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Sumitomo Chemical Wins the 2012 GBCHealth Business Action on Health Awards

Award Recognises Sumitomo Chemical's Groundbreaking Technology and the Company's Major Contribution to Economic Development in Tanzania

Sumitomo Chemical Company (Sumitomo Chemical), maker of the WHO-recommended Olyset[®] Net^{*1} long-lasting insecticidal net, is the co-winner in the 'Application of Core Competence' category of the 2012 GBCHealth^{*2} Business Action on Health Awards.

The annual GBCHealth Business Action on Health Awards recognise the best corporate programs developed to address global health needs.

Sumitomo Chemical's award citation reads: 'Sumitomo Chemical's groundbreaking Olyset[®] Net technology incorporates insecticide directly into polyethylene filaments which, when woven into bed nets, provide long-lasting protection from the mosquitoes that spread malaria.'

'To get nets to users in Africa faster and to make a lasting contribution to local economic development, Sumitomo Chemical decided to establish a major manufacturing base in sub-Saharan Africa. Its joint venture with A to Z Textile Mills has become one of the largest employers in Tanzania and together the companies' two Tanzanian factories have production capacity of 30million nets per year.'

Tatsuo Mizuno, General Manager – Vector Control Division, Sumitomo Chemical, said: "We are thrilled to have won the GBCHealth Business Action on Health Awards. Since its introduction in 2002, our Olyset[®] Net has been a potent weapon in the war against malaria and it is great to receive further recognition for its innovative technology and health impact."

"But what is especially pleasing is GBCHealth's acknowledgement of our unique net manufacturing initiative in sub-Saharan Africa and the developmental benefits local manufacture brings. Aside from saving lives and improving health, we wanted the largely aid-purchased Olyset[®] Net to make a direct contribution to fighting poverty and for the donor dollar to have more impact. Our establishment of a net manufacturing operation in Tanzania has created, at peak, 8,000 full-time jobs, with employees' wages supporting over 25,000 people and the development of local businesses."

* 1 Find out more about Sumitomo Chemical and Olyset[®] Net at: <http://www.olyset.net/>
Olyset[®] is a registered trademark of Sumitomo Chemical.

* 2 **GBCHealth**

GBCHealth represents over 200 private sector companies leading the business fight for improved global health. Through work that includes developing comprehensive workplace policies; supporting community programs; leveraging core competencies; facilitating leadership and advocacy by business leaders; and brokering public-private partnerships, GBCHealth helps members achieve their global health goals.

GBCHealth also manages the private sector delegation to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, serving as an entry-point for corporate collaboration and engagement with the Fund and its recipients worldwide. GBCHealth has offices in New York, Johannesburg, Beijing, Nairobi and Moscow.