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Social Human Rights and Labor Practice Initiatives



Basic Stance on Human Rights

In addition to the aforementioned “management that respects human dignity based on commitment and trust,” another foundation of the EKK Group Management Philosophy is “open management with a firm solidarity without factions.” In accord with these principles, we strive to develop our human resources and create fulfilling workplaces so that all employees can demonstrate their respective capabilities, as we work to maintain an attitude of “respect for human dignity” in all aspects of management.

To realize this, we have established the EKK Charter of Corporate Behavior, in which we declare, “We will carry out management that respects the human rights of all people,” and will conduct business accordingly.

EKK Charter of Corporate Behavior

To put the EKK Group Management Philosophy into practice, we have established the 11 Principles of Corporate Behavior as part of the EKK Charter of Corporate Behavior. One of these principles is to carry out management that respects the human rights of all people.

URL: <https://www.ekkeagle.com/en/profile/charter/>

EKK Employee Compliance Code of Conduct

The EKK Employee Compliance Code of Conduct stipulates in its “Respect for Employees and Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment” section that diverse values, individuality and personality must be respected, and discriminatory behavior based on race, skin color, creed, religion, nationality, age, gender, place of birth, physical characteristics, mental or physical disability, etc., is prohibited. It also states that harassment is forbidden.

URL: https://www.ekkeagle.com/assets/file/pdf/en/csr/environment/employee_compliance_action_guidelines.pdf

EKK Human Rights Policy

In accordance with the EKK Charter of Corporate Behavior and the EKK Employee Compliance Code of Conduct, we have established the EKK Human Rights Policy to ensure respect for human rights throughout the supply chain, and are taking actions to ensure human rights are respected in all countries and regions where we conduct our business.

URL: <https://www.ekkeagle.com/en/sustainability/humanrightspolicy>

Major Human Rights Initiatives

Human Rights Educational and Awareness Activities for Employees

To help employees learn the practicalities of respect for human rights more concretely, we conduct trainings that utilize case studies of human rights violations such as sexual and power harassment. We also distribute a compliance booklet to all employees to promote mass awareness of our compliance policies. We are especially educating employees, including those working at subsidiaries, about various kinds of harassment as a matter of priority.

Counseling Hotlines for Human Rights Compliance

We offer counseling hotlines, including an internal reporting hotline based on our reporting system and an external reporting hotline that is staffed by attorneys at law. These counseling hotlines are also available to our Group companies, and corrective actions are taken if we confirm a compliance violation from a report received.

Respect for Basic Rights and Labor-Management Relations

Putting into practice the EKK Group Management Philosophy of respect for human dignity also means respecting and protecting the rights of our employees. To this end, we are working to create workplaces where employees can work with peace of mind by promoting dialogue both among employees and between companies and employees, based on sound labor-management relations and compliance with all labor-related laws.

Compliance with Labor-Related Laws

We issue direction to all Group companies in Japan with regard to compliance with the Labor Standards Act, Labor Union Act and all other labor-related laws. We similarly direct our overseas Group companies with regard to the labor-related laws and regulations of their respective countries. Furthermore, we carry out checks with domestic sites accepting foreign technical intern trainees for compliance with the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, as well as for the status of their work environments, living environments and actual working conditions.

Building Sound Labor-Management Relations

Dialogue between management and employees is essential in order for us to practice “management that respects human dignity based on commitment and trust” and for the company to develop in a sound manner. At the EKK Group, we respect the rights of workers, including the rights to organize and collectively bargain, and build sound labor-management relations based on this respect.

Members of management attend regularly held labor-management meetings, covering not only working conditions but also presenting on business conditions and management issues, as well as discussing important company measures. At these meetings, labor and management aim to work together to maintain and improve medium- and long-term business development and working conditions for employees as we facilitate dialogue.

Human Resource Development

Employee education is conducted mostly by the Education & HR Development Department. Our training programs use curricula tailored to employees' career stage, including basic education, management training, advanced skill acquisition training, new-hire training, new-manager training and follow-up management training. All employees are also educated on the EKK Group Management Philosophy. Employees in overseas management roles receive global management training to learn about management fundamentals and staffing, among other subjects.

Additionally, managers periodically meet one-on-one with their subordinates, including in the third and fourth years of employees' tenure. Such meetings aim to develop human resources more effectively by rectifying mismatches between employees' assigned jobs and personal preferences and by making sure employees are upgrading their skillsets.

Human Resource and Employee Benefit Systems

As one facet of management that respects human dignity, we are striving to create workplace environments in which employees can enjoy a full personal life in addition to a fulfilling job.

When it comes to helping employees have both a fulfilling job and self-fulfillment in their personal lives, we are exploring and implementing further measures with a view to promoting workstyle reforms beyond the initiatives we have taken so far. We have implemented a number of initiatives in this area to help achieve flexible and diverse workstyles, including establishing and enhancing flextime schedules and childcare and family care leave systems, setting overtime limits to reduce working hours and encouraging employees to take paid leave.

Work-Life Balance

To facilitate employees working in a way that fits their circumstances, we have established support systems exceeding some statutory requirements, including our childcare and family care leave systems, and we strive to operate these systems appropriately, helping employees more easily utilize these benefits through awareness-raising and advice.

