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1. Name of conveying party(ies):  
Yorimichi Dairoku, Kozo Nogi and Koji Miyake  
Additional name(s) attached?  Yes  No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):  
Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.  
1-1, Koraibashi 4-chome  
Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi  
Osaka 541-0043  
Japan  
Additional names/addresses attached?  Yes  No

3. Nature of conveyance:  
 Assignment  
 Merger  
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Execution Date: May 17, 2004

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):  
If this document is being filed with a new application, the execution date of the application is: May 17, 2004  
A. Patent Application No(s):  
101855251  
Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No  
B: Patent No(s):

5. Name/address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:  
Y. ROCKY TSAO  
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804

6. Total number of applications/patents involved: 1  
7. Total fee (37 CFR §3.41): \$40  
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*Y. Rocky Tsao*  
Signature

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Date of Deposit: May 27, 2004

PATENT  
REEL: 015387 FRAME: 0255

ASSIGNMENT

For valuable consideration, we Yorimichi DAIROKU, of Himeji-shi, Hyogo, Japan; Kozo NOGI, of Kakogawa-shi, Hyogo, Japan; and Koji MIYAKE, of Akaiwa-gun, Okayama, Japan; hereby assign to Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd., a Japanese corporation having a place of business at: 1-1, Koraibashi 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 541-0043 Japan; and its successors and assigns (collectively hereinafter called "the Assignee"), the entire right, title and interest throughout the world in the inventions and improvements which are subject of an application for United States Patent signed by us, entitled METHOD FOR SIZING OF WATER-ABSORBENT RESIN, filed May 27, 2004, and assigned U.S. Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_, and we authorize and request the attorneys appointed in said application to hereafter complete this assignment by inserting above the filing date and serial number of said application when known; this assignment including said application, any and all United States and foreign patents, utility models, and design registrations granted for any of said inventions or improvements, and the right to claim priority based on the filing date of said application under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the European Patent Convention, and all other treaties of like purposes; and we authorize the Assignee to apply in all countries in our name or in its own name for patents, utility models, design registrations and like rights of exclusion and for inventors' certificates for said inventions and improvements; and we agree for us and our respective heirs, legal representatives and assigns, without further compensation to perform such lawful acts and to sign such further applications, assignments, Preliminary Statements and other lawful documents as the Assignee may reasonably request to effectuate fully this assignment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and seal at Himeji-shi, Hyogo, Japan,  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004

Yorimichi Dairoku \_\_\_\_\_ L.S.  
Yorimichi DAIROKU

Kuniyuki Ishizaki \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Kuniyuki ISHIZAKI

Date: May 17, 2004

Hiroshima Fujimaru \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Hiroshima FUJIMARU

Date: May 17th, 2004

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and seal at Himeji-shi, Hyogo, Japan  
this 17th day of May, 2004

Kozo Noji L.S.  
Kozo NOGI

Kunihiko Ishizaki  
Witness Kunihiko ISHIZAKI

Date: May 17, 2004

Hiroshima Fujimaru  
Witness Hiroshima FUJIMARU

Date: May 17th, 2004

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and seal at Himeji-shi, Hyogo, Japan  
this 17th day of May, 2004

Koji Miyake L.S.  
Koji MIYAKE

Kunihiko Ishizaki  
Witness Kunihiko ISHIZAKI

Date: May 17, 2004

Hiroshima Fujimaru  
Witness Hiroshima FUJIMARU

Date: May 17th, 2004