

Eat Well, Live Well.



Press Release  
November 17, 2021

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.  
Royal DSM

**Official Side Event Co-hosted by Ajinomoto Co., Inc., DSM for Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021**

Online forum " School Meals - Unleashing the full potential of the next generation. Creating sustainable and healthy eating habits through multi stakeholder collaboration."

**TOKYO, November 17, 2021** -- Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (President and CEO: Takaaki Nishii Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo) and Royal DSM (Co-CEOs: Geraldine Matchett, Dimitri de Vreeze, Head Office: Netherlands) will jointly hold an online forum " School Meals - Unleashing the full potential of the next generation. Creating sustainable and healthy eating habits through multi stakeholder collaboration." on November 30, 2021 as an official side event for the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021([Link](#)) \* (N4G).

\*Sponsored by the Japanese government: December 7-8, 2021

Millions of school children worldwide suffer from serious undernutrition and substantial shortage of protein, energy and trace nutrients such as vitamin and minerals. In addition, children cannot take sufficient nutrition due to the expansion of economic disparities even in developed and emerging countries as well as in developing countries, so we need to watch over it from a Universal Health College (UHC) point of view for the sound growth of the next generation. Nutrition impairment during the growth stage also have a negative influence on body, mind and cognitive development, which leads to inhibition of Quality of Life (QOL) for children and the development of society and the economy. In addition, it is becoming more serious due to the slowdown of the economy and the stop of school meals under COVID-19 and lockdown.

Nutrition improvement for children requires sustainable food supply chain and a change in consumer's behavior such as purchasing and eating at every stage of food system, through comprehensive cooperation among multi stakeholder collaboration. As a typical example, both the private sector and the public sector need to promote the school meals system.

At the forum, we will discuss 2 issues based on examples and evidence; the positive effect of school meals for the improvement of nutrition in childhood, and the promotion of behavior change toward improving eating habits through food and nutrition education with school meals.

Improving the nutrition of children directly and indirectly contributes to many parts of SDGs, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 "Zero hunger" 3 "Good Health and wellbeing" as well as 1 "No poverty"; 4 "Quality education"; 5 "Gender equality"; and 8 "Decent work and economic growth". At this event, which will be held jointly by Ajinomoto Co., Inc. and DSM, have continued to support people's nutrition and health around the world by facing various health issues in developed and developing countries. We hope more companies to participate in this initiative and disseminate it from Japan to the world at N4G, to be held in Japan at first time.

#### [Background of the forum]

Ajinomoto Co., Inc., aiming to become a "solution-providing group of companies for food and health issues," holds "Umami Education" at elementary and junior high schools in Japan and works to improve the nutrition of school meals in Vietnam. Royal DSM announced its food system commitment, and also participated in a project in Cambodia of the Nutrition Improvement Promotion Platform (NJPPP) to improve the undernutrition of 800 million people in vulnerable environments. Both companies have decided to hold this forum to convey the experiences of both companies to as many people as possible and to further promote school feeding programs in developing countries.

At the forum, we will discuss the importance of school meals in improving children's nutrition, the nutrition education through school meals programs leading to behavior change in eating habits, the role of the private sector and the importance of partnerships with international and local governments in the food system, and the expectations for the newly created "School Meals Coalition" at the United Nations Food System Summit as a forum with potential place for multi stakeholder collaboration.

#### [Outline of the forum]

1. Date and time: November 30 (18:00-19:30 Japan Standard Time/10:00-11:30 Central European Time)
2. Co-sponsoring: Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Royal DSM
3. Auspices: SDG2 Advocacy Hub
4. Guest speakers: WFPs
5. Embodiment: Online distribution \*UK-Japan simultaneous interpretation
6. Link to watch: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_l2uhKKvRXCztGnzbsnpqg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_l2uhKKvRXCztGnzbsnpqg)
7. Presenters and Main Lectures Overview

- (1) 18:00 - 18:05 Opening interview
- Maya Masai: Representative of Citizens

- (2) 18:05 - 18:30 Keynote Speech

The global pandemic of COVID-19 are slowing progress towards achieving the SDG 2 "Zero Hunger," and endangering the health and welfare of people around the world, particularly those who are infant and vulnerable.

