Editorial Afterword

When I was a kid, I used to chase cars down dirt roads, and daydreamed about traveling all over the world on my motorbike. Around that time, people yearned for affluence and convenience with full of dreams that they wished to make them come true. For the past 50 years, how many technologies have been introduced to the world, and how many products created by Honda R&D Center?

Our predecessors have overcome trials and tribulations to realize their dreams, such as motorbikes, cars and tillers, and even airplanes and robots. This proves that Honda has constantly striven for its original vision to meet the current customers’ needs. The “engine” that transformed Honda’s dreams into reality was the R&D Center.

There is no doubt that the dominant sense of value in the 20th century were those summarized by advancement and expansion powered by the development of science and technologies. However, it led to unintentional consequences that environmental issues have rapidly escalated. The prerequisite for satisfying our present customers and even for our future customers is “high quality,” which has been changing from “expansion” to “sustainability” nowadays. In order to fix the inadvertent consequences of the quest for progress, and to prevent their recurrences, it is essential for the society as a whole to share the development of science and technologies, and to hand on the outcomes to future generations. Although Soichiro-san’s biographies and legends are too numerous to mention, do they sufficiently convey his scientific and technological knowledge to be shared and accumulated? I think he must have still had precious knowledge to impart.

On the occasion of the publication of the inaugural issue of “Honda R&D Technical Review”, Kawamoto-san wrote about his sincere hope, “this review will be established not as a tool for publicity or a routine forum, but as an instrument for vindicating unmatched ingenuity.” It means, we not only provide tangible materials, such as products and technologies, but also introduce, present, and discuss new knowledge that allowed us to create them; thus, we can accomplish our mission, “Vindications of Unmatched Ingenuity,” and hand them on to future generations. I believe Honda’s engineers will continue to publish their papers based on their outstanding researches that will satisfy even our future customers for the next fifty years.

(Yasuhiro Sugimoto)