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Press Release

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.

30th Anniversary of Hishikari Mine and Achievement of cumulative Production of 200 Tons of Gold

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. ("SMM", Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and Representative Director: Nobumasa Kemori) is marking 30 years since development began at the Hishikari Mine (Isa City, Kagoshima Prefecture, Manager: Kazuya Okada) in 1982 and the achievement of a total production of 200 tons of gold.

The Hishikari Mine was officially launched as an organization in July 1982. Work commenced on mining at the start of 1983, and in July 1985 shipment of ore commenced following the striking of a vein. Thanks to stable operation through by modern mine development techniques and an extremely high grade gold ore, the production of 200 tons has been achieved in the 27 years and four months since the first shipment.

The Hishikari Mine is the largest gold mine in Japan, and its known reserves of gold currently stand at 150 tons. Henceforth SMM has decided to move forward with the development of a body of ore located beneath the deposit that is currently being mined, and expects to secure further reserves of gold equal to approximately 30 tons.

Hishikari Mine shall continue to strive for stable operation and the securing of new gold deposits.

[History of the Hishikari Mine]

1981	September	The Metal Mining Agency of Japan (now JOGMEC: Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation) conducts an exploratory survey in the Hishikari region, and discovers high grade gold veins
1982	July	Hishikari Mine officially launched as an organization within SMM
1983	January	Work commences on exploration via an inclined shaft
1985	July	Start of ore shipment
1988	November	Discovery of the Yamada ore deposit
1990	September	Discovery of the Sanjin ore deposit
1997	May	Achieved status of highest gold production in Japan (83.1 tons)
1999	August	100 tons of gold production achieved
2006	March	150 tons of gold production achieved
2012	October	200 tons of gold production achieved

Address inquiries concerning this Press Release to:

Syoki Aono, Public Relations & Investor Relations Department

TEL: +81-3-3436-7705

FAX: +81-3-3434-2215