

Sumitomo Chemical donates 'Olyset' Nets to Africa's 'Millennium Villages'

Sumitomo Chemical (SCC) will be donating over 330,000 Olyset® anti-malaria bed nets – worth around \$2 million – to the Millennium Villages in sub-Saharan Africa. One hundred villages (individual population c. 5,000) in 10 African countries will receive the Olyset nets, enabling at least half a million people to be protected from exposure to malaria.

Millennium Villages are at the heart of Millennium Promise (MP), a non-profit organisation focused on the eradication of extreme poverty. MP draws on partnerships, alliances and action planning to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the world's poorest countries. The rationale for the creation of Millennium Villages is to help individual communities escape poverty by providing them with the practical and affordable solutions needed to become self-sufficient and achieve the long-term sustained economic development that will spell the end of poverty in their lives. Tackling the scourge of malaria is fundamental to MP's agenda.

SCC's Olyset is a long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) recommended by the World Health Organisation. It never needs chemical treatment by the user and is the only long-lasting bed net guaranteed to last for at least five years. Olyset is based on a revolutionary slow-release technology, where the control agent is incorporated within the fibres of the net itself. The net is fiercely tear-resistant and wash-proof, and is effective as soon as it is installed.

SCC conducts its Olyset business in line with its 'Corporate Social Responsibility' in supplying nets to the developing world. SCC is committed to making Olyset available to those who need it most at the lowest possible cost. To that end, in 2003, SCC transferred the technology for manufacturing Olyset – with a no-fee license – to an independent manufacturer in Africa. More recently, SCC entered into a ground-breaking joint venture partnership that involves the construction of a major manufacturing facility in Tanzania. The factory, which will open later in 2006, will cause total production of Olyset in Tanzania to increase to seven million nets annually.

"Millennium Promise is an exciting and innovative project and we are very proud to be associated with it," commented Hiromasa Yonekura, President of SCC. "Our deep corporate social commitment to assist the global fight against malaria is fully in line with the noble goals of Millennium Promise."

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and co-chairman of the Millennium Promise, added: "The longevity and Sumitomo guarantee that comes with Olyset provides real hope that the families who receive them will be protected from malaria for many years to come. Having Sumitomo and its Olyset technology on board is integral to our strategy in tackling malaria head on to improve the quality of life in Africa and help break the vicious circle of poverty."

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Notes to Editors

1. Millennium Promise is initially focusing on two campaigns:
 - Millennium Villages – an integrated community-led development strategy to end extreme rural poverty based on the MDGs.
 - Quick Win Against Malaria – complementing the Villages effort, this will see the distribution of tens of millions of anti-malaria bed nets to control the disease

2. The first twelve Millennium Villages are:
 - Potou, Senegal
 - Segou, Mali
 - Bonaaso, Ghana
 - Kaduna, Nigeria
 - Ikaram-ibaram, Nigeria (ondo stat)
 - Ruhkira, Uganda
 - Mayange, Rwanda
 - Koraro, Ethiopia
 - Ngurunit, Kenya
 - Sauri, Kenya
 - Mbola, Tanzania
 - Mwandama, Malawi

3. **The Olyset® Net** – key facts:
 - **toughness** – Olyset is tear-resistant and washproof;
 - **no need for retreatment** – the insecticide remains effective for a minimum of five years;
 - **improved ventilation** – Olyset’s large mesh allows for better ventilation but has no negative effect on the number of mosquitoes controlled or repelled by the insecticide film;
 - **safety** – Olyset’s mosquito repellent is based on permethrin, a widely used, long acting synthetic pyrethroid. Permethrin has a proven safety record; it has low mammalian toxicity and there is no irritancy to users;
 - **user and environment-friendly** – because no retreatment is needed, people do not have to handle insecticide concentrate kits;
 - **cost-effectiveness** – because Olyset doesn’t need retreatment, there are significant cost savings in distribution, training and maintenance.

4. The World Health Organisation recommends Olyset and other products through WHOPEP (World Health Organisation Pesticides Evaluation Scheme) – www.who.int/whopes

5. www.sumivector.com

6. www.millenniumpromise.org