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## Contents

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Katsuobushi - A typical Japanese fermented seasoning .....	2
Digestive Enzymes Improve Nutritional Status in the Elderly .....	5
Progress in Japan on the genomic analysis of molds .....	7

### *From the Editor,*

*The international exhibition, EXPO 2005 AICHI, is scheduled to open in Aichi Prefecture, Japan on March 25, 2005. One hundred twenty-five countries and eight international organizations have decided to participate in the exposition (as of March 2004).*

*With "Nature's Wisdom" as the main theme, and "Nature's Matrix," "The Art of Life," and "Development for Eco-Communities" as subthemes, the expo sites are steadily taking shape. A Global House, where there are surprises and touching moments in store, and a main stage (The EXPO Plaza) for grand global interchanges are under construction in the Nagakute Area. The construction of a pavilion and an area designed to make new history is making steady progress in the Seto Area. A frozen mammoth is scheduled to be displayed for the first time in the world. Morizo and Kiccoro, who are dryads symbolizing nature, will play active roles as mascots for EXPO 2005 AICHI.*

*Fossilized microbes were found in a rock in Africa, so it is assumed that microbes developed 3.5 billion years ago, a billion years after the earth was formed. In comparison, mammals originated 220 million years ago, and humankind came into being more than 2 million years ago. Viewed in the light of a food chain, decomposed microbes are utilized by plants and transferred from herbivorous animals to carnivorous animals (including human beings). In addition, microbes also decompose waste generated by people, as well as dead animals and plants, and return them to the natural environment. So they play a part in a recycling-orientated society and contribute maintaining the global environment.*

*Amano Enzyme Inc. produces and sells enzymes with the help of microbes and human technology and makes contributions to human health and food culture. Indeed, Amano performs corporate activities based on our concept in line with Nature's Wisdom, the main theme of EXPO 2005 AICHI. As a sponsor, Amano supports EXPO 2005 AICHI.*



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### **Photo on the cover:**

A carp streamer, called *koinobori*, is an ornament made of fabric in the shape of a carp five meters or more in length.

In Japan, the Boys' Festival, called *tanigonosekku*, is held on the fifth of May in celebration of boys' health. Because a carp symbolizes a child's success in life, people put up carp streamers in the garden and pray for their children's growth.