Delivering the blessings of probiotics
to customers with sincerity

Probiotics are living microorganisms that have a beneficial effect on humans.
Since its founding, Yakult, motivated by its passion to deliver good health to as 
many people as possible, has been pursuing the great hidden potential of small 
natural life forms invisible to the eye.
As a result of that pursuit, we have created Yakult and a wide range of food, 
cosmetic and pharmaceutical products.
Today, customers around the world use our products that contribute to the 
health and happiness of people.
Message from the President

Yakult — Contributing to the Health of People Around the World

President and Representative Director Takashige Negishi

Yakult founder Minoru Shirota, M.D., Ph.D. devoted his life to the research of preventive medicine. His goal was to contribute to the health of as many people as possible and he believed that the emphasis should be placed on preventing illnesses, rather than on treating illness once it develops. After many years of research, Dr. Shirota was successful in strengthening and culturing *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota, a strain of lactic acid bacteria that can reach the intestines alive and produce beneficial effects. This was in 1930, when the word probiotic did not yet exist.

It has been about 90 years since Dr. Shirota’s discovery and Yakult has continued to develop its business based on the philosophy of contributing to the health of people through pursuit of excellence in life science in general and our research and experience in microorganisms in particular. Yakult now operates in 38 countries and regions around the world, including Japan, with over 35 million of the company’s dairy products consumed each day.

We treasure the passionate spirit of our founding and without compromising remain committed to developing our business with the future in mind. Our new world-class Yakult Central Institute, which serves as the base for our pursuit of excellence in life science, was completed last year after about ten years of construction work. In addition, reorganization and upgrades, as well as new construction and renovations are nearly complete at our production facilities, which form the company’s foundation in safety and peace of mind.

In the food and beverages business, we continue to develop new products while diversifying our product lineup. As we further diversify operations, we are steadily strengthening our cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and baseball team businesses. We also note that management at Yakult maintains a high degree of transparency and has won strong praise for its corporate governance and stance on compliance.

Our goal is to contribute to the health of people around the world and we aim to become a well-respected and loved company that never flags in its efforts to be of benefit to people and society. We will continue in our efforts to make new breakthroughs in a variety of fields in the days and years ahead.
Minoru Shirota, who was the founder of Yakult and a doctor of medicine, began his medical studies at Kyoto Imperial University (now Kyoto University) in 1921. Around that time, Japan was still not prosperous, and so unsanitary conditions and malnutrition caused many people to die of infectious diseases, such as cholera and dysentery.

Disturbed by that reality, Dr. Shirota aspired to advance preventive medicine, which aims to help people avoid sickness, and started down the path of microorganism research. In his research, he discovered that lactic acid bacteria suppress harmful bacteria in the intestines. In 1930, he succeeded in strengthening and culturing a strain of lactic acid bacteria that can survive digestive juices, such as gastric fluid and bile, reach the intestines alive, and produce beneficial effects. This strain is now known as Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota.

Dr. Shirota then developed an inexpensive, good-tasting beverage, together with volunteers, so that as many people as possible could benefit from this lactobacillus, and released it under the trademark Yakult in 1935.

This was the beginning of the history of Yakult, which is now popular around the world.

Dr. Shirota proposed three ideas, including “preventive medicine;” “a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life,” which stresses that strengthening the intestines, the place where nutrients are absorbed into the body, leads to a healthy and long life; and “a price anyone can afford.”

We call these ideas Shirota-ism and they serve as the root of all our business activities.

In addition, Yakult delivers products directly to customers at their homes and other locations. This approach is rooted in Shirota’s philosophy of emphasizing “sincerity” and “harmony among people.” We deliver products with sincerity while conveying the ideas of “preventive medicine” and “a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life.”

The passion of our founder has been handed down till today, without being swayed by the changing times.

Minoru Shirota, M.D., Ph.D.

Former Chairman of Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. and Director of the Yakult Central Institute

1899 Born in Iida-shi, Nagano Prefecture, Japan.
1921 Entered the Medical School of Kyoto Imperial University.
1930 Received the degree of Doctor of Medicine.
1931 Obtained a license to practice medicine.

Dedicating his life to the study of intestinal bacteria and the promotion of preventive medicine, Dr. Shirota passed away at the age of 82 in 1982.

Yakult created through the pursuit for a disease-resistant body

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All of our business activities originate from Shirota-ism

Preventive medicine
Emphasis should be placed on preventing illness, rather than on treating illness once it develops.

A healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life
Human beings take in nutrition through their intestines. Making the intestines strong leads to healthy and long lives.

A price anyone can afford
The goal of providing Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota, which protects the intestines, to as many people as possible at an affordable price.

Shirota-ism, in addition to the above also includes ideas like “sincerity,” “harmony among people,” “honesty and kindness,” “caring enough to broaden acceptance,” and “caring enough to make home deliveries” as timeless and fundamental aspects of our business activities.
Yakult began with the passion of Dr. Minoru Shirota, who pursued preventive medicine. With the passionate desire of our founder passed down into each of our businesses, we will continue to contribute to the health and happiness of people.

Expanding our business range and presence to help people around the world lead a healthy life

Yakult has expanded its product lineup to include fermented milk drinks and other foods and beverages, cosmetics for realizing healthy skin with the power of lactic acid bacteria, and pharmaceutical products mainly in the field of cancer. At present, we conduct research in pursuit of excellence in life science, develop products based on that research, manufacture products under advanced quality management, deliver products to customers at their homes and other locations via Yakult Ladies, and sell products at stores. These operations have expanded globally beyond the borders of Japan.

Aiming to further microbiological research and life science, we will continue to deliver good health

Now, a look to the future. Yakult, in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), a National Research Development Agency, is currently undertaking research on the International Space Station (ISS).

The aim of this research is to contribute to the health of astronauts and maintain and raise their performance by scientifically verifying the effects on immune function and intestinal environment of the continuous intake of probiotic (Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota) on ISS. Another aim is to link the knowledge gained from this collaborative research to the development of probiotic research on the ground while establishing probiotics as the “ultimate preventive medicine” and contributing to the health promotion of people living on earth.

Yakult will continue to honor its roots in Shirota-ism and its corporate philosophy of “We contribute to the health and happiness of people around the world through pursuit of excellence in life science in general and our research and experience in microorganisms in particular” and deliver the irreplaceable joy of good health to people around the world.
Dedicated to science ——
Opening up the possibilities of probiotics

Since its founding, Yakult has accumulated a vast store of knowledge on the profound world of microorganisms. In an enriched research environment, we will conduct more advanced research and create products that contribute more than ever to the health and happiness of customers.

Linking research in life science to human health, with a focus on microorganisms

The Yakult Central Institute is the nerve center of Yakult’s R&D operations. As a leading-edge research facility in the field of probiotics, the Institute conducts research on beneficial microorganisms that can support and improve human health and aid in recovery, with a focus on research on intestinal microbiota that is grounded in the principles of preventive medicine and a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life.

The fruits of this research lead to the development of ingredients for food and beverages, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. In the field of food and beverages, the Institute conducts R&D for the benefit of human health, drawing on the extraordinary powers of microorganisms. In cosmetics, the Institute develops highly safe, effective ingredients based on dermatology, while in pharmaceuticals, the Institute is engaged in research to develop anticancer drugs and drugs related to cancer treatment.

