

\* The word "Chubu" translates literally as the "central part" (of Japan).

The Nagoya Region, where the headquarters of Amano Enzyme Inc. is based, is located in the central part of Japan.

Ise Jingu holds its own unique ceremony called Shikinen Sengu, which has a long tradition of about 1,300 years. Although there was a period of interruption (Warring States Period) in the long history, the ceremony has been repeated every 20 years. The next, to be held in 2013, will be the 62nd event.

The word "Sengu" refers to the ceremony of rebuilding the shrine and asking the God, Omikami, to move into the new shrine, while the word "Shikinen" translates as "the prescribed year". The Ise Jingu consists of two shrines: Naiku (Inner Shrine) and Geku (Outer Shrine). Each of the Naiku and Geku has two separate lots in the east and the west that occupy the same area. Each of the shrines is rebuilt on one of the two lots and is relocated from one lot to the other every 20 years. At the same time, the sacred apparel and treasures are also renewed.

There is no definite answer as to why they are rebuilt every 20 years. However, there are many different reasons used to explain it. For example, 20 years can be seen as an important milestone in life. In addition, 20 years is regarded as a reasonable length of time for skills to be handed down to the next generation.

Preventing the dilapidation of the shrine buildings is not the only reason that the Jingu has been carrying on in the Shikinen Sengu ceremony. The Jingu opted for a style of architecture called "yui-itsu shinmei zukuri", and has maintained its original style by rebuilding the shrines every 20 years, to remain new and yet the same forever. This is how the Jingu has always celebrated the Gods

in the same way as it did long, long ago, through different times.

The tradition of repeating the same procedure every 20 years not only has helped traditional Japanese shrine carpenters, artists and craftsmen to pass on their skills to younger generations, but has also contributed to developing a culture that supports the lives and society of Japanese people.

The Sengu ceremony involves more than 30 festivals and events. Although the most climactic event, Sengyo (transfer ceremony of the symbol of Amaterasu Omikami from the old shrine to the new shrine), is scheduled for 2013, preparations towards it have been progressing steadily since as early as 2005.



Images provided by Jingu-shicho

## Topics

## Investment in IGM (Mexico) and the establishment of a subsidiary in China

### Investment in IGM (Mexico)

In late December of 2006, we acquired full ownership of the stock of IGM (Industrial Goei de Mexico S.A. de C.V.) and renamed the company Amano Enzyme de Mexico S.A. de C.V. (AEM). Since its foundation in 1976, IGM has been engaged in the manufacture of animal organ extracts for use in pharmaceuticals, health food, etc., mainly from pig and cow organs produced in Mexico. We will seek to expand the range of animal-derived products, in the hopes of creating good synergy with our enzyme business. The company is located in Irapuato City, 330 km northwest of the Mexican capital, Mexico City.

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### The establishment of a subsidiary in China

We set up a representative office in China in December 2003 and have been conducting a rigorous marketing effort in the Chinese market, resulting in the establishment of a subsidiary in China. Compared to the time when our representative office was set up, enzyme use now attracts much more attention in China today, as the result of the shift in the production of pharmaceutical and pesticide intermediates to China, as well as processed foods becoming increasingly popular as the economy grows. It is predicted that the Chinese enzyme market will further expand in the future, driven by steady economic growth. Given that the production of pharmaceutical and pesticide intermediates continues to be based in China, the enzyme market for bioconversion in China is expected to grow as well. Moreover, continued growth is also predicted in enzymes used for liquid seasonings, yeast extracts and fuel alcohol.

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