**Flexibility and cooperation developed by listening to customers**

We are facing a rapidly changing business environment, such as the diversification of business tools and markets, and changes in customers’ behavior. “Flexibility” and “cooperation with business partners” are indispensable for Brother to handle these situations.

We cope with such changes by listening to customers, taking advantage of the technologies, expertise, sales channels and know-how we have developed, and working in proper cooperation with partners in the fields where we lack strength or experience.

Brother aims to be able to transform itself in this way.

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**Case**  
*Brother enhances collaboration with its suppliers through parts shows at manufacturing facilities*

The Purchasing Department of the Quality, Production & Engineering Center at Brother Industries, Ltd. has been strengthening ties with Brother’s suppliers through parts exhibitions held at Brother’s main facilities outside Japan to better procure parts.

The parts exhibition held at Brother Industries (Vietnam) Ltd. in 2019 had approximately 200 visitors from more than 70 partner companies and provided a productive opportunity to exchange various opinions.

In such parts exhibitions, the Purchasing Department provides information about precautions in product assembly, key points in quality management, packaging forms, and so forth to participating suppliers while working together with the procurement, production, and quality management departments in Brother’s manufacturing facilities.

Subsequently, the departments solicit those suppliers’ ideas and suggestions on cost reduction and the possibility of local procurement. The suppliers, meanwhile, aim to expand their business by considering how to contribute to Brother’s manufacturing with their production technologies.

One of the participating suppliers commented that participation in the parts exhibitions enables him to get a deeper understanding of even the parts that his company has never supplied, and thus gives him a good opportunity to identify his company’s strengths and weaknesses and reflect them in quality and cost improvement efforts for further business development.

The Brother Group will continuously strive to build strong trusting relationships with its business partners and grow and develop together to ensure stable procurement of high-quality and cost-competitive parts in dramatically changing business environments.