Kaizen Quote

“You are a fool if you do what I say. You are a greater fool if you don’t do as I say. You should think for yourself and come up with better ideas than mine.” – Taiichi Ohno

Message from the director

THOUGHTS ON KAIZEN®, ERP & HABITS OF EXCELLENCE

In our work across a wide spectrum of client companies in different continents, we always experience first-hand the truth of Sensei Masaaki Imai’s famous quote: ‘The top three requirements for the success of kaizen – Top Management Commitment, Top Management Commitment, Top Management Commitment…’.

While there are inevitable failures, there have undoubtedly been numerous success stories over these decades from organizations experiencing moderate to exceptional success while implementing kaizen/Lean/OE/TPS methods (or their derivatives). These stories come from a variety of discrete product manufacturers/process industries/service organizations & corporate farms. Many such successes have been documented & are available in the public domain.

Given this fact, I often ask myself, why is it that many a CEO still does not choose the Kaizen® way? Of course, answers can be as numerous as the number of CEOs, but could it also be that Kaizen/Lean/OE/TPS fraternity is not able to address the prime concerns/strategic imperatives of the CEO?

As an example, almost every CEO worth his dollars is almost convinced that he must adopt an ERP system - sooner rather than later. He may choose different vendor, or a different implementation support partner, but ERP kind of automation is a must.

Not so for Kaizen/Lean/OE/TPS. Although these methods may need much lower investment of money (much higher in turns of time though!!) & as much or way higher recurring returns in terms of operational, people (capability & motivation) & financial returns!!
Why is it so?

Not that these two initiatives are in direct conflict. They co-exist. Both have a role. Rather, an organization will do well to Lean out its’ processes before automating them. Enlightened CEOs make the best of both these opportunities. One such exemplary story emerges from one of our Kenyan friends – Kenafric Industries. Here is an extract from a recent communication from them:

QUOTE

I am really excited to let you know that Kenafric Industries successful implementation of SAP Business All In One (BAiO) ECC 6.0 and Business Intelligence has qualified to be the Official Site Reference. ..... This after establishing a Go Live record of 86 days!

UNQUOTE

Kenafric has the distinction of

- Having kaizened out its’ processes first; & then
- Using the structured Kaizen® method of managing projects for SAP implementation.

All this is over and above the following achievements within 2013:

- Being one of Kaizen Institute Africa’s best Kaizen® reference sites;
- Winning the Best Overall Energy Management Award in Kenya for the fourth year in succession.

Kenafric has made ‘winning’ & ‘being the best’ a habit.

Our sincere felicitations to the Kenafric team!

Vinod Grover
From the editors desk

I am very excited to present this October Issue of Mission Dantotsu. Until August 2013, I was one of the readers like you, however, I am glad to share that I have been assigned the responsibility to edit this newsletter which gives a brief snapshot on the happenings at Kaizen Institute AIM (Africa, India & Middle East).

No doubt, it’s a challenging task but at the same time fascinating one. I promise all of you that I will put in my best to make it a wonderful reading experience and at the same time an insightful newsletter.

The current October Issue wouldn’t have been interesting without able mentorship of our director Mr. Vinod Grover and contribution from my team. I sincerely appreciate their extended support which made it possible for me to design & edit October month issue.

Please share your feedback and thoughts to make it more appealing. I also request all of you to share your success stories or latest happening at your organization and we might think to include the same in our next issue.

Happy Reading!
New Joinee

Nidhi Shah

Team KI @ AIM

Farewell

Saumya Nair

Health and Family Welfare Department
Government of Gujarat

5S & Process mapping

KAIZEN Sensitization

Zydus dedicated to life

KAIZEN Foundation & TFM

KAIZEN Foundation
Mr. Mahendra G Mehta
Vice President, Operations
Inarco Ltd

He is a Mechanical Engineer with Diploma in Management Studies and total work experience of 40 years in different Industries out of which 27 years with Inarco Ltd. Inarco Ltd also received Sensei Masaaki Imai citation in IndiZEN 2013 for being the most durable client.
What would you do differently if you had the benefit of hindsight?

Personally I wish I had learnt Kaizen Lessons when I began my Career 40 years ago. But Better Late than Never. For Inarco, I should have done “Early Management” when Bhavnagar Plant was set up to make it Muda/Mura/Muri Free.

Any advice/ suggestions for new entrants?

Please start the implementation of Kaizen & Lean Manufacturing Practices in your Business (not only Manufacturing but also Service industries/Hospitality sector/Govt offices) as fast as you can if you do not wish to vanish from Business sooner than you can imagine.

PROSPERITY & PROGRESS WILL COME ONLY THROUGH KAIZEN.

Thanks

Mr.Mahendra G Mehta
VP – Operations
INARCO Ltd.
KAIZEN Story

An elderly couple went on a pleasant journey to a country side. On their way back home, the car tyre punctured...

The place was remote and there were no nearby garage, the elderly man replaced the tyre with the spare tyre available

He left the wheel fasteners with his lady who was strolling at the river bank where they stranded

As the elderly lady was walking along the river, she suddenly stumbled on a rock and dropped all the four fasteners into the river. Now they were helpless and the nearing darkness scared them.

The couple waited for long and no vehicles passed them as the place was remote. A young shepherd was passing the couple with his goats.

The boy immediately found the couple were in trouble and went near them and asked what had happened. The couple briefed the boy about losing the fasteners into the river and said without which they can’t go.

The boy just observed the situation for a moment and casually said to remove one fastener each from the other three wheels and use them for the fourth wheel to drive back home or to the next garage on way back

The couple was so happy and used the boy’s idea to fix the fourth wheel with the fasteners from the other three
Few lessons from the story........

1) Same problem may have different solutions in different situations
2) Don’t wait for a perfect answer, temporary solution is better than none
3) There is no limitation to resolve a problem. Think outside the box

Please share your feedback / suggestions for improvements to dsoneji@kaizen.com