In July 1996 we led the industry by eliminating formaldehyde from adhesives used on wall coverings. Now we have implemented comprehensive measures to remove it from everything from backing materials for floors and walls to finishing

materials. Again, we are one of the first in the housing industry to try this.

Carrying on from this, we began to apply the specifications to sink housings and other built-in storage units from the June shipments onwards. As a measure to deal with the problem of dioxins, we are successively replacing approximately 400 cloth products that we use by non-PVC “eco-cloths,” and we will replace carpet backing materials with non-PVC products as soon as the manufacturers change their production systems.

Further, we are working to develop products that can respond to all the various issues surrounding the environment, by, for example, reusing and recycling housing components, and developing construction methods that eliminate the production of waste material at construction sites.



***In addition to using flooring materials with low emissions of volatile organic compounds, we apply anti-bacterial specifications.***

***Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. has been making vigorous efforts in comprehensive technical innovation toward environmental conservation, based on its four key themes of environmental friendliness, health and safety, creating a barrier-free environment, and low energy consumption. Now, however, we have established our own environmental targets, and the Daiwa House group of companies will put all its energies into becoming an enterprise that contributes to a sustainable society in all business activities, including product development, production and construction, and building maintenance and administration.***

## **Toward the development of “low-energy housing”**

The question of reducing energy consumption is closely related to the environment, and is an important theme for Daiwa House. In particular, we are focusing on the functions and safety of housing itself, with the aim of developing housing that allows a comfortable lifestyle using only a quarter of the energy currently used, under the theme of “low-energy housing” that makes excellent use of natural light and wind.

With attention being paid to solar energy, which is clean and limitless, in July 1997 we began sales of “low-energy housing” equipped with a solar power generator. The generator has a capacity of about 3 kilowatts, which is enough to meet the electricity consumption needs of the average family, and it is possible to sell surplus power generated on particularly sunny days back to an electricity supply company. Such housing not only receives government aid, but also falls under the premium financing system of Housing Loan Corporation.

We also offer a heat-exchanger based on a 24-hour air circulation system that exchanges the air inside with outside air while preserving all of the energy-saving advantages of good insulation and draft-proofing. Instead of merely exchanging



***Our 24-hour air circulation system keeps indoor air fresh, while preserving all the benefits of good insulation and draft-proofing.***

the air, it brings the temperature of the incoming air close to that in the room, thus reducing heat loss and allowing great savings in heating and cooling bills.

## **Mie Plant awarded ISO14001 certification**

We are actively implementing environmental protection and energy consumption reduction measures at our plants, including the development of production methods for steel frames and panels that do not release harmful substances and carbon dioxide, which damage the environment.

In addition, we have addressed a wide range of related issues, including testing for harmful emissions, educating workers about the environment, reducing energy consumption by 15% at offices and production facilities, appraising the environmental impact of materials purchased, and reducing packaging materials, all with the aim of making the Company a “circulatory enterprise” that reduces wastes and emissions and promotes reuse and recycling.

Amid these emission reduction efforts, in April 1998 the Company’s Mie Plant was awarded ISO14001 certification for environmental management and inspection. We are planning to spread the world-class environmental management systems employed at Mie to all the Company’s plants.



***The Mie Plant, which has been awarded ISO14001 certification for its world-class environmental management systems.***