Explanation of Terms

Probiotics
Microorganisms that benefit people by improving the balance of intestinal microbiota.
**Advanced Research Facility**

Leading in efforts to further microbiological research, and creating opportunities for communication

The Yakult Central Institute has seven buildings (Research Administration Building, Basic Research Building, Food Research Building, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Research Building, Quality and Technical Development Building, Common Use Facility Building, and Energy Supply Building) with advanced research equipment and facilities. In addition, the Research Administration Building houses the International Conference Hall with a seating capacity of 320, and the Shirota Memorial Museum, which promotes a deeper understanding about founder Dr. Minoru Shirota and Yakult.

In this enriched environment, we conduct a wide range of research including basic research, applied research targeting food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical products, and an analysis business engaged in safety-conscious production and environmental protection. In addition, we are creating a forum for lively communication with researchers and customers from Japan and abroad and contributing to the development of science, technology, and society.

**Overseas Research Facility**

Investigating the benefits of probiotics in Europe

The focus of research efforts at the Yakult Honsha European Research Center (YHER) in Ghent, Belgium is to determine what kind of action probiotics have on the health maintenance of people in Europe. By accumulating this data, Yakult aims to establish a research base that can deploy operations worldwide.
Years of research have shown that lactic acid bacteria are beneficial in many ways. The probiotic *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota is a case in point. Intake of this strain has been demonstrated to reduce the risk of cancer by regulating immunity in the body, such as through maintenance and restoration of NK activity, which plays a vital role in immunity, and by ridding the body of harmful mutagens and other actions. Reductions in the risk of bladder, colon and breast cancer, among others, have been verified. *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota is also known to be effective in reducing the incidence and mitigating the symptoms of infectious diseases, such as infectious gastroenteritis caused by acute infantile diarrhea and norovirus infection.

Research on Intestinal Microbiota

Elucidation of the true state of intestinal microbiota

We have produced many results in our research on intestinal microbiota. The Institute was the first in the world to demonstrate that the bifidobacteria present in the intestines of newborns are transmitted from the mother. The Institute also demonstrated that segmented filamentous bacteria (SFB), which are intestinal bacteria present in a wide range of mammals, are involved in the induction of Th17 cells, a type of T cell that plays an important role in the immune system.

Yakult also developed YIF-SCAN®, a system that enables highly efficient analysis of intestinal microbiota®. Based on genetic sequences unique to each species of intestinal microbiota, YIF-SCAN® selectively quantifies the bacteria, enabling rapid, highly precise analysis of a wide range of bacteria, from highly populous bacteria to those relatively few in number.

**Definition of Terms**

**NK activity**

Natural killer (NK) cells work on the front line of the immune system for protecting the body from pathogens, viruses, and cancer, etc. NK activity refers to the intensity of the performance of NK cells, and it is nowadays recognized as a barometer of immunity.
Our development division develops products by utilizing new food ingredients whose safety has been confirmed after basic and applied research. We also conduct technological development tests for actual manufacturing in the aim of establishing efficient, stable manufacturing technologies and conduct research for assuring product quality.

We are working hard to establish technology that will reduce our environmental impact by such measures as reducing usage volume and waste of packaging material for products. One example of this is our use in New Yakult, New Yakult Calorie Half, and Yakult Gold of a polystyrene shrink label of 20µm thickness that is more than 20% thinner than our previous labels.

Linking accomplishments in basic research and commercialization research to product development

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Activities of the Analytical Science Department

Contributing to the creation of high-quality products and environmental improvement by utilizing technology developed over many years

The Analytical Science Department engages in technological development for chemical analysis and microorganism analysis regarding foods, biological bodies, the environment, etc. These technologies are used for verifying safety of products, as well as environmental measurements and tests requested by outside organizations. In 1976, we received government approval as an analyzing and testing organization, and in 2016, we obtained ISO17025 certified testing establishment*, an international standard that shows a laboratory’s technical capability.

*certification scope: VOC testing for tap water using HS-GC/MS

Prebiotics

Food ingredients that satisfy each of the following conditions:
1) They are not broken down and absorbed in the upper digestive tract.
2) They serve as a source of nutrition for beneficial bacteria living symbiotically in the intestine, promoting their proliferation.
3) They improve and maintain a healthy balance in the composition of intestinal microbiota in the intestine.
4) They play a role in improving and maintaining human health. Some oligosaccharides and dietary fiber are known to be prebiotics.

Intestinal microbiota

The complex microbial ecosystem composed of the microbes that inhabit the human intestines. The human intestinal tract harbors a thousand species of bacteria, numbering some 100 trillion individual organisms.
Pursuing the production of products that are safe, offer peace of mind, and are of high quality

Yakult produces dairy, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical products at our own plants.

High quality is realized.

By ensuring safety, peace of mind, and high quality, we are enhancing the reliability of our products.

For Highly Reliable Production and Protection of the Environment

Each plant has acquired the certification or introduced the system listed below, and is working hard to improve product quality and produce products in an environmentally-friendly manner.

- **ISO 9001**: International product quality management system certification. A quality management system standard whose aim is to maintain and improve product quality. It specifies requirements regarding principles for the operation of an organization that conducts quality management, as well as methods for production and other tasks.

- **ISO 14001**: International certification for systems aimed at continuous improvement in environmental performance. An environmental management system standard whose aim is to minimize the effects of a corporation’s activities on the environment. It stipulates that each organization should adopt the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, and Act) cycle for continuous improvement and set their own goals and objectives.
To improve product quality and ensure that customers can consume them with peace of mind, Yakult’s plants have created and abide by their own unique quality control standards that integrate both HACCP and ISO 9001. In addition, safety is stringently checked with machine and human eyes.

Yakult’s unique quality standards are also instituted in the production process. In the case of Yakult 400, they number in excess of 150 items.

**Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Disassembling and washing parts, and checking their condition with our hands and eyes

At Yakult’s plants, after being used machinery and pipes are disassembled into smaller parts and washed by hand every day. We check with our hands and eyes to ensure that everything has been washed and that there are no abnormalities such as scratches. We always clean and disinfect with meticulous care to maintain clean and hygienic conditions.

**Commitment to Quality Standards**

With meticulous checks, we provide highly reliable products to our customers

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Shonan Cosmetics Plant manufactures high-quality cosmetics containing moisturizing agents derived from lactic acid bacteria. We also produce our original moisturizing agents here, including S.E. (Shirota Essence) and a high molecular weight hyaluronic acid, and add them to our products. We carry out production under rigorous control while putting importance on visual inspections and adjustments by plant workers, and ship only the products whose quality and safety have been confirmed.

In the Beautiens Salon set up in the plant, we hold experiential plant tours for visitors.

Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant produces pharmaceutical products, such as Elplat, which is an anticancer drug used globally for treating colon cancer, etc., and Campto, which is an anticancer drug developed by Yakult. This Plant, which is inspected by foreign government officials, has developed advanced production systems that follow the strict Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP = Manufacturing and quality management standards for pharmaceuticals and other products) in Japan, the U.S., and Europe, and engages in the production of safe, high-quality pharmaceutical products.

Under the slogan “See the safety of our plants by taking a tour!” we are accepting customer visits at our dairy and cosmetic plants. We are enhancing our tour facilities with the goal of turning them into plants where customers can see for themselves how are products are made, and we attract about 250,000 visitors each year.
Nationwide Plants

With 12 plants in Japan (as of the end of June 2017), Yakult delivers safe products that offer peace of mind nationwide. Yakult’s plant network comprises Honsha plants and bottling companies.

Honsha plants (Dairy Products: 5, Cosmetics: 1, Pharmaceuticals: 1)
Manufacture fermented milk products, such as Joie, Mil-Mil and Sofuhl, and types of concentrated Yakult, such as Yakult 400 and New Yakult. There are also plants that produce cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Bottling companies (5)
Fill plastic containers with concentrated product manufactured at the Honsha plants and produce Yakult 400, New Yakult and other products.

