



**Kawasaki Robot e-News** is an electronic bimonthly newsletter that provides our customers with useful information on robotics.

### Regulatory Reform for Industrial Robots

Today human beings are required to work side-by-side with industrial robots (human-robot collaboration) to optimize production at manufacturing sites. However, according to the provisions of Article 150-4 of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health in Japan, industrial robots with an output of more than 80 W must be enclosed by a fence as a safety precaution. Thus, even though the ISO International Standards allows for human beings to work together with robots, given the current limitations in Japan, it is uncertain as to whether such a work environment is possible.

Recently, the Office for the Promotion of Regulatory Reform (Cabinet Office) submitted a report to the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about regulatory reform for industrial robots. In this report, they presented suggestions which would enable human beings to work alongside industrial robots with an output of more than 80 W. Rather than simply fencing in the robots, the report argued in favor of applying safety measures based on risk assessments or ISO Standards that would make it possible for human beings to work in close proximity with industrial robots, without changing the existing provisions of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health.

The full report submitted by the Office for the Promotion of Regulatory Reform can be viewed on the Cabinet Office web site at the following link:

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/kisei-kaikaku/kaigi/meeting/2013/committee/130605/agenda.html>

(Document 3 "Report of Regulatory Reform", P.78)

We expect the proposals for reform to be approved by the Cabinet and quickly implemented to enhance the efficiency of production sites where Japanese Monozukuri takes place.

### New System Partner

We have entered a system partnership agreement with TOKUSHIN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES CO., LTD., a system integrator. Our new partner will work with us to help sell our robot systems in the general industrial machinery sector in Japan.

The company is located near the Itano IC in Itano County, Tokushima Prefecture, the gateway to Shikoku. TOKUSHIN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES handles the development, design, and manufacture of specialized industrial machines for auto manufacturers and auto components suppliers. Their measurement and inspection machines are held in especially high regard. Over the years TOKUSHIN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES has handled a variety of systems which utilize Kawasaki robots, such as glass panel transfer systems and handling systems. Their factory has a Kawasaki robot demonstration space where you can perform simple application tests, physically inspect actual machines, or receive an explanation about how robots work. In addition, there are expert engineers on hand who study robot applications and prepare proposals for innovative robot-based systems. For details about TOKUSHIN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, please contact our sales department representative in charge of the Kansai-Shikoku area.



### ASEAN Plus Distributors Conference

We held a distributors conference in Thailand on June 11th and 12th, 2013. Representatives from five countries where we have sales distributors took part in the conference: the host country of Thailand, India, and the ASEAN nations of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

The mission of the Robot Division of Kawasaki Motors Thailand (KMT) is to establish a stronger presence in the rapidly expanding Thai market. As Kawasaki's headquarters for the ASEAN region, which is growing by leaps and bounds, KMT is also responsible for supporting other local distributors in neighboring ASEAN countries.

However, KMT is still in the early stages of development and has yet to reach its full potential. It requires the support of the associated companies of Kawasaki Robots in Japan and other countries to sustain their growth and progress. This provides us with an opportunity to exert our presence and move our operations into the ASEAN plus region as a member of the "Kawasaki Family". The future is bright for "white hot Asia"!

