

ESG Risk Evaluation in Business Investment

ITOCHU carries out comprehensive ESG risk evaluations when making business investment decisions by using an ESG checklist and making on-site visits after executing investments. These are part of our efforts to ascertain ESG risks for business investments and take preventative actions. Furthermore, the ESG risk evaluation process is continuously reviewed and improved within the Company's sustainability management system framework based on ISO 14001 as a means of reducing risks related to business investments.

ESG Risk Evaluation of New Business Investment Projects

When making new business investments, we use the ESG checklist for investments to conduct a thorough due diligence check of the status of the business investee's sustainability promotion system and CSR policy, as well as the risks of significant adverse effects on the environment, violations of laws and ordinances, and complaints from stakeholders. This checklist consists of 33 check items, including the elements of the seven core subjects* in ISO 26000. With this checklist, the division making the

application (sales department) is required to refer to reviews based on risk analysis from relevant administrative organizations, and to request additional due diligence from external specialist organizations on areas of concern that require an expert opinion, such as soil pollution surveys for building construction. The project is then only undertaken upon confirming that there are no problems in those results.

* Organizational governance, human rights, labor practices, the environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues, and community involvement and development

Group Company Fact-Finding Investigations

We have continued to conduct on-site visits and surveys in Group companies since 2001 to prevent environmental pollution. We visited and surveyed two Group companies in FYE 2020, working with external experts upon consideration for the environmental and social risks of each company. (We completed investigations into a total of 285 offices as of the end of March 2020.)

In these investigations, we conduct wide-ranging inspections such as the factory and warehouse facilities, the situation of drainage to rivers, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, consideration for labor safety and human rights, and communication with the local community in addition to holding a Q&A session with management. We also identify problems and present preventative measures, and check to see whether the situation has been corrected afterwards.

In January 2020, we visited and surveyed Dole Philippines Inc., which manufactures canned pineapple.

Based on the insights of an external expert with detailed knowledge of local laws and regulations, we carefully checked the status of soil pollution, waste, and compliance with laws and regulations to confirm that these are being managed properly.

We also confirmed that the company is actively engaged in on-site biomass power generation and making donations to local schools, among other activities.



Survey at
Dole Philippines Inc.



Increasing Labor Productivity by Building a Companywide Integrated Data Infrastructure

The Company has radically overhauled its mission-critical systems looking ahead to the full-scale arrival of the era of Digital Transformation. As part of this, we have built a Companywide integrated data infrastructure that will improve the speed and flexibility of business data analysis. In addition to accounting data, the system also aggregates all data concerning sales transactions of the eight Division Companies, logistics data, and external data such as stock prices. This enables the provision of reports and business data in accordance with front-line

needs. In conjunction with this, we have established the Business Intelligence Competency Center (BICC) as a dedicated organization for providing assistance with data analysis and use within the IT Planning Division under the Chief Digital & Information Officer. It will support flexible use of data to enable all sales departments to "evolve businesses through technological innovation," which has been identified as a material issue for the Company. The IT Planning Division will support increased efficiency and productivity of management using technology, while supporting thorough implementation of the merchant principles of "earn, cut, prevent."