Yakult Okayama Wake Plant Co., Ltd. (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Yakult Fukushima Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Ibaraki Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Yakult Okayama Wake Plant Co., Ltd. (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Yakult Iwate Plant Co., Ltd. (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Fukushima Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Ibaraki Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Yakult Chiba Plant Co., Ltd. (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Shonan Cosmetics Plant (ISO14001)
Yakult Aichi Plant Co., Ltd. (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Fuji Susono Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Saga Plant (ISO9001, ISO14001, HACCP)
Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant (ISO14001)
Meeting health needs with dairy products and various beverages

Yakult offers dairy products containing probiotics, such as *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota and *Bifidobacterium breve* strain Yakult, and functional foods and beverages developed through the pursuit of health benefits.

Yakult delivers good health to customers from these two product perspectives.

Benefits of *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota and *Bifidobacterium breve* strain Yakult

Promotion of Healthier Intestinal Activity and Improvement of Stool Condition

*Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota produces lactic acid, while *Bifidobacterium breve* strain Yakult produces lactic and acetic acids. These acids stimulate the intestines, and enhance bowel movements.

Prevention of Proliferation of Harmful Bacteria Inside the Intestines

Lactic and acetic acids produced by *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota and *Bifidobacterium breve* strain Yakult prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying.

Prevention of Intestinal Putrefaction by Inhibiting Production of Harmful Substances

When the activities of harmful bacteria are curtailed, harmful substances decrease, and intestinal putrefaction can be avoided.
Offering Customers a Wide Range of Dairy Products with Proprietary Probiotics

Based on the principles of “preventive medicine” and “a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life,” Yakult offers customers fermented milk drinks and fermented milks that were developed using Yakult’s unique portfolio of probiotics, including *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota and *Bifidobacterium breve* strain Yakult.

The concept of probiotics, or the use of microorganisms that have beneficial actions in the intestines to maintain and improve health, has gained widespread acceptance around the world in recent years. Yakult has long embodied this approach through its pursuit of “preventive medicine” and “a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life.” Going forward, Yakult will continue to explore the possibilities of probiotics. Broadening our focus from the intestines to the entire body, we will continue to contribute to the health and happiness of our customers.

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**About Food with Health Claims**

- **Foods for Specified Health Uses**: Food products whose effects on maintaining and improving health have been scientifically verified and have been permitted to make health claims. The Japanese government evaluates the effects and safety of each product and authorizes the claims.
- **Foods with Nutrient Function Claims**: Food products intended for use as a nutritional supplement (vitamins, minerals, etc.) as long as it is in accordance with criteria and wording specified by the government, functionality claims can be made without submitting an application.
- **Foods with Function Claims**: Food products that display functionality claims based on scientific evidence and under the responsibility of the business operator. Before release, information on their safety, functionality, etc., is submitted to the government. However, they do not receive authorization from the government.
Lineup of products containing *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota

**Yakult 400**
Contains 40 billion *L. casei* strain Shirota per bottle (80ml).

**Yakult 400LT**
Reduced sweetness and fewer calories compared with Yakult 400.

**New Yakult**
Contains 20 billion *L. casei* strain Shirota per bottle (65ml).

50% fewer calories and sugar than New Yakult.

**Yakult Gold**
High-value-added Yakult incorporating glucosamine, royal jelly and calcium.

**Yakult Ace**
Contains 30 billion *L. casei* strain Shirota per bottle (80ml), as well as minerals (iron and calcium) and vitamins C and D.

**Pretio**
Contains GABA (γ-aminobutyric acid) For those who are concerned about high-blood pressure.

**Mainichi Nomu Yakult**
Contains 30 billion *L. casei* strain Shirota per bottle (100ml). Ideal for business people, with moderate sweetness and zero fat.

**Joie (Yogurt cup)**
The appeal of Joie in a spoonable yogurt version.

**Sofuhl**
Dessert yogurt containing *L. casei* strain Shirota.

**Sofuhl Genki Yogurt**
Yogurt with iron and calcium.

**BF-1**
Contains *B. bifidum*, which works in the stomach.

**Mil-Mil**
Contains more than 12 billion *B. breve* strain Yakult per bottle (100ml).

**Mil-Mil S**
Includes galacto-oligosaccharides and dietary fiber.

**Nyusankin Soy α**
*L. casei* strain Shirota and soy isoflavones can be taken in with a single product.

**Lineup of products containing Bifidobacteria**

*: Food for Specified Health Uses: Joie – plain only. Sofuhl – not including certain limited-time-only products.
**: Available at Seven & i Group stores nationwide.
Supporting Modern People’s Health with Functional Beverages

In functional beverages other than dairy products, Yakult applies the same principles of preventive medicine to develop a steady stream of products. These products respond to health concerns typical of modern consumers, such as lifestyle diseases and vegetable-poor diets. Today Yakult offers an incredible lineup of products. These include the Toughman series of nutritional drinks, the Food for Specified Health Uses approved Bansoreicha series of teas with guava-leaf polyphenols that suppress sugar absorption, and the Milouge series.

Yakult will continue to develop and furnish customers with products that offer good health from every angle. We are proud to offer functional beverages that closely match the needs of today’s people.

Lineup of Functional Beverages and Foods

- **Bansoreicha**
  - A genuine vinegar drink containing galacto-oligosaccharides.
  - Suppresses the absorption of sugar. For those who are concerned about blood sugar levels.

- **Milouge series**
  - Lactic beverages with a refreshing flavor.

- **Kurozu Drink**
  - A genuine vinegar drink containing galacto-oligosaccharides.

- **Toughman series**
  - Contains Korean ginseng. An energy drink staple.

- **Chosei Tonyu Kokusandaizu Shiyo**
  - For those who are concerned about cholesterol.

- **CHOBi**
  - Contains collagen and vitamin C.
  - For women who never want to stop shining.

- **Gyutto Kenko series**
  - Delicious ways of taking ingredients that play a role in solving health issues.

- **Gokugoku Nomuru Omugi Wakaba**
  - A shiso leaf drink that is easy to drink with less of the characteristic grassy taste.
Delivering products with sincerity and a smile

Yakult Ladies play a significant role for making the concepts of preventive medicine and a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life a realization.

Yakult Ladies deliver products to customers by hand in each region of Japan with the sincere wish for their good health.

**Home Delivery Activities**

From within a relationship of trust, Yakult Ladies explain the value of lactic acid bacteria and contribute to people’s health

Yakult Ladies visit customers with a smile and deliver products with sincerity. Home delivery by Yakult Ladies began in 1963 with the introduction of the Yakult Lady System, a distribution method unique to Yakult. Based at 2,500 “centers” (sales offices) across Japan, some 35,600 Yakult Ladies are active nationwide (as of March 31, 2017), building on strong roots in their respective communities.

Based on assured relationships of trust, Yakult Ladies help customers understand the value of lactic acid bacteria, ensuring their continued enjoyment of the products they deliver. In this way, they help contribute to the health of the customers in their respective regions.

**Activities of Yakult Ladies**

To be trusted by customers as a local health advisor

Yakult Ladies deliver not only products but health information as well, aiming to earn the trust of customers as their “local health advisors.” To this end, the Yakult Ladies participate in training programs provided by staff of the Yakult Central Institute and continually improve their knowledge by reading company newsletters, magazines, and training materials.

With respect to quality control, Yakult uses special home delivery boxes that allow for rigorous temperature control. In these and other ways, Yakult works hard to provide customers with products they can use with peace of mind.
A healthy life for as many people as possible

So that customers can have access to our products anytime and anywhere in their day-to-day life, we are expanding into various markets and provide a broad range of opportunities to deepen understanding of our products.

