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Developing Paper's Capacities to Meet Demands of the New Normal

In Memoriam

A Solemn Message Bequeathed to Us
by C.W. Nicol

Create

The KPP Original Mask Case
— Take it with you whenever you go out

TSUNAGU is a public relations magazine published by Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd. An exploration in rediscovering a fascination with paper, we link paper and culture, paper and business, and paper and people.

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What KPP Can Do Now for the Future

Since the debut edition in 2007, we have been publishing *TSUNAGU* for 13 years under the catchphrase "A Paper Trail for Creating the Future," with the current issue being the 44th. I would like to contribute a few words for the autumn issue of this magazine, which aims to preserve the culture of paper and expand its possibilities.

Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to victims of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as to those severely affected by the torrential rains in July 2020, by offering my heartfelt prayers for an early recovery and the restoration of disaster-affected regions. I would also like to express my deepest respect to all those who are working each and every day to prevent the spread of the disease and provide treatment, and to those who are giving their all to restore the disaster-affected regions.

Currently, as the devastation from COVID-19 spreads around the world, every country is invested in creating countermeasures to deal with the crisis while the number of infected persons continues to rise daily. In Japan, too, the spread of infection shows no signs of stopping and the path towards containment of the virus remains uncertain. Much is still unclear about the causes and pathways of this infection, and many people will likely be worried about the situation. It is at times like these that what is most important is to squarely face up to the risks associated with infectious diseases and seek knowledge that will enable us to live with the virus.

Mr. C.W. Nicol, the author and naturalist who sadly passed away recently, emphasized the importance of environmental conservation through his numerous ventures, which include his writings, lectures and media appearances. He had also long suggested that the loss of wildlife habitat and ecosystems, due to rapid changes in our natural environment, may be a contributing factor to the spread of viruses.

The ultimate measure requiring our attention as we seek to survive in the age of COVID-19 is to put an end to humanity's mistakes, namely the destruction of the natural world, and to gradually restore the global environment. The role of the pulp and paper industry in achieving this end is no small matter.

For this issue of *TSUNAGU*, we took a step away from the usual theme of "paper as art" to provide content that may provide readers with some advice for life in the age of COVID-19. I hope that the articles you find in this issue will be of some benefit in a world where people are still having to restrict their activity and movement.

As a member of the pulp and paper industry, the KPP Group will continue to focus not only on environmental sustainability, but also on social sustainability as we strive to create new and enriching value to people's lives. We look forward to your continued support and patronage.

Madoka Tanabe

Director of the Board
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

田辺 円



From July 27 to August 31, a final message from Mr. C. W. Nicol was on display at the entrance to the KPP Head Office. (Left: Madoka Tanabe, Director of the Board, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer; Right: Tadashi Kurihara, Director of the Board, President & Executive Officer)



With a Prayer for Peace

Origami paper cranes are ornaments that symbolize peace and prayer. One of our group companies, Narumiya Kami-shoji Co., Ltd. (Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture), produces paper ornaments for the Sendai Tanabata Festival. The festival is held over a three-day period, from August 6 to 8 each year, and is a grand spectacle with approximately 3,000 brightly colored decorations filling the entire city. Although this year's festival was cancelled due to the impact of the spread of the coronavirus infection, the KPP Group hopes that peaceful days will return soon. Until then, we will continue to celebrate time-honored traditions through the pages of this magazine.



Photo supplied by: Narumiya Kami-shoji Co., Ltd.

ANTIVIRUS PAPER ITEMS

Here you see a carefully-selected collection of our antiviral paper merchandise, a lineup of innovative products made by leveraging the special characteristics of paper. They are lightweight, inexpensive, and eco-friendly, and we invite you to give them a try.



The products marked with the logo above are distributed by KPP. Feel free to contact us at:

Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd.
Corporate Planning Div.
Corporate Planning Dept.
IR & Public Relations Section

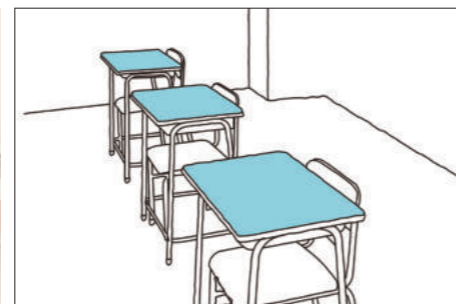
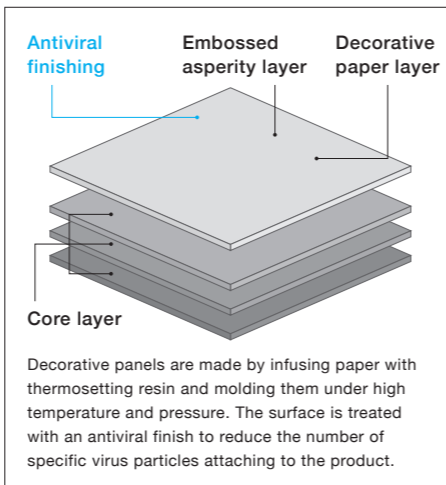
TEL: +81-3-3542-4169
FAX: +81-3-3542-4266
MAIL: kpp-kouhou@kppc.co.jp

01 Antiviral decorative panels & building materials

Virtect Series

Sold by: Aica Kogyo Company, Limited
<http://www.aica.co.jp/products/willtect/naisou/>

At medical and nursing care facilities, as well as childcare and educational institutions, maintaining hygiene control against viruses and germs is a crucial issue that requires the utmost attention. This Virtect series is a line of decorative panels with antiviral and antibacterial properties used on surfaces of various types of furniture and fixtures. Even if a surface is left unwiped, or if a virus still remains on it after cleaning, the panels are effective in reducing the number of specific virus particles left on their surface. The series includes two types of decorative panels: Aica Virutect, used for furniture and fixtures, and Cerarl Virutect, which are fireproof and used on walls. Also available is the Melatack Virutect construction material that can be attached directly to desks in elementary and junior high school classrooms. They are the ideal implement for promoting good hygiene in places where people gather.



