Message from an External Director

Toward Sustainability as Something People Want to Do and Toppan as a Unified Global Business



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Materiality and "TOPPAN Business Action for SDGs"

I believe Toppan is a company that acts with sincerity in everything it does. My feeling is also that the Company approaches sustainability head-on and takes it seriously. I applaud Toppan's efforts to contribute to society by linking its wide-ranging businesses to spur innovation and create new value across the themes of Environment, Communities, and People under Business Materiality.

The nine areas of focus in TOPPAN Business Action for SDGs are of significant scale and importance. This could lead to an unfocused approach, but because Toppan has a broad range of businesses, I believe it has the resources to make meaningful contributions in each area.

Toppan takes an earnest approach and tends to focus on the task at hand. Due to the breadth of its business, it has often approached things in terms of individual fields. The targets of TOPPAN Business Action for SDGs will not be achieved without the concerted efforts of the entire Group. It provides a roadmap from a new perspective, transcending existing domains.

Assessment and Expectations Regarding Sustainability Initiatives

Toppan is advancing sustainability management and proactively discloses information. This no doubt led to Toppan earning the highest rating in the climate change category of the 2021 Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) survey. As an external director, I attend meetings of the ESG Management Promotion Committee. This is an important venue for sharing information and aligning understanding, and I have learned a great deal.

Going forward, I hope to see Toppan achieving its ambitious targets and plans, which will not be easy. However, challenging targets drive innovation, so I look forward to innovative approaches that produce consistent results. I would also like to see a change in the approach to sustainability management, from "something that has to be done" to "something that people want to do" or "something that is fun to do." People tend not to continue things they are compelled to do. Sustainability management initiatives will truly become sustainable when Toppan's employees want to pursue them.

Growing as a Truly Sustainable Global Company

Another challenge to address is how Toppan will become a global company. The global market's importance is recognized, but there remains a tendency to divide domestic and overseas business and focus on domestic first.

For ESG practices, the approach has been to start from Japan. If Toppan is to grow as a truly sustainable global company, rather than expecting those responsible for overseas business to take care of it, there needs to be a more widespread consciousness that Toppan is a single global business.