



**Media Inquiries Please Contact:**

Contact name  
David Stearns, GBC Media Relations Manager  
**Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS TB and Malaria**  
+1-212-584-1633 (direct line)  
+1-718-501-8666 (cell)  
[dstearns@businessfightsaids.org](mailto:dstearns@businessfightsaids.org)

## **SUMITOMO CHEMICAL JOINS THE GLOBAL BUSINESS COALITION ON HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (GBC)**

***- Leading producer of anti-malaria bed nets is coalition's first Japanese member -***

**New York, NY, USA; Tokyo, Japan– February 7, 2007** – The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC) today announced the addition of its first Japanese member, Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., which joins 220 other multinational corporations committed to the private sector response to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Sumitomo Chemical's move signals the rising importance of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as a business concern around the world and in Japan.

Sumitomo Chemical is a worldwide leader in the fight against malaria. The manufacturer of Olyset® long-lasting anti-malaria bed nets, Sumitomo Chemical is poised to make significant and unique contributions to the fight against the malaria pandemic which kills 3,000 children each day and more than one million people annually, posing a significant threat to global economic growth and security. The GBC, whose ranks have grown rapidly in recent years from 17 to 220 global corporations, will advise and support Sumitomo's expanded engagement in the fight against malaria in partnership with GBC corporate members and other stakeholders.

"We commend Sumitomo Chemical for their engagement in response to the global pandemics of our time" said Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, former US Ambassador to the United Nations and GBC's President and CEO. "Japan's business leaders possess impressive corporate capabilities full of promise for the response to these acute global health issues"

"We are honored to join the GBC and become an integral part of the multi-sector endeavor to conquer malaria," said Shigehiro Oba, Director & Senior Managing Executive Officer of Sumitomo Chemical. "Providing practical and charitable aid is integral to Sumitomo's corporate philosophy, demonstrated by our capacity to provide long-lasting insecticide nets to vulnerable communities in sub-Saharan Africa. We are particularly honored to contribute to Africa's sustainable development with the launch of a new Olyset® net production facility in Tanzania that will create local jobs and expand business partnerships."

The announcement was made at a conference this week in Tokyo on the Corporate Response to Communicable Diseases co-organized by the Friends of the Global Fund, Japan; the Japan Center for International Exchange; the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the Global Business Coalition; and supported by the Japan Business Federation Council for Better Corporate Citizenship, and attended by more than 50 corporations.

“The Global Business Coalition is a key global corporate responsibility initiative of immediate relevance to the Japanese business community” said Sir Mark Moody Stuart, Chairman of AngloAmerican PLC, who also serves as the Chairman of both the Foundation for the Global Compact and the GBC. “Sumitomo Chemical has demonstrated leadership by joining GBC, and we look forward to other leading Japanese firms following in their estimable footsteps.”

Sumitomo Chemical has donated more than 330,000 of its Olyset® anti-malaria bed nets to the Millennium Villages Project, a program in which scientists and development experts from the Earth Institute at Columbia University work with local communities and governments to help villages escape extreme poverty. Millennium Villages are now underway in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. One hundred villages with individual populations of around 5,000 people received the nets, protecting nearly 500,000 people from the threat of malaria.

Sumitomo Chemical’s Olyset® anti-malaria bed nets are tough, tear-proof and washable, guaranteed to last for at least five years without need of re-treatment. Sumitomo Chemical currently produces 30 million of Olyset® nets to meet the objectives of the Roll Back Malaria global campaign.

A significant element of the bed net manufacturing effort is Sumitomo Chemical’s commitment to sustainability in the creation of African employment opportunities and business partnerships. Production of Olyset® nets in Africa started in Arusha, Tanzania in 2003 through a local company, A to Z Textile Mills Ltd. In 2005, Sumitomo Chemical announced a new joint venture in Tanzania with the owners of A to Z that will result in a total production capacity of 8 million Olyset nets annually and employment of more than 2,000 people in the country. The joint venture will begin commercial production in 2007.

### **About GBC**

*The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC) mobilizes international business against HIV/AIDS and recently added tuberculosis and malaria to its mandate. The rapidly expanding alliance of 220 international companies is dedicated to combating these epidemics through the business sector’s unique skills and expertise. The official focal point of the private sector delegation to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, GBC maintains offices in New York, Paris, Geneva, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Moscow, Kiev and Beijing.*

[www.businessfightsaids.org](http://www.businessfightsaids.org) / [www.businessfightsmalaria.org](http://www.businessfightsmalaria.org) / [www.businessfightstb.org](http://www.businessfightstb.org)