

Autonomation (Automation with Human Touch)

Ohno said, Toyota Production System utilizes autonomation, or automation with human touch, rather than automation. Autonomation means transferring human intelligence to a machine. The concept originated with the auto-activated loom of Toyoda Sakichi. His invention was equipped with a device that automatically and immediately stopped the machine if the vertical or lateral threads broke or ran out. In other words, a device capable of making a judgment was built into the machine .

At Toyota, this concept is applied NOT only applied to the machinery but also to the production lines and the workers. In other words, if an abnormal situation arises, a worker is required to stop the line. Autonomation prevents the production of defective products, elimination of overproduction, and automatically stops abnormalities on the production line allowing the situation to be investigated. . It is just like our human nervous system that cause us to salivate when we see tasty food, accelerates our hearts date during exercise and performs other function to respond to external and internal change. These functions are performed unconsciously without any directive from the brain.

How is your 'nervous system,' are they functioning well?
If yes, why there were still customer rejection and complaint?



Sourced from Ohno's
TPS – Beyond Large
Scale of Production
Prepared by Mick Ng

Taiichi Ohno



- He was born on 29 Feb 1912 in Dairen (Port Arthur), Manchuria, China and passed away on 28 May 1990
- He joined Toyota on 1932 and created Toyota Production System which inspired by Kiichiro Toyoda (1894-1952), the founder of Toyota Motor and his father, Sakichi Toyoda (1867-1930) and with the help of Shigeo Shingo
- He was the first Executive Vice President outside the Toyota Family.
- Although retired from Toyota Motor in 1978 but he continued served as Chairman of Toyoda Spinning and Weaving.