

## The Ajinomoto Group Environmental Philosophy and Basic Policies (Full texts)

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### ■ Philosophy

#### <Abstract>

The Ajinomoto Group is committed to environmental and social sustainability which assures a rich natural environment and affluent lives for all the people of the world including future generations. As we appreciate nature's blessings which our Food and Health business greatly depends on, we strive to reduce adverse impacts on the global environment and ecosystems and to promote recycling-oriented production activities to utilize natural resources. Furthermore, as the responsibility of a global corporation, we endeavor to continuously improve our business operations to keep them in harmony with the global environment.

#### <Full text>

The world now faces a crisis in sustainability of the global environment and human societies, mainly due to increasing human pressure on the global ecosystem. Human activities have been expanding beyond the limits of the Earth's carrying capacity. Therefore, it is crucial to tackle environmental challenges and seek for a shift toward sustainable global society where all the people including future generations can enjoy rich natural environment and affluent lives. As a responsible corporate citizen, the Ajinomoto Group is committed to this issue through the promotion of sound business activities.

The Group has been developing its Food and Health business in many countries and regions all over the world, depending on each area's agricultural, fishery, and stock farm products as raw materials for the products. As we appreciate nature's blessings which our Food and Health greatly depends on, we strive to reduce adverse impacts on the global environment and ecosystems and to improve our business operations to keep them in harmony with the global environment. Thus, we will contribute to a shift toward a sustainable society. Also, the Group is willing to contribute to the international society from the standpoint of the global environment, not just by complying with international rules and regulations but also by being part in international debates and consensus-building on a sustainable global society. Furthermore, we operate our business in cooperation with local people, respecting the differences in climate, natural environment, politics, culture, religion, laws and legal systems. Finally, we make continuous efforts to improve our business activities, aiming at environmental sustainability and perpetual business development of the Group.

### ■ Basic Policies

#### (Attitude)

1. We fully comply with relevant laws and regulations. Also, keeping an eye on global trends in sustainability and the environment and ecosystems, we strive to keep having a positive effect on society by taking an adequate response in a timely and appropriate manner.

Fully complying with relevant laws and regulations in countries and regions, we take a proactive response based on understanding of a global trend in environmental policies of governments and requirements of local communities.

As a duty of a global business member in the global community, we respond to international standards and regulations in a timely and appropriate manner. The Group is responsible for sustainability of global ecosystem and society with which the nature of our business is closely linked. Thus, we make the best use of our expertise to actively play a part in debates and consensus building in the international arena on an approach to a global social sustainability through our business.

The global ecosystem and society cannot be sustained without diversified local ecosystems and communities. Bearing in mind of this point, we endeavor to operate our business with impartial, balanced attitude toward various values so that local diversity cannot be undermined by globalization.

### **(Management system)**

#### **2. We further take efforts toward sustainability by establishing an environmental management system.**

We establish and implement appropriate environmental management systems (EMSs) in all organizations of our Group. Under each EMS, we set specific goals and make action plans regarding major issues to promote systematic efforts toward sustainability. Through such efforts, we continuously improve and further make our business activities coexist with the environment.

Recognizing that ISO 14001 is a standard of EMS for our Group, we select and adapt an appropriate type of EMSs, depending on traits of each applicable organization, such as a type of business, scale, and influence.

### **(Performance)**

#### **3. We endeavor to reduce adverse environmental impacts on ecosystems. Through understanding the importance of finite natural resources, we make a real effort for resource and energy conservation and resource recycling.**

Human activities, including our Group's business activities, cannot be sustained without a variety of services provided by the natural environment: such as food, resources, energy, and a cyclical function. However, capacities of these services are limited and such services will be depleted if we keep consuming without proper care. While we have been striving to reduce adverse impacts on the global and local environments so far, we continuously use substantial amount of natural resources as well as posing a certain level of pressure on the earth as our global business grows. Understanding and quantifying various adverse effects of our business activities on global and local environments, we set voluntary standards to solve those problems in a planned manner. Under the Ajinomoto Group Zero Emissions Plan, we have been making efforts to eliminate every environmental load from all business aspects of our Group.

\*For example, ozone layer depletion, global warming, acid rains, soil and marine pollution, and reduced biodiversity.

## (Technology development)

### 4. We strive to develop new technology and system for sustainability.

We have expertise and technology in our major business domain, Food and Health fields, which contribute to global and local sustainability. With our specialized expertise and technology, we develop and adopt new technologies and systems towards both global sustainability and continuous growth of our business.

Due to the nature of manufacturing business, the production section generates most of our total environmental load. We focus on promoting dramatic improvement of production efficiency and reduction of wastes, which are accomplished by innovation of production technology, and technical development of efficient use of by-products. Also, in every process of our business activities, not only production technology development, but also business expansion and product development, we seek for sustainability and environment-consciousness, in considering a better supply-chain management and design for environment with life-cycle thinking. Moreover, we endeavor to apply our expertise and technology to a broader area of society, beyond the direct business scope of our Group.

## (Communication)

### 5. We provide education and training on sustainability for our employees. We hold dialogues on the group's initiatives for sustainability with our stakeholders. Aiming at environmental and social sustainability on a global and local basis, we will further promote partnerships and collaborations with the stakeholders.

Aiming at raising awareness on a global sustainable society and sustainable corporate activities, we provide systematic education and training programs to our employees. Such programs are also aimed at deepening their understanding the Group's efforts to improve its business operations toward sustainability, so that each employee can take practical actions in the Group's sustainable initiatives, respectively.

As for the external communication, we regularly release reports to disclose information on our sustainability initiatives including our philosophy, plans and achievements. Holding dialogues with stakeholders is another way of environmental communication. Through such dialogues, we aim to both provide information and examine whether or not we fall into complacency in order to find any further improvement and new initiatives. Furthermore, as a responsibility of a community member, each site strives to make itself open to the public, organizing plant tours and providing information on its operation for local residents.

To achieve environmental and social sustainability both globally and locally, partnerships and collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders are essential in addition to the Group's own efforts. We will endeavor to make positive influence on our customers and business partners through our business activities. We will particularly provide support to agricultural, livestock and marine industries to secure safe and sustainable food supplies, as they play a crucial role to supply not just major raw materials to the Ajinomoto Group but also food for the world. Furthermore, we also seek for meaningful partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and related institutions to tackle any critical issues.

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