PRESS RELEASE

December 19, 2024

Dr. Ryoichi Nagata, President of SNBL, has been awarded Bhutan's prestigious National Order of Merit Gold Medal for his distinguished services to the country

TOKYO and KAGOSHIMA, Japan, December 19, 2024 – Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (TSE Prime: 2395, Representative Chairman, President & CEO: Ryoichi Nagata, M.D., Ph.D.; hereinafter SNBL) is pleased to announce that its Representative Chairman, President, and CEO, Dr. Nagata, is conferred with the National Order of Merit Gold Medal by His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan for his distinguished services to the country .



His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan and SNBL President Dr. Nagata

The National Order of Merit of Bhutan was established in 2008 by His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk. This prestigious award recognizes individuals for their outstanding and meritorious contributions to Bhutan. The honor is conferred in three classes: Gold (First Class), Silver (Second Class), and Bronze (Third Class).

On December 17, 2024, Dr. Nagata was conferred with the National Order of Merit Gold Medal by His Majesty the King of Bhutan in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Kingdom of Bhutan. The award ceremony took place before an audience of 30,000 people during the 117th anniversary celebrations of Bhutan's founding at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, the Bhutanese capital.

Dr. Nagata is only the second Japanese recipient of the prestigious Gold Medal and was recognized for his dedicated service as Honorary Consul-General of Bhutan in Japan for 15 years. In the absence of a Bhutanese embassy in Japan, Dr. Nagata has played a pivotal role in strengthening relations between the two nations. His contributions include his efforts to lower the infant mortality rate in Bhutan, as well as his

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support for Bhutanese residents in Japan and the organizing of visits by members of the Bhutanese royal family and government officials.

Around 2009, Dr. Nagata, who is a qualified medical doctor, proposed a plan to the Bhutanese government to improve infant nutrition.

At the time, Bhutan faced challenges in dairy cattle breeding. Dr. Nagata consulted with Kagoshima University, where he served as a member of the management council, and arranged for two engineers from Bhutan's Department of Livestock to study advanced biotechnology at the graduate school for five years. SNBL fully funded all fees associated with their studies while in Japan.
In addition, since producing dairy products in Bhutan at the time was technically difficult, Dr. Nagata collaborated with the Bhutanese government to establish a dairy product factory. The initiative included providing comprehensive staff training and management support until the factory could successfully produce cheese, yogurt, and other dairy products. Once the factory was operating smoothly, it was donated to the Bhutanese government. As a result of these efforts, children in Bhutan now have access to safe and nutritious dairy products, significantly contributing to the improvement of infant nutrition across the country.

Simultaneously, SNBL has actively worked to introduce Bhutanese culture and specialties to the Japanese public. For instance, the company was involved in opening a Bhutanese specialty shop in Tokyo, showcasing unique Bhutanese products. Among these, Bhutanese matsutake mushrooms have become particularly popular in Japan. Additionally, SNBL has supported public safety in Bhutan by facilitating the donation of firetrucks from Japan. Dr. Nagata has also made regular visits to Bhutan, offering valuable advice on economic and industrial development, further strengthening the ties between the two nations.

Dr. Nagata commented, "It is a great honor for me to receive the National Order of Merit of Bhutan. I am truly humbled by this recognition. As the Honorary Consul-General of Bhutan in Japan, I remain committed to providing support and strengthening the friendship between our nations."

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