

## 2013 ushers in a stronger Italy-Japan connection

taly is continuing to play an important role in the European Union while strengthening its position on the international stage. As a central player in Europe, Italy is facing the challenges of the financial crisis head on.

The Italian government is in the process of taking crucial steps to stabilize its economy

Through the initiatives of incumbent Prime Minister Mario Monti – who is campaigning for re-election next month, the country is strengthening its economy while further developing key relationships with its international trading partners.

Italy shifted from an agriculture-based economy to an exportdriven, industrialized nation after World War II. As the eighth largest economy in the world and the third largest in the eurozone in terms of nominal GDP, Italy has become a highly developed, free market economy.

Its successful industrial sector. high-quality automobile industry and cutting-edge fashion make for a business-driven nation with a sense of flair. Today, Italy's economy is characterized by its high

GDP, its ideal geographic position in the heart of Europe and an un-



#### Masaharu Kohno, Ambassador of Japan to Italy

employment rate of 8.5 percent – one of the lowest in the EU. Throughout Italy's 20 regions, a number of key industrial districts are home to clusters of small and

medium-size businesses; these companies remain the backbone of the Italian economy today. The strength of the Lombardy

work more closely together." region, of which Milan is the capi-2013 is an important year for tal, is of particular importance to Italy and Japan. The two countries

and Navigation and the 400th anniversary of samurai Hasekura Tsunenaga's voyage from Japan to Europe. Hasekura, who even met with Pope Paul V in 1615, is considered the first Japanese ambassador to Europe. "Japan is an ideal partner for Italy, as the Japanese greatly re-

are celebrating the 100th anniver-

sary of the Treaty of Commerce

spect Italy's long history and strong economic position within the heart of the EU," says Masaharu Kohno, Japan's ambassador to Italy. "Japan is well-positioned to act as the gateway to Asia for Italians interested in the Asian marketplace. The Italian business community pays a great deal of attention to developing partnerships in Japan.

Despite the economic challenges Italy and Japan have expethe country. "The main drivers rienced in recent years, both countries remain close allies. As the small to medium-size enterpristwo countries work together, their es," says Kunihiko Nukui, director relationship remains a top priority general of JETRO Italy. "Working for both governments.

"Both Japan and Italy have benthe smallest firms, we grasp every efited greatly from our close partnership for many years," says Shigemi Jomori, the Japanese consul general in Milan. "We share the same common values and place

great importance on democracy, culture and our shared ties.

"Japanese companies consider Italy the gateway to the Mediterranean, and Italy plays an important role in the stability of the region," Jomori continues. "Trade between Italy and Japan is steadily increasing, and we are in the process of strengthening our innovation and technology partnerships. The medical, renewable energy, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and food-related industries are of increasing importance to Japanese-Italian trade.

Key indicators show that the Italian economy is heading in the right direction. Effective government initiatives and an influential and innovative private sector are working to ensure investor confidence returns to Italy. The upcoming 2015 Expo in Milan will also be an opportunity for Italy to showcase its strengths to the world.

Ambassador Kohno explains: "I want to assist in the promotion of Italy's 2015 Milan Expo, highlight the Italian 'can-do' attitude and strengthen the mutual respect Italy and Japan continue to show one another as we continue to develop our relationship." ♦

#### From the motor city of Turin, a drive to succeed

azaki is present in over 430 locations across 41 countries. This specialist in automotive wiring harnesses, meters and electronic components has developed into a major supplier to the world's car manufacturers. Located in the northern Piedmontese city of Turin, Yazaki's Italian subsidiary is dedicated to providing support to the giant Fiat group — which calls the metropolis its home.

"Our commitment to the Fiat group is significant," says Paul Bradley, managing director of Turin-based Yazaki Automotive Products. "It's important that we have a presence here in order to strengthen our business relationship with the group, as it is one of Yazaki's most important customers worldwide."

Yazaki has had a presence in Turin since the '90s and in July 2011, Yazaki Automotive Products acquired Cablelettra, an Italian manufacturer of automotive wiring harnesses. The acquisition has enabled the company to provide stronger support to the Fiat group's production facilities worldwide through its network of globally located factories. One of the plants is



#### Yazaki's Turin office

in Brazil – Fiat's largest production base and most important automotive market after Italy.