Scratch and grime resistance makes them easy to clean

02 Partitions made with connected paper tubes

Partition System for Evacuation Shelters

Supplied by: Voluntary Architects Network (VAN), Shigeru Ban Architects
<http://www.shigerubanarchitects.com/>

Evacuation centers are opened when disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, or floods occur, or when there is even a threat of their taking place. Many affected people are forced to sleep side-by-side on the floor of gyms and other large spaces. Ensuring personal privacy and preventing the spread of COVID-19 infections, therefore, are critical issues that must be addressed. Shigeru Ban, a world-renowned architect, sought to improve situations such as these and developed a partition unit that can be easily assembled by constructing a paper tube frame and hanging sheets of cloth on it. When expanded into a grid form, the paper tubes have a height of two meters and therefore provide privacy. Moreover, the hanging cloth can open and close like a curtain, making it effective in preventing the spread of a virus. This assistance program using light and durable paper tubes helped to improve conditions for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters, both in Japan and abroad.



03 Hygienic mask storage case treated with an antibacterial coating

Antibacterial Paper Mask Case

Sold by: Nozaki Kamishouji Inc.
<http://www.nozack.co.jp/>

Because masks that we use daily come into direct contact with our mouth and nose, it is all the more important to store them in a clean case. The antibacterial finish applied to both sides reduces the risk of viruses attaching to it. It also contains a special absorbent, which helps to eliminate annoying odors. As it comes with two pockets, you can store the mask you are currently using in one, and an unused spare mask in another. It is also convenient for storing a mask that is removed during meals.

As a special supplement for this issue, we include a paper craft mask case. We hope you find it useful.



05 Popular high-performance mask that incorporates the beneficial features of washi (Japanese paper)

Antibacterial and Washable Washi Paper Knitted Mask

Sold by: SATO SENI CO., LTD.
<https://satoseni.com/>



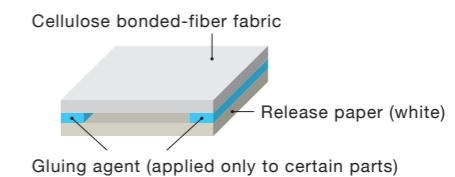
This is a knitted mask that combines the beneficial features of lightweight and durable Japanese *washi* paper with copper, which has antibacterial properties. By twisting together highly breathable *washi* paper threads and elastic polyester fibers through a special manufacturing process, a mask with a light, comfortable fit and elasticity that fits nicely on the face is now available. A copper sheet woven with copper compound-coated threads is inserted into the inner pocket of the mask, promoting antibacterial and odor-resistant qualities. The mask is three-dimensionally finished with no-sew knitting technology, so you can rest assured that it will not easily lose its shape or wrinkle, even if thrown into the washing machine. Available in 12 different colors, they are optimal for those who are particular about their appearance.

04 High quality bonded-fiber fabric that keeps masks clean for a long time

Replacement Sheets for Masks

Sold by: New Tac Kasei Co., Ltd.
<http://www.tack.co.jp/>

It would be ideal to be able to reduce the rate at which we use up masks when we replace them every day. But many would probably agree that on long days spent away from home, they are annoyed by the grime and stickiness that build up on their masks. For this purpose, we recommend attaching these Replacement Sheets for Masks to the inside of them. They are made of a soft cellulose bonded-fiber fabric, making them pleasant to the touch and highly breathable. Even if lipstick or makeup rubs off on a mask, you can simply replace the sheet so that the mask can remain clean and be used for a long time. Another nice feature is that a gluing agent is applied to both ends so that it does not easily shift around.



06 Product developed by a Mino Washi paper maker that prevents contact infection

Kaishi: Antibacterial Mino Washi Pocket Paper

Sold by: Washi Paper Specialty Store Washi-nary
<https://washinary.jp/>

Manufacturer: Maruju Paper Company
<https://www.maruju-mino.com/>

Kaishi is folded *washi* paper that Japanese people have carried in their pockets and used daily since the olden days. This traditional pocket paper has been improved in response to the current "living with COVID 19" era. It is made of Mino Washi paper containing antibacterial and antiviral components, so it can be attached to the inside of a mask for improved soil-resistance as well as antibacterial and odor-resistant effects. The paper can also be used for doorknobs and straps on public transportation to help prevent contact infection. This *Kaishi* paper comes with two options: either plain, or with a watermark design in the *kagome* (hexagram) pattern, which is said to ward off evil. The 1,300-year tradition and technology of the Mino Washi paper shines through in this product.



Kaishi Paper Masks, made by folding *kaishi* pocket paper, and Mask Cases for storing them are also available for sale.



Many other varieties of antiviral products are available at Paper Mall, our EC site, so please come and visit us.

www.kpps.jp/papermall

Paper Mall

Search

In Memoriam

The Message Bequeathed to Us by C.W. Nicol

A Woodland Prayer

Among the hundreds of literary works he produced during his lifetime, this poem Mr. Nicol composed in June 2019 was the first he deemed a “prayer” as well. While taking humanity’s relationship with the forests and the trees as its theme, it can also be regarded as a message for people living through this time of COVID-19.

Afan Woodland Trust
YouTube

A Woodland Prayer:
Let me be a tree—C.W. Nicol



Let me be a tree
With roots spread wide and deep in the darkness
Held unto Earth
Holding earth

Let me be a trunk
Tall, straight and strong
A timber pillar
Ringed in years and seasons

Let me be a branch
Reaching for the light
Swaying in the wind
Praying to the heavens

Let me be a leaf
Fresh and green
Giving shade and cooling breath
Shimmering in sunlight
From spring to autumn
Then dancing down in delicate death
To rejoin the forest floor

Let me be an acorn
A nut, a berry, a fruit
Sharing food and spreading seeds

Let us be a forest
Embrace our strengths and differences
Turn back the desert
Nurture our precious planet

Let us plant trees
In the ground
And in our hearts.

