CLAIMS

1. A polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the Sequence Listing.

2. A polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing wherein the polynucleotide is a partial fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 and has an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression.

3. A polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence having a homology of 95% or more or 99% or more to the polynucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide according to either claim 1 or 2 and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression.

4. A polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence containing two or more of the polynucleotide sequences of the polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression.

5. A polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence comprising:

- at least one of the polynucleotide sequences of the polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 3; and

- at least one of

(a) a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 in the Sequence Listing, a sequence having a homology of 95% or more thereto or a partial fragment of either;

(b) a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4 in the Sequence Listing, a sequence having a homology of 95% or more thereto or a partial fragment of either; and/or

(c) a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 5 in the Sequence Listing, a sequence having a homology of 95% or more thereto or a partial fragment of either;

and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression.

6. A vector comprising a DNA element having the polynucleotide sequence of:

(i) a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 5;

(ii) a polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression;

(iii) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having a homology of 95% or more or 99% or more to the polynucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide consisting of at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression; or

(iv) a polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence containing two or more of the polynucleotide sequences of the polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression.

7. A vector according to claim 6, wherein the vector is a foreign gene expression vector further comprising a foreign gene, and wherein the DNA element is positioned with respect to the foreign gene in a functionally effective manner.

8. The foreign gene expression vector according to claim 7, wherein the protein encoded by the foreign gene is a multimeric protein, or a hetero-multimeric protein.

9. The foreign gene expression vector according to claim 8, wherein the protein encoded by the foreign gene is a hetero-multimeric protein and is an antibody or a functional fragment thereof.

10. A transformed cell into which:

a) the vector according to claim 6 and a foreign gene have been introduced, or

b) the foreign gene expression vector according to any one of claims 7 to 9 has been introduced.

11. The transformed cell according to claim 10, wherein the cell is a cultured cell derived from a mammal preferably wherein the cultured cell is a cell selected from the group consisting of COS-1 cells, 293 cells, and CHO cells.

12. The transformed cell according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the protein encoded by the foreign gene is a multimeric protein or a hetero-multimeric protein.

13. The transformed cell according to claim 12, wherein the protein encoded by the foreign gene is a hetero-multimeric protein and is an antibody or a functional fragment thereof.

14. A method for producing a protein characterized by comprising culturing the transformed cell according to any one of claims 10 to 13 and obtaining the protein encoded by the foreign gene from the resulting culture product.

15. A method for enhancing foreign gene expression in a transformed cell into which a foreign gene or a foreign gene expression vector has been introduced, characterized by using:

(i) a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 5;

(ii) a polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression;

(iii) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having a homology of 95% or more or 99% or more to the polynucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide consisting of at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression;

(iv) a polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence containing two or more of the polynucleotide sequences of the polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression; or

(v) a vector according to claim 6 or a foreign gene expression vector according to any one of claims 7 to 9.

16. Use of:

(i) the polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 5;

(ii) a polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression;

(iii) a polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence having a homology of 95% or more or 99% or more to the polynucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression;

(iv) a polynucleotide consisting of a polynucleotide sequence containing two or more of the polynucleotide sequences of the polynucleotide comprising at least 3000, 2000, or 1500 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence

represented by SEQ ID NO : 1 in the Sequence Listing and having an activity of enhancing foreign gene expression; or

(v) a vector according to claim 6,

for enhancing foreign gene expression in a transformed cell.