

2030s, but we have not yet made specific plans. We will decide on a course of action ahead based on a careful evaluation of which technologies would be best once we have dealt with various issues including EAF technology and direct-reduced iron supply as well as hydrogen sourcing.

A. That is part of our aim in increasing capacity at Sendai. We currently produce special steel bars and wire rods as blast furnace products at Kurashiki because of quality considerations. Once we increase EAF capacity at Sendai, however, if we are able to clear the quality hurdles and make products that are on the same level as those made in a blast furnace, it would be possible to transfer some production from Kurashiki to Sendai. Given such possibilities, we will continue to develop technologies to improve quality.

Currently, the steel industry emits 40% of Japan's total industrial CO₂, so CO₂

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