

Press Release

December 14, 2009

SMM Boosts Investment in NAC, Largest Nickel Producer in the Philippines

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. (SMM) has completed an increase in its capital investment into Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC), the Philippines' largest producer of nickel. The additional investment, undertaken at a cost of approximately US\$22 million, boosts SMM's equity stake in NAC by 8.5%, to 25.0%.

NAC (chairman: Manuel B. Zamora, Jr.) is one of the largest nickel mining and ore-producing companies in the Philippines, a country blessed with world-class nickel resources. It was founded in February 2006 as a holding company consolidating various nickel mining firms that had previously operated as members of the Zamora Group. NAC's founding aim was to enhance management efficiency through the aggregation of those entities' respective capital and management resources.

SMM has enjoyed close business ties with NAC for some time. Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation, a company under NAC's corporate umbrella, has long been a supplier of ore to Coral Bay Nickel Corporation, an SMM operation in the Philippines. In August 2009 SMM took this relationship with NAC a notch higher by making a capital investment into the company, acquiring a 16.5% stake at an outlay of approximately US\$39 million. NAC is also actively involved in the Taganito HPAL (high-pressure acid leach) Project being promoted by SMM; plans are going forward for Taganito Mining Corporation, another NAC company, to participate as a supplier of ore.

By boosting its stake in NAC, SMM seeks to strengthen its ties with NAC as a vitally strategic partner in carrying out its business strategy. Specifically, that strategy targets SMM's development into a major player in non-ferrous metals. The company's leading-edge technological capabilities in nickel production have already been solidly demonstrated, as illustrated by its pioneering role in the application of HPAL

technology to nickel refining at Coral Bay. Leveraging this proven expertise, SMM is now taking aggressive steps to expand its operations in nickel; these include the Taganito HPAL Project currently in the planning stage, and expansion of the Niihama Nickel Refinery. Through these and similar initiatives, SMM is quickly and aggressively moving into position to join the ranks of the world's top non-ferrous metal producers.

Address inquiries concerning this News Release to:

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.

Naonobu Hayakawa, Public Relations & Investor Relations Department

TEL: 03-3436-7705

Profile of Nickel Asia Corporation

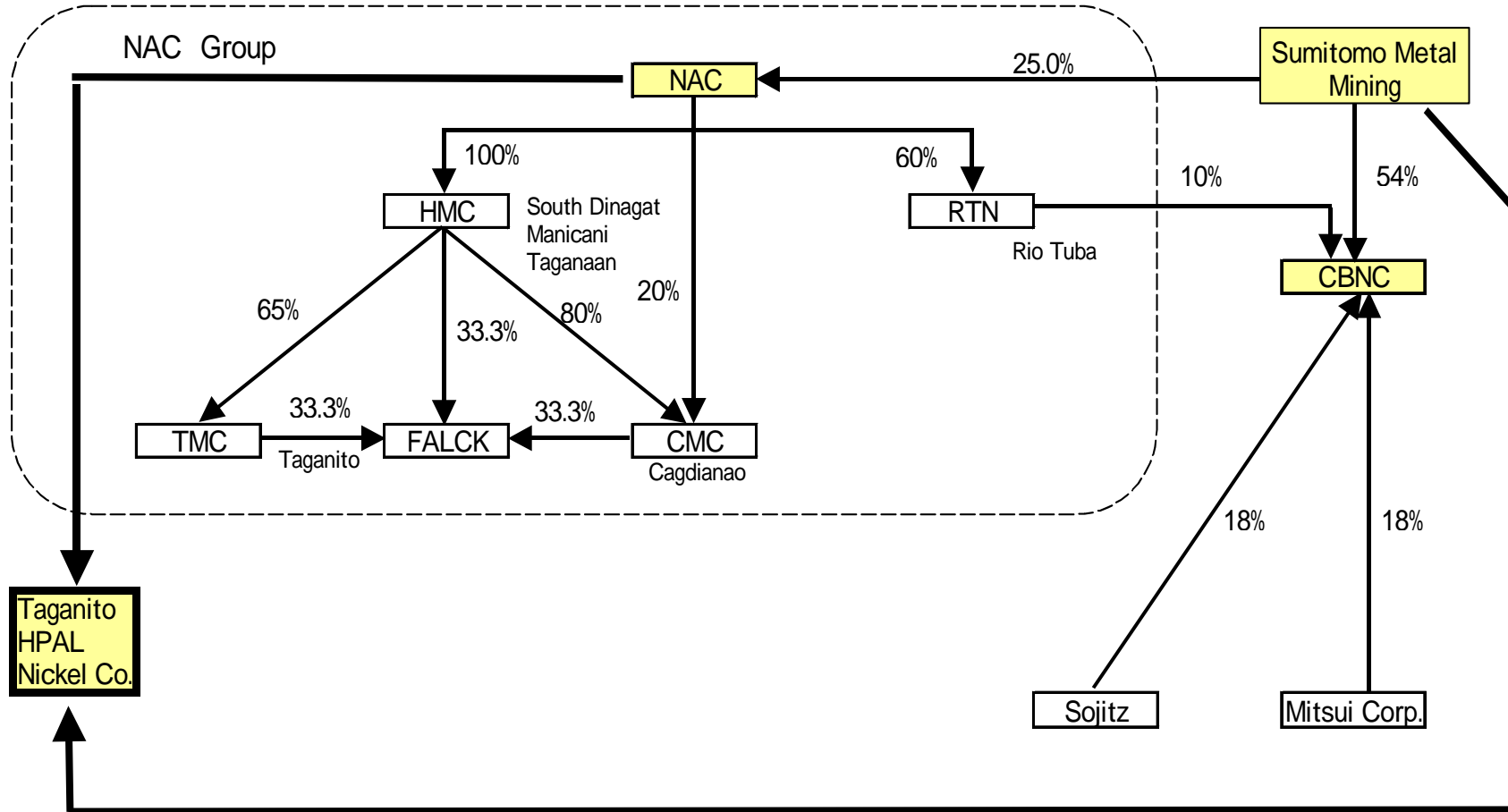
1. Corporate name : NICKEL ASIA CORPORATION
2. Address of head office : Makati city, Philippines
3. Capitalization: 412 million pesos
* 1 peso = US\$ 0.02 (approximately)
4. Major shareholders and equity shares:

M. B. Zamora Jr.	37%
P. T. Ang	19%
L. J. L. Virata	18%
5. Major operating mines (Nickel mines)
 - Rio Tuba Mine
 - Taganito Mine
 - Cagdianao Mine
 - Taganaan Mine
 - South Dinagat Mine
6. Net sales :

2006	7.5 billion pesos
2007	16.6 billion pesos
2008	5.6 billion pesos
7. Output of ores : 7 millions WT/Year (Result of 2007)
8. Sales of ores :

2006	6.5 million tons
2007	7.5 million tons
2008	3.5 million tons
9. Major customers
 - Coral Bay Nickel Corporation etc.
10. Capital relationship
 - As attached document

Figure concerned of NAC and its subsidiaries



HMC: Hinatuan Mining Corporation, RTN: Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation, TMC: Taganito Mining Corporation
 CMC: Cagdianao Mining Corporation, CBNC: Coral Bay Nickel Corporation, FALCK: exploration company