

Challenges in Our 130th Year

Committed to "Contributing to Society through Science and Technology" in a manner that meets today's evolving needs, Shimadzu continues to take on new challenges.

Hidetoshi Yajima *Chairman, Shimadzu Corporation*

Shimadzu's roots extend all the way back to 1875, just after the Meiji Restoration, when the company was founded in Kiyamachi, Kyoto.

Japan's opening itself to the West brought in a flood of science and technology from overseas. The government, seeking to make science the cornerstone of the country's economy, set up a number of academic institutions to support and promote industry. Genzo Shimadzu, one of many Japanese youths consumed with a passion for science, set about manufacturing instruments for use in physics and chemistry laboratories.

Fortunately for Genzo, near his workshop there were a group of foreign lecturers who had been invited to Japan to teach engineering. Under their tutelage, Genzo gained a wealth of knowledge in science and technology as he manufactured the instruments they requested.

This knowledge served as the background for a number of later inventions by Genzo. He didn't even bother to apply for patents on products he invented; he simply provided them to high schools and universities out of a sincere desire to support education in the sciences throughout the country.

The corporate philosophy Shimadzu still adheres to today - Contributing to Society through Science and Technology - is rooted in Genzo's selfless actions.

Genzo Shimadzu Jr. followed in the footsteps of his father. Blessed with the same talent and enthusiasm, Genzo Jr. is

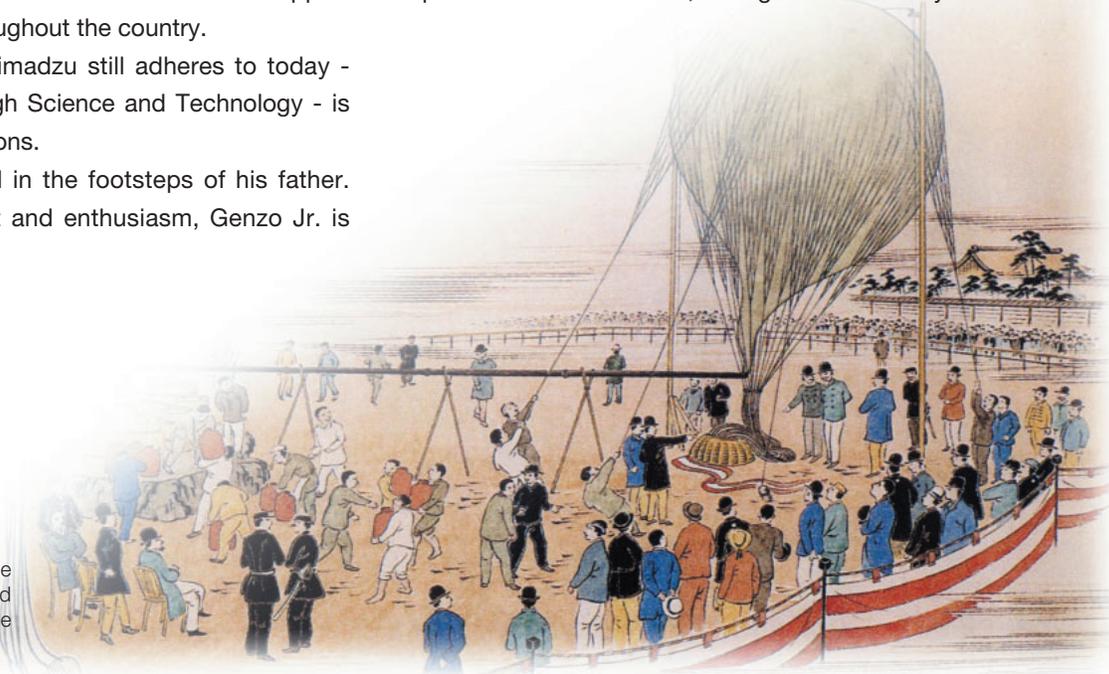
credited with a number of developments, including induction machines, lead storage batteries and X-ray apparatus. For these accomplishments, Genzo was named one of Japan's top ten inventors of the Showa Era and invited to dine with the emperor. It was telling that each of the other nine top inventors had PhD degrees, leaving Genzo as the only one whose roots were planted firmly in industry.

Since these early years, Shimadzu as a company has continued to develop state-of-the-art analytical and medical products, systems and technologies. Many of these were the first of their kind in Japan, and some were first in the world - paving the way for Japan's continued industrial and academic development.

The company's continued dedication to breaking new ground led to a dramatic achievement in 2002, when staff researcher Koichi Tanaka was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who, when considering that Mr. Tanaka was the first Nobel laureate ever to come from Japan's industrial sector, thought immediately of Genzo

In 1877, Genzo Shimadzu Sr. became the first person in Japan to build and fly a manned hydrogen balloon. The balloon rose 36 meters into the air.



Hidetoshi Yajima

Shimadzu Jr., one of Japan's top ten inventors.

After the war, Japan embarked on a period of rapid economic growth that led to its becoming one of the world's science and technology superpowers. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our forefathers for the hard work that made this possible.

As a member of this historic company, I take immense pride in knowing that for some 130 years, Shimadzu has made a significant contribution to our society by developing high-quality instruments that meet the most advanced research needs.

At the time I was named president, in an effort to keep the company moving forward in the face of increasing globalization and advances in information technology, our company's management chose to follow a course of strategically selecting and focusing its business activities. We also knew we would have to compete in the global arena to continue making progress. And to compete effectively, we needed to redesign the company, making it leaner and more streamlined.

Fortunately, the reform programs we have undertaken have proven to be a success. One after another, we have introduced innovative products that were well received in the global marketplace, and our business performance has soared.

The mass spectrometer developed by Koichi Tanaka is now an essential tool at state-of-the-art life-science laboratories. I'm sure that this instrument will help researchers make continued progress in drug discoveries and disease diagnosis, leading to new products that help people everywhere enjoy longer, healthier lives.

Also, our fully digital X-ray system, with its superior image quality and ease of use, is helping to revolutionize practices at medical institutions.

Our film coating systems help increase the power-generating efficiency of solar batteries. Once these systems are popular-



ized, we believe they will be part of the solution to global warming.

Shimadzu has developed more new products, systems and technologies than I have time to mention here. Even as I speak, new pace-setting instruments and systems are being developed and commercialized at Shimadzu laboratories.

The enterprising, pioneering spirit of company founder Genzo Shimadzu and the creativity, imagination and determination of Genzo Shimadzu Jr. live on in the employees of Shimadzu Group companies. We'll do our best to reflect these same qualities in the work we do today and to pass them on to the generations that follow, so that Shimadzu will forever remain a company that boldly and energetically tackles the challenges of the future.



Genzo Shimadzu

Born in Kyoto in 1839, the second son of Seibei Shimadzu, a maker of Buddhist altars. At age 35, Genzo dedicated himself to elevating the study of science in Japan. He left the family business and opened a workshop in Kyoto's Kiyamachi-Nijo area for manufacturing instruments used in physics and chemistry laboratories.



Genzo Shimadzu Jr.

Born in Kyoto in 1869. At age 25, Genzo Jr. became head of the family when his father suddenly passed away. He developed a succession of new products over the course of his career, leading to his being honored as one of the top ten inventors in Japan.