

April 2016

Completion of the New Yakult Central Institute

“A research institute surrounded by forest and water” for cutting-edge life science research

Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (President: Takashige Negishi) today announced that it has finished the series of works related to the construction of the Yakult Central Institute, its research and development base, with the official completion date set for April 15, 2016.

In 1967, Yakult Honsha established the Yakult Central Institute in Kunitachi, Tokyo, as its base for Microbiological research. Subsequently, the company added the Food Research Building and other facilities in the same premises from 2006 to 2010 to enhance its research and development capability. Starting in 2012, it built four new research buildings — Research Administration Building, Basic Research Building, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Research Building, Quality and Technical Development Building— equipped with the latest research equipment and facilities to enhance the research environment.

At the Yakult Central Institute, Yakult Honsha will accelerate its basic research on intestinal microbiota and probiotics as well as research for commercialization of food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the promotion of science and technology and the development of society through these research activities.

An overview of the new Yakult Central Institute is given below.



1. Profile of Yakult Central Institute

- (1) Address: Izumi 5-11, Kunitachi, Tokyo
- (2) Site area: 29,781.65 m²
- (3) Building area: 14,048.73 m²
- (4) Total floor area: 43,412.08 m²
- (5) Number of institute members: about 300 persons
- (6) Basic concept

“A research institute surrounded by forest and water”

The institute is surrounded by green-covered cliffs on the north side and a stream on the

south.

Yakult Honsha puts into practice its corporate slogan of “In order for people to be healthy, everything around them must also be healthy” by giving full attention to harmony with the surrounding environment and building “a highly environment-friendly research institute surrounded by forest and water.”

2. Overview of the newly constructed research building

(1) Research Administration Building (7 floors above ground, 1 below)

The building is occupied by the General Affairs and Research Management Department in charge of supervising and management of the research institute. It also houses the International Conference Hall, used for international research presentations, and the Shirota Memorial Museum that exhibits the accomplishments and personal history of Dr. Minoru Shirota, the founder of the company.



(2) Basic Research Building (5 floors above ground)

In this building, we carry out research to scientifically prove the relationship between intestinal microbiota and health as well as the idea that a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life. It also plays the role of supporting the foundation of probiotics research at the Institute.



(3) Food Research Building (5 floors above ground)

In this building, we search for beneficial microorganisms and functional food materials and evaluate their effectiveness. We also carry out applied research using biotechnology such as fermentation using lactic acid bacteria.



(4) Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Research Building (5 floors above ground)

Researchers at this building work on the development of pharmaceutical products with focus on the oncology field and Yakult’s proprietary development research of functional cosmetics utilizing effective microorganisms. It also houses the Analysis Center for contract-based analysis.



(5) Quality and Technical Development Building (3 floors above ground)

The building has a plant rooms for development of the technology involved in development research of food materials. It also houses the head office and quality control facilities of Yakult Pharmaceutical Industry Co., Ltd.



3. Overview of adjunct facilities

(1) International Conference Hall (from the first basement to the second floor of the Research Administration Building)

The hall has 320 seats and two booths for simultaneous interpretation. The company uses it as a forum for proactively deepening exchange with researchers in Japan and abroad in the field of science.



(2) Shirota Memorial Museum (the third floor of the Research Administration Building)

This facility introduces Dr. Shirota's childhood and the history of Yakult as well as the spread of Shirota-ism throughout the world.

The Shirota Memorial Museum will open to the public in late July 2016. The details of how to apply for a tour will be posted on the company website at a later date.