Direct Sales Activities

Stores, vending machines, and meal services – Delivering products through a wide range of channels

Defining all sales modes, other than home delivery, as direct sales, Yakult makes its products available through supermarkets, convenience stores, and other everyday shopping destinations that customers frequent. Yakult also commits resources to sales through vending machines. These machines provide a lineup of products that only Yakult can offer, including juices, dairy products, and other beverages.

To have people in every age group use its products, from young children to the elderly, Yakult provides products to schools as well as medical and nursing-care facilities.

Field staff
Staff who visit stores and offer proposals on introducing products and promoting sales.

Promotional staff
Staff who promote sales through sampling activities, based on assured knowledge of Yakult products and health matters.

Building the Customer Base

Implementing various promotional campaigns so that customers consume our beverages with a deep understanding

To ensure that customers continue to understand the unique benefits of Yakult and enjoy our products, Yakult field staff* offer proposals for the creation of sales spaces at stores and provide a wide range of information. Promotional staff* introduce our products directly to customers and provide them with information on health.

Furthermore, we hold promotional events, mainly at larger stores, using videos, quizzes, and other tools to try to deepen customers’ understanding of the importance of intestinal health and the functions of lactic acid bacteria.

Explanation of Terms

*Field staff Promotional staff
Staff who visit stores and offer proposals on introducing products and promoting sales.
Staff who promote sales through sampling activities, based on assured knowledge of Yakult products and health matters.
Cosmetics

Putting the power of lactic acid bacteria to work for the skin

Through its investigations of the action of lactic acid bacteria, Yakult has developed unique moisturizing ingredients that promote healthy skin. Yakult proudly delivers cosmetics incorporating these high-quality ingredients under the Yakult Beautiens brand. We will continue working to protect the health of the skin, body, and mind, and discover new powers of lactic acid bacteria.

The Founding Principles of Yakult’s Cosmetics Business

"Internal and external beauty" and "Intestinal health is a direct factor in producing beautiful, healthy skin"

S.E. (Shirota Essence)*
This original skincare ingredient from Yakult is obtained by fermenting ingredients using lactic acid bacteria. This extract moisturizes and maintains the skin’s mild acidity.

*Extract from the fermentation of lactic acid bacteria and milk. Ingredient name: whey (2).

High molecular weight hyaluronic acid
This original hyaluronic acid from Yakult is an extract from lactic acid bacteria with powerful moisturizing action. Its high molecular weight and purity enable it to capture significant volumes of moisture.

Regulate the conditions of the intestinal tract and the inside of the body with Yakult fermented milk drinks

Protect the health of the skin and the outside of the body with Yakult cosmetics
Developing original moisturizing agents derived from lactic acid bacteria, and delivering in-house produced cosmetics to customers

Yakult’s involvement with cosmetics began when the Company’s founder, medical doctor Minoru Shirota, turned his attention to the action of lactic acid bacteria in protecting the skin and mucous membranes. Guided by the insight that lactic acid bacteria beneficial to the (inner) body are beneficial to the skin as well, Shirota immersed himself in research. In 1955, Shirota developed S.E. (Shirota Essence)**, a fermented lactic acid bacteria extract for skincare. Later, Yakult developed other original ingredients made from lactic acid bacteria, including high molecular weight hyaluronic acid*** and fermented bifidobacteria extract (from soy)***. Yakult has also developed lamellar particles***, focusing on the structure of the skin. Through efforts such as these, Yakult continues to investigate tirelessly the properties of lactic acid bacteria and the skin.

These cosmetics are unique in that they are developed by Yakult and produced at Yakult plants. To ensure that customers understand the value of our cosmetics and choose items best suited to their skin condition, the cosmetics are delivered by Yakult Beauty Advisors and Yakult Ladies, in the same way as our drinks.

*All moisturizing ingredients

Yakult Beauty Advisor Activities

Along with our products, Yakult Beauty Advisors deliver careful counseling and a sincere commitment to beauty

Yakult Beauty Advisors are beauty professionals who deliver Yakult cosmetics to customers and help support the health of their skin. After listening carefully and fully to understand customers’ skin conditions and concerns, Yakult Beauty Advisors propose cosmetics and offer beauty advice that meets their needs. Yakult Beauty Advisors also provide facial treatments at some 500 beauty salons throughout Japan.

Leading Series from Yakult Beautiens

Lactdew Series

Moisturizing skin using the power of lactic acid bacteria

This Series enables even first-time users of Yakult cosmetics to experience the moisturizing power derived from lactic acid bacteria. Customers can choose from the fresh, mild sensation of a lotion or the powerful skin moisturizing action of a hyaluron gel.

Revecy Series

For bringing out the skin's potential and maintaining its health

The Revecy Series was born from a desire to support healthy, trouble-free skin. In addition to three original moisturizing agents derived from lactic acid bacteria, it contains three original moisturizing agents derived from lactic acid bacteria and original moisturizing agents derived from plants. The Series serves a range of needs, from basic care to special treatments.

Parabio Series

Moisturized skin through aging control

This Series is a favorite with our customers for its full-fledged aging control*. Original moisturizing ingredients include lamellar particles for tighter pores, a healthier radiance, and greater elasticity.

*Skin care tailored to the needs of each age group.

Fermented bifidobacteria extract (from soy)

High-quality soy (soy milk) is fermented using bifidobacteria to create an original ingredient with activated isoflavones. For fresh, firm skin.

Lamellar particles

Lamellar particles closely resemble the structure of the intercellular lipids in the keratinous layer of the skin. These particles give the skin tighter pores, a healthier radiance, and greater elasticity, and help keep the skin moist and healthy.
As a global oncology company

Yakult, which has conducted its business under the concept of preventive medicine, has expanded its business fields to include therapeutic medicine and it has received wide recognition around the world in the field of anticancer drugs. Pharmaceutical products developed by Yakult are utilized by medical professionals around the world.

Offering prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, quasi-drugs, and medical devices

The pharmaceutical business of Yakult began when it started producing and selling products such as enzymes for food and pharmaceuticals in 1961. In 1967, we started selling prescription drugs, and later released non-prescription drugs, quasi-drugs, medical devices, and reagents, etc.

At present, we are especially concentrating on the field of oncology*. We sell drugs that positively impact the lives of patients with cancer at many medical institutions inside and outside Japan, including the anticancer drug Elplat I.V. Infusion (Oxaliplatin), which has been approved as a first-line treatment for colorectal cancer in over 100 countries, and Campto Infusion Solution (Irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate) developed by Yakult.

As for non-prescription drugs, we handle products developed through probiotics research, including the lactobacillus preparation Yakult BL Seichoyaku (now a quasi-drug), which was developed using Bifidobacterium breve strain Yakult and Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota.

Yakult is committed to expanding its pharmaceutical business activities with a focus on cancer and related fields by developing new anticancer drugs and generic pharmaceuticals, and exploring new areas such as molecular-targeted drugs and antibody preparations. Yakult will continue to contribute to the health and happiness of people around the world from the aspect of therapeutic medicine.

*Explanation of Terms

Oncology
A branch of medicine that deals with cancers.

Adjuvant treatment
Treatment method where anticancer drugs are administered after surgery to prevent recurrence and aims to cure the cancer.
Yakult provides comprehensive support on the front lines of cancer treatment through the provision of anticancer drugs and related pharmaceuticals

*Elplat* and *Campto* are used on the front lines of cancer treatment as anticancer drugs critical to the treatment of colon cancer. As the provider of these two drugs, Yakult has earned a sterling reputation in Japan and worldwide for its achievements in the field of gastrointestinal cancers.

