Report Amano Enzyme Joins Chitose Group's MATSURI Project

Amano Enzyme is pleased to announce that it will be joining the MATSURI project, a collaborative project between companies organized by the Chitose Group, as an Industry Structuring Partner.

The Chitose Group is a family of biotechnology companies that are working in the fields of agriculture, medicine, food, energy, and chemistry, with the aim of leaving mankind with an environment in which they can live comfortably for over a thousand years. Led by the Chitose Group, the MATSURI project aims to build unprecedented "algae-based society", through the collaborative efforts of multiple companies from a diverse range of industries, regardless of social position or type of business.

Algae are known to be far more efficient at producing biomass such as oils and proteins through photosynthesis than plants on land. They also require less water to grow than agriculture and livestock, and can generally grow anywhere there is water and light. This opens up the possibility to effectively utilize land not suited to agriculture or abandoned former farmlands.

Cultured algae can be used to produce not only food, but also fuel, plastics, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and many other products that people use on a daily basis. By harnessing the potential of algae as a raw material, it will be possible to achieve a sustainable industrial society that is not reliant on finite fossil fuels. MATSURI is a project in which people from all walks of life come together, like a festival ("matsuri" in Japanese), to offer their own unique perspectives in the endeavor to construct an algae-based industry and build a world in which people may flourish and live freely for the next one thousand years.

In recognition of these ambitious goals, the MATSURI project has been chosen to receive continuous support for the next decade from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's Green Innovation (GI) Fund for R&D, proof-of-concepts, and actual implementation.

Since its establishment 120 years ago, Amano Enzyme has grown together with Japanese culture and traditions that take care of things and coexist with nature. We believe that these values we cherish relate to and are in line with the world that the MATSURI project aims to create. By utilizing the unique enzyme technology that we have cultivated over decades, we hope to contribute to the MATSURI project to build the sustainable, circular society — and new underlining industrial framework to support it — that mankind in the 21st century should seek to achieve.

