

PRESS RELEASE

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
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Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Announces Changes in Its Organization and Executive Personnel

TOKYO, January 29, 2026 – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) decided on changes to its executive personnel at a Board of Directors’ meeting held on January 29, 2026. Based on the selection of candidates for other Executive Officers by the President, changes in Executive Officers will be made effective from April 1, 2026.

The Ajinomoto Group is promoting Medium-Term ASV*1 Management and focuses on the sustainable enhancement of corporate value by contributing to the well-being of all human beings, our society, and planet with “AminoScience*2”, which we uphold as our Purpose.

In order to achieve the 2030 Roadmap ahead of schedule, talented individuals who demonstrate leadership in business optimization and create new value will be appointed as Executive Officers. Under President Nakamura, the team will unite under the management slogan “Think Well, Do Well!” to further accelerate Medium-Term ASV Management by enhancing both ideation and execution. A Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) will be added as a new Chief Officer to strengthen human assets and organization assets, enhance the executional capacity of Our Philosophy, drive the achievement of corporate strategies, and promote the improvement of the company’s sustainable competitiveness. To proactively advance Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) and achieve sustainable enhancement of corporate value, female representation in the executive team will be increased (bringing the total to five) and one executive with a global background (bringing the total to three), one member from a group company (bringing the total to two), two leaders from diverse professional backgrounds (bringing the total to three), and one external member (bringing the total to two), will be added in FY2026. The number of Representative Executive Officers will also be changed from two to three as contingency measures.

The Ajinomoto Group aims to refine the uniqueness of “AminoScience” and intangible assets such as human resources, technology, customers, and organization, by developing more diverse and creative human assets, so that it can sustainably enhance corporate value as a company contributing to the well-being of all human beings, our society, and our planet. Furthermore, by developing a culture that allows employees and organizations to fully demonstrate their inherent abilities and take on challenges and grow independently, The Group will work to become the “No. 1 organization of high employee engagement” by encouraging people to take on challenges without fear of failure and improving the quality of those challenges.

*1 ASV (Ajinomoto Group Creating Shared Value) is about co-creating social and economic value through business. It is the fundamental concept behind Ajinomoto Group's mission to fulfill its “vision for the future” and Purpose.

*2 “AminoScience” is a collective term for the various materials, functions, technologies, and services derived from the research and implementation processes with a rigorous focus on unlocking the power of amino acids. It also refers to the Ajinomoto Group’s unique scientific approach to connect these to resolving social issues and contributing to well-being.

1. Organizational changes

[As of April 1]

The Corporate Division will be abolished.

Organizations currently belonging to the Corporate Division will be assigned to the Executive Officers based on their specific functions and roles.

2. Personnel changes

[As of April 1]

Executive Officers who make up the Executive Committee

| New Position | Current Position | Name |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Representative Executive Officer, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Representative Executive Officer, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Shigeo Nakamura |
| Representative Executive Officer & Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) | President, Ajinomoto Foods North America, Inc. | Hiroshi Kaho (Newly appointed) |
| Representative Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, General Manager, Food Products Division | Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, General Manager, ASEAN Division | Ichiro Sakakura |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, Chief Transformation Officer (CXO) | Executive Officer & Vice President, Chief Transformation Officer (CXO) | Takeshi Saito |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, General Manager, Bio & Fine Chemicals Division | Executive Officer, In charge of Corporate Planning | Takaaki Arashida |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, In charge of Finance | Executive Officer & Vice President, In charge of Finance & Investor Relations | Eiichi Mizutani |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, Chief Digital Officer (CDO), In charge of Quality Assurance | Executive Officer, In charge of Quality Assurance | Miroslav Smriga |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), Supervision of R&D | Executive Officer & Vice President, Deputy General Manager, Bio & Fine Chemicals Division, General Manager, Research Institute for Bioscience Products & Fine Chemicals, General Manager, Kawasaki Administration & Coordination Office | Masaru Takayanagi |
| Executive Officer, In charge of Diversity, In charge of Secretariat of Nomination Committee and Compensation Committee | Executive Officer, In charge of Diversity and HR, In charge of Secretariat of Nomination Committee and Compensation Committee | Shino Kayahara |