*Elplat* was synthesized in Japan in 1976 and subsequently developed in Europe. In Japan, Yakult handled the development, obtaining marketing authorization in March 2005 and launching sales in Japan in April of the same year. In 2009, its use as an adjuvant treatment for colon cancer was added to its list of indications. We widened the application of *Elplat* in the treatment of pancreatic cancer in combination with *Campto* and other drugs in 2013. Since we obtained approval for an advanced/recurrent gastric cancer indication in March 2015 and an adjuvant treatment for stomach cancer indication in November 2015, in combination the indication became stomach cancer.

Yakult developed *Campto* as an original product in 1983. In Japan it is used widely as a treatment for colon, lung, ovarian, uterine, cervical, and gastric cancers, among others. Like *Elplat*, *Campto* was approved for use in the treatment of pancreatic cancer in combination with other drugs.

In addition, Yakult sells generic drugs including *Gemcitabine for I.V. Infusion Yakult*, *Cisplatin I.V. Infusion MARUKO*, *Imatinib Tablets Yakult*, and *Docetaxel I.V. Infusion Yakult*. Yakult also offers a range of drugs in fields associated with cancer, such as *Levofolinate for I.V. Infusion Yakult*, which reinforces the action of anticancer drugs, and *Zoledronic Acid for I.V. Infusion Yakult*, which reduces bone pain caused by the spread of cancer to the bone and multiple myeloma and also prevents fractures.

Yakult provides a wide range of information, to spread the adoption of standard treatments that will lead to an improvement in the quality of medical care

In order for every patient to receive medical services that are fair and of higher quality, it is important to disseminate standard treatments that grow out of accumulated evidence (scientific basis). Yakult offers information to a broad range of people, including medical professionals, from various aspects.

Some 170 Yakult medical representatives (MRs), possessing high levels of specialized knowledge, visit the front lines of medicine. These MRs not only introduce Yakult products but also disseminate information on various treatments. Our Customer Service and Product Inquiries Office, opened in 2009, responds to inquiries from medical professionals and patients alike. We also sponsor symposiums, where participants can gather the latest information on the status of standard treatments around the world.

Yakult disseminates information to patients and their families to help them acquire a deeper understanding and knowledge about disease and treatment through easy-to-understand patient information pamphlets and websites.

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**Efforts in the Oncology Field**

*Campto*  
*Elplat*

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**Providing Information**

**Yakult**

*Yakult* provides a wide range of information, to spread the adoption of standard treatments that will lead to an improvement in the quality of medical care

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International Business

Health and happiness for people around the world

Yakult, first created in Japan, is now popular in countries and regions throughout the world. We will continue delivering good health to as many people as possible, with the basic philosophy of local production and local sales.

Half a century has passed since we embarked on our overseas expansion, and today our network covers 38 countries and regions

Yakult began its overseas expansion in 1964, guided by founder Minoru Shirota’s vision of “protecting the health of people around the world.” Beginning with Yakult Taiwan Co., Ltd., Yakult soon expanded its network throughout Asia, Oceania, the Americas and Europe. Today Yakult conducts sales in 38 countries and regions including Japan, and operates 28 overseas business locations. Outside Japan, over 45,800 Yakult Ladies deliver products to customers, some 639,600 stores handle our products, and approximately 28 million Yakult dairy products are consumed per day. (As of December 31, 2016. Number of Yakult dairy products consumed per day: Average for 2016)

Going forward, Yakult will continue to work to convey the value of Yakult probiotic drinks to people around the world. We are steadily widening the ring of Yakult consumers, continually pursuing the achievement of our mission to contribute to the health and happiness of people around the world.
Promotional Activities

Aiming to contribute to better health as a leader in probiotics

We believe that people worldwide have a common desire for good health. We also believe that preventive medicine and a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life are ideas that resonate around the world.

Yakult aims to deepen people’s understanding of *Lactobacillus casei* strain Shirota, with which we aim to make the concepts of preventive medicine and a healthy intestinal tract leads to a long life a realization, and have as many people as possible continue to regularly consume it. With that hope, we are conducting activities to convey its value through home delivery, store sales, and other channels where we can come in contact with customers. We also actively gather evidence of the action of probiotics in supporting people’s health, and provide health information according to the lifestyles and dietary habits of each country and region.

Local Production and Local Sales

Becoming a company that is loved and trusted irrespective of national borders

Yakult aims to be loved in the local community and to bring high-quality products to customers everywhere.

Yakult is proud of its local focus, creating production and sales environments and training personnel with strong roots in each community. This principle guides us as we establish plants and offices around the world. We also deploy our unique sales system of home delivery by Yakult Ladies to countries and regions worldwide.

Expanding our local production framework

To supply customers around the world with dairy products of the highest quality, Yakult is steadily expanding its local production capabilities.

**Newly opened production facilities**

- August 2011: Tianjin Plant in China.
- March 2013: Third production facility at Lorena Plant in Brazil.
- March 2014: Second plant in Guangzhou, China.
- May 2014: California Plant in the United States.
- June 2014: Second production facility at Tianjin Plant in China.
- October 2014: New production facility at Zhongji Plant in Taiwan.
- June 2015: Wuxi Plant in China.
Yakult, a Global Brand That is Loved Worldwide

Under the slogan of “Propagate the message of Yakult, and spread the joy of health,” Yakult is actively working to convey the value of probiotics to people around the world and advance the globalization of its operations.
Available in 38 countries and regions.

*Content varies depending on country and region.
Towards coexistence with the global environment and society

Yakult, which hopes for the health of people as well as the earth, promotes a broad range of activities for fulfilling CSR (corporate social responsibilities), with the basic policy of “All of us in the Yakult Group will strive through corporate activities based on our corporate philosophy to earn the trust of all the Group’s stakeholders and promote mutually beneficial relationships with all stakeholders.”

Measures to Ensure Trust
To Promote Transparent, Sound Corporate Management

Corporate Governance

The Yakult Group’s basic approach to corporate governance is “devote thorough efforts to steady business development centered on core business operations and strive to maintain a sound financial position by promoting highly transparent management functions.” Our aim is to enhance society’s trust in us as a business and bolster the value of our brand, gaining the high regard of all stakeholders and developing in a sustainable manner.

We have taken a number of specific measures to improve our corporate governance functions still further. First, we have strengthened the decision-making and supervisory functions of the Board of Directors. Second, we have clarified the lines of responsibility in the execution of business matters. Finally, to raise the efficiency of each of these functions, Yakult has introduced a system of executive officers. To raise the efficiency of management activities and speed up decision-making processes, Yakult has established a Management Policy Council. This council is composed of representative directors, division heads and statutory auditors. We have also created an Executive Officers Committee, composed of executive officers and statutory auditors.

Compliance

To provide criteria for correct action in business activities, Yakult has established the Yakult Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct. Yakult continually updates them to ensure their effectiveness with the changing times, and circulates them actively among all employees of the Yakult Group.

In organizational terms, a compliance officer is appointed for each department and business location. This officer is tasked with verifying that daily operations are conducted in an appropriate manner. Yakult has established other bodies for specific purposes. A Compliance Committee, composed of outside experts, surveys overall corporate activities from a compliance perspective, offering opinions and suggestions on a wide range of issues. In addition, a Corporate Ethics Committee, composed of mainly outside experts, strengthens activities to eliminate influences from anti-social forces and reinforces monitoring for that purpose.