'The strategy behind this was to develop our business in the European and Brazilian markets, and contribute to the expansion of Yazaki's global wiring harness operations," explains Bradley. "We are now in a strong position to support Fiat across Europe and also better serve them in Brazil."

Today, along with taking care of the domestic market in Italy, the company is also responsible for overseas production and sales for the newly formed subsidiary. "Business in Italy has been challenging due to the European economic crisis," Bradley explains. 'Now we have been able to expand our international business and work in growth markets such as Brazil. We are also achieving success in more positive European markets such as Poland."

By expanding globally, Yazaki has confirmed its commitment to its customers. "As a leader in our industry, it is our aim to continually provide the best possible support to our customers around the world," concludes Bradley. "Through our drive to succeed, we are successfully achieving our targets." www.yazaki-europe.com

Japanese automaker rides high in the land of motoring passion

three decades, Suzuki Italia has built a strong reputation in Italy. Located just 20 km from the historic motoring town of Turin, the company's commitment to the Italian market remains solid as the Italian automotive industry itself rebounds from a slowdown caused by the European sovereign debt crisis. Suzuki Italia has retained both its competitive edge and its market-leading position as the country best known for its pas-

sion for motoring. hini and Ferrari Drivers

ver the course of more than ments, we are able to provide our customers with a complete lineup of products that suits their personal style and preference," says Junya Kumataki, president of Suzuki Ita-

> While other automotive manufacturers take a conservative approach to new product launches, Suzuki recently strengthened its market-leading position in the compact 4x4 segment by making significant interior and exterior changes to two of its iconic brands

the Jimny Evolution and the Suzuki's compact four-wheel Grand Vitara Evolution. Today, the drive (4x4) vehicles and cars are Jimny's versatility and distinctive hugely popular in the home of style make it suitable for both onand off-road use. The Grand Vitara signed models in the cor on the other hand, remains "king of segment to complement our comthe outdoors." pact 4x4 model lineup," says Ku-Both these new launches set a mataki. "This initiative provides precedent for what customers can our customers with a choice of new models and reinforces our dedication to the Italian market while en-



for the Italian economy are these

with the largest conglomerates and

opportunity for Japan and Italy to

Junya Kumataki, President, Suzuki Italia

SUZU

expect from Suzuki in 2013. "We plan to launch completely rede-

### Building on a solid foundation

talian-made cars, motorcycles and yachts have given Italian engineering a reputation for being among the best in the world. In fact, Italian companies in general are admired for their advances in technology and innovation.

Developing pioneering solutions is what drives the "groundengineering" company Soilmec. Established in 1969, the company is an international leader in the de-

of equipment for the sector. Soilmec equipment is used all over the world in the construction of bridges, railways, underground lines, motorways, viaducts, tunnels and other construction sites

- large and small. "Since we are situated next to the Alps, we have gained considerable expertise in tunnel systems," says Federico Pagliacci, vice president for development of Soilmec. "We have developed into sign, manufacture and distribution



a pioneering market leader in our industry over four decades. The effectiveness of our equipment in complex environments such as tunnel systems illustrates the expertise we have developed within the industry.'

Part of Trevi-Finanziaria Industriale S.p.A (publicly listed on the FTSE MIB Index), the company provides customers with a complete range of equipment solutions. "The strength of our group of companies lies in our ability to perform as a total solutions provider by offering new technologies, new systems and new machines to our customers, Pagliacci savs.

With the largest sales and aftersales network in their industry, the ompany is renewing its efforts to

Soilmec SM-605 DT in action for Maiko Tunnel project in Kobe, Japan the Japanese market, we are plan-"Innovation is our principal ning to open a full-service center asset," stresses Cordella. "Our in Tokyo next March." strong focus on R&D allows us to



value the company's vehicles for their size, value for money and fuel-efficient engines. "As specialists in the compact car and 4x4 seg-



Suzuki Grand Vitara (L) and Jimny



player within the industry." Maintaining customer loyalty by providing quality services remains key to Suzuki's success in Italy. "We work hard to support our customers," says Kumataki. "Throughout Suzuki's distinguished history, customer-focused support has been one of its vital core competencies. Each employee understands the importance of focusing on the customer. We continuously emphasize our customer-centric philosophy to all of our distributors.

hancing our reputation as a major

Kumataki is positive about Suzuki's future in Italy, as well as the country's general economic prospects under the current government.