A WOODLAND PRAYER by C.W. Nicol

The Life and Times of C.W. Nicol

- 1940** • Born in Wales, U.K. on July 17.
- 1957** • Relocates to Canada to engage in marine mammal research as technician for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada Arctic Biological Station.
- 1967** • Appointed game warden for the Ethiopian Imperial Government's Wildlife Conservation Department. Establishes Simien National Park and serves as park director.
- 1972** • Helps deal with oil and chemical spills as senior field technician for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada Freshwater Institute as well as senior technician for the Environmental Protection Service Environmental Emergency Branch.
- 1962** • Visits Japan to study karate.
- 1980** • Settles in Nagano Prefecture and continues writing.
- 1986** • Begins to purchase neglected *satoyama* forest land in Shinanomachi, Nagano Prefecture. Names the location the “Afan Woodland” and begins forest restoration activities.
- 1995** • Obtains Japanese citizenship.
- 2002** • Establishes the C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust and assumes the role of chairman.
- 2005** • Awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 2011** • Appointed Forest Ambassador of Nagano Prefecture. Begins the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Recovery Project.
- 2020** • Passes away from colorectal cancer on April 3 at the age of 79.

Chief Works

Kaze o mita shonen (“The Boy Who Saw The Wind”); *Isana* (“Harpoon”) *Hokori takaki Nihonjin de itai* (“I Want to be a Proud Japanese”); *Meiyaku* (“A Pledge”); *Hadaka no Durshyn* (“Durshyn, The Naked Prince”); and *Afan no mori no monogatari* (“The Story of the Afan Woodland”)

Timeline of Collaboration with KPP

July 7, 2015
Nicol lectures on the theme of “Coexistence Between People and Nature” at internal KPP and client-oriented speaking events.

December 1, 2015
KPP signs on as official sponsor of the C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust and begins supporting his Disaster Recovery Project (Higashi-Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture).

March 29, 2016
Papermaking commenced in the Nobiru district of Higashi-Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture along with the planting of paper mulberry trees and Oriental paperbush. Under the instruction of washi paper artist Rogier Uitenboogaart, Nicol co-hosts special lectures for elementary school students on planting paper mulberry trees and Oriental paperbush and making washi, an event henceforth held annually.

November 12, 2019
Nicol delivers the introductory presentation of the Afan Woodland and keynote address at the 7th KPP Exhibition. His lecture touches on efforts pursued at the Afan Woodland and the necessity of contact with nature.

KPP YouTube
Keynote address by C.W. Nicol at the KPP Exhibition



December 19, 2019
KPP co-sponsors a Christmas event held by the Afan Woodland Trust at a nursery school affected by the flooding of Nagano Prefecture’s Chikumagawa River. It supplies the paper for Christmas cards as well.

June 26, 2020
KPP posters 12 Tokyo Metro stations with Nicol’s final message.

Restoring Biodiversity to a Forest Lain to Waste

On April 3, 2020, the life of writer and naturalist C.W. Nicol came to a close. He was 79 at the time of his passing. While seeming to recover for a time from the rectal cancer he was diagnosed with in 2016, he apparently resumed treatment following a recurrence in the fall of 2019.

In 2015, Kokusai Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd. extended an invitation for him to deliver a lecture at a speaking event, occasioning the beginning of KPP’s relation with Nicol. As a firm specializing in paper, working to promote recycling-oriented business aimed at environmental conservation, KPP was sympathetic to his dream of restoring Japan’s natural environment to its original beautiful form and began offering support to his C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust.

Afan Woodland is a name he bestowed on the forest he purchased in

Kurohime, Nagano Prefecture in 1986 after relocating to Japan. In the Welsh language, *afan* signifies a place where the wind passes through. Over the course of more than three decades, Nicol continued to tend to this forest, which had previously been lain to waste, reviving it to a state of rich biodiversity.

Today this woodland even serves as the site for efforts to provide emotional healing for children experiencing trauma or disability who are invited to visit.

People Too Are Part of Nature

The richness of nature and people’s mental and physical health are inseparable from one another, yet people had gotten to be overly neglectful of nature in their pursuit of economic growth, Nicol continually objected. On the topic of COVID-19’s recent spread, he left behind the view that it had been the result

of an upset in the balance of the natural world, due to the way people had been living without respect for nature. He felt that the distance between people and wild animals that had lost their natural habitat to environmental destruction had grown too close; and that, as a result, a virus that had been confined to the extremes of the Earth, to forests and jungles, had come to be unleashed on the world.

Creating the Future 100 Years Distant

What Nicol aimed for was to build the future that lay a century ahead. KPP greatly values his dream of spreading natural environments rich in biodiversity throughout Japan. As such, we will continue to offer our support for the C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust and will work to practice an environmentally responsible business in order to help build a sustainable world.

Making Letters Speak Tomone Uemura

Humans are creatures who express their thoughts. I feel that letters are the most profound and noble form of human expression. When it comes to letters, hand-written letters are best.

When we try to read between the lines, we can see the personality of the writer.

Vol. 22: C.W. Nicol

C.W. Nicol passed away on April 3 this year. Although I cannot go so far as to say we were best friends, we did know each other for some 30 years. Our friendship goes back to the time of “C.W. Nicol no oishii hakubutsushi (C.W. Nicol’s Delicious Natural History),” a 30-minute TV program that aired from April 1989 to March 1990, when I was in charge of program planning at TV Tokyo. He was known as a writer and environmentalist, but for this program he also did the planning, found sponsors, and pitched it to TV stations. It is widely known that alongside his writing activity, C.W. Nicol also purchased some neglected woodland near a rural area in Nagano Prefecture and worked to nurture it back to health and expand it under his Afan Woodland initiative.

In his half hour TV program, C.W. Nicol would invite close friends to visit his forest and enjoy leisurely chats while he prepared his favorite dishes for them. I was introduced to him by Hitoshi Kurauchi of AMAZONLATERNA Co., Ltd., who was in charge of producing the program, and I believe I succeeded in gaining his friendship. I grew close to him after the conclusion of the production

when Mr. Kurauchi, who was in charge of staging in addition to producing, took me to visit Kurohime in Nagano Prefecture where C.W. Nicol lived. We stayed at a hotel he liked, a small pension called TATSUNOKO which was managed by Takeko Nakahara. The three of us talked until late that first night. The next day we visited C.W. Nicol’s home on the bank of a small river, and he took us on a tour of the Afan Woodland. The forest had been neglected since the end of the war, but had recovered splendidly under C.W. Nicol’s enthusiastic and expert care.

