

Meat Industry in Japan
— Present Status and Future Outlook

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The market of food industry in Japan still tends to gradually increase since 1990, the year of the bubble burst. The consumption of meat and meat products also shows a slight rising tendency. Among such tendencies of food consumption in Japan, it should be paid attention to the recent remarkable increase of functional food products. Generally, the food value criteria were defined by three categories: primary function identified as the function of ordinary nutrients in the body, secondary function referring to the function of taste and/or flavor toward sensory organs and even toward the brain, and a tertiary function newly defined as the body – modulating function of non – nutrients that is directly or indirectly related to disease prevention. Especially, the studies of the concept on the tertiary function are successfully progressing, and new type of functional food products began to appear at the popular food markets.

In this lecture, the current of food market in Japan and the future of meat industry will be presented according to the following themes:

1. The Current of Food Industry in Japan,
2. The Current of Meat Industry in Japan,
3. Recent Trends of Foods in Japan: Nutrient and functional foods,
4. Present Status of Meat Science in Japan,
5. Meat and meat products: Outlook to the Future.