

KIMICA: Unlocking the endless potential of alginates

Having pioneered new applications for alginates, which are extracted from seaweed, for the past 80 years, KIMICA continues to develop innovative alginate-based solutions in response to the demands of today's health and environmentally-conscious world.

In the late 1930s, a keen-eyed chemist by the name of Fumio Kasahara took an interest in the seaweed he saw washed up on the shore of the beach. It was then that this visionary entrepreneur decided to make it his life goal to make effective use of this seaweed, establishing Kimitsu Chemical Institute (today known as KIMICA) in 1941.

KIMICA became the first-ever Japanese company to successfully manufacture alginates from seaweed at the industrial level and ever since then has been unlocking the endless potential of alginates for the benefit of society.

Celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, KIMICA is looking towards the future with a renewed optimism and vision as the demand

and applications for alginates continue to expand in today's health and environmentally-conscious world – from food and textile products, to cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

"Our goal has been to be the 'Best in the World', and to continue to develop new and innovative applications of alginates," says current President & CEO, Fumiyoshi Kasahara, Ph.D.

"As focus towards environmental and health-related issues increase, demand and expectations for alginates continue to rise. As the leading company in biopolymers, the responsibilities imposed on us also continue to rise. In order to answer those demands, and to be the front-runner in this day and age, we have established



From left to right: Katsunobu Kato, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary; Fumiyoshi Kasahara, President & CEO, KIMICA Corporation; Yoshihide Suga, Prime Minister of Japan; Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

a stable production, quality assurance, and R&D system."

Such efforts led to KIMICA being awarded with the Special Award (SDGs Partnership Award) at the 4th Japan SDG Awards in December, 2020, in recognition of the company's initiatives and activities to address the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The fact that such recognition came on the eve of the company's 80th anniversary was a particularly proud moment for Fumiyoshi Kasahara, Ph.D, who has and will continue to ensure his father's legacy and unstoppable drive to find the most effective uses of seaweed, remains at the core of KIMICA for decades to come.