"While the economy is a cause for concern at the moment, Italians are a resilient people," he remarks. "I believe the country is heading in the right direction under the strong initiatives of the government. The Italian car market will recover quickly once confidence is restored. We are looking forward to providing our Italian customers with even more quality Suzuki vehicles in the future."  $\blacklozenge$ www.suzuki.it

solutions

provider

equipment for

any underground engineering needs

Sunbird Bldg. 3F, 3-12 Kobunacho, Nihol Chuo-Ku, 103-0024 Tokyo - JAPAN Phone 03-5643-1271 - Fax 03-3664-6451

on@soilmec-j.com

SOILMEC JAPAN CO LTD

Soilmec delivered a new SR-40 in Japan

strengthen its position in Japan, "We have had a strong relationship with Japan Foundation Engineering since the early 1990s," says Stefano Cordella, Asia and Japan Sales Manager of Soilmec. "In order to build on this relationship and reinforce our position in

Research and innova keys to Soilmec's success. New equipment designed to provide added functionality and increase ease-of-use is meeting customer standards. For example, Soilmec's compact and lightweight rigs offer a wide variety of solutions for drilling projects in confined areas.

remain dedicated to providing ou customers in Japan with the necessary equipment modifications they require. We feel there is a huge opportunity for us to develop our business in this country. We are taking the necessary steps to increase our customer base there."♦ www.soilmec.it

#### Pursuing a passion for the future

in Italy.

Tome of MotoGP heroes such as Valentino Rossi and iconic manufacturers such as Ducati, Italy is plainly passionate about motorcycles. The country represents the largest market in Europe for motorized two-wheel vehicles.



Hiromu Murata, President and Managing Director of Yamaha Motor Italia, on a Ténéré

soilmec.it

Yamaha Motors' Italian sub-Italy through its dedication to sidiary understands that style, functionality and technology are key requirements for its scooter and motorcycle markets. In fact, the company's European center

of research and development and global headquarters for international MotoGP racing are located Hiromu Murata, managing director of Yamaha Motorcycles Italia, is confident about the com-

pany's future. "Italians have developed a passion for motorcycles products." as both a means of transportation and recreational pastime," he says. "Despite the challenges in the economy, consumer spending will increase and I am confident the market will bounce back and return to pre-crisis levels." Murata has used current economic challenges in Europe to

customer service, strong product launches and an extensive dealership network consisting of 270 outlets for motorcycles and 130 for marine products "Considering market conditions

today, it is very important for us to establish trust in our after-sales market, and to offer the best possible service Yamaha can provide," Murata adds. "This way, when the market bounces back, consumers see the value of re-investing in our

In 2012, the company introduced innovative new models by way of its TMAX and Xenter scooters. Motorcycle launches last year include the completely modified WR450F, the new YZF-R1 and the "WGP 50th Anniversary" motorcycles, created to celebrate Yamaha's 50 years of World Cup racing

YAMAHA



YZF-R1 50th Anniversary motorcycle

The synergy between Italy and Japan, and both countries' love for motorcycles, can be epitomized by Valentino Rossi's return to the Yamaha Factory Racing team (joining defending world champion Jorge Lorenzo) for the start of the 2013 MotoGP season. "We have always considered

ket in Europe and an essential part of the way we approach product development. Yamaha has always been committed to providing our Italian customers with the best in products and customer service and we shall continue to build on our reputation as we look to the future." ♦

concludes. "It is our biggest mar-

Italy as an integral part of our business and our success," Murata www.yamaha-motor.eu/it



New TMAX. Nothing but the max. uw.uamaha-motor.it

strengthen the Yamaha brand in



## www.worldeyereports.com

# Mitutoyo strengthens its Italian partnership

elebrating 25 years in Italy last year, Mitu-' toyo — the world's largest metrology company — has built a reputation in the country as a market leader in highquality products with unparalleled customer service.

