The application of Total Production Management and Knowledge Management with combine

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Abstract

Along with the diversified requirements of customers, the requests to offer a variety of product types with fewer quantities and shorten delivery time have been increasing. In order to overcome the difficult economic environment, an innovation of production approach is needed to improve the enterprise's constitution. Many companies strengthen their enterprise constitution by implementing total production management (TPM). During the processing of TPM, employees can generate a great deal of knowledge and therefore significantly elevate the business performance. Hence, utilizing knowledge management (KM) to assist the advance of TPM has its value in developing both contemporary TPM and KM research domains.

A review of existing related literature indicates that most of the KM studies are focused on IT industry; on contrast, the TPM studies are devoted to the traditional industries. However, they are complementary to each other instead of repelling each other. Furthermore, the TPM activities have contained important implication of knowledge management. This study, therefore, based on Knowledge Spiral Theory, creates an integrated model of KM and TPM as the basis of the research framework; and is mainly aims at the combination of KM and TPM to explore their viability and the implementing result.

According to our results collected from the case company, it suggests that in every aspect it has a satisfactory result in identifying both TPM and KM can properly

operate in coordination. Following three key points are integral to a successful TPM: 1. utilizing KM to assist the promotion of TPM; 2. having sufficient plans and communications in advance; 3. it is necessary to combine the activities with routine work. This study also provides some suggestions in creating systemic inducements, as well as carefully considering the idea of knowledge sharing.