

**Environmental Performance**



**Special Feature** Initiatives for Preserving the Ecosystem at a River Near the Koga Plant

Established in the city of Koga, Ibaraki Prefecture, the Koga Plant is a new factory that began partial operations in May 2012 and is currently manufacturing parts for knockdown kits. In the future, vehicle assembly and other manufacturing operations conducted at the Hino Plant will be gradually transferred to the Koga Plant, with full operations scheduled in 2016.



**Overview of the Koga Plant**

Address : 1, Nasaki, Koga-she, Ibaraki  
 Site area : 66,000 square meters  
 Main products : Knock-down kit components (May 2012~)  
 Heavy-and medium-duty trucks, unit components (2016~)

## The Koga Plant’s environmental initiatives

In preparation for full operations, the Koga Plant has carried out a wide variety of initiatives so far. As shown in the following chart, a number of the plant’s initiatives are related to the environment.

On the Hino Motors’ CSR website for fiscal 2013, the Company’s initiatives at the time of constructing the Koga Plant were presented in a special feature. This year we look at an initiative carried out in the summer of 2013 to preserve the ecosystem at rivers near the plant (also listed in the above-mentioned chart).

 [Click here for last year’s special feature about the Koga Plant: “Aiming to Be a Factory Valued by the Community”](#)

**Overview of The Koga Plant’s initiatives**

- **Initiatives for preserving the ecosystem at a river near the Koga Plant**
- Transplanted trees during factory construction in consideration of protecting local greenery
- Maintained a sufficient distance between the factory and residential areas to reduce noise for local residents
- Implemented measures to save energy and resources, including the installation of equipment that uses renewable energy sources
- Reduced the number of shipment deliveries by reusing shipping containers in a continuous delivery cycle

## Event held to teach local schoolchildren about the ecosystem

The Koga Plant is surrounded by the Tonegawa River system, which is comprised of numerous tributaries. At Ohkawa River, one of these rivers, the plant organized an environmental study trip for local elementary schoolchildren and their families in July 2013. When collecting aquatic creatures during the trip, the participants observed killifish and Tokyo Daruma pond frogs, which are included in the Red List of endangered species issued by Japan's Ministry of the Environment. Through the study trip, the Koga Plant was able to interact with members of the local community while also raising their awareness of the need to preserve the ecosystem. Looking ahead, the plant intends to hold a variety of educational events related to the local ecosystem together with local residents.



Schoolchildren were given explanations about the river



Aquatic creatures were collected from the river



killifish

Tokyo Daruma pond frogs

### Responses from participants in the study trip

"I was taught the full names of lots of fish. Studying was really fun."

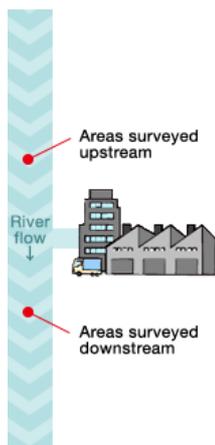
"I could make the most of this event for the summer vacation free research project and learned a lot of things."

"I'm happy for an experience that I wouldn't ordinarily get." "I hope more fieldtrips like this are held again."

## A survey of the ecosystem at the river where the plant discharges water



The survey in process



The Koga Plant discharges wastewater into the nearby Higashinire-gawa River after putting it through a purification process. In September 2013, the plant conducted a survey of the ecosystem at the Higashinire-gawa River. The results found no significant differences between the habitats of aquatic life at the discharge point upstream and at an area downstream, indicating that the discharged water was having a negligible impact on the river's ecosystem.

The survey results also confirmed the existence of Chinese pond turtles, atyidae, which is a rare species of shrimp, along with killifish and giant water bugs, which are both included in the Red List of endangered species issued by Japan's Ministry of Environment.



Giant water bugs

Chinese pond turtles

Atyidae

In its efforts to preserve the ecosystem of surrounding rivers, the Koga Plant intends to regularly monitor the water quality of the Higashinire-gawa River in order to ensure that the water it discharges does not eventually pollute the river.

## Creating a factory that preserves the ecosystem going forward

Through these initiatives, the Koga Plant renewed its awareness of how incredibly rich the ecosystems are at nearby rivers. At the same time, the initiatives created valuable opportunities for the plant to focus on the local ecosystem with members of the community while carrying out its manufacturing operations.

## Comments

### Shougo Kawashima

Foundation of the Ibaraki Prefect's environmental management association

The rivers in our area in Ibaraki Prefecture are comparatively deep, and most children do not have any experience of going into the water at the river nearby. We thought that it would be fun for the children to get involved in the fieldtrip if it gives them a chance to safely participate in a survey of the ecosystem.

The results of the survey exceeded our expectations. In particular, by verifying that a rare species like the giant water bug inhabits the streams of spring water, we could show that our area is home to very precious living things. This also seems to demonstrate that the water quality is exceptionally good.

Meanwhile, the children were made aware that they live in a city with such a wonderful environment. Maybe this will help convince more of them to eventually settle here instead of moving to the big cities.

When operating a factory, Hino Motors has a policy of measuring noise levels, vibrations, water quality, and other factors in consideration of the surrounding environment. This policy is put in place from the time the factory begins operating, which is a very good approach.

If the Koga Plant continues its recent environmental activities and responds to requests from the community, I think we will come to expect Hino Motors to help realize the Koga Plant's aspirations. I hope that Hino Motors keeps considering the environment in its activities and will continue to be a leading environmentally friendly company.



### Kouichi Kamimura

Plant management Div.  
Hino Motors, Ltd.

Adopting the standpoint of a corporate citizen, we planned and carried out our survey with a desire to understand how wastewater discharged from the plant would affect the surrounding ecosystem and to make sure that local residents were aware of the Koga Plant's approach and commitment to preserving the ecosystem.

Based on the survey results, we were relieved to confirm that the plant was not affecting the river, and we came to recognize the great importance of conserving the biodiversity of the environment surrounding the plant. Conducting the survey also put us in contact with local residents, creating opportunities for them to understand more about Hino Motors and the Koga Plant. As we aim to be "a factory valued by the community," the ability to have a positive influence on children, in particular, is a real benefit for us.

In the future, we hope to continue actively working with members of the community through a wide range of environmental initiatives. In this way, we will try to have as many people as possible understand our goal of creating an environmentally friendly factory.