Italy

Mitutoyo produces 5,000 products ranging from small hand-held equipment to highly sophisticated instruments used in a variety of industries — including pharmaceutical, food, mechanical, automotive and electronics.

While the global financial crisis has created a challenging environment for Japanese investors in Italy, signs of economic recovery are emerging. Mitutoyo is adapting to the challenges in the Italian market by offering superior customer service and creating more

streamlined sales channels. "It is important to emphasize that our strongest point is our service and quality offering," says Yutaka Suga, managing director of Mitutoyo Italiana. "We have divided our sales into direct and indirect channels in order for us to serve our customers more effectively."

The company's own sales team manages the larger product range and deals directly with customers. The indirect sales channel is composed of a highly skilled network of 180 dealers dedicated to the company's smaller hand-tool prod-

ucts. "Both channels understand that the customer comes first, and this is essential to our success," says Suga. "Our own sales team regularly visits customers to ensure quality aftersales service. We continually strengthen our partnerships with our dealer network.<sup>3</sup>



Yutaka Suga, Managing Director, Mitutoyo Italiana

With a customer base that includes such iconic Italian companies as Fiat and Ferrari, the company is driven to increase its sales. "We have started to recover from the financial crisis," says Suga. "We are focused on attaining our sales targets. I am confident our business goals will be reached in Italy.

Suga's vision for the future of Mitutoyo in Italy involves

"Following the recent initiatives introduced by Prime Minister Monti's government, the sentiment throughout Italy is encouraging. As a Japanese company in Italy, we enjoy a strong reputation and we are committed to providing our customers with superior service and support for our tech-

the firm determination to surpass previous sales records.

nology-driven Japanese products." ♦ www.mitutoyo.it

'Excellence in science' from Japan to Italy



# customer base.

Italy and is continuing to prosper

during these challenging times

by taking the lead in the devel-

3-D simulation of the world's fastest Servo Tandem Line as installed in several locations around the world by the Aida Corp.

he Italian economy has

benefited from the in-flow

of Japanese investment

for decades. Aida, the premier

global manufacturer of metal

design and craftsmanship.

company works with hun-

brands, successfully estab-

Japan as their exclusive im-

porter and licensee.

stamping presses, is successfully opment of new and innovative building on its investments in metal-forming solutions.

Quality, leadership and innovation lead to success

Manzoni and Rovetta, two leading Italian companies in the global metal stamping sector, were acquired by Aida Engineering Ltd. in 2004. Today, Aida S.r.l. is setting the industry standard by offering the right products, quality service support and is continuing to develop its loyal "Our facility in Brescia is the

nerve center and manufacturing hub of our European operations,<sup>3</sup> says Peter Maddix, president of Aida in Italy. "Despite the euro crisis, we have managed to grow our business significantly over the last two years. We had a turnover of over €100 million in this period.

Export markets account for

90 percent of the company's business. It is in the process of expanding its manufacturing capabilities to accommodate increasing demand from customers such as Fiat and other leading manufacturers.

Aida offers a series of presses with capacities ranging from 600 kilonewtons of force to 40,000 kN — including the world's largest servo transfer press and the world's fastest G1Tandem servo press line - designed for the manufacture of automotive body panels.

"We have a very loyal European customer base," says Maddix. "We continue to support our customers throughout the continent. Our goal is to consolidate our record turnover of the last two years, implement strategies to

sustain our growth and continue

figure to €140 million, and maintain this growth into the future."

