

April 1, 2020

**Message from the President for the New Fiscal Year
To All Employees of Sumitomo Chemical Group**

Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.
Representative Director & President
Keiichi Iwata

Hello everyone,

This is Keiichi Iwata, president of Sumitomo Chemical, speaking from Tokyo Head Quarters. It may be the first time for some of you to see me, but on behalf of Sumitomo Chemical's management, I would like to take this opportunity, with heartfelt appreciation, to thank all of you for making much effort to sustain our business, despite the outbreak of Covid-19, which has affected your everyday life.

Since the beginning of 2019, a slowdown of the global economy became evident. As the result of Covid-19, our business environment has become worse than it was in the 2008 financial crisis. We are now in the midst of a "global crisis."

Today, we start Sumitomo Chemical's fiscal year. Although we face a lot of unknown and uncertain business factors, I would like you to be aware that, for the moment, I do not intend to change any of our business plans or strategies, including our Three-Year Corporate Business Plan. Rather, I would like to ask you to support and cooperate with each other and take the necessary measures to achieve your companies' goals. Furthermore, I renew my commitment to leading your efforts, and I am determined, as your president, to work with full force and might.

Former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill once stated, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." This is truly a challenging time, but let us carry on with hope and positive energy and work together to enhance the foundations of our business for future growth.

Lastly, please look after your family and friends with much care. I believe that together we can overcome the challenges we face now and in the future.

Thank you.