1Q FY2019 Tokuyama Corporation Investor Meeting

Q&A (Excerpts)

Date and time: July 29, 2019 (Monday) 12:00 – 12:45

Participants:

Hideo Sugimura, Director, Managing Executive Officer, General Manager, Corporate Planning Div.

Taro Kobayashi, General Manager, Corporate Communications & Investor Relations Dept.

- 1. Questions regarding 1Q FY2019 operating profit
- Q1: Why did profit fall in the Chemicals Business Division?
- A1: Our policy is to expand exports of caustic soda over the medium to long term. In this context, we are increasing export volumes as a means to establish sales channels. While our export ratio in the 1Q of FY2019 came in at 20%, up from 5% in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, profit declined due to a deterioration in overseas caustic soda market conditions. Moreover, sales volumes of propylene oxide, which is a feedstock for urethane, fell more than 10% as a result of a slowdown in the automobile industry in China.
- Q2: Have you resumed the export of caustic soda to India?
- A2: Not as yet. We plan to resume exports from the latter half of the 2Q
- Q3: Why did operating profit in the Specialty Products Business Division fall below the internal budget ratio of ¥700 million?
- A3: Chemicals for the electronics industry as well as fumed silica for chemical mechanical polishing are feeling the effects of a downturn in demand from semiconductor customers. We are, however, seeing sales volumes of semiconductor-grade polycrystalline silicon and heat dissipation materials such as aluminum nitride. Quantities of semiconductor-grade polycrystalline silicon are in line with the previous year. In overall terms, prices are also rising compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.
- Q4: Looking at your analysis of changes by factor, operating profit in the others category came in at ¥1.7 billion. Can you provide breakdown details?
- A4: Among a variety of factors, increases in fixed costs as well as selling, general and administrative expenses accounted for 50% and 30%, respectively. By segment, the year-on-year downturn of ¥1.7 billion in the others category was made up of ¥300 million in the Cement Business Division and

¥300 million in the Life & Amenity Business Division. The remaining amount of roughly ¥1 billion was spread across Companywide infrastructure capital investment, depreciation as well as plant maintenance, renewal and repairs.

- 2. Questions regarding the outlook for each product
- Q5: What are your thoughts on coal prices?
- A5: Coal prices in the 1Q exceeded forecasts on a cost basis. Looking ahead, we anticipate the price of coal will trends between US\$75-80 per tonne from the 2Q. We will work to lower costs by adopting various purchasing methods. This includes placing orders while the spot price is low.
- Q6: What are your plans for final semiconductor-grade polycrystalline sales volumes in the current fiscal year?
- A6: We are projecting a year-on-year increase of 10%, which is in line with forecasts at the start of the period.
- Q7: What are your thoughts on cement from the 2Q?
- A7: We see cement as currently in a transition period. Coupled with the increase associated with such future events as the World Expo in Western Japan, signs of a pickup in disaster recovery demand are beginning to emerge. We are confident in our ability to boost sales volumes in Western Japan to the same levels as the eastern region.
- Q8: Will power sales increase from the 2Q?
- A8: While generating capacity will increase compared with the previous year during which large-scale periodic maintenance was undertaken, the potential for a substantial upswing in profit as a result of power sales is low. This is because of plans to also increase product manufacturing volumes.
- 3. Question regarding our financial strategy
- Q9: Will you revise your stance toward the return of profits to shareholders following the Company's return to an "A" credit rating?
- A9: We have not made a decision at the moment, but will consider going forward.