

# REFERENCE INFORMATION

## RISK FACTORS

Sumitomo Corporation and Subsidiaries

The factors described below may conceivably materially affect investors' decisions as risks relating to us and our subsidiaries. Unless otherwise specified, information concerning the future presented herein are forecasts based on our decisions, targets, certain premises or assumptions as of the last day (March 31, 2006) of the consolidated fiscal year and may differ materially from the actual results.

### RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS

#### **The risk of our revenues and profitability fluctuating from period to period unexpectedly**

Our results of operations for any quarter or year are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected in future periods. Our operating results have historically been, and we expect they will continue to be, subject to quarterly and yearly fluctuations as a result of a number of factors, including:

- changes in prevailing economic and other conditions relating to our businesses;
- variations in costs, sales prices and volume of our products and services, and the mix of products and services we offer;
- changes in customer demand and/or our supply chains, which in turn will often depend upon market conditions for the relevant products, the success of our customers' or suppliers' businesses, industry trends, and other factors;
- changes in the level of performance of our strategic