

April 14, 2023

## **Second Term for Joint Research Department (Non-ferrous Metal Smelting and Refining Environmental Science Research Department)**

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President and Representative Director: Akira Nozaki) and the Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, (location: Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, Director: Masami Terauchi) will extend the activities of the Joint Research Department at the Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials for a second term of five years from April 2023 until March 2028 with the purpose of undertaking research to contribute to the sustainable development of the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining business in Japan.

Over the course of the five years from April 2018 to March 2023, the department undertook joint research to benefit the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining industries in Japan as a whole by working to achieve progress in non-ferrous smelting and refining technology and the enhancement in international competitiveness that this provides and has worked to develop a new generation of human resources to become non-ferrous metal smelting and refining engineers\*, and given the results achieved by the Joint Research Department in its first term, the decision has been made to extend its activities for a second term.

In its second term, the Joint Research Department will continue to deepen its collaboration with non-ferrous metal smelting and refining companies and other parties in Japan and provide support for the continuation and expansion of non-ferrous metal smelting and refining courses while aiming to contribute to the development and recruitment of engineers.

With a core of research themes that it tackled in its first term, the department will address specific themes that include the following.

- Research into methods for the efficient separation and recovery of the range of metals found in raw materials for smelting and refining, including scrap, and development of uses for these metals
- Research into technology to achieve advancements in non-ferrous metal smelting and refining operations
- Research into the effective use and recycling of non-ferrous metal smelting and refining intermediates and waste
- Research into assessing the impact on the environment of smelting and refining operations

The department will also present the results of its research at meetings of academic societies, seminars, and other venues, and contribute to increasing the international competitiveness of the Japanese non-ferrous metal smelting and refining industries. In terms of developing and recruiting human resources, in addition to developing human resources through opportunities provided by joint research, it will promote the appeal of the industry through seminars held in conjunction with other non-ferrous metal smelting and refining companies, plant tours, and other such activities, and work to develop and recruit human resources for the next generation in the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining industry.



From left: Masami Terauchi, Director of the Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University; Shuichi Ogasawara, General Manager of the Technology Division at Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.; and Takuro Ueda, Executive Vice President of Tohoku University (Photographed on April 4, 2023)

\*Reference website: Non-ferrous Metal Smelting and Refining Environmental Science Research Department  
<http://www2.tagen.tohoku.ac.jp/lab/nonferrous/>

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