With Aida's new consolidated brand logo, record sales and expansion plans in Italy, Maddix is feeling positive. "Our shareholders in Japan have tremendous confidence in our European headquarters' activities," he concludes. "Our goal is to continue

#### to operate as a highly profitable enterprise. Arnaud Guillet, Aida's sales

and marketing manager, is similarly confident about the company's performance. "We intend to increase our order intake target and achieve €110 million in new sales in 2013," he predicts. 'We then expect to increase this



A return to roots in the home of quality

South Korea for decades, we T tochu Corp. couldn't have found a better place in are looking for Italian brands which to revisit its roots to take with us to Japan and these other markets," says than Italy. Founded in Japan in 1858 as a linen trader, the Shoji Miura, president of Itochu Italiana and Group Direcmultinational is now one of tor of Itochu Europe Textile Japan's — and the world's largest trading companies. In Group. Italy Itochu has returned to its The company is able to es-

origins in the textiles industablish distribution networks. try, where Italians continue obtain licenses, manage adto set benchmarks for quality, vertising and act against counterfeiters in Asia.

At the heart of the textile "Understanding the intriand fashion industry in Eucacies of Asian markets, we rope, Itochu Italiana's acwant Itochu to be the reliable tivities cover the entire value partner of Italian brands that chain: from sourcing raw maare pursuing growth in Asia," he adds. terials to final garments, as

well as importing, licensing Powered by a strong Japaand branding in between. The nese yen, Miura is constantly on the lookout for companies dreds of prestigious fashion that meet a specific criteria. "Itochu is interested in inlishing leading European and vesting in luxury goods and Italian brands such as Brunelfashion accessory compalo Cucinelli and Bulgari in nies," he explains. "The Italians are famous for their timeless elegance and style. This translates to beautiful prod-While most recognized brand names from Italy are ucts that have tremendous potential in Asian markets."

already found in boutiques and department stores across Meanwhile, Itochu Italiana Asia, some have yet to make is also engaged in the proa mark. This is where Itochu's duction of industrial textiles, supplying engine belts to strength lies. "Having built a solid network all over Chifirst-class European carmakna, Hong Kong, Taiwan and ers. And while 95 percent of



its business in Italy is dedicated to the textiles industry, the company is also moving to capitalize on that other aspect for which the country is famous — food. It imports and exports food items such as pasta, rice, vegetable oils, juices, fish, wine and special-

ty ingredients. "We've been in Italy for quite some time now," concludes Miura. "We are very comfortable and feel welcome here. It is a challenging environment right now, but Italians have remained positive. As a result, we feel committed to contributing to the Italian economy and remaining positive." ♦

www.itochuitaliana.com

#### The fine art of shaping technology

**T**t is always an inspiring exercise to investigate the origins of companies and brands. Besides unearthing unexpected connections and details, it can also unveil stories of people, human genius and commitment.

Alcantara is a clear example of this. Its proprietary material of the same name as the company was invented in 1970 by Miyoshi Okamoto, a Japanese scientist. After a joint venture between Japan's Toray Industries and Italy's ENI Group, Italian-based Alcantara was founded two years later. Since then much time has passed and the world has changed profoundly. But the secret of Alcantara's continuing success remains an unmatched material that is the product of two unique ingredients: Japanese technical knowhow and Italian passion and

design. Design meant to shape technology has made all the difference, and kept Alcantara a step above its competitors. This has allowed it to constantly renew itself and reach an increasingly wider audience year by year.

Strongly promoted by its Italian management, this designcentered approach has helped the material spread into new market



where design is king and noth-Chairman and CEO.

in terms of its brand reputation,

"To go further, we have to always bear in mind where we came from," says Boragno, "that special interweaving between Japanese and Italian cultures that is the essence of our business."  $\blacklozenge$ 

The company is a partner of the

most loyal supporters of Rome's

trendsetting MAXXI Museum of

modern art for a series of projects

that are intended to give shape

and voice to the most intangible

www.alcantara.com

Alcantara materia segments. "Nowadays, Alcantara

ture designer, has been the comcan be found in a growing numpany's art director since 2006. ber of applications - fashion, interior and automotive industries magazine Vogue Italy for "Who is On Next?", the annual coming can be left to chance," says petition devoted to international Andrea Boragno, the company's emerging fashion designers. Furthermore, Alcantara is among the

Alcantara's focus on design has also had a positive impact making possible prestigious collaborations with some of the world's most renowned design personalities. Giulio Cappellini,

messages of its material. internationally famous as a furni-ALCANTARA® extraordinary every day

Isabel Cabruja, Managing Director, Shimadzu Italia S.r.l.

instrumentation is es-A sential in the pharmaceutical, chemical and environmental technology industries, and meticulous testing of food and water for human consumption are two of the most critically important areas that require this. Shimadzu, one of the world's leading analytical instrumentation and measurement systems manufacturers today, is present in Italy working on this and other specialty sectors through its unique knowhow

"Our strength in Italy has always been in food, water and environmental testing," says Isabel Cabruja, managing director of Shimadzu Italia. "Because of our expertise, our key customers include universities, research entities, government and a number of important governmental agencies.

