

March 6, 2024

The Most Valuable Company in Japan Award

KIMICA Corporation (HQ: Tokyo, CEO: Fumiyo Kasahara), a manufacturer of alginate, received the Special Jury Prize at the 14th "Most Valuable Company in Japan" Awards (Organized by: Society for Management that Values People; Supported by: Cabinet Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc.).

The award recognizes companies that practice management aimed at making five types of "people" happy: "employees and their families," "outsourced and supplier partners," "customers," "local communities," and "shareholders," thereby improving their performance. The system was established in 2010 by the "Society for Management that Values People" with the intention of increasing the number of such important companies, believing that "if you make people happy, performance will inevitably improve."

Award-winning companies are selected from among excellent companies that meet six criteria, including having no major restructuring or significant labor accidents in the past five years, not enforcing unreasonable transactions such as unilateral cost reductions, and having a hiring rate for people with disabilities that exceeds the legal requirements.

The main reasons for receiving award are as follows:

- For 80 years since our establishment, we have continuously produced natural dietary fiber "alginate" from stranded seaweed that would otherwise have no use, acquiring a domestic market share of 90%.
- Despite market fluctuations, we have consistently and steadily purchased stranded seaweed from Chilean fishermen, stabilizing the seaweed market and protecting it from overfishing threats.
- We have established factories in Chile, generating numerous employment opportunities. Our supply chain supports the livelihoods of over 10,000 fishermen.
- In Chile, we have donated firefighting and rescue vehicles to local municipalities, while in Japan, we have contributed to the establishment of local libraries, demonstrating our commitment to community contribution.

- We have achieved a 70% utilization rate of paid leave and have realized a workplace that is easy to work in and diverse, with 30% of management positions held by women.
- Our commitment to creating added value from otherwise unused stranded seaweed and contributing to the people of Japan and Chile makes us deserve of this award.

KIMICA will continue to practice "management that brings happiness to people" and contribute to society.

【KIMICA Corporation】

KIMICA Corporation is the only manufacturer in Japan of alginate, a natural polysaccharide derived from seaweed. With a domestic market share exceeding 90% in the alginate market, the company is a leading enterprise globally in the field of high-quality products demanded for food and pharmaceutical applications.

In recent years, KIMICA has been recognized as a frontrunner in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), receiving the Special Award at the 2020 Japan SDGs Awards, and winning the Environmental Minister's Award twice in 2021. Additionally, in 2022, the company was nominated for the Earthshot Prize, the most prestigious environmental award established by the Royal Foundation of the United Kingdom.