

February 12, 2008

Opening Ceremony Held for New Olyset® Net Factory in Tanzania

Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. (Sumitomo Chemical) has announced that a new factory operated by the joint venture Vector Health International Limited (Vector Health) for the manufacture of Sumitomo Chemical's Olyset® Net, an insecticide-impregnated mosquito net for the prevention of malaria, held its opening ceremony on February 8th on site in Arusha, Tanzania. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, along with other African heads of state and government figures as well as a number of representatives from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which provided financing for the factory, international organizations and related groups working in support of Africa's autonomous development.

At present, over 500 million people become infected with malaria worldwide and more than one million people lose their lives to the disease every year. Ninety percent of these cases occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, where children under 5 years of age suffer a majority of the fatalities. In addition, malaria is said to be responsible for an annual economic loss of US\$12 billion for the entire African continent, making the prevention of malaria vital to Africa's economic development.

Olyset® Net developed by Sumitomo Chemical is quite durable and retains its efficacy for over 5 years even with repeated washing. It is an economical and effective way of protecting people from the mosquitoes that transmit malaria, and is therefore endorsed by the WHO.

In 2003, Sumitomo Chemical provided its Olyset® Net technology free of charge to Tanzanian mosquito net manufacturer A to Z Textile Mills Limited (A to Z), beginning local production of the nets in Africa. Since then, Sumitomo Chemical has been establishing Olyset® Net production capabilities around the world in order to meet the growing demand for its nets. Operation of the new factory by Vector Health, Sumitomo Chemical's joint venture with the A to Z group company Net Health Limited, will bring total worldwide annual production capacity to approximately 30 million nets. In addition, with some 3,200 people involved in the Olyset® Net operations in Tanzania, Sumitomo Chemical is helping to contribute to the local economy and the creation of employment opportunities.

Support for African development is one of the most urgent challenges facing global society today. This year, Japan will host the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May in Yokohama, and the G8 Summit (Hokkaido Toyako Summit) in July. Through these events, Japan will be expected to play an even greater role in calling on the international community to support Africa. From the perspective of corporate social responsibility (CSR), Sumitomo Chemical, in addition to providing its Olyset® Nets, is supporting education in Africa through the construction of schools. Going forward, Sumitomo Chemical, as a part of the private sector, will actively continue to promote initiatives in support of Africa's autonomous development.

【Reference】

- Company name: Vector Health International Limited
- Location: Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
- Established: September 2005
- Paid-in capital: US\$1 million
- Shareholding: Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. 50%, Net Health Limited 50%
- Main business: Manufacture and sale of Olyset® Nets
- Employees: Approx. 1,200
- President: Anuj Shah