

NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2018

Supporting "Venture Café Tokyo", a Community that Promotes Innovation

On March 22, 2018, "Venture Café Tokyo", a place where innovators congregate will open in Tokyo's Toranomon Hills Mori Tower. With this opening, our company is providing support as a sponsor. As the sponsors, there are many leading companies and organizations in Japan who have a high interest in innovation. Students of leading universities and research institutions such as Tokyo University are actively participating as volunteers.

In order to support the first steps in developing innovation, Venture Café was founded in Boston in 2009 as a sister organization of CIC (Cambridge Innovation Center), which is the innovation center of the East Coast of the United States. Operating in 6 cities around the world, mainly in Europe and the United States, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and many other types of innovators gather to develop an ecosystem that creates innovation and to promote and strengthen the creation process. This time, Tokyo was selected as the site of the first base in Asia.

At Venture Café events held around the world, there are about 2000 innovators that gather each week to exchange opinions and make connections concerning the latest innovation information. Since its foundation, there have been approximately 250,000 participants at Venture Café event. At Venture Café Tokyo, events are planned to be held every Thursday from 4pm to 9pm.

As a company promoting innovation, we will support the operation of Venture Café Tokyo and through collaborating with entities that can expect synergies with our business and discover seeds of innovation, we will create growth in our business and contribute to creating innovation from Japan.

For details and event information about "VentureCafé Tokyo", please refer to the following; <u>http://venturecafetokyo.org/</u>______

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