

FOREWORD

Due to its excellent corrosion resistance and heat resistance, stainless steel is enjoying increasing demand in a wide range of fields, from kitchen equipment, home electrical appliances, automotive exhaust system parts, industrial machinery, construction, civil structures, nuclear power, and so on. In 2001, world stainless steel production was less than 20 million tons per year, but this had risen to exceed 28 million tons in 2007. Stainless steel

applications, resource saving-type stainless steels, and high formability stainless steels.

As one new product since the JFE Steel specialized in the Cr-based stainless steels, the high corrosion resistance ferritic stainless steel “JFE443CT,” which is a substitute for SUS304 without nickel and molybdenum, has enjoyed rapidly growing demand against the background of sharp rises in raw material prices. In particular, this product is making an important contribution to the world stainless steel market, as seen in the birth of similar types of stainless steel in Korea and China and the expansion of demand for the existing Cr-based stainless steels. JFE443CT has received a high evaluation from this viewpoint and won newspaper prizes for two consecutive years. In 2007, this outstanding product was also awarded the Ichimura Industrial Prize – Contribution Prize. In the future, we will continue our efforts to “contribute to society with most innovative technology in the world.”

As the first Special Issue on Stainless Steel since the establishment of JFE Steel in 2003, this issue introduces the history of stainless steel production at this company, recent technologies, and distinctive products. We hope that all our readers will find this information useful.