

June, 2012

**Yakult to Launch Space-Based Activities under  
Yakult Space Discovery Project**

Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (President: Takashige Negishi) hereby announces that the company will embark on research activities on the International Space Station ("ISS") in the aim of contributing to human health in the coming age of space. It will also undertake new social activities for children who will lead the space age, to promote their interest and awareness of life sciences.

The company collectively calls these activities the "Yakult Space Project – Yakult Space Discovery." The following are the details of the Project:

ヤクルト宇宙プロジェクト

**YAKULT SPACE DISCOVERY****1. Research Activities**

In outer space, astronauts are physically affected by a number of factors, such as stress arising from living in the non-terrestrial microgravity environment and confined space like a spaceship, as well as cosmic radiation circulating in the universe. These factors are likely to cause changes in their intestinal environment, which may result in intestinal microflora imbalances and a lowering of immunity.

To address this, Yakult participated in the "*Kibo* Utilization Forum" (an organization established by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency ("JAXA") to promote the utilization of "*Kibo*," the Japanese Experiment Module in the ISS) and organized the "Intestinal Environment Improvement Study Group" within the Forum.

The Study Group aims to verify, in outer space, the effects of taking lactic acid bacteria (e.g., improvement of intestinal environment, recovery and maintenance of immunity, etc.), which have been proved in the earth's environment.

As a pioneer in lactic acid bacteria research, the company is determined to leverage its expertise gained from years of intestinal flora research to contribute to human health from the perspective of preventive medicine—both now and in the space age to come.

## 2. Social Activities

With the launch of space-based research activities, Yakult will co-sponsor the "Cosmic College: the Discovery Kids Science Experiment," a science educational event for parents and children co-hosted by JAXA and the Discovery Channel (Discovery Japan, Inc., President: James Gibbons), the world's leading documentary television channel.

The event is designed for children in primary school from the 3rd to 6th grade and their parents to offer them opportunities to experience the fun of science through visual presentations and experiments concerning space and science.

Yakult is committed to the promotion of interest in life sciences among children who will lead the future space age and supporting their healthy growth. For this purpose, the company will engage in new social activities that explain to the children in a plain way the symbiotic relationship between humans and intestinal flora, the effects of lactic acid bacteria and the company's activities in outer space.