Corporate governance system of Yakult Honsha

Shareholders/General Shareholders’ Meeting

Audit & Supervisory Board Members / Audit & Supervisory Board
Coordination
Auditing Department (Internal Audit Department)

Withing the Company

Board of Directors
Representative Directors
Management Policy Council
Executive Officers Committee
Business Execution (All Divisions)
Legal Department (Compliance Management Department)

Management Audit
Audits
Advisor and Guidance
Accounting Auditor
Corporate Ethics Committee
Compliance Committee
Corporate Lawyer
In investor-relations (IR) activities, Yakult publishes the information investors need to make informed investment decisions in a timely, fair and continuous manner.

In addition to holding briefings on our financial results and businesses for analysts, Yakult promotes understanding of its operations through tours and individual interviews. Our website is filled with useful IR information. In addition to annual reports and shareholder bulletins, the Yakult website offers long-term financial data. Yakult works hard to provide shareholders and investors with the vital information they need.

For Shareholders and Investors

Yakult disseminates information on its operations through a wide range of media, including the Yakult CSR Report, our website, and various company and Group newsletters, among others. We strive to keep customers and employees alike apprised of the current state of Yakult at all times.

Yakult CSR Report 2016 received the Excellence Award in the Environmental Report Category at the 20th Environmental Communication Awards.

For Customers and Employees

Yakult considers the career advancement of female employees an important issue in its human resource strategy. We drafted an action plan in accordance with the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace (enforced in April 2016) and have summarized our basic approach as follows.

1. Promote optimal human resource allocation based on ability, ambition and aptitude, regardless of gender
2. Improve the workplace environment so that career-oriented women can maintain a balance between work and family
3. Establish clear numerical targets and draft an action plan

The percentage of women in management positions was 6% (as of March 2017, 44 women among a total of 730 people in management) and has recently been trending upward. Going forward, we will expand and enhance our systems offering a sustainable balance between work and home life not only for existing female managers but also to increase the number of women at the assistant manager level who are candidates for managerial positions. We will also promote use of a shortened work hour system for employees with small children as well as the Career Course Switch System to achieve this goal.

Round-table Meetings for Childcare Leave Takers Prior to Returning to Workplaces

Yakult holds round-table meetings for employees who take childcare leave so that those who have completed their leave can return to work with peace of mind and fulfill their potential while balancing work and childcare. The round-table meetings serve as a platform for the Human Resources Department to provide diverse kinds of information and to exchange ideas with employees who have already achieved a good balance between work and childcare, and encourages the realization of an efficient style of work.

In addition, Yakult has introduced a shortened working hour system for when childcare leave takers return to work, and allows the system to be used up until the child reaches the fourth year of elementary school, which is above and beyond the legal requirement of cutoff when the child turns three. This has helped facilitate an environment that enables employees to balance work and childcare with peace of mind over the long term.
Yakult Sustainable Ecology 2020

Yakult has framed its image for the environment it aims to achieve over the long term in the form of Yakult Sustainable Ecology 2020. It describes the future vision of Yakult with 3 elements, including the realization of a low-carbon society, and emphasizes coexistence with stakeholders and the development of a sustainable society.

Efforts to Preserve the Earth’s Environment


Since fiscal 2008, Yakult has supported the Children’s Forest Program of The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement-International (OISCA). OISCA is an international NGO working to promote rural development, human resource development, and environmental conservation mainly in the Asia-Pacific region. The Children’s Forest Program is for promoting the greening of the earth while cultivating a feeling of affinity for nature and a desire to treasure the environment through activities that involve the children themselves in the planting and nurturing of seedlings at school grounds and adjacent land. The program was started in 1991 and has spread to 4,891 school in 36 countries and regions as of March 31, 2017.

International Yakult Symposium

From 1996, we have held the International Yakult Symposium hosted by Yakult Europe. The symposium is attended by a wide range of researchers, from basic researchers to medical researchers in clinical settings, from countries around the world, especially Europe. At sessions, lectures are presented from diverse viewpoints about intestinal bacteria and probiotics. Many reports have been presented about the effectiveness of Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota for various symptoms.

Yakult holds these kinds of academic symposiums all over the world and supports research activities that contribute to people’s health.
Relations with local communities

To Deliver Health, and Watch over Local Community

**Courtesy Visit Activities**

In addition to delivering products, Yakult Ladies check up on elderly persons living alone to confirm their well-being and spend some time chatting with them. The Yakult Group has been conducting this activity since 1972. A voluntary action of a single Yakult Lady led to this activity, inspiring retailers, local social workers, and even municipalities, and now these Courtesy Visit Activities have spread nationwide. At the request of about 130 municipalities across Japan, about 3,000 Yakult Ladies visit the homes of approximately 41,000 elderly people. Since September 2005 we have presented flowers and a message card to elderly people on Respect for the Aged Day as part of our “Courtesy Visit Activities.”

Overseas, Korea Yakult Co., Ltd. has been conducting checks to confirm the well-being of some 30,000 elderly people living alone.

**Community Safety Watch and Crime Prevention Activities**

Being well positioned to observe every corner of their sales areas during daily delivery rounds, Yakult Ladies contribute to communities’ safety and peace of mind by participating in crime watch and other activities undertaken in cooperation with approximately 800 local governments and police units as well as other local organizations around Japan.

As a result of these community safety watch and crime prevention activities, there have been cases in which a Yakult Lady felt something abnormal at a customer’s house and reported it to the police, which led to the customer’s rescue. These activities are firmly rooted in each community, and as of March 2017, about 25,000 Yakult Ladies contribute to the safety and peace of mind of communities.

**Establishment of Daycare Centers for Yakult Ladies that are Open to the Public**

The Yakult Group supports women’s advancement in society and supports the creation of a pleasant working environment for Yakult Ladies from diverse perspectives. One of these is the running of daycare centers that have been set up inside marketing companies nationwide, a program that began in the 1970s. Approximately 7,900 children were using approximately 1,200 daycare centers as of the end of March 2017. In addition, 59 of the daycare centers in certain regions are open to the public so that children from surrounding areas can also attend.

**Dispatching Lecturers**

Since 2008, Yakult has been dispatching lecturers, primarily to elementary schools, to give lectures on the topic of “early to bed, early to rise, eating breakfast and emptying your bowels in the morning” as part of food and nutrition education. Using models and picture cards, employees of Yakult Honsha branches and Yakult sales companies provide the lessons, explaining the importance of the intestines in absorbing nutrients from food, discerning intestinal conditions from stool, and the action of lactic acid bacteria in the intestines. More than 200,000 people participated in approximately 3,000 lectures in fiscal 2016. For this activity, we received an Honorable Mention from the Judging Committee of the “Awards for Companies Promoting Experience-based Learning Activities for Youth” sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology in 2015. We also offer these lessons overseas in eight countries and regions.

**Plant Tours**

In order for people to gain a better understanding of Yakult and its products, each of Yakult’s plants accept tours. In fiscal 2016, about 250,000 people visited our dairy product and cosmetic plants in Japan. Overseas, many of our plants offer tours and about 490,000 people visited those plants.
Championships (25m) as an official partner of the International Swimming Association (FINA: Fédération Internationale de Natation).

In Japan, as an official partner of the Japan synchronized swimming team since 2006, and as an official sponsor of the Japan swimming team since 2014, Yakult has been providing its drinks at competitions and training camps. In 2017, Yakult became an official partner of the Japan swimming team and has contributed to the further spread and development of swimming competition through its support for all five sports of water polo, diving, long-distance swimming, in addition to synchronized swimming and competitive swimming.

