

## Shiga Supports Manufacturing

(Taizo Mikazuki)

Shiga Prefecture is located in the center of Japan, and through making use of its geographic advantage as a junction between the 3 economic areas of Kinki, Chubu and Hokuriku, it has thrived as a vital transport point since long ago.

The location of factories within the prefecture has coincided with the maintenance of high-level traffic infrastructure such as expressways and Shinkansen lines from the 1950s onwards.

These days, high quality industrial products are produced and exported all over Japan as well as across the world. Furthermore, in recent years mother factories with development capabilities as well as research and development centers have progressively accumulated.

There are also 14 universities situated in the prefecture, with collaboration frequently taking place between industry and academia that brings together the diverse research of universities with the innovations of enterprise.

Our prefecture also has many livable cities that strike a balance between a breathtaking natural environment represented by Lake Biwa and urban functionality that is necessary for daily life, meaning we are one of the leading prefectures in the country in terms of the number of young people.

This geographic advantage, diverse gathering of industry and accumulation of intellectual resources centered around young personnel with a positive future ahead of them, combined with the proactive collaboration of diverse agents such as business, government, education and banking, allows our prefecture to aim towards being a world-class 'innovation center'.

Together with all of you, we hope to create innovation that can aim to develop new values that will bring about beneficial changes to our future society and lives. We warmly invite you to Shiga Prefecture.

