

Interview with Executives at King SkyFront No.3

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This place is a research institute, but we don't just engage in cutting-edge research. For example, we investigate the causes of food poisoning or the quality of drinking water.

We also analyze clothes and toys for illegal toxins.

Checking is our main objective.

To carry out proper analyses and checks we have to make progress, and that requires research.

It may not be highly innovative research, but our role is to maintain vigilance to ensure people's health.

To fulfill this role, we need to implement proper technology (for analyzing and checking).

That's the reason for a research institute like ours to move here.

The word, "research," has this image of being highly specialized.

That is partly necessary, but there are all kinds of other experts nearby.

It's different from conferences in that here you can mix with specialists from other fields and an advantage is being able to exchange information lightheartedly.

Next-door is the Central Institute for Experimental Animals, which moved here before us.

We don't have the facilities to keep animals.

We can't look after them, but we sometimes need experimental animals.

On the other hand, the CIEA carries out world-class research using experimental animals, but not analyses of microorganisms, or research into toxins using physical and chemical machines like us.

Instead they carry out research into animals that we don't.

Their experiments lead to better health for people, so we can complement each other in collaborative research.

In the near future, the National Institute of Health Sciences will move to King SkyFront.

Regarding our monitoring of food safety, among other activities, it's a huge advantage being able to exchange views and having a place where we can carry out collaborative research.

Kawasaki is interesting.

It's in the metropolitan area, but it has residential areas inland, and the Keihin manufacturing district by the sea has been there for a long time.

There are expectations for something new to be created here.

This area in particular propped up Japan's rapid economic growth with its smokestack industries.

As it continues to grow, new research in life sciences will join the list of industries here.

Life sciences contribute to people's happiness, but we will also need many of the technologies of heavy industries.

Although they may not be related directly to life sciences now, I have hopes for coordinated collaboration with them at a high level in the future.

For example, a research institute that you have no direct communication with may achieve some kind of results.

Say this happened next-door.

You'd relate to it more than through reading a paper.

You'd acquire information quickly on new trends.

If that information was related to your research, you could explore the possibility of collaboration.

That's the advantage of face-to-face communication.

Because we are first-class researchers in our respective fields, we tend to become increasingly narrowly focused.

With the exception of geniuses like Edison, exchanging opinions or cooperating with one another is normally vital for achieving results in new research.

I also like children.

By coming into contact with science in everyday life, children become interested in the mysteries of the world.

We have an obligation to show our children the research that we are carrying out. And when you start to understand the world around you it gives birth to new scientific curiosity.

Cultivating interest in science from the bottom up is something else I want to achieve.

You have to inspire children to become interested.

They hold the key to the future.

I want to pave the way to the future through our children.

Children become interested when they have fun.

This is the message I want to send out to everyone through all kinds of means, not just to children in Kawasaki City, but all over Japan and the world.

That's the kind of place I want Kawasaki to be.