Tokyo Yakult Swallows baseball clinic

Yakult also has track and field and rugby teams. Yakult employees are enthusiastically engaged in a wide range of sports.

Yakult’s track and field team made excellent showings in long-distance relay races and marathons. In the 2016 season, our rugby team finished in 8th place in the Top East League Division 1.

Yakult also supports and promotes bound tennis, a sport invented in Japan, as part of its efforts to encourage lifelong sporting activity. Yakult is also an ardent supporter of aquatic sporting events. Since 2005, Yakult has been sponsoring the FINA World Championships and the FINA World Swimming

Running a Pavillion at KidZania

Yakult Indonesia has been running a pavilion at KidZania Jakarta, a vocational experience theme park for children, since it opened in 2008. The purpose of KidZania is to have children to experience the work of researching lactic acid bacteria and get them interested in science to promote people’s health. At present, about 120 children visit the Yakult Pavilion each day. KidZania pavilions are also being run in Japan, Brazil, and Singapore.

Promotion of sports
Spreading the Appeal of Sports to Many People

Contributing to Society Through Baseball

Games played by the Tokyo Yakult Swallows are enjoyed by many fans. Through their games, we are working to invigorate professional baseball and help promote sports in Japan. In the offseason, the Tokyo Yakult Swallows hold baseball clinics at various locations in cooperation with the nationwide marketing companies. These clinics are for primary and junior high school aged children with the aim of getting them to experience the enjoyment of sports and the preciousness of good health through exchanges with professional baseball players. The Tsubame Sports Promotion Association also holds baseball clinics led by former members of the Swallows.

Other Contributions to Society Through Sports

Yakult has been a sponsor of the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) Windsor 2016.

Overseas, Yakult S/A Ind. E Com. (Brazil) has supported the promotion of baseball. The company manages a baseball stadium in the suburbs of São Paulo and, in cooperation with the Brazil Baseball Federation, supports the Baseball Academy, which is managed by the Federation. Also, Yakult has sponsored the Yakult Cup Youth Baseball Tournament, as an activity to spread baseball. During the tournament, Yakult products are provided and the importance of training the body through baseball and maintaining a healthy intestinal environment are conveyed.

In addition, Yakult Deutschland GmbH, as an official partner and supplier of the Olympic Training Centre Bavaria, Germany’s largest Olympic training facility for athletes, began supplying Yakult from September 2011. In 2015, we also started to collaborate with the Olympic Training Centre Hessen.

Running a Pavillion at KidZania

Tokyo Yakult Swallows baseball clinic

Yakult Cup Youth Baseball Tournament sponsored by Yakult S/A Ind. E Com. (Brazil)
History

1930s
- 1930: Dr. Minoru Shirota succeeds in strengthening and culturing lactic acid bacteria, useful for maintaining health (Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota).
- 1935: Yakult is manufactured and introduced to the market.
- 1938: Yakult is registered as a trademark.

1940s
- 1940: Local offices of the Association for Promotion of Preventive Bacteria Strain Shirota are established in various parts of Japan for the purpose of marketing and distributing Yakult.

1950s
- 1955: Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. is established (Nishi Hatchobori, Chuo-ku, Tokyo).
- 1957: Research Institute is established in Kyoto.

1960s
- 1963: Yakult launches its unique Yakult Lady home delivery system.
- 1964: Yakult Taiwan Co., Ltd. begins operations as the company’s first overseas operation base.
- 1967: Research institute is established in Kunitachi, Tokyo (later known as Yakult Central Institute).
- 1968: The company takes over the management of the Sankei Atoms baseball team (now the Tokyo Yakult Swallows).
- 1970: Yakult is introduced to the market in a new plastic container.

1970s
- 1970: Joie fermented milk is introduced to the market.
- 1971: The company begins the full-scale sale of cosmetics.
- 1972: New head office building is completed in Higashi Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo.
- 1975: Program of regular visits to senior citizens by Yakult Ladies begins.
- 1976: Bioactis Capsules ethical drug is introduced to the healthcare industry, thereby marking Yakult’s entrance into the pharmaceutical business.
- 1978: Mi-Mi bifidobacteria-fermented milk is introduced to the market.
- 1979: Yakult Seichoyaku intestinal regulator—an over-the-counter medicine—is introduced to the healthcare industry.

1980s
- 1980: Company stocks are listed on the Second Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
- 1984: Toughman is introduced to the market.
- 1981: Company stocks are listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
- 1989: Revency S.E. Series is introduced to the market.

1990s
- 1992: Yakult Bioscience Research Foundation is established.
- 1994: The manufacture of irinotecan hydrochloride, a cancer chemotherapeutic agent, is approved, and the drug is introduced to the healthcare industry under the brand name of Campto.
- 1994: The company receives the Minister for Health and Welfare Award for distinguished volunteer service on behalf of the program of regular visits to senior citizens.
- 1995: Parabio Series premium-quality skincare product line is introduced to the market.
- 1997: The company receives the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Award (in the Consumer Division) at the Excellent Corporations of Food Industry Awards.
- 1999: Bansoreicha is introduced to the market.
- 2000: Yakult 400 fermented milk drink is introduced to the market.

2000s
- 2004: Entered into a strategic alliance with Groupe Danone.
- 2005: Research center is established in Europe (Belgium).
- 2006: Oxaliplatin, a cancer chemotherapeutic agent for the treatment of advanced colorectal cancer, is approved under the name of Elplat.
- 2008: Banoreicha is introduced to the market.

2010s
- 2011: The shape of the Yakult container is registered as a three-dimensional trademark.
- 2012: Yakult launches Yakult Space Discovery Project.
- 2013: Lactobacillus casei strain Shirota obtains GRAS Certification from the US FDA (Food and Drug Administration).
- 2015: Yakult and Danone terminate strategic alliance agreement and sign a memorandum of cooperation.
- 2016: New Yakult and New Yakult Calorie Half are introduced to the market.
- 2016: Average global sales of dairy products surpass 35 million bottles per day (fiscal year ended March 31, 2016).
- 2016: Construction of the new Yakult Central Institute is completed.
Profile

Overview of Yakult Honsha

Corporate name: Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd.
Date founded: 1935
Date incorporated: April 9, 1955
Head office: 1-19 Higashi-Shimbashi, 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8660, Japan
Telephone: 03-3574-8960
Paid-in capital: ¥31,117.65 million
Annual account settlement date: March 31
No. of employees: 2,860
Main banks: Mizuho Bank, Resona Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ

Principal Business Activities

Manufacturing and marketing of food and beverage products, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and others

Principal Subsidiaries

Yakult Food Industry Co., Ltd.
Yakult Materials Co., Ltd.
YBC Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kyudan Co., Ltd.
Yakult Health Foods Co., Ltd.
Yakult Pharmaceutical Industry Co., Ltd.
Yakult Support Business Co., Ltd.
Yakult Life Service Co., Ltd.
Yakult Corporation Co., Ltd.
Yakult Asset Management, Co., Ltd.
Yakult Logistics Co., Ltd.
Yakult Management Service Co., Ltd.