C.W. Nicol was born in Wales, UK, and after graduating from high school he traveled on several research expeditions to the Arctic Circle. Upon returning to the UK, he enrolled at St. Paul University but was not satisfied by academic life. His interest in martial arts eventually inspired him to travel to Japan to study karate, where he immediately fell in love with the country’s natural beauty and decided to make Japan his permanent home.

We stayed at TATSUNOKO several times, and still fresh in my memory are the conversations held there with Izumi Morita, President of C.W. Nicol Office, DAC Group CEO Ishikawa, and St. Cousair Co., Ltd. President Kuze. We covered a variety of topics: the forests, liquor, and life itself, among many others. On cold days, we would huddle around the fireplace where C.W. Nicol once treated us to the following talk about life. I had mentioned that wisdom is essential in life, and he was quick to respond. “You are right,” he said, and with a pencil drew on a piece of paper two triangles that overlapped to form a hexagram. He wrote the word “Faith” in the center of the hexagram, and then added “Gentle,” “Frailty,” “Brave,” “Wisdom,” “Strong,” and “Dignity” next to each of its six apices before showing it to me. I understood his point right away. What he meant was that human faith is composed of six elements, and people need to balance such qualities as being “brave,” and “strong” with their antipodes of “frailty” and being “gentle.” The following poem by C.W. Nicol hangs framed on the wall of the pension lobby:

“Fill your glass and raise a cheer
Only friends can drink in here
Drink your fill and linger longer
Time will make our friendship stronger”

C.W. Nicol enjoyed his liquor and had extensive knowledge about it. He and I,

together with CEO Ishikawa, visited the Nikka Whisky Yoichi Distillery and the Jejima Rum Distillery in Okinawa, and gave lectures on liquor and spirits. I also attempted to introduce a Japanese pepper-flavored gin, developed by his younger brother in Wales, to President Takase of TAKASE BUSSAN CO., LTD. This reminds me that there was a barrel of malt whisky with the name C.W. Nicol on it at the Nikka Distillery, and I now wonder what has happened to it.

Naturally, each time we met, he would discuss plans for TV programs with me. He wanted one more go at “Delicious Natural History” and also had another idea for a TV talk show with Donald Keene. After consultation with Mr. Kurauchi, I drafted a proposal for the program with the title “Afan no mori no shiki (Four Seasons in the Afan Woodland)” and promptly presented it to several sponsors. Ultimately, it was never realized and the talk show with Donald Keene, too, remains just a dream.

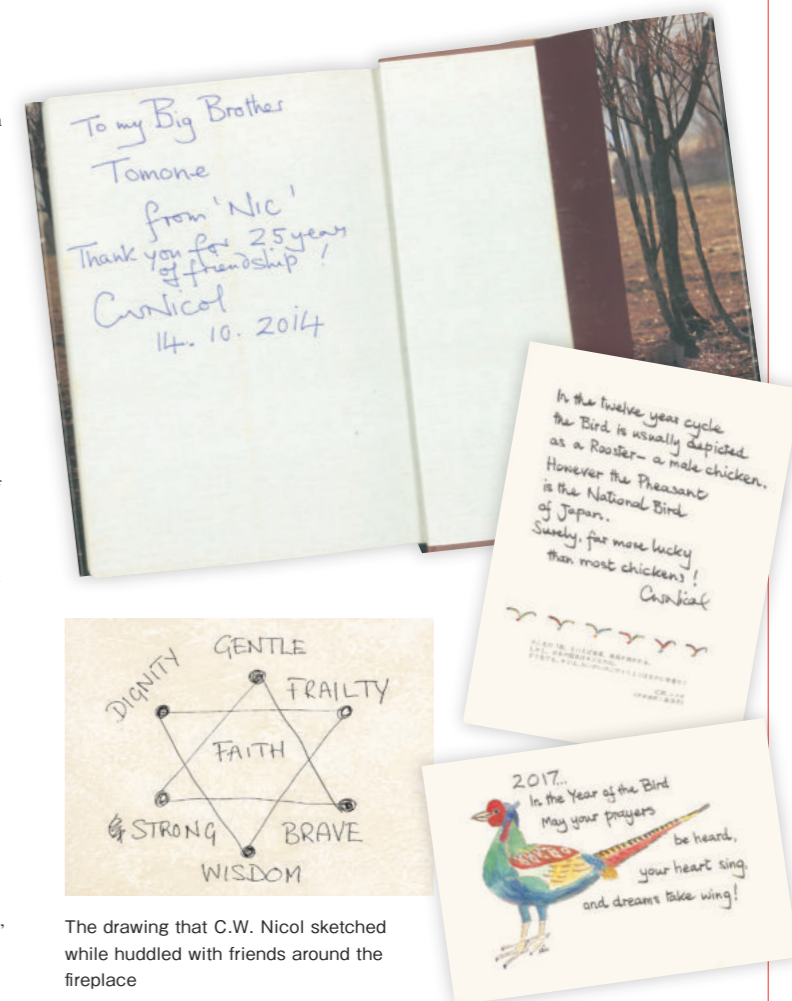
I took part in the efforts to find companies that would support the Afan Woodland Trust. Mr. Ishikawa agreed right away to cooperate and, with the help of C.W. Nicol, transformed the woodland right behind the vineyard and winery that he manages in Niki Town, Hokkaido, into a forest full of sunshine and life. TSUNAGU is published by Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd., and the Chairman of its Board of Directors, Mr. Madoka Tanabe, is one of the samurai executives, a rare breed in our modern times. I met him through the art director, Mr. Jin Sato, and at our very first meeting he agreed to publish a series of essays titled *Tegami wa kataru* (Making Letters Speak) in TSUNAGU. As I shared with him my goal to become a writer after retiring from the corporate world and lamented over the lack of writing jobs, he told me that his company was a paper distributor and asked me to write articles about paper products. I told him about the numerous letters I had received from different people in the course of my long career as a TV station employee, and shared my idea of writing profiles of those people based on their letters. Then and there the essay series was born, making me wish everything could happen as smoothly.

