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Fasteners Go Green? Hu Pao's GM Wang: "Net Zero" Is an Opportunity for Fasteners to Be Redefined

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What will you think of first when it comes to the fastener industry? Pollution? Or a sooty workplace? How can an industry that has never been associated with environmental protection go green? Bill Wang, GM of Hu Pao Industries, who has been in the fastener industry for over 20 years, points out that the key lies in "Net Zero". Net Zero is a process of minimizing carbon emissions and offsetting them with carbon credits or carbon absorption. It sounds simple, but is an important industrial revolution for the fastener industry to enhance the competitiveness, coexist with the environment, and create a circular economy in the future.

Net Zero => Sustainable Coexistence

In order to reverse the public's stereotype of dirty screw factories, GM Wang, who fully believes that enterprises should not only focus on profits but also bear environmental & social responsibilities, began to promote "net zero" in the fastener industry many years ago, and started with his own factory expansion to create a comfortable and safe workplace with low carbon emissions for all employees. He thinks that the disasters caused by climate change have become more serious than ever, and if people don't do something, they are bound to affect our future generations. "Net zero can't be just a

lip service and change can only be made by breaking old rules," says Wang. Such ideas can be implemented in fastener factories through 5S management, lean process management, digital carbon emission management, or improving high carbon emissions through organizations. **He thinks that the spirit of net zero is sustainable coexistence, not to comply with regulations, but to demonstrate a company's commitment to environmental protection** and find a carbon reduction strategy that best suits its own size in the long run.



Not About Size! Corporate Value Lies on Respect to the Environment

The essence of a green enterprise lies on its respect to the environment. Besides eye-catching carbon reduction figures, it should further create a sense of fulfillment for employees, a sense of trust for customers, and a sense of coexistence with the community. Meanwhile, building a company that everyone can be proud of through carbon reduction to enhance the product value is also Wang's top consideration while making decisions. Although the fastener industry is not as large-scale as other industries, each fastener is the key to supporting the global industries. "CBAM is a challenge, but is also an opportunity for the industry to be transformed and redefined. If we can reduce the carbon emissions of countless fasteners around the world, we can transform ourselves from manufacturers into connectors to sustainability," says Wang.

Transforming Net Zero into Corporate Culture

Making net zero a part of his corporate culture, Wang has introduced a digital energy management system, solar panels, equipment upgrade, ISO carbon inventories, and lubricant recycling system into the corporate management. On the other hand, he also planted trees, provided veggie meals for employees, and invited supply chain partners to reduce carbon footprints, putting the concept of net zero into practice in lives and work. "I once visited a cosmetics factory and was surprised at how clearly they showed their carbon footprints on products. The fastener industry must keep pace with the predecessors' advances in digitization and energy efficiency management, and have the spirit of sustainability

internalized. **Transparent carbon info is what the fastener industry lacks the most**, and understanding CBAM specifications is part of a concerted effort," says Wang.

Carbon Reduction Determines Future Order Taking

In response to CBAM and U.S. carbon reduction system, **the disclosure of carbon emissions will become a new criterion** in addition to price if one wants to compete for orders from large factories. Wang thinks that carbon reduction is a way to reducing costs with quantifiable benefits on one hand, and helping enterprises transform towards branding and innovation on the other hand. Under his leadership, Hu Pao has started to work with customers to design low-carbon products and develop alternative materials. He encourages the industry get to know themselves by carbon inventory, setting up task forces, introducing management systems like ISO14064 and ISO50001, not going it alone, and making good use of associations, industry forums and official/external consulting platforms to obtain more subsidies or resources. "I hope to build a 'Low Carbon Smart Factory Demo Base', and am also developing a more convenient carbon emission statistics system. In the future, I'd like to invite industry partners to set up a 'Sustainability Alliance', so as to attract more people (especially young people) to change the fastener industry. Small screws support the world's operation. If you are willing to do so, you can join us to transform the fastener industry into one that thrives with the environment and that you are proud to be a part of," says Wang. ■



**Hu Pao's new logo combines the shape of nut threads with the Earth's curvature, symbolizing the close connection with the world. The inner ring-shaped curve symbolizes the company's progress towards the concept of a circular economy. The dark and light green colors represent solid technical expertise as well as innovation, sustainability and hope. They fully reflect the company's commitment to carbon reduction, sustainability and green coexistence.*

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