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| Executive Officer, Supervision of Manufacturing | Corporate Executive, General Manager, Tokai Plant | Koji Kittaka (Newly Appointed) |
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[As of April 1]

Other Executive Officers

| New Position | Current Position | Name |
|--|---|--|
| Executive Officer & Vice President, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, Supervision of Food Products Sales | Executive Officer & Vice President, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, Supervision of Food Products Sales | Takayuki Tahara |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, General Manager, North America Division | Executive Officer, Deputy General Manager, Bio & Fine Chemicals Division, General Manager, Amino Acids Dept. | Michael Lish |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, General Manager, Consumer Food Products Dept. | Executive Officer, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, General Manager, Consumer Food Products Dept. | Ayumu Kamiya |
| Executive Officer & Vice President, General Manager, ASEAN Division | Representative Director, President, Ajinomoto Frozen Foods Co., Inc. | Hiroyuki Teramoto (Newly Appointed) |
| Executive Officer, General Manager, Europe & Africa Division | Executive Officer, General Manager, Europe & Africa Division | Maiko Mori |
| Executive Officer, In charge of Sustainability | Executive Officer, In charge of Sustainability | Kaori Ono |
| Executive Officer, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, General Manager, Institute of Food Sciences and Technologies | Executive Officer, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, General Manager, Institute of Food Sciences and Technologies | Hiroshi Kawase |
| Executive Officer, General Manager, Latin America Division | Executive Officer, General Manager, Latin America Division | Naoko Yamamoto |
| Executive Officer, Deputy General Manager, Bio & Fine Chemicals Division, General Manager, Research Institute for Bioscience Products & Fine Chemicals | Corporate Executive, General Manager, Intellectual Property Dept. | Hiroshi Izui (Newly Appointed) |
| Executive Officer, In charge of Brand Strategy & Communications | Global Communications Dept. Brand Strategy Advisor | Aya Usui (Newly Appointed) |
| Executive Officer, In charge of Legal & Compliance | Corporate Executive, General Manager, Legal & Compliance Dept. | Yosuke Kakihara (Newly Appointed) |
| Executive Officer, In charge of IR | Corporate Fellow, General Manager, IR Office | Masataka Kaji (Newly Appointed) |

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| Executive Officer, Supervision of Frozen Foods Business | Corporate Executive, General Manager, Frozen Foods Business Dept. | Taro Komura (Newly Appointed) |
| Executive Officer, In charge of Green Business Development | President, AJINOMOTO DEL PERÚ S.A. | Iwao Nishitani (Newly Appointed) |

[As of April 1]

Retiring Executive Officers

| Name | Current Position |
|-------------------|--|
| Hiroshi Shiragami | Representative Executive Officer & Executive Vice President, Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), Supervision of R&D |
| Taro Fujie | Executive Officer and Chairman of Company |
| Tatsuya Sasaki | Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, General Manager, Corporate Division |
| Yoshiteru Masai | Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, General Manager, Food Products Division |
| Takayuki Koda | Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, Chief Digital Officer (CDO), Supervision of Manufacturing |
| Sumio Maeda | Executive Officer & Senior Vice President, General Manager, Bio & Fine Chemicals Division |
| Ikuo Kira | Executive Officer & Vice President, General Manager, North America Division |
| Tatsuya Okamoto | Executive Officer & Vice President, Deputy General Manager, Food Products Division, In charge of Marketing Strategy, General Manager, Marketing Design Center |
| Hideaki Kawana | Executive Officer & Vice President, Supervision of Frozen Foods |
| Masaki Kashihara | Executive Officer, In charge of Green Business Development |
| Shuhei Takehara | Executive Officer, In charge of Internal Control and Secretariat of Audit Committee |

For further information, please contact: [HERE](#)