As the company celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, Cabruja's main objective is to expand its customer base by developing partners for a variety of industries.

"We see opportunities in the cosmetics and clinical diagnostics sectors: our goal is to develop the business scope and take Shimadzu into the future," she explains.

company's scientific and technological knowhow in the industry, Shimadzu recently launched a new mission state-ment titled "Excellence in

nalytical and diagnostic Science." The company also recently released three new triple quadrupole mass spectrometers (the models LCMS-8040. LCMS-8080 and QC-MS-TQ8030) to expand its analytical range of products in Shimadzu's proprietary Ultra Fast Mass Spectrometry (UFMS) series.

"We were the only company in our industry to launch three large machines last year," says Cabruja. "These products provide higher-sensitivity performance, greater excellence in data quality and an expanded range of applications for our

customers and partners." Shimadzu's partners among others in Italy are professor Luigi Mondello of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the University of Messina, the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (a public veterinary institute that conducts prevention, control and research activities in animal health and welfare, food safety and environmental protection) and the Biological Sales Net-

work. "Our customers know that Shimadzu products are reliable and durable," Cabruja concludes. "As we pursue new opportunities this year, we want to build on our reputation as a 'total solutions' supplier com-To better communicate the mitted to supporting science. Our aim is to ensure customers feel they made the right choice by choosing to work with Shimadzu." ♦ www.shimadzu.it

## Total customer satisfaction for a demanding market

Tith more than 1,600 offices in Milan, Turin, Rome branches and offices 39 countries, and Florence.

Nippon Express is Japan's Security, efficiency and promptness of delivery are the largest logistics provider and one of the largest in the world. The keys to success for Nippon Excompany's Italian subsidiary, press (Italia). As an "Authorized Nippon Express (Italia), has Economic Operator" and an acgrown to become a recognized tive member of the "Transported leader in the local market. Asset Protection Association," It offers customers countrythe company provides customers

ance procedures. It is dedicated to providing clients with tailored solutions

"We have achieved a great deal in Italy as a result of our efforts to promote our company, and we will continue to move forward," says Yuichi Nakagawa, director general of Nippon Express (Italia). "We are able to



Nippon Express (Italia)'s head office in Milan

specific solutions through its with preferential customs clear- find the right balance between serving our existing customers and actively pursuing new customers and opportunities.

"One area of focus is the Italian pharmaceutical and medical instruments industries," he notes. "Last year, we received the 'Good Distribution Practices' certificate from the Italian Health Ministry in recognition of our dedicated work in the secure storage and delivery of medicine to wholesale distributors in other European countries.<sup>2</sup>

While Nippon Express has traditionally served Japanese companies, the majority of companies contacted here in Italy are either Italian or European. "This is testament to our competitiveness and reputation," savs Domenico De Giacomo, the Italian subsidiary's general manager of administration and finance.

"In Italy we have a strong track record of serving domestic companies," De Giacomo explains. "Our reputation is very strong here and organizations throughout the country have a great deal of esteem for Nippon Express.'



Domenico De Giacomo (L), General Manager Administration & Finance and Yuichi Nakagawa, Director General

continues to pursue new opportunities while focusing on delivering total customer satisfaction, Nakagawa looks ahead confidently: "We achieved positive results last year, and we will continue to build on our achievements by investing in our people and focusing on serving our cus-

tomers to the best of our ability." "Our mind-set is to always offer superior solutions to our clients," he concludes. "We can achieve great things in Italy through our dedicated approach to working in partnership with our customers." ♦ www.nipponexpress.it

As Nippon Express (Italia)

