Aiming for Sustainable Medical Endoscope Business

Strengthening of medical endoscope production/supply systems and implementation of CSR activities

Aomori Olympus

Facing a global market with inseparable quality control capabilities and ease of operation

Aomori Olympus Co., Ltd.

Established
1973

Business Activities
Development and manufacture of medical endoscope-related products (endotherapy devices)

Number of Employees
770 (April 2016)

International Standard Certifications
ISO 14001 (International standard for environmental management)

Representative Lineup of Aomori Olympus Products

- Endotherapy device
- Surgical energy device

Aomori Olympus is the development and manufacturing base for the medical-use endotherapy device products that are indispensable in the examinations and treatments conducted by endoscopes. Divided depending on their use for examination or treatment, endotherapy devices enable operations such as grasping, resecting, collecting, cutting, crushing and hemostasis. The products the company handles number more than 2,300 types, including energy devices for surgical use that with one device make it possible to seal blood vessels, rapidly dissect tissue and perform peeling operations, and the company supplies these products all over the world. Among these products that are used in the human body, in the case of the single-use products there are those that come into direct contact with the body, and ensuring their safety (sterility) is of particular importance. Accordingly, under the new building construction project, in addition to realizing spaces that are cleaner than in the past, we made the latest factory design to be more certain of devising an integrated production system, from product processing to assembly, sterilization, inspection and shipment. For example, for the new building we adopted dual shutters for all of the doorways so that no insects can enter from outside and in the manufacturing areas made the exterior wall to be a windowless double structure as a measure against dust, insects and rats. In addition, to ensure consistent quality across a wide variety of products not only new facilities but also the creation of an environment in which employees could concentrate and work were necessary. In addition to newly building a refreshment room, the company therefore showed consideration for the safety and comfort of its many women employees who work while standing up by, for example, laying thick mats under their feet at work stations.

Several times a month, doctors who use our equipment come from all over the world to inspect the company. Upon seeing the production line, many of them say “I was able to understand your attitude with regard to Olympus quality,” and I feel immensely happy and proud that we are able to convince them, in addition to such visits being an opportunity to strengthen our sense of responsibility toward them.

Aomori Olympus also serves the function of mother factory for the Vietnam factory. The manufacture of single-use products is prohibitive on cost grounds, and after stabilizing production at the company here, we will transfer control of most of the production to the Vietnam factory. For technical guidance, we are accepting trainees and also sending many instructors to Vietnam. I am confident that the fully equipped new factory building is improving the ease with which such members work and that in turn they will become the driving force behind improvements in efficiency and product quality.

Message from the President

Feature

Profile

Governance

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In Focus

Supporting Global Development as Mother Plant

As one of its growth strategies, Olympus has cited the expansion of its lineup of single-use products, such as its endotherapy devices for endoscopes and energy devices for surgical use, demand for which is growing in the United States and other developed countries in Europe. For that reason, in addition to having strengthened its new product development system by the recruitment of 120 technical employees in the past two years at Aomori Olympus, we are supporting that system strengthening as the mother factory for the Vietnam factory that is positioned as the volume production factory for the global market. In specific terms, we are accepting technicians from the Vietnam factory and, in the same way as in Japan, have divided the levels of the skilled workers from the manufacturing front line into six stages and put into effect a training program to match their levels.

Also, locally in Vietnam, in addition to adopting a joint certification system with Japan with regard to basic techniques, such as bonding and brazing, instructors from Aomori Olympus are heading to Vietnam and set the certification examination. We are establishing the target tasks that they are capable of undertaking only for those who pass the examination.

EMPLOYEE FEEDBACK

The people-friendly culture manifests itself everywhere in the new building

I was born and raised locally, but to be honest other than the cameras I knew nothing at all about Olympus products before I started job-hunting. Although it might be deemed presumptuous to say so, I feel very proud to be working for a medical equipment maker that is now making a major contribution to improving the quality of life of patients all over the world. Although my current work is in the General Affairs Department and thus only indirectly involved, I like the company slogan of “All for the Patient’s Smile” very much and replace it with “All for the Employee’s Smile” for use in my work duties. The systems here are very easy user-friendly, for example the ratio of women taking leave is 100%, there is a very people-friendly corporate culture, and that kind of corporate culture manifests itself in the newly constructed factory building. Clean and featuring sofa benches and vending machines, the newly completed refreshment room is used during break times as it is a place where you can relax. A passenger elevator has also been installed, and I have heard pregnant women and those with injuries say that it has become easier to work than before. They are in the process of renovating the existing building where I spend my time, and here they are planning a powder room. Since I wear little makeup when I'm working, I think that facility will make women who have plans after work happy. I am looking forward to seeing in what other ways Aomori Olympus will change in the years ahead.