

November 27, 2018

Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in MOLCURE Inc.

– Shortening of pharmaceutical development through the world's first antibody discovery platform utilizing AI –

The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited (the “Company”; President and Representative Director: Seiji Inagaki) has made an impact investment¹ of 100 million yen in MOLCURE Inc. (“MOLCURE”; CEO: Ryu Ogawa), as part of the Company’s ESG investments.

[Key Points]

- Invest 100 million yen in MOLCURE as an impact investment which aims to achieve both gaining investment returns and generating social impacts (such as structural changes in society).
- The world's first antibody discovery platform “Abtracer” by MOLCURE is expected to have a positive social impact by shortening the development of antibody drugs and reducing medical costs.

MOLCURE is developing and providing the world's first antibody discovery platform “Abtracer” that utilizes next-generation sequencers which can quickly analyze genetic information and artificial intelligence (AI). MOLCURE’s Abtracer enables pharmaceutical companies that are developing new antibody drugs² to identify antibody candidates 10 times faster and with 10 times greater probability of identifying the lead antibody for next blockbuster drug³. This is expected to lead to a significant shortening of the drug discovery process and a reduction in R&D costs of pharmaceutical companies.



Photo credit: MOLCURE

¹ Impact investment is an investment method where Dai-ichi Life makes investment decisions with the intent to gain investment returns and generate social impacts (e.g., structural change in society).

² Antibody drugs are mainly composed of antibodies that have the function of detoxifying cells that cause diseases. Because a single antibody acts only on a specific causative cell, antibody drugs should have few side effects. It is also expected to be used in the treatment of intractable diseases and cancer for which there are no effective treatments.

³ A traditional method for antibody drug discovery requires repeated experiments every time a drug discovery project is initiated, based on the experience and techniques of researchers, and it takes six months to select 20,000 candidates. MOLCURE’s Abtracer enables them to select 10 million candidates just in two months by converting the results of experiments so far into big data with next-generation sequencers and analyzing the data with AI.

Through this investment, the Company will support MOLCURE’s activities from a financing perspective, as these activities are expected to have a positive social impact by shortening the development of antibody drugs and reducing medical costs. At the same time, the Company expects to generate high investment returns from this project. The Company will continuously monitor MOLCURE’s progress on its activities.

The Company will continue striving to enhance investment return by refining and diversifying its investment methods. Concurrently, the Company will proactively engage in ESG investing in order to contribute to building a sustainable society as a responsible institutional investor.

Dai-ichi Life’s Fiscal 2018 Key Engagement Themes for ESG Investing



MOLCURE’s CEO Ryu Ogawa made the following remarks:



“Based on the idea that "we want to reduce diseases without effective therapeutic agents and improve the quality of life of patients," we have been working on the development of a "Next Generation Drug Discovery System" that searches for drug candidates that cannot be discovered by traditional methods. It is said that there are more than 30,000 diseases without effective therapeutic agents in the world. By using our technology, we are promoting business with the mission of rapidly developing drugs against such diseases and improving the quality of life of patients. We will continue to work hard to realize the "creation of social impacts" that ESG investments are aiming to achieve at an early stage.”

[Company Outline of MOLCURE]

Trade name	MOLCURE Inc.
Head Office	5-5-15 Kitashinagawa Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
CEO	Ryu Ogawa
Established	May 2013
Business Description	Developing and providing the antibody discovery platform “Abtracer”

[Dai-ichi Life's Impact Investment History]

Headline	Release date	URL
Dai-ichi Life to Engage in Impact Investment –First Impact Investment in Gojo & Company, Inc. which provides support for micro-finance business–	October 23, 2017	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_012.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Investment in Spiber Inc. –Second Impact Investment through Support for Development of New-Generation Bio-Materials–	October 23, 2017	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2017_044.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Investment in CureApp, Inc. –Third Impact Investment through Support for Treatment Applications–	February 26, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_018.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in CROWD CREDIT, Inc. –Energize Business Activities in Developing Countries to Alleviate the Global Supply-Demand Gap for Funds–	April 5, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_002.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in SUSMED, Inc. –Promote the Widespread Adoption of Non-Drug Therapies through Insomnia Therapy Apps–	June 4, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_008.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in MELTIN MMI – Mitigating Accidents Caused by Work in Hazardous Environments by MELTIN's Avatar Robots –	October 17, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_004.pdf