

Press Release



ASKA Pharmaceutical Holdings Co., Ltd.

ASKA Pharmaceutical Featured in a Special Feature in TIME Magazine

TOKYO, November 13, 2023 – ASKA Pharmaceutical Holdings Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo/ President, Representative Director: Takashi Yamaguchi) is pleased to announce that Sohta Yamaguchi, President and Representative Director of its subsidiary, ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., was interviewed by Global Kigyo Co., Ltd. and the interview was published in the international news magazine “TIME Asia” (November 6, 2023).

Since its founding in 1923, TIME Magazine has been one of the most authoritative and informative guide to what is happening in current affairs, politics, business, health, science and entertainment. Every week over 20 million subscribers worldwide turn to Time for award winning exclusive coverage. Global Kigyo requested that ASKA be featured in their special feature article titled “Japan's Innovation Kings,” and conducted an interview with him. Please refer to the attached for the content.

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“TIME Asia” November 6, 2023

Content by Global Kigyo Co., Ltd.

<https://global-kigyo.com>

日本の健康産業による恩恵

医療・製薬産業は経済にとって不可欠である。イノベーションと企業にとって、ヘルスケアほど重要な分野はない。日本の医療・製薬産業は、医薬品、医療機器、医療システムの開発を通じて、社会と経済全般に利益をもたらしてきた。あすか製薬株式会社の山口惣大社長は、日本の医療・製薬産業が海外との厳しい競争に直面していることを認識した上で、「私たちは、既成概念にとらわれない新しいアイデアを試し、日本独自の人口動態を活用することで、この分野での優位性を持続させる新しい取り組みを模索しています。」と語る。



Japan's Healthy Profit

The medical and pharmaceuticals industries have always been vital to the economy.

There is no more important field for innovation and enterprise than healthcare. In Japan, the sector has a proud tradition of success that benefits society, and the economy in general, through development of medicines, equipment and systems. According to leaders within the industry, this impact can be attributed to a combination of traditional Japanese business standards and cutting-edge research and development (R&D). Sohta Yamaguchi, president of ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., admitted the industry faces stiff competition from overseas. “We are seeking new ways to maintain our edge in the field by trying new, out-of-the-box ideas and leveraging the unique demographic situation in Japan,” said Yamaguchi. Tadashi Imamura, managing director of MIZUHO MEDY Co., Ltd., agreed. “Innovation is absolutely necessary when working in fields where human lives are at stake,” said Imamura. The aging population and shrinking workforce are issues the health industry takes very seriously, as does Noriyuki Matsunaga, president of Matsunaga Manufactory Co., Ltd. “One issue for the future is the shortage of care workers. Creating more sophisticated wheelchairs that allow the elderly to do more by themselves is the goal,” said Matsunaga. A further delicate challenge facing R&D is introducing robotics to support medical testing. “We have already initiated collaborations with pharmaceutical companies to develop automated inspection solutions,” said Keiji Katano, the president of Icomes Lab Co., Ltd.

 **ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**

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