

August 23, 2024

Announcement regarding conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesian government agency in relation to Joint clinical testing and standardization project
Using joint clinical research to contribute to the healthy development of babies and children in Indonesia

On August 23, 2024, Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd., the Indonesian Agricultural Instruments Standardization Agency (Badan Standardisasi Instrumen Pertanian), and Harapan Kita National Women and Children Health Center (Rumah Sakit Anak Dan Bunda (RSAB) Harapan Kita), a medical institution appointed by the Ministry of Health, concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in relation to joint clinical testing and standardization project, which is required for clinical research into genetic resources in Indonesia, such as intestinal bacteria.



【Representative Director and Executive Vice President Dr. Teiichiro Okawa, Director General of BSIP Fadry DJUFRY, Managing Director of RSAB Harapan Kita Dr. Ockti Palupi】

In Indonesia, which has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol, parties from overseas who wish to engage in surveys or research involving Indonesian genetic resources must as a rule obtain permission in advance from the governmental body with jurisdiction in accordance with the system used within Indonesia, so that the benefits derived from these genetic resources are distributed fairly and equitably. These genetic resources also include intestinal bacteria. With the conclusion of this MoU, Morinaga Milk has agreed with the Indonesian Government agency to start research on intestinal bacteria in Indonesia. Furthermore, by building joint research structures with universities and research institutions in Indonesia Morinaga Milk intends to promote the

acquisition of clinical evidence for functional ingredients, including bifidobacteria. By providing not only clinical evidence obtained from joint research in Indonesia but also academic and technological support and know-how for the analysis of intestinal bacterial flora, Morinaga Milk will help to build and evolve sustainable research structures that contribute to the healthy development of babies and children in Indonesia.

Background

It is said that there are some forty trillion bacteria of several hundred types living in the human intestine. These diverse groups of microorganisms are referred to as intestinal flora, or intestinal bacteria flora, and research has made it clear that they are intimately related to human health. During the course of research and development into formula milk, Morinaga Milk noticed that breastfeeding babies had high levels of bifidobacteria in their intestines, and it has been researching bifidobacteria for more than half a century since the 1960s.

Based on its belief that breast milk is the most nutritious food for babies, Morinaga Milk has continued to research the formation of breast milk and nutrients that are needed by the baby, and to pursue the development of manufacturing technology and safety and reliability. By leveraging the expertise that it has cultivated to date, Morinaga Milk seeks to further strengthen its business in Indonesia and to contribute to the healthy development of babies and children in Indonesia going forward.

<Morinaga Milk Group Biodiversity Policy>

<https://www.morinagamilk.co.jp/english/sustainability/policy/#biodiversity>

Morinaga Milk discovered *Bifidobacterium longum* **BB536** in infants in 1969 and has since been engaging in studies of bifidobacteria and intestinal flora for more than half a century. The company leads the world in the number of published clinical research papers related to bifidobacteria in humans*.

* According to investigations by KnowledgeWire, as of January 2024. (No. 1 in the world for corporation-submitted numbers of research articles on PubMed and the Ichushi WEB database (JAMAS))

Disclaimer: This English translation is provided for the benefit of readers. In the case that discrepancies exist between the original Japanese version and the English translation, precedence goes to the original Japanese version.