

# Scientific Mind Builds True Technology

— Express Yourself as the Engineer —

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“Scientific mind” is not a new phrase of mine.

When Japan was defeated in 1945, we realized just how far Japanese science and engineering lagged behind that of Europe and U.S.A. We recognized that conventional science education through printed matter was not the basis on which Japan’s future could be built. It was therefore decided to revamp school textbooks to be based more on experiment and observation, in order to encourage science education. The motto of that era was “Help nurture a scientific mind”, a concept that remains alive even today.

However, it is regrettable that children have generally shunned the “scientific mind” since around 1965. The main two reasons for this are, I suspect, as follows:

- (1) As life becomes more convenient and saturated with information, children have lost their curiosity and interest in science.
- (2) Japan’s examination-oriented society has killed the joy of science for young people.

This tendency has affected science education even in universities and engineering colleges. It is my view that young people who challenge the very essence of technology with a scientific mind have almost disappeared.

Society has surely changed. Changed from analog to digital, from hardware to software, from experiment to computer simulation. The changes in society are evident when we consider the past and how we thought with our brains and manufactured by the sweat of our brows.

Dislike of science and engineering has grown as the number of people experiencing the joys of a scientific mind has declined. As Japanese engineering has hollowed out recently, top managers of engineering companies now recognize the deep crisis looming, and have started to encourage engineers to develop themselves and their dreams.

The first step of the strategy is to let young people cherish dreams. Young people must want to develop both themselves and the company. I dream of myself as a technical consultant. My dream is to educate and encourage young people to cultivate themselves as follows:

- (1) Technology is the product of human wisdom on which science is built. Young people must be aware that technology cannot exist

without science.

(2) Help develop enthusiastic young people who challenge technology with a scientific approach.

(3) Let young people have an intellectual understanding of theory (which is different from numerical understanding), and feel the joy of science through impressive experiments.

Persistence and practice are without doubt essential for achieving the dream. My life-long interests are mountain climbing and listening to music. I am deeply impressed each time I reach the top of a peak, just as when listening to the last movement of Brahms's first symphony.

Life has meaning when one is impressed !!

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