

Sumitomo Chemical Honored as 2006 Tech Museum Awards Laureate

Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. has been named a Tech Museum Awards*¹ Laureate in the category of health for the development of its OLYSET®^{*2} mosquito net, which has demonstrated its effectiveness in the prevention of malaria. The Tech Award was presented at the Tech Awards Gala in San Jose, California on November 15.

The Tech Museum Awards program was established with the aim of recognizing innovative uses of technology that bring sustained benefit and contribute to solving the most pressing problems facing humanity. Every year, The Tech Awards are presented in the categories of Health, Education, Environment, Economic Development, and Equality. Five awards are presented in each category in recognition of the accomplishments of a total of 25 Laureates, and one Laureate from each category is selected as a Prize Laureate. This year, the program received 951 entries representing 98 countries in all categories, and Sumitomo Chemical was selected as the Prize Laureate in the category of Health.

Sumitomo Chemical received this year's health award for its OLYSET® mosquito net, which effectively helps prevent malaria by protecting people from being bitten by the mosquitoes that carry the disease. Sumitomo Chemical uses its proprietary technology to impregnate the fibers of the net with insecticide, which is gradually released to the fiber's surface, allowing the nets to retain insecticidal efficacy for over 5 years. Also, because the net fibers are made from durable polyethylene, the nets exhibit a variety of special characteristics, including toughness and a wide mesh that allows improved ventilation and makes them particularly suitable for use in tropical regions.

Every year, some 300 million people are infected with malaria and approximately one million die from the disease, with the majority of cases occurring in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa. Most malaria fatalities occur among children age 5 or younger. Hoping to contribute to the solution to this problem in some small way, Sumitomo Chemical combined its insecticide technology with its synthetic resin technology to develop its OLYSET® mosquito net.

Sumitomo Chemical is greatly honored by the presentation of this year's Tech Award in recognition of its technological achievements. The company will continue to address the urgent social issue of malaria prevention by working actively to make its OLYSET® mosquito nets more widely available.

***1 The Tech Museum Awards**

The Tech Museum Awards is an awards program run by The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California. It was established in 2000 and the first awards were presented in 2001. Partners and sponsors of the program include Applied Materials, Inc., the American Council of the United Nations University, the UNDP, the World Bank and many others. The concept of the 5 categories of Health, Education, Environment, Economic Development, and Equality was based on the Millennium Project's 15 Global Challenges, which address issues of peace and safety on a global scale.

For more information, please visit the Tech Museum Awards' homepage at: <http://techawards.thetech.org/index.php>

***2** For more information about OLYSET®, please visit Sumitomo Chemical's "Global Vector Control" homepage at :<http://www.sumivector.com/>