

Working in China

Recognizing its social responsibility increasing year by year as output capacity grows, Tamron Optical (Foshan) has been striving hard to address CSR in addition to environmental concerns.

Tamron Optical (Foshan) (TOF)

TOF was established in 1997 in Foshan, a city famous for ceramic wares and called the "Town of Ceramic Wares". At present, the factory is equipped with fully integrated production facilities to manufacture interchangeable lenses for SLR cameras, lens units for digital cameras, and surveillance camera lenses, manufacturing the greater majority of Tamron's main products. In November 2007, Tamron completed its 3rd phase of factory construction work, building a new factory on TOF premises that is equipped with clean rooms and capable of manufacturing lens units for camera phones and vehicle-built-in cameras. The new factory now accounts for almost half the total floor space at present. As the scale and number of people working there increase, the environmental load and social responsibility increase too.

Environmental Management Efforts at TOF

- Environmental Management Structure -

Under the lead of our ISO Promotion Office, TOF established its environmental management system and is now working on projects to reduce the environmental load while complying with related laws and regulations in China. In 2006, TOF was commented by Foshan City as an exemplary corporation in recognition of its distinguished work to suppress environmental pollutants, maintain scenery and pursue efficient use of resources. At present, TOF is working on reducing chemical substances and using less electricity, water and copy paper. Also, TOF plans to work to further reduce waste and CO₂ emissions from manufacturing operations while promoting recycling.



Environmental Management Structure



External view of Tamron Optical (Foshan)

- Environmental Considerations in 3rd Construction Stage -

Amid rapid economic growth in the past decade, electricity shortages have become a serious social problem in China including Guangdong where TOF is located. During the summer last year, although TOF was not directly affected, electric power failures occurred almost every day in various areas within Guangdong. In some areas, the power supply was even intentionally suspended by schedule in time blocks for a few days each week. The 3rd stage construction work began as Tamron recognized the necessity of measures to address the problem. Tamron employed energy-saving lighting and air-conditioning in designing factory facilities. As a result, compared to a factory of similar scale equipped with conventional systems, the volume of electricity consumed for lighting and air-conditioning has been reduced by 2,735,000 kWh a year, or emissions equivalent to 1,518 tons of CO₂.



Inside TOF after the 3rd phase construction work

- Education on Environment -

As an attempt to enhance employee knowledge and environmental consciousness, TOF held a quiz tournament where workers at their worksites vie each other. In this way, our employees learn about environmental issues while enjoying challenging quiz questions related to environmental issues in general as well as harmful substance management.



A scene from ISO Quiz Competition

- Environmental Considerations in 3rd Construction Stage -

TOF works on managing chemical substances in products in line with the chemical substance management structure of the Tamron head office. Tamron's "Environment-related Substance Management Regulations" and "Guidance on Environmental Quality Assurance," as well as special requirements by OEM customers are translated into Chinese to distribute to TOF and material suppliers. In addition, TOF regularly implements environmental quality audits to check if chemical substance management systems are properly established by and maintained at material suppliers. TOF also installed two XRF (X-ray fluorescent) analyzers in 2007 in order to ascertain that production lots are free of cadmium, lead, mercury, hexavalent chrom and bromo⁽¹⁾.



XRF Analyzer

⁽¹⁾ Generic name of brominated compounds including PBB and PBDE

Efforts to Discharge CSR at TOF

Tamron's CSR mid-term plan declared a policy to start working on CSR management as a group from 2008. In preparation, TOF translated Tamron's "CSR Promotion Guideline" and small booklets into Chinese to distribute to our employees. TOF regularly holds meetings with Tamron's CSR promotion office for discussion, in order to establish a CSR structure that is in line with how we can effectively proceed in China.



CSR Poster

Efforts to Secure Human Resources Suited to TOF's Corporate Structure

TOF is a 100% subsidiary of Tamron, and approximately 90% of the management team, including the president and managerial employees, are local residents. To vigorously pursue further localization and develop the skills of engineers and managerial employees, TOF provides opportunities to participate in seminars, technical workshops and educational course held at Tamron's head office and universities in Japan.

For Motivating Employees

TOF regularly holds entertainment events so local employees can enjoy working together with fellow workers at TOF. For example, TOF holds a birthday party every month to celebrate workers' birthdays during the month. Also, a sporting event is held each year, providing employees with the opportunity to enjoy basketball games and tug of war competitions between teams from different worksites. TOF celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007, holding a cultural festival in commemoration of the special year. All of us at TOF enjoyed the event that included plays, dancing performances and songs by local employees.



A scene of the sporting event (tug of war competition)



Basketball game