

May 2014

-- JCIA Presents 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Award --

## **Tochigi Plant of Kao Corporation Honored with Safety Grand Prize**

Japan Chemical Industry Association

The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA, Chairman: Kyohei Takahashi, Chairman of Showa Denko K.K.) reviewed a number of chemical facilities candidates for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Awards and selected the winner of the Grand Prize (one company) and the First Prize winners (four companies).

JCIA's Safety Award is awarded to those chemical facilities carrying out exceptional safety activities exceeding the industry's standards as part of the chemical industry's promotion of voluntary conservation, health and safety efforts. This year, 29 facilities, including six research centers, were recommended and/or applied for the Association's awards. As reviewed and selected by the JCIA's Safety Awards Council, chaired by Dr. Shozo Tamura, Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University, the following have been selected as award-winning facilities:

### **JCIA Annual Safety Award Grand Prize Winner (one company):**

#### **Tochigi Plant of Kao Corporation**

- **Facility Location:** Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun, Tochigi Prefecture
- **Founded:** 1975
- **Production:** Manufacturer of sanitary products, homecare products, compound perfume materials, etc.
- **Amount of Dangerous Substances Handled:** About 935 times the designated amount
- **Amount of High-Pressure Gas Handled:** About 346 Nm<sup>3</sup>/day
- **Number of Employees:** 1,079
- **Safety Record:** 2,261 labor hours without recorded accident
- **Years Without Recorded Accident:** 11 years
- **Major Awards:** JCIA Responsible Care Award (July 2011) and Commissioner of the Fire and Disaster Management Agency Award for dangerous substance-related facility (June 2013)
- **Reasons for Selection:** The Safety and Health Committee has been

established under the plant manager and a liaison committee to promote safety and health throughout the company. Shiftworkers, daytime staff members and the entire company have incorporated safety into their work operations. Features of this program include: (1) Green card system and the creation of a work climate to comply safety rules, (2) promotion of risk assessment which has been implemented from the viewpoints of work, machinery/equipment, and fire and/or explosion, (3) utilizing of non-regular work 3/3/3 check sheet, and (4) education on safety for all workers every three years, and education on safety for newly employed and newly located workers by using disaster prevention videos. Keeping things tidy and in order has fully been observed in the plant and caution displays are placed in various areas around the manufacturing lines thereby sharing the practice of risk management.

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**JCIA Annual Safety Award First Prize Winners (four facilities):**

**Hikone Plant of Showa Aluminum Can K.K.**

**Chichibu Plant of Showa Denko K.K.**

**Gifu Plant of Teijin DuPont Films Japan Limited, and**

**Pharmaceutical Research Laboratories, Research and Development Group, Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd.**

Unfortunately, for the past several years accidents and disasters have occurred in the chemical industry. Taking this situation seriously, JCIA has established the Committee to Study the Prevention of Accidents. We published the “Safety and Accident-Prevention Guidelines – first edition” in April 2013 to share information inside and outside of the industry and also to be used for safety and accident prevention at each company. We also published the “Collection of Best Practices” in September the same year, in which the activities of the Safety Award winners are collected and compiled. We are also carrying out lectures and presentations to our member companies. We at JCIA will continue to enlighten and support the activities of safety and disaster prevention at each member company.

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