In addition, we are making our workplaces more employee-friendly, including by offering flextime schedules (without mandatory core hours), expanding the number of eligible employees, and establishing a support leave system for personal injury or illness, childcare and family care. In FY2021, we introduced a teleworking system to improve operational efficiency and help employees balance work and family life.

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🕒 Initiatives to Reduce Working Hours and Encourage Employees to Take Paid Leave

In order to create a comfortable workplace environment where employees can prosper, we have been reducing total actual work hours for some time, and a committee of labor and management representatives meets annually to formulate each year's initiatives and check results. Data for actual overtime work hours and paid leave utilized is checked per organizational unit and individual to identify problem areas, formulate countermeasures and establish medium- and long-term targets.

FY2024 Targets

- Reduction of total actual work hours per year to 1,950 hours or less
- Establishing 17 days of annual leave taken

🗳️ Surveys on Engagement, Jobs and the Workplace, and Career Development

EKK uses engagement surveys to determine employee engagement with the Company and work, as well as to identify issues present in the workplace and with the Company. This data is used to examine potential measures to resolve issues.

In addition, employees have interviews with a supervisor to discuss information reported in attitude surveys about career development. This offers employees a chance to directly communicate about topics important to them. The results of this survey process are used to develop and utilize human resources, assign the right personnel to the right positions, and improve the workplace environment.

Diversity

Our fundamental stance is to practice hiring and promotion of a diverse workforce regardless of gender, race, nationality or other factors. Currently, the EKK Group employs approximately 6,000 people around the world. We promote management that respects human dignity by raising awareness of this fact with leadership personnel at all of our overseas locations, as well as those in Japan, so that they can also practice this under their respective local conditions.

👩 Promotion of Equal Opportunity for Women

We are promoting greater workforce participation by women at the EKK Group by assigning female employees to a wider range of roles in accord with their skills and desires and mentoring them. We are actively reassigning women from clerical to career-track positions and promoting them into management roles. We have set a target of having at least 40 women in career-track positions and at least 15 female managers by FY2026.

We aim to inject fresh vitality into our organization and increase productivity by continuing to foster workplaces that allow everyone irrespective of gender to give full play to their abilities.

♿ Employment of Disabled Workers

The EKK Group actively hires disabled individuals and is endeavoring to better retain disabled workers and broaden their available job opportunities.

As of March 2024, disabled workers accounted for 2.65% of the Group's workforce, exceeding the statutory target of 2.3%.

Since May 2018, the Group has been running an indoor horticulture business that provides rewarding jobs to disabled workers.

👴 Senior Employee System (Reemployment of Mandatory Retirees)

In 2006, we introduced a system for reemploying those who have reached the mandatory retirement age, working to build a system that allows those who are highly motivated to work after this age to fully demonstrate the richness of their careers and their advanced techniques, passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation while they maintain a stable lifestyle.

In FY2016, we made employment styles more flexible and revised working conditions, and have been reviewing working conditions on an ad hoc basis since then. In addition, we are implementing measures on an ongoing basis to enhance opportunities and job satisfaction for senior employees, such as holding life planning seminars to help them plan for their post-mandatory retirement lives.

HR Data (Non-Consolidated)

Priority	Breakdown	Unit	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	
Employee composition	Total number of employees		1,529	1,529	1,581	
	By employment type	Permanent full-time employees	1,183	1,149	1,216	
		Non-permanent employees	Persons	346	380	365
	Gender	Men		1,173	1,167	1,211
		Women		356	362	370
Average years of service	Overall		16.5	16.6	16.8	
	Men	Years	16.0	16.0	16.0	
	Women		18.6	19.1	19.7	
Average age	Overall		41.1	41.4	41.6	
	Men	Age	40.9	41.1	41.2	
	Women		41.9	42.5	43.2	
Breakdown of management personnel by gender	Management personnel	Persons	289	240	245	
	Of whom, men	Persons	281	230	234	
	As a share of total	%	97.2	95.8	95.5	
	Of whom, women	Persons	8	10	11	
	As a share of total	%	2.8	4.2	4.5	
Employment of people with disabilities	Persons hired	Persons	51	48	46	
	As a share of total employees	%	3.13	2.84	2.65	
Childcare leave	Childcare leave-takers	Persons	16	16	20	
	Of whom, men	Persons	9	8	10	
	Of whom, women	Persons	7	8	10	
	Percentage of childcare leave-takers who returned to work					
	Men	%	100	100	100	
	Women	%	100	100	100	
Family care leave	Family care leave-takers	Persons	0	1	0	
	Of whom, men	Persons	0	1	0	
	Of whom, women	Persons	0	0	0	
Paid leave	Percentage of annual leave days taken	%	82.0	85.0	90.5	
	Average days of annual leave taken	Days	16.4	17.0	18.1	
Working hours	Total actual work hours (per employee per year)	Hours	2,005	2,010	1,983	
	Overtime work hours (per employee per year)	Hours	15.8	16.5	14.7	
Turnover	Turnover rate (voluntary turnover)	%	1.1	2.1	1.5	
	Number of retiring employees (resignation for personal reasons)	Persons	13	27	20	