

December 15, 2010

Press Release

**N.E. Chemcat Corporation Appoints
New President and Executive Vice President**

Tokyo, Japan, December 15, 2010 - BASF Group and Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd., each owning 50 percent of N.E. Chemcat Corporation, announced today the appointment of Akira Okumura to the position of president and representative director. Okumura currently serves as executive vice president and representative director, in addition to general manager of the Catalysts Business Division and the Chemical Catalysts Business Department. He is succeeded by Yukio Ishikawa, currently vice president, who will assume the role of executive vice president and representative director. Both appointments are effective January 1, 2011. At that time, Susumu Makino will step down as president and representative director, to take on a leadership position in a large international project in New Caledonia.

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About N.E. Chemcat Corporation

Established: April 9, 1964
Location: 2-4-1, Hamamatsu-cho, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Industry: Chemical, with focus on the manufacturing and sales of chemical catalysts, automotive catalysts, surface treatment chemical products, etc.
Capital: 3.4235 billion yen
Shareholders: Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. (50%)
BASF Catalysts Asia B.V. (46.43%)
BASF Catalysts Holding China LLC (3.57%)

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