Business Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Sales and Income (Consolidated)</th>
<th>March 2013</th>
<th>March 2014</th>
<th>March 2015</th>
<th>March 2016</th>
<th>March 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Sales</td>
<td>319,193</td>
<td>350,322</td>
<td>367,980</td>
<td>390,412</td>
<td>378,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income</td>
<td>23,068</td>
<td>32,026</td>
<td>34,898</td>
<td>40,057</td>
<td>37,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Income</td>
<td>29,424</td>
<td>39,535</td>
<td>45,608</td>
<td>50,629</td>
<td>49,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income attributable to owners of the parent</td>
<td>16,379</td>
<td>22,543</td>
<td>25,056</td>
<td>28,843</td>
<td>30,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Unit: million yen)

Branches

Hokkaido Branch
East Japan Branch
Sendai Office, East Japan Branch
Metropolitan Branch
Central Japan Branch
West Japan Branch

Research & Development Institute
Yakult Central Institute

5-11, Izumi, Kunitachi-shi, Tokyo 186-8650
TEL: 042-577-8960
Honsha Plants
Fukushima Plant
Ibaraki Plant
Shonan Cosmetics Plant
Fuji Susono Plant
Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant
Hyogo Miki Plant
Saga Plant

Management Policy Council
Executive Officers Committee
Various Specialized Committees

Board of Directors
Representative Director

Audit & Supervisory Board

Customer Support Center
CSR Promotion Department
Investor Relations Department

Operation Center For Sales Accounting

Food Quality Control Department
Corporate Planning Department
Public Relations Department
Legal Department
Secretarial Department
General Affairs Department
Human Resources Department
Human Resources Development Center
Finance & Accounting Department
Information Systems Department
Sales Company Modernization Promotion Department
Food & Beverage Sales Management Department
Home Delivery Sales Department
Retail Sales Department
Logistics Control Department

Cosmetics Department

Shonan Cosmetics Plant

Medical Quality Assurance Department
Pharmaceutical Business Management & Licensing Department
Medical General Affairs Department
Medical Sales & Marketing Department
Medical Affairs & Information Department
Pharmaceutical Research & Development Department
Pharmacovigilance Department
Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant
International Business Department

International Business Division

Production Control Department
Purchasing Department

Pharmaceutical Business Division

Pharmaceutical Research & Development Department

Research & Development Division

Various Specialized Committees

Organizational Chart

Directors
・President and Representative Director
Takashige Negishi
Directors
Yoshihiro Kawabata
Hiroshi Narita
Hiroshi Wakabayashi
Fumiyasu Ishikawa
Masaki Tanaka
Masanori Ito
Akifumi Doi
Tetsuya Hayashida
Richard Hall

Chief Audit & Supervisory Board Member
Akinori Abe

Chief Audit & Supervisory Board Member (Outside Auditors)
Hiroshi Yamakami

Chief Audit & Supervisory Board Member (Outside Auditors)
Akihiko Okudaira
Seijuro Tanigawa
Setsuko Kobayashi
Koichi Yoshida
Seno Tezuka

Honsha Plants
Fukushima Plant
10-1, Aza Tooki, Kuroiwa, Fukushima-shi, Fukushima 960-8520
TEL: 024-546-8960

Ibaraki Plant
1232-2, Oaza Kawatsuma, Goka-machi, Sashima-gun, Ibaraki 306-0314
TEL: 0280-84-2121

Shonan Cosmetics Plant
2-5-10, Kugenumashinmei, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa 251-0021
TEL: 0466-25-8960

Fuji Susono Plant
653-1, Aza Juzaburo, Shimowada, Susono-shi, Shizuoka 410-1105
TEL: 055-997-3311

Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant
653-1, Aza Juzaburo, Shimowada, Susono-shi, Shizuoka 410-1105
TEL: 055-997-4417

Hyogo Miki Plant
1838-266 Aza Nakao, Toda, Shijimi-cho, Miki-shi, Hyogo 673-0514
TEL: 0794-89-8960

Saga Plant
2300, Tamichigari, Kanzaki-machi, Kanzaki-shi, Saga 842-0002
TEL: 0952-52-8960
Network

Promoting Better Health through Domestic and International Networks

The Yakult Group comprises nearly 140 companies (approximately 170 counting overseas operations), including Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd., marketing companies that distribute Yakult’s products to customers throughout Japan, bottling companies that manufacture containers and bottle Yakult’s products, and other affiliates.

Overseas

Overseas Operations

- Yakult Ladies ……… approx. 45,800
- Employees ………… approx. 21,000

(as of December 31, 2016)

Domestic

Domestic Operations

- Head Office …………………… 1
- Branches …………………… 5
- Research institute ………… 1
- Honsha plants ………………… 7
- Marketing companies ……… 103
- Bottling companies ………… 5
- Yakult Ladies ……………… approx. 35,600
- Yakult Beauty Advisors ……… approx. 4,900

(as of June 30, 2017)

(as of March 31, 2017 for Yakult Ladies and Yakult Beauty Advisors)

Marketing companies (29)

Yakult Aomori Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Iwate Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Miyako Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Akita Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Odate Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yokote Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yamagata Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yonezawa Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Shonai Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Miyagi Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.

*The following marketing company is generalized.
Yakult Ofunato Sales Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (1)

Yakult Iwate Plant Co., Ltd.

Honsha Organization

Hokkaido Branch

Marketing companies (9)

Yakult Sapporo Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Minami Hokkaido Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Tomakomai Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Iwamizawa Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kushiro Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Obihiro Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kitami Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Muroran Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kita Hokkaido Co., Ltd.

East Japan Block

Marketing companies (29)

Yakult Aomori Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Iwate Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Miyako Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Akita Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Odate Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yokote Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yamagata Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yonezawa Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Shonai Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Miyagi Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.

*The following marketing company is generalized.
Yakult Ofunato Sales Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (1)

Yakult Iwate Plant Co., Ltd.

Honsha Organization

East Japan Branch

Fuji Susono Plant

Yakult Koga Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Utsunomiya Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Ryomo Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Gunma Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Higashi Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Chuo Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Nishi Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yamanashi Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Nanshin Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Hokushin Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Niigata Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Shibata Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Joetsu Sales Co., Ltd.

Honsha Organization

East Japan Branch

Fuji Susono Plant

Yakult Koga Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Utsunomiya Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Ryomo Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Gunma Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Higashi Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Chuo Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Nishi Shizuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Yamanashi Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Nanshin Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Hokushin Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Niigata Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Shibata Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Joetsu Sales Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (1)

Yakult Iwate Plant Co., Ltd.
The following marketing company is

*The following two marketing companies are generalized.

Marketing companies (16)
Yakult Saitama Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Saitama Tobu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kako Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Saitama Nishi Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Saitama Hokusyu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Chiba Ken Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Johoku Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Katsushika Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Seto Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Musashino Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Tokyo Sales Co., Ltd.
*The following marketing company is generalized.

Marketing companies (19)
Yakult Tokai Co., Ltd.
*The following four marketing companies are generalized.
•Yakult Nagoya Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Aichi Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Aichi Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Gifu Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Owari Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Higashi Mikawa Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Toyama Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Hokuriku Co., Ltd.
*The following marketing company is generalized.

Marketing companies (30)
Yakult Tottori Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Sanin Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Okayama Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Tsuyama Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Okayama Seibu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Sanyo Co., Ltd.
*The following two marketing companies are generalized.
•Yakult Shin Hiroshima Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Yamaguchi Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Hiroshima Chuo Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Yamaguchi Ken Tobu Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Kagawa Sales Co., Ltd.
•Yakult Komatsu Sales Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (1)
Yakult Chiba Plant Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (2)
Yakult Okayama Wake Plant Co., Ltd.
Yakult Fukushu Plant Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (3)
Yakult Ehime Tobu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Ehime Nanbu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kitakyushu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Fukuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Chuo Fukuoka Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kurume Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Ota Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Saga Ken Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kagoshima Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Kagoshima Tobu Sales Co., Ltd.
Yakult Okinawa Co., Ltd.

Bottling companies (4)
Yakult Chiba Plant Co., Ltd.
Yakult Beauty Advisors 1,510

Bottling companies (5)
Yakult Honsha European Research Center for Microbiology, ESV (YHER)
Please visit Yakult’s Website at http://www.yakult.co.jp
http://www.yakult.co.jp/english/ for more information on our company.

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