Not that I felt obliged to return the favor, but upon an invitation from Ms. Morita, President of C.W. Nicol Office, I appeared in a promotional video for a so-called “mountain safari” with horses across the Afan Woodland several years ago. I was at first hesitant to participate in the video because I lacked confidence in my physical appearance, but I let Ms. Morita convince me. The scene in which I appeared had me walking together with C.W. Nicol and the horses while talking, somewhat cheekily, about life in relation to the theme of forests.

The common motif linking all the essays in this series is correspondence, so I looked for letters from C.W. Nicol. Alas, I did not find any, apart from New Year greeting cards. The one I received in 2017, the year after shooting the video, appears to be in his handwriting but I might be mistaken. I have received many signed books from him, however, and this is what he wrote on the back cover of C.W. Nicol’s Delicious Natural History, a book based on the TV program that lit the spark for our friendship:

“To my Big Brother Tomone From ‘Nic’
Thank you for 25 years of friendship!
C.W. Nicol”

I am two years older than C.W. Nicol, but I have always addressed him as “Mr. Nicol.” In his later years he told me to call him “Nic,” and that is how he signed his book for me. Every time I lay my eyes on it, I am reminded of his kind nature and larger-than-life presence.



The drawing that C.W. Nicol sketched while huddled with friends around the fireplace

C.W. Nicol

Writer, environmentalist, adventurer Chairman of the C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust



Born in 1940 in Wales, UK, C.W. Nicol engaged in environmental conservation activities around the world, including research in the Arctic Circle and service as a warden of the Simien Mountains National Park in Ethiopia. In 1980, he took up residence in Kurohime, Nagano Prefecture, and launched a forest restoration initiative named Afan Woodland before becoming a Japanese citizen in 1995. In tandem with his work as a writer, he continued to engage in a number of environmental issues through lectures and media appearances. In 2005, C.W. Nicol was awarded an Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. He passed away on April 3, 2020, at the age of 79.



Brief Biography of the Author

Tomone Uemura
Essayist

After graduating from the Department of History, the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences at Waseda University in 1962, he worked at Toei Co., Ltd. before entering TV Tokyo Corporation, where he was later appointed to managing director of TV Tokyo and president and representative director of PROTX.

Presenting the KPP Group's Diligent Efforts toward Realizing a Sustainable Society

KPP Sustainable Times

ecom, the name given to a recycling service that KPP has been developing, carries a double meaning: "eco + motte-kuru" signifies the Japanese word for "bring," relating to resources brought for recycling, while "eco + model" conveys the eco-conscious nature of the new model. With the aim of becoming a comprehensive recycling-oriented company in our capacity as a trading company specializing in paper products, we now present our two newly initiated services. Both the "ecom Closed Recycle Service" and the "BMecomo" service serve to further KPP's goal of expanding business operations through a dual approach to thermal and material recycling.

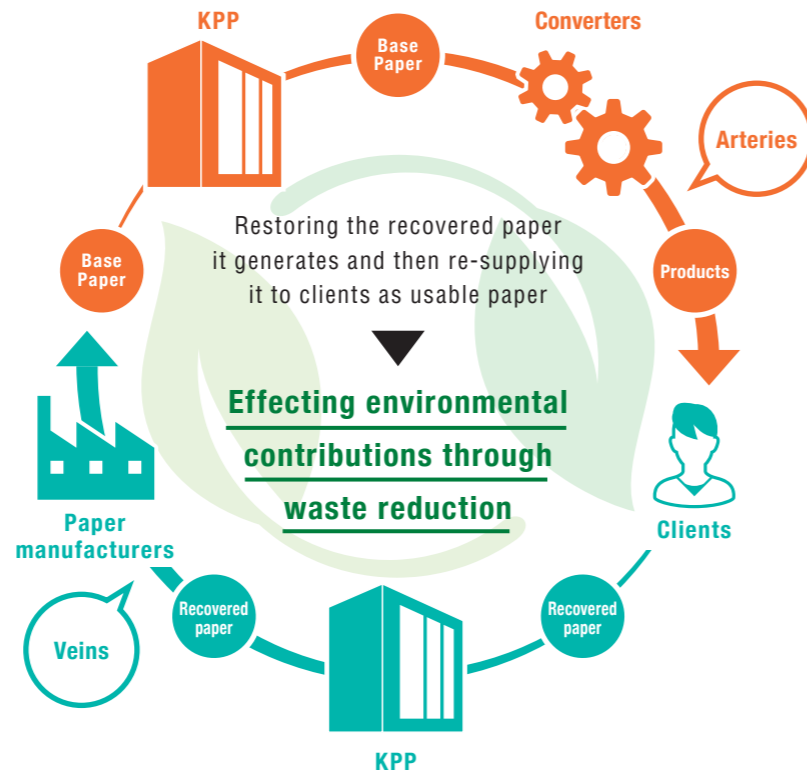
Producing Continuous Made-to-Order Recycling

01 ecom Closed Recycle Service

Japan boasts a top-class ranking among the world's nations with its recovered paper utilization rate of approximately 64%. Underpinning this high recycling rate is Japan's recycling system, which integrates three distinct components: the disposal of sorted waste by both households and businesses, the collection of recovered paper, and the papermaking industry.

At present, as efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have come to be commonly recognized as matters of global importance, the material recycling of recovered paper is progressively diversifying while other, new client-spearheaded initiatives have emerged as well. Some KPP clients are beginning to take the initiative to collect paper products, such as cardboard, that have been used in their own goods, while they also promote recycling of their resources with beginning-to-end responsibility. KPP feels there is a high probability that such efforts will proliferate in the future.

