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Toward the Recycling of Waste Plastics

Yasushi Okada
Chair
Federation of Pharmaceutical
Manufacturers' Association of Japan

In recent years, the impact on the environment of the increase in plastic waste has become increasingly serious. Plastic waste discarded in the oceans and on land is negatively affecting ecosystems, and the problem of environmental pollution is becoming evident worldwide. The pharmaceutical industry bears some responsibility for this situation, and as such, we need to take initiatives for the reduction of environmental impact and the effective use of resources. From that perspective, we believe that the Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Japan (FPMAJ) must engage proactively in the reduction, re-use, and recycling of plastics and the use of renewable plastic products.

In 2019, the FPMAJ set a target of achieving a plastic waste recycling rate of 65% or more by fiscal 2030. Having sought the cooperation of our member associations, we achieved that goal in fiscal 2022. In June last year, we received a request from the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) to set a new target for fiscal 2040, in light of the growing interest in plastic use and recycling in Japan and overseas. To that end, after considering the status of achievement of our current target and the government's plastic recycling strategies, the FPMAJ has set the following target.

Target: To achieve a plastic waste recycling rate of 85% or more by fiscal 2040

However, taking into account future advances and innovation in recycling technologies, an increase in the number of recycling facilities, the development and introduction of sustainable materials (reducing plastic use, use of biomass plastics or mono-material packaging), and the promotion of policies (restrictions on plastic use, mandatory recycling), we will review this target as necessary, based on our own efforts and social trends.

I sincerely ask for your active understanding and cooperation.