In this keynote lecture by Ajinomoto Co., Inc. and Royal DSM leaders, both companies introduce their commitment to improving nutrition, considering how the role of the private sector has evolved to realize a sustainable and healthy food environment, and how new forms of public-private partnerships can be a powerful tool for protecting the health of people in vulnerable positions by sharing their respective experiences.

- Dimitri de Vreeze: Co-CEO, Royal DSM  
Purpose and commitment of Royal DSM
- Takaaki Nishii: President and CEO, Ajinomoto Co., Inc.  
Corporate Vision and Commitment of Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

- (3) 18:30 - 19:20 Panel discussion

The slowdown of the economy, conflicts and climate change caused by the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak increased the number of people unable to take enough nutrition by 320 million in 2020, and the children were greatly affected. In addition, school closures have occurred as a result of lockdown, and many children have been exposed to the threat of further nutritional loss due to the sudden stop of school meals. Estimates suggest that 24 million children are at risk of dropping out of school, and the progress in education and schooling achieved so far is backwards.

With Paul Newnham, director of SDG2 Advocacy Hub, which brings together international organizations aiming to achieve SDG2 "Zero Hunger," as its facilitator, this panel discussion will discuss the importance of school lunches to improve children's nutrition as well as the nutritional education needed to ensure children's lifelong health. We will also outline our goals and pathways to achieving what we need to do to provide health and nutrition to our children, and what role the private sector can play in meeting these goals.

- Panel list
  - Moderator/Paul Newnham: Director, SDG2 Advocacy Hub

- Carmen Burbano: Director, Director, School Feeding Division, UN World Food Program
- Hanako Jimi: A member of the House of Councillors
- Dimitri de Vreeze: Co-CEO, Royal DSM
- Takaaki Nishii: President and CEO, Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
- Maya Masai: Representative of Citizens

(4) 19:20-Closing: Expectations for the Tokyo N4G Summit

- Closing Message: Ajinomoto Co., Inc., and Royal DSM

#### **Reference**

##### **Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit**

A meeting that promotes international efforts to improve nutrition. It is customary to be hosted by the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and started in 2013 under the leadership of the British government. This is the third time the event has been held following the United Kingdom (London) and Brazil (Rio).

At the 1st London Nutrition for Growth Summit, Ajinomoto Co., Inc, announced its commitment as a first company in Japan.

##### **Universal Health College (UHC)**

A state in which everyone can receive adequate preventive, treatment, rehabilitation, and other health care services at a payment cost, which refers to "a state in which everyone can receive the necessary high-quality primary healthcare, anywhere, without any difficulty with money. "

##### **About the Ajinomoto Group**

The Ajinomoto Group, unlocking the power of amino acids, aims to resolve food and health issues associated with dietary habits and aging, and contribute to greater wellness for people worldwide. Based on the corporate message "Eat Well, Live Well.", we have been scientifically pursuing the possibilities of amino acids to aim for future growth by creating new value through sustainable and innovative solutions for communities and society.

The Ajinomoto Group has offices in 35 countries and regions, and sells products in more than 130 countries and regions. In fiscal 2020, sales were 1.0714 trillion yen (10.1 billion U.S. dollars). To learn more, visit [www.ajinomoto.com](http://www.ajinomoto.com).

##### **About DSM**

Royal DSM is a global, purpose-led company in Health, Nutrition & Bioscience, applying science to improve the health of people, animals and the planet. DSM's purpose is to create brighter lives for all. DSM's products and solutions address some of the world's biggest challenges while simultaneously creating economic, environmental and societal value for all its stakeholders - customers, employees, shareholders, and society at large. DSM and its associated companies employ approximately 23,000 people around the world and deliver annual net sales of about €10 billion. The company was founded in 1902 and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information can be found at [www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com).

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