

NEWS RELEASE

Gunma Prefecture Institute of Public Health and Environmental Sciences
SANYO Electric Co., Ltd.

SANYO's Electrolyzed Water Technology Found to Inactivate Norovirus*

Joint research proves effectiveness of unique technology

Tokyo, January 17, 2007----- SANYO Electric Co., Ltd. (SANYO) announced today that the company's proprietary electrolyzed water technology, which has been applied to a number of heat, ventilation and air conditioning products, was confirmed to be more than 99% effective in suppressing Norovirus (Feline Calicivirus) infectivity*, a virus which has been running rampant this winter. The findings were the result of joint research with the Gunma Prefecture Institute for Public Health and Environmental Sciences.

In May 2006, this same technology was confirmed to inactivate the highly-pathogenic avian influenza and other airborne human influenza which have become of particular concern around the world in recent years, a finding that resulted from joint research with Tottori University.

SANYO has provided numerous products using its unique electrolyzed water technology dating back to 1987, when the company started sales of the cup-type vending machines. Since that time, many products have utilized this technology such as swimming pool antibacterial water systems, washing machines with a non-detergent course, commercial-use air purifier systems fitted with the virus washer function, and home-use humidifiers and air purifiers.

Mr. Kunihisa Kozawa, head of the Gunma Prefecture Institute for Public Health and Environmental Sciences commented that: "Norovirus is a virus that is thought to be transmitted by the fecal-oral route via contaminated food. However, recent research clearly shows that cases of infectivity are believed to be caused by the airborne dispersal of virus in such things as vomit particles. The research also states that it is necessary to re-examine infection preventative measures for vulnerable persons such as infants, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems. With this in mind, our findings confirmed that Feline Calicivirus (substitute virus for Norovirus), which is notoriously resistant to sterilization, was inactivated when passed through electrolyzed water containing a mere 2-mg/l concentration of free residual chlorine. Therefore it can be said that electrolyzed water is an effective preventative measure for suppressing the risk of infection from the Norovirus."

Mr. Masahiro Iseki, General Manager of SANYO's Human Ecology Research Center, stated

that: “Based on the ‘Think GAIA’ vision, SANYO utilized its expertise in water recycling and circulation to develop and apply technology using hypochlorous acid, created by electrolyzing tap water, which is effective at removing bacteria. Hereafter, based on the evidence gained from these collaborative research findings, SANYO will continue to promote the company’s proprietary air purification systems fitted with the ‘virus washer’ function as a preventative measure for suppressing the Norovirus.”

* Fixed quantity showing virus infectious capacity

Norovirus

Norovirus is a virus that usually presents symptoms similar to stomach influenza (Infectious Enterocolitis) such as acute-onset vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps, and is known to cause mass infection during the winter season. The viral particle is spherical-shaped with a diameter of about 38nm. When observed under a microscope the virus is seen as a structure with cup-shaped indentations, and hence is classified as a Caliciviridae. Etymologically, “Calix” comes from the Latin for “cup”. As there are a considerable number of serotypes in Norovirus, it is difficult to build immunity to re-infection even after having been infected once, and it is possible to have an onset of stomach influenza through the Norovirus numerous times during the winter season.

Feline Caliciviridae

Feline Caliciviridae, which presents as acute-onset of diarrhea in cats, is very similar in terms of topical characteristics and clinical symptoms to the Norovirus, causing stomach influenza. In order to develop sterilization technology or preventative methods for the Norovirus, which can not be cultivated in vitro, considerable efforts have been made in researching Feline Caliciviridae. Today Feline Caliciviridae is widely recognized as a substitute evaluation for the Norovirus among researchers.

About the Gunma Prefecture Institute for Public Health and Environmental Sciences

The Gunma Prefecture Institute for Public Health and Environmental Sciences is a public research institute that conducts research and examination related to public health and environmental administration. The institute provides a considerable amount of research findings in the broad fields of environmental conservation and public health, including research into infectious diseases, food poisoning, pollen allergies, air and water quality pollution and medical science.

The institute is nationally recognized as an advanced research organization and receives assistance in the form of a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

About SANYO

SANYO Electric Co., Ltd. is a leading provider of Environment and Energy-related products and services with consolidated sales of US\$20,487 million for Fiscal Year 2005. SANYO's businesses cover a broad range of both consumer and commercial products such as Commercial Equipment, Rechargeable Batteries, AV/Information and Communications Equipment, Home Appliances, Electronic Devices and Others. Based on the vision "Think GAIA," SANYO is committed to providing cutting-edge solutions for a sustainable world by weaving together its numerous proprietary technologies. For further information, please visit SANYO's web site at <http://www.global-sanyo.com/>

For Press Contact: (English Only):

Global PR Team, Public Affairs Unit
Corporate Communications Headquarters
SANYO Electric Co., Ltd.
Tel: +81-3-6414-8615
Fax: +81-3-6414-8720
E-mail: i_press.1014390@sanyo.co.jp