

ONE-PAGE INFORMATION - KAIZEN No.50

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□ MOT or MBA ?

Quality Management, the monthly magazine published by JUSE (Japan Union of Scientists and Engineers, Tokyo, Japan) has a special feature on MOT in its July 2004 issue. MOT, which stands for Management of Technology, is attracting much attention in Japan as the management tool to manage engineering and technology from business point of view. Many universities in advanced countries have MOT course in their post-graduate course. As I wrote about MOT in the previous One Page Information #47, MOT is indispensable for Japan industry to survive in the years to come when new scientific discoveries and hi-tech are to be utilized without delay to produce innovative products. In order to make this happen, Japanese engineers are to be trained at universities how to commercialize their new technologies. This type of re-education is quite new and is bringing about closer alliance between educational institutes and industry. Some people predict that the Japanese MOT will be different in nature from American and European counter-parts. It will be characterized by Just-in-Time principles : From JIT Production to JIT Innovation. In other words, JIT principles are still in the center piece of innovational endeavor. Today some American and European techno-critics insist that JIT is just for production and incremental improvement which are determined to be replaced by “quantum leap” innovation.

□ W. Edwards Deming and J. M. Juran

Dr. Juran is 100 years old this year. During a few years after the World War □, Dr. Juran and Dr. Deming came to Japan many times to deliver a series of lectures on Quality Management across Japan. When I was with Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation USA in 1981 in the state of Tennessee, I invited Dr. Juran to give a one day lecture to all American managers there to understand the importance of Quality Management. Dr. Juran wrote the famous article about Japanese QC Circle for ASQC magazine in 1967 after he was shocked by the Japanese way of product quality improvement at a national QC Circle convention. He wrote the following sentence in 1967.

“ The japanese are headed for world quality leadership, and will attain it in the next two decades, because no one else is moving there at the same pace”

End of Report