In the context of such trends, KPP implements a consolidated management system that first offers the provision of paper, which can be viewed as representing the "arteries" of the system, and then the collection of recovered paper, representing its "veins." Together, these support the realization and visualization of a resource recycling loop wherein the recovered paper generated is restored to paper products that clients can make use of once again. Through this business approach, KPP aims to support their clients' environmentally-focused activities as well as contribute to the realization of a sustainable recycling-oriented society.



ecom Closed Recycle Service

Contact | +81-3-3542-9080
Service hours | M-F / 9:00-17:00

ecom Closed Recycle Service dedicated website
<https://ecom.closedrecycle.jp/>



Dedicated website



New Biomass Business Using the Latest Technology

02 BMecomo

BMecomo is a service that helps maximize revenue for biomass power plants that are in continuous operation on a daily basis. In order to achieve this, the service involves the collection and analysis of all forms of data obtained from biomass power plants through use of the latest technology, as well as a thorough visualization of the data.

Biomass power plants use naturally-sourced fuels that are not uniform in quality. Gathering operational expertise and passing it on is indispensable when handling fuels that may vary from day to day and hour to hour. BMecomo uses advanced IoT management to facilitate both the maintenance of improved combustion efficiency and maximum power generation, as well as the passing on to future generations of operators the expertise that skilled veteran operators draw on to achieve this. Furthermore, it supports the achievement of long-term, sustainable operations and management, along with various methods of problem resolution related to the handling of issues arising from equipment use from day to day.

KPP furthermore hopes that by enabling real-time monitoring of the operational status of power plants, from any location at any time, the system will serve as a platform for sharing data among the power plants' on-site operations as well as their supervisory staff and stakeholders, to help facilitate power plants' decision-making processes and increase corporate and business valuation. With BMecomo, KPP aims to create fresh, unprecedented forms of biomass power generation business.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



BMecomo Biomass Meister

Contact | +81-3-3542-9080
Service hours | M-F / 9:00-17:00

BMecomo dedicated website
<https://bmecomo.com/>



Key Features of BMecomo

01 Sharing and Visualization of Data through Remote Monitoring

Power plants are relied upon to provide continuous 24-hour operation. Through IoT gateways, BMecomo assembles all forms of data obtainable from biomass power plants in cloud databases, enabling the plants' real-time data to be shared from any location and at any time with the availability of an internet environment. BMecomo also serves as a business intelligence tool equipped with a feature that enables the data required for decision-making by stakeholders concerned with biomass power generation to be presented in attractive, visualized form.

02 Equipment Maintenance

At power plants, the various forms of data necessary for operations management are organized in a decentralized manner, making standardization more difficult. Providing consolidated management of all forms of data, from data on equipment and maintenance work to records of operation, BMecomo uses analytical and predictive functions to assist in service life estimation for plants' equipment and optimization of maintenance planning, among other capabilities. Furthermore, with the advanced operational management made possible through the use of BMecomo, statutory management examination terms can be extended up to a maximum of six years from the usual two.

03 Combustion Efficiency (Passing on Operational Expertise)

Using statistical analysis and machine learning algorithms to identify power plants' operational characteristics from their vast archives of past operations data, BMecomo helps to facilitate the optimization of operations through its prediction of plants' future behavior. BMecomo offers robust support for passing on the operational expertise that is indispensable to stable, long-term provision of electric power.

Dedicated website

Please have a look at our introductory video if interested in BMecomo service.



Notable News

New KPP Group Member: Antalis

Here are some of the highlights of the company's solid position as a wholesaler of B2B distribution of Papers and industrial Packaging, and number two in the distribution of Visual Communication media in Europe, with a personal message from Hervé Poncin CEO.

Business activities in 39 countries worldwide

Antalis was created in 2000 through the merger and spin-off of 40 international paper and visual communication distribution companies all over the world, previously belonging to the Arjowiggins paper manufacturing group.

In 2020, Antalis is the leading professional paper distributor and provider of Packaging and Visual Communication solutions in 39 countries in Europe and South America with a presence in Asia. The group provides one of the most extensive and diversified range of products and solutions in the market and offers its customers a high-level ground breaking service in terms of customisation, expertise and logistics, mainly through its 117 distribution centers located throughout the world.

For instance, the 6 Packaging Design Centers allow us to study, design and deliver every year more than 10,000 successful bespoke engineered packaging solutions with 2D and 3D software in a short timeframe.

Our mission is to deliver excellence for our customers through expertise and innovation in the products and services that we provide and in our relationships with our business partners and stakeholders. We are socially responsible and agile in broadening our business portfolio, accelerating our digital transformation, developing our teams and achieving strong returns on capital employed.

The will to work hard to make a difference

Antalis' corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy focuses on four main key areas: governance, natural resources, human resources and product offering.

We have four core values based on TEAM approach - Team spirit, Empowerment and trust, Accountability and Mindset for change – well aligned with KPP's business philosophy. We look forward to creating an enriching international culture within the new Group. Our Employer Brand "Deliver the future. Be Antalis." is a tool to support employee engagement internally and attract talent externally.

Our opportunities with KPP

KPP's acquisition of Antalis is clearly a very important strategic move for Antalis and it will definitely reinforce the company for the future during a growing complex global economic crisis due to Covid19, creating new opportunities to differentiate ourselves from a selling and purchasing standpoint, bringing new financial means and providing resilience versus our competitors for our customers.

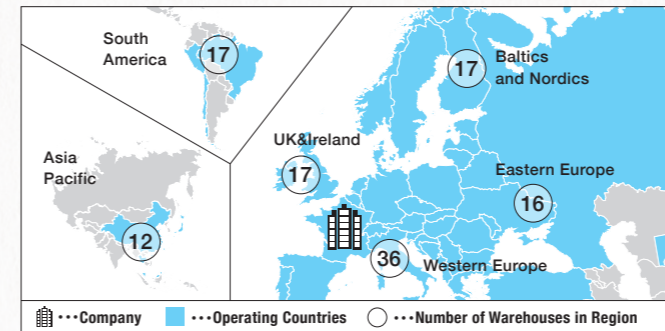
Antalis is recognized as a reliable and innovative merchant by its customers and suppliers, ready for a new development step!

Hervé Poncin
Antalis
CEO (Chief Executive Officer)



1 Brainstore* 2 Visual communication 3 Packaging Design Center 4 Company executives

*A space that inspires graphic arts professionals with print media showrooms, test labs and over 1,500 paper references, while also facilitating communication with clients.



Antalis warehouse, Sénart



Company Name	Antalis
Head Office	Paris
Address	8 rue de Seine 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt France
Established Year	2000
Employee	4,150 (As of 21st of July, 2020)
Base	39 countries (Europe, South America, Asia) with headquarter in Paris
Business	Papers, packaging, visual communication



Antalis' 3 businesses and e-commerce solutions, continuously transforming towards higher margin and higher growth sectors

Antalis is the European leading merchant for commodities, Papers, boards and added value products such as creative papers, synthetic & labels but also office papers.

Antalis offers Visual Communication products such as flexible and rigid media for indoor and outdoor signage, point of sale advertising and decoration applications.

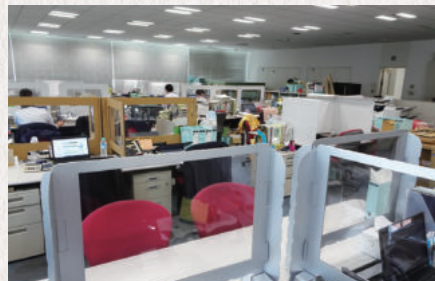
Antalis Packaging is the European leader in providing smart packaging and services to any specific customer need thanks to a high expertise in all industrial, logistical, e-business and operational processes.

Thanks to Antalis e-commerce webshops and EDI connections, Antalis customers can access a full webstore catalogue in more than 30 countries for all product sectors.

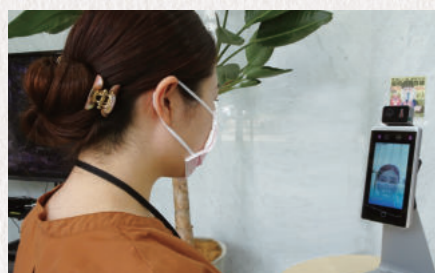
KPP Group Company Measures Against COVID-19



KPP (Japan)



To prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, KPP has established a COVID-19 Response Headquarters and is taking step-by-step measures at the head office, as well as other sites around Japan, in response to the social situation. We first introduced staggered working hours in late February, and we are also reducing the office attendance rate by encouraging telework and web conferencing. By installing partitions made of paper and other materials at all desks and in office meeting rooms, we are making daily efforts to prevent infection. We also do body temperature checks for all visitors and ask them to disinfect their hands at the office entrance. Thorough health checks for employees are also in place, with everyone being required to wear masks, wash and disinfect their hands, and also register their health status every day on a health management form. We also encourage employees to refrain from activities outside of the workplace to reduce contact with others in their daily lives. KPP will continue to protect the health of our employees, their families and our suppliers as we look to overcome and move beyond the age of COVID-19.



Checking body temperature with a non-contact thermometer



Spicers (Australia)



Spicers have implemented procedures and practices to follow the regulations and advice of local government ensuring we comply with health and safety requirements. All employees are required to wear masks at all times. Hand sanitizers and masks change stations are located in the office and warehouse where staff can responsibly dispose, sanitize and change their mask. We have limited people in the office with most staff working from home. Those in the office remain 1.5mtrs from each other at all times to comply with social distancing and the office layout allows 4 sq mtrs in all locations and the warehouse. Before entering any office or warehouse location, employees are required to report to the EH&S Manager if they have been in contact with a person or have visited a location that has been infected with COVID-19. Our staff and teams have been able to continue to work and we communicate important announcements through online team calls.



Antalis (France)



The Covid-19 crisis forced Antalis in France to react very quickly in order to protect employees while ensuring continuity of service. Antalis managed the lockout period for a period of 2 months closely applying governmental measures and support such as economical unemployment. Different situations were implemented such as teleworking and adapting operations in the warehouses. Since mid-May, a progressive back to office/warehouse is being organized with very clear measures to ensure a safe workplace. A specific kit was delivered to all employees by email and on site to explain these measures and create adapted best practices (wearing of mask, washing hands on a regular basis, respect of social distancing, limited meetings and limited people in meeting rooms...). The number of people in the office is limited to secure the workplace. Managers record employee attendance on site through a dedicated excel file in order to limit the number of people. HQ delivered a sanity checklist develop by the ILO (International Labour Organization) to establish an organization relevant to site structure, while taking into account all parameters of the working conditions.

Greetings from the Newly Appointed Director of the Board, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, and Director of the Board and President & Executive Officer

At the Board of Directors meeting held on June 26, 2020, Mr. Madoka Tanabe was appointed Director of the Board and Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Mr. Tadashi Kurihara was appointed Director of the Board and President & Executive Officer. Under this new structure, we will aim to continue strengthening our management system and achieve further growth. We would like to ask for the continued support of all of our stakeholders.



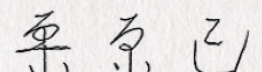
Looking at the global paper market, it is apparent that since the start of the 21st century and the accelerated spread of the internet, demand for paper as a form of information communication has continued to decline. In addition, the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infections has limited everyone's movement, and if what is considered to be the "new normal" becomes standard practice, it will be important for the pulp and paper industry to assess the changes in demand structure. Over the past 20 years, the KPP Group has built itself up to its current size and position by facilitating the reorganization of the domestic paper distribution industry against the backdrop of information media's diversification. During this same period, paper manufacturers have been pouring resources into energy, biotechnology and packaging, while seeking to accelerate their global expansion. This has led to a situation in which the domestic market is tending to contract, due to the separation of the distribution business from the paper manufacturing business, which has conventionally been underpinned by paper for printing and communications as the core business. The pulp and paper industry is therefore undergoing a period of structural reform, and the paper distribution industry is also facing the urgent need to respond to this reform. In 2018 the company was listed in the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, after which there followed a series of acquisitions. These included the second-largest paper distributor in Australia, Spicers Limited, in 2019, followed by the third-largest Direct Paper in March this year, as well as one of Europe's major paper distributors, Antalis SA in July. The KPP Group is now one of the world's leading paper distributors, operating in approximately 60 countries around the world.* Furthermore, in terms of post-paper businesses, we have increased revenue from packaging solutions and the visual communication business to 40% of total revenue. We also plan to soon increase the overseas sales ratio to 50%. In our domestic business as well, we are working to expand our market share by leveraging our resource recycling business of collecting recovered paper and selling the products generated, in an ongoing effort to grow as a company that meets the needs of our society. I look forward to your continued guidance and patronage going forward.

Madoka Tanabe
Director of the Board,
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

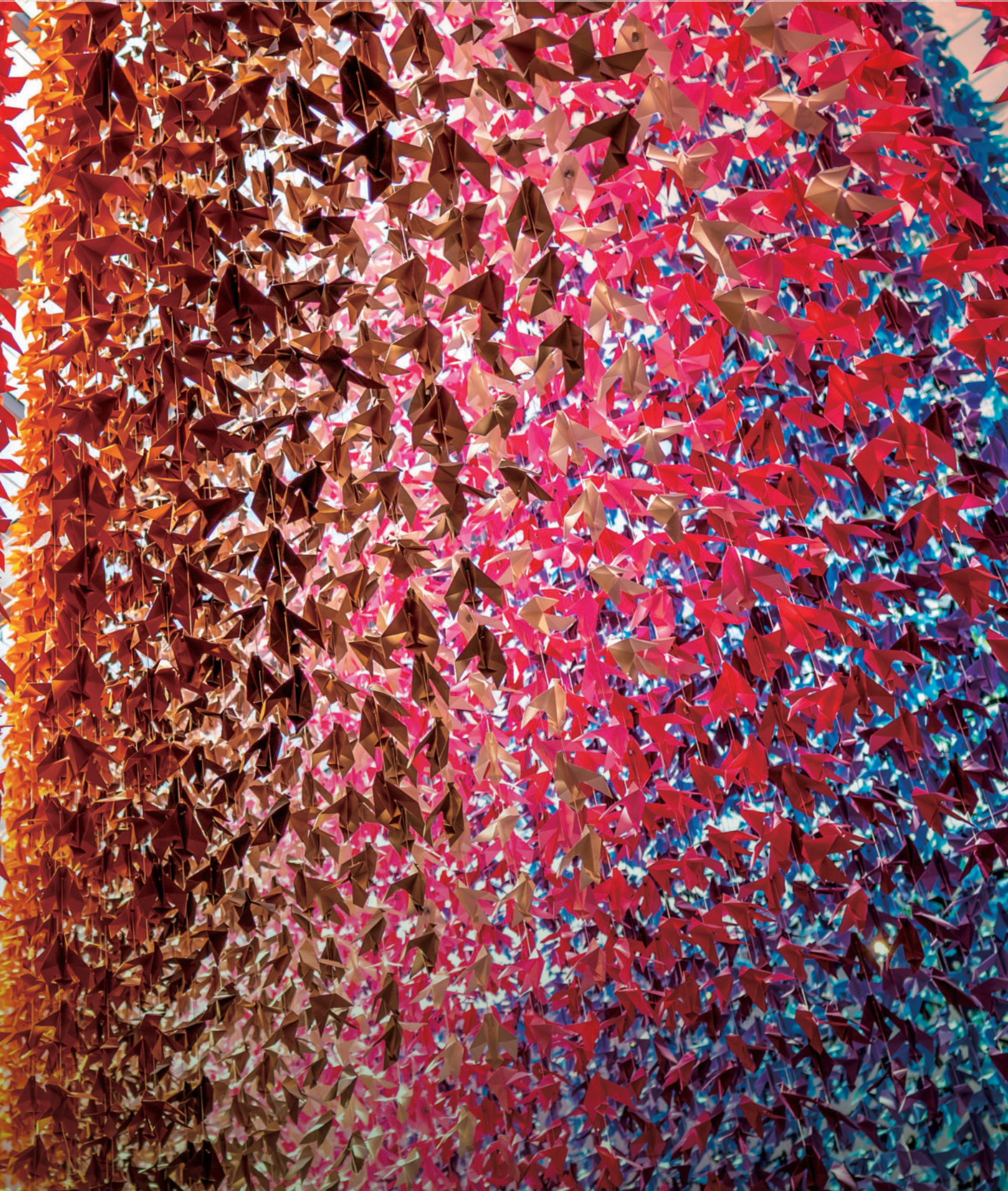


I have taken over the baton from Mr. Tanabe, the current Chairman and CEO, to become the 13th President and Executive Office of Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd. I am humbled by the weight of the responsibility this gives me as I take on the major role of President in this extremely important period leading up to our centennial anniversary. I am fully prepared to take on the traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation, and do my utmost to ensure further development. With an eye to realizing our long-term management vision "GIFT+1 2024," which looks ahead to 2024 for the 100th anniversary of our founding, we are accelerating our growth strategy through group-wide efforts to achieve both organic growth, through expansion of our resource-recycling businesses, and inorganic growth, through mergers, acquisitions and alliance development. Whenever demand in some area ebbs away due to changes in external environment, it is usually the case that the demand will emerge elsewhere. The increase in demand for packaging, in conjunction with the expansion of the e-commerce market, is a prime example of a demand that has grown out of society's ICT shift. In recent years, environmental awareness has been increasing globally and sustainability-related concepts, such as the SDGs and ESG, have come to be widely adopted by companies. The KPP Group is progressing with the construction of systems designed to reduce the environmental impact of its business activities through both material recycling and thermal recycling. In the midst of an increasingly chaotic world, with intensifying friction between the U.S. and China and the spread of infectious diseases, in order to continue creating new value resolutely without wavering we have set out the KPP GROUP WAY as the guiding principle for the entire group. We will continue to improve our corporate value over the mid- to long-term and develop our business activities in consideration of our global environment. I look forward to your continued support and encouragement in these endeavors.

Tadashi Kurihara
Director of the Board and President
& Executive Officer



*As of July 21, 2020.



We have adopted a bookbinding method free of staples, paste and heat, taking into consideration recycling and the risk of injuries.



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Address: 6-24 Akashi-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
TEL: +81-3-3542-4111 (main switchboard number)

URL: <http://www.kppc.co.jp>