

Operational Review

In a rapidly changing operating environment, OEPC worked to raise management efficiency across the board in response to the cut in electricity rates implemented in February 1998. In addition, we conducted an examination and evaluation of business and management issues with an eye to the 21st century, aiming to make the next leap forward.

Power Generation Facilities

Under the fundamental policy of maintaining a long-term supply of electricity, we endeavor to increase power sources while creating a power generation mix that meets the requirements of both economy and reliability of fuel supply.

During the term under review, as well as beginning full-scale construction at Kin Thermal Power Station, which is due to come on stream in 2002, we commenced operation of Unit 8 (250kW) at Hateruma Power Station.



Artist's impression of Kin Thermal Power Station

In order to optimize the power generation mix, OEPC has shifted more towards coal-fired generation, and during the term 58% of electricity generated came from coal, and 42% from oil. We

import approximately 700,000 tons of coal annually from Australia and Indonesia, and in October 1998 received the first 30,000 ton shipment of Nantun Coal from Shandong

Province in China. Chinese coal has lower transportation costs because of the comparatively short distance it has to travel to Okinawa, and we will consider increasing the size of future orders after we have evaluated the results of combustion tests.

With a view to promoting the conservation of resources, in March 1999 we constructed a Manufacturing Plant, a reprocessing facility for turning coal ash into a civil engineering material, at Gushikawa Thermal Power Station.



Coal carrier



Gushikawa Thermal Power Station