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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies): Katsuyuki WADA Hiroko UEDA Yoshio IRIE Yasuhisa NAKASHIMA Additional name/s of conveying party/ies attached? <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Nature of conveyance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other Execution Date: August 28, 2003		2. Name and address of receiving party(ies): Name: NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. Internal Address: Street Address: 1-1, Koraibashi 4-chome Chuo-ku Osaka-shi City: Osaka 541-0043 State/Country: JAPAN Zip: Additional name/s & address/es attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
4. Application number(s) or patent number(s): If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: A. Patent Application No(s). (1) 10/448,456 (2) _____ (3) _____ B. Patent No(s). (1) (2) (3) Additional numbers attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed: Name: Frank P. Presta Internal Address: Street Address: Nixon & Vanderhye P.C. 1100 North Glebe Road 8 th Floor City: Arlington State: VA Zip: 22201	6. Total number of applications & patents involved: 1 7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to deposit account #14-1140 8. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper thereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.	
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9. Statements and signature. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document. Frank P. Presta Name of Person Signing Reg. No. 19,828 Signature: <i>Frank P. Presta</i> Date: September 22, 2003 Total number of pages including original cover sheet, attachments, and document: [2]		

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ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

(Inventors) Katsuyuki WADA
Hiroko UEDA
Kunihiko ISHIZAKI
Yoshio IRIE
Yasuhisa NAKASHIMA

(Assignee) NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO.,LTD. a corporation of Osaka, Japan
(Address) 1-1, Koraibashi 4-chome Chuo-ku Osaka-shi Osaka 541-0043 Japan

(Title) (hereinafter designated as the Assignee) the undersigned's entire right, title and interest for the United States, its territories, dependencies and possessions in the invention, and all applications for patent and any Letters Patent which may be granted therefore, known as WATER-ABSORBENT COMPOSITION, PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF, ABSORBENT AND ABSORBING PRODUCT
for which the undersigned has (have) executed on even date herewith an application for patent in the United States of America or, if not on even date, then has executed on Aug. 28, 2003 or has already filed U.S. application Serial No. 10/448,456, on May 30, 2003.
The undersigned acknowledges an obligation of assignment of this invention to said assignee at the time the invention was made.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers and documents necessary in connection with the application or any interference which may be declared and any continuing or divisional applications thereof and also to execute separate assignments in connection with such applications as the Assignee may deem necessary or expedient and further to perform any act which may be necessary in connection with claims or provisions of the International Convention for Protection of Industrial Property or similar agreements.

The undersigned agree(s) to perform all affirmative acts which may be necessary to obtain a grant of a valid United States patent to the Assignee.

The undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all Letters Patent of the United States resulting from said application or any division or divisions or continuing applications thereof to the said Assignee, as Assignee of the entire interest, and hereby covenants that he has (they have) full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that he has (they have) not executed and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith.

The undersigned hereby grant(s) the firm of NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C. the power to insert on this assignment any further identification which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent Office for recordation of this document. It is understood and agreed that ASSIGNEE'S attorneys Nixon & Vanderhye P.C. have represented only ASSIGNEE and will continue to represent only ASSIGNEE with respect to this invention.

In witness whereof, executed by the undersigned on the date(s) opposite the undersigned signature(s).

Date	<u>Aug. 28, 2003</u>	Signature of inventor	<u>Katsuyuki Wada</u>
Date	<u>Aug. 28, 2003</u>	Signature of inventor	<u>Hiroko Ueda</u>
Date	<u>Aug. 28, 2003</u>	Signature of inventor	<u>Kunihiko Ishizaki</u>
Date	<u>Aug. 28, 2003</u>	Signature of inventor	<u>Yoshio Irie</u>
Date	<u>Aug. 28, 2003</u>	Signature of inventor	<u>Yasuhisa Nakashima</u>

Witnessed by: Teruyuki Kanto

Date Aug. 28, 2003

Witnessed by: Kiyotama Fujimaru

Date Aug. 28, 2003