

Interview with Executives at King SkyFront No.1

Ryuta Nomura

**Chairman of the board Chief Executive Officer
Central Institute for Experimental Animals (CIEA)**

We breed some of the finest experimental animals in the world.

As news of our achievements began to spread throughout the world, we moved to Tonomachi to establish a place in front of Tokyo International Airport to work with people from all over the world, and promote Japan's experimental animal technology throughout the world.

The Central Institute for Experimental Animals has an extensive network of contacts, and we are expected to attract many people here.

Using experimental animals with greater added value than those used traditionally will ensure further contribution to society by animal experiments.

We take pride in providing services that are indispensable to researchers all over the world.

We were the first in the world to breed a severely immunodeficient animal known as the NOG mouse.

We initially grafted human cancer cells on to them to experiment on drugs for treating cancer.

But we came to understand their versatility, and succeeded in engrafting and rebuilding normal human cells and organs.

We call them humanized mice, and we have converted 70 to 80% of their blood into human blood, or 80 to 90% of their liver cells into those of humans.

Animal experiments were traditionally carried out to ensure human safety.

But they actually went no further than testing for safety on mice.

But the humanized mouse has enabled genuine human safety tests through animal experiments.

This will ensure that tragedies such as that of thalidomide, will never be repeated.

Pharmaceutical companies have restarted research and development into new

drugs that had been abandoned and made major progress in other areas.

We also developed a genetically modified marmoset while carrying out experiments. Experimental animals are currently being used as tools in the development of drugs and medical technology.

In fact I could even develop a mouse that will be my avatar.

As an ultimate form of personalized medicine, if I became hospitalized, for example, a time will come when I'll use my avatar mouse to determine the form of treatment that would be best for me.

This will eliminate unnecessary side effects, and it may allow a reduction in the amount of drugs used.

It will also allow prediction of the spread of cancer, enabling the selection of suitable treatment.

I believe that experimental animals are not simple tools for developing new drugs, but they can be used directly in treatment to contribute to the health of humanity.

The medical treatment industry has changed dramatically and companies from other industries are breaking into the market.

These include manufacturers of machines, electronics, foods, chemicals, fibers and so on.

They're companies from completely different sectors.

Japan is said to be not very conducive to fostering venture businesses.

But there are actually many interesting ones, and I want to collaborate with them.

This is because pharmaceutical companies have the means to carry out animal experiments, but companies from other industries don't even have experimental animal facilities.

So we can provide the technology and collaborate in developing new products to create new businesses.

We want to overcome this small valley of death.

Therein lies our purpose.

There are joint-use facilities within this building in Tonomachi, which we would like people to make use of.

There's a limit what a single person can come up with.

People with different perspectives will come to Tonomachi, and give birth to great possibilities.

Thinking about experimental animals only among experimental animal researchers limits our horizons.

But when users contribute their opinions, that's when ideas really start to take off.

I believe Tonomachi will set an example for the rest of Japan with our vision for the future.

I want people who come here to think about the future of Japan from a global perspective, and work with us in mutual cooperation.

Japanese people have a lot of latent power, so if we focus ourselves, we can make things that will stand up to global competition.

Our headquarters are in Tonomachi of Kawasaki, but our market is the world.

That's our attitude.

Science parks in Japan have traditionally focused on the domestic market.

But we're a part of the world.

Japan is a part of it.

That was the idea on which we built this place.

Our technology will lead the world and people will gather here from everywhere.

There'll be no more Japan passing.

Japan will play a central role here in cooperating with the world.

Tonomachi of Kawasaki is where it's going to happen.

That's what I think.