

5.WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION OF CHISSO?



Some of Chisso' s products

Chisso Co., Ltd. has its headquarter in Tokyo and two other factories in Chiba and Okayama prefectures in addition to the Minamata factory. The main products of the Chisso Minamata factory are liquid crystal, preservatives, anti-desiccation agents, chemical fertilizers, synthetic resin and so on. The Minamata factory employs more than 554 people as of October 2002, and it is still an important company in Minamata.

Chisso has undertaken the big obligation to pay reparations as a cause company of Minamata disease. Since a possibility that management might get worse in 1975 and afterwards, and payment of compensation etc. might become impossible to Chisso came out, Kumamoto-prefecture has offered financial support to Chisso through prefectural loan issue from 1978 to 2000. (Total loan amount of about 260 billion yen) However, since it became difficult for Chisso to pay the borrowed money, the Japanese government will pay it instead of Chisso from February, 2000 every year waiting and in the meantime until Chisso can pay some borrowed money.

There is responsibility which continues the medical treatment to a patient and compensation of a life in Chisso. Moreover, influencing to society is also called for so that the same fault may never occur as a cause company of Minamata disease.