

## S26-5 **Organic Chemistry to Play an Important Role in the Future of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Japan**

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The 70th anniversary celebration of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Kyoto University was held on October 29, 2009. During the ceremony, Mr. Kazuo Nakamura, CEO of CMIC Group, one of the leading CROs in Japan, commented that Japan's GDP in 2008 was the worst among the three developed nations (US, Europe, Japan). He has likened Japan's current economic standing to that of North Korea. I was very surprised to hear that. Also, it was mentioned that the percentage of the poorest population in Japan was the worst among developed nations. Judging from these statistics, Japan may not be able to retain its standing as an economic leader in Asia. The Japanese pharmaceutical market, which is considered the second largest in the world, has shrunk by one/tenth. And it has been predicted that Japan will be overtaken by emerging nations, such as India and China, in terms of the pharmaceutical market size. This is a very dire prediction. On this occasion, I would like to discuss some things that we could do for the development of pharmaceutical science in Japan to ensure that the country retains its status as one of the leaders in the pharmaceutical industry worldwide. I would like to particularly focus on theme during The Annual Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan to be held in Okayama soon.