

IRCJ receives payment in full for Mitsui Mining and Associated Companies' debt

Tokyo, March 17, 2006 – The Industrial Revitalization Committee of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan ("the IRCJ") today approved the receipt of repayment in full for debt the IRCJ had purchased from financial institutions as part of a business revitalization plan for MITSUI MINING COMPANY, LIMITED and associated companies ("Mitsui Mining"). The payment received by the IRCJ means that it no longer holds any debt or other obligations of Mitsui Mining.

1. Name of company concerned

MITSUI MINING COMPANY, LIMITED

(merged with MITSUI MINING DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED in March 2004)

MITSUI MINING COKE, LIMITED

(merged with MITSUI MINING DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED in March 2004)

MITSUI MINING DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED

(changed name to MITSUI MINING COMPANY, LIMITED following merger with MITSUI MINING COMPANY, LIMITED and MITSUI MINING COKE, LIMITED in March 2004)

MITSUI COAL MINING, LIMITED

2. Process to date

On October 31, 2003 the IRCJ approved an application for assistance by Mitsui Mining under Article 22, Clause 3 of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation Act of 2003. On December 10 of the same year, under Article 25, Clause 1 of the same act, the IRCJ reached agreement with financial institutions on the purchase of this company's debts and a subsequent capital decrease and increase was carried out in February 2004*.

In March 2005, in accordance with the revitalization plan, part of the equity held by the IRCJ was transferred to the three sponsor companies—Daiwa Securities SMBC Principal Investments Co., Ltd., Nippon Steel Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation—and revitalization was continued with the support of these sponsors. In December 2005 the sale of the remainder of the equity held by the IRCJ was completed.

* The value of the capital increase carried out by the IRCJ was equity with a face value of ¥20.0 billion (¥10.0 billion of ordinary shares and ¥10.0 billion of preferred shares).

3. Amount of debt

The principal value of Mitsui Mining's debt was ¥179,543 million, for which the IRCJ paid financial institutions ¥58,843 million. In accordance with the business revitalization plan, part of the remainder of the debt of ¥111,973 million following financial support (debt forgiveness of ¥67,148 million, ¥20,000 million exchanged to equity, and new financing of ¥19,578 million) was recovered through business profits and the sale of assets. The remaining debt of ¥101,915 million cleared today comprises the transfer to Mitsui Mining of ¥62,165 million of MITSUI COAL MINING, LIMITED debt, along with debt repayment of ¥39,750 million from Mitsui Mining.

4. Comment from the state ministers in charge of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan

None expressed.

Note on comments from ministers: The IRCJ is a quasi-governmental organization. As such, the IRCJ is required to obtain comments about decisions to assist private-sector companies from the three government ministers in charge of the IRCJ.

For more information, please contact

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About the IRCJ

The IRCJ was established jointly by the public and private sector on April 16, 2003, with the aim of providing revitalization assistance beneficial to both the industrial and the financial sectors in Japan. It targets assistance at companies that have sound business fundamentals but are unable to thrive because of excessive debt levels or other factors. The IRCJ has approximately 200 employees and is based in Tokyo. For more information please visit www.ircj.co.jp