

NEWS RELEASE

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> February 14, 2018 Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Mitsui Chemicals Cosponsors the Japanese Championship of FIRST LEGO League 2017

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (location: Minato-ku, Tokyo; president & CEO: Tsutomu Tannowa) cosponsored the Japanese championship of "FIRST LEGO League 2017 (FLL 2017),"^(*) the world's largest robotics competition, and made a booth exhibition at the championship held on February 11.

Mitsui Chemicals cosponsored it because the Company endorsed FLL's idea of "providing children with an opportunity to experience the excitement of solving issues in the real world while applying mathematics, science and technology."

In the booth exhibition at the Japanese championship of FLL, Mitsui Chemicals introduced a wide range of robot materials the Company manufactures and conducted experiments of oil adsorption using performance nonwoven fabric TAFNEL[™] in tune with the theme of FLL 2017 "Hydro Dynamics." Many children herded together and learned the excitement of thinking about robots from their materials and the principle of oil adsorption which is essential for "Hydro Dynamics."



<Scene of FLL>

<Scene of MCI Booth>

Mitsui Chemicals will actively promote business development for a wide range of robot materials. Mitsui Chemicals will also continue to engage in various activities to realize its hope for raising the interest of young people and children in the next generation in science and helping them become human resources that will support science and technology in the future. <Reference>

(*) FLL

FIRST LEGO League is one of the world's largest robotics competitions sponsored by FIRST, a nonprofit organization in the United States, and the LEGO Group (the Japanese championship is sponsored by For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). FLL is currently held in more than 88 countries around the world, and the number of students participating in FLL is more than 260,000. Two to 10 children make a team to participate in the robotics competition and conduct scientific research and its presentation based on the theme of the competition. Top teams at the championship in each country will qualify for the world competition. (Detailed information: <u>https://firstjapan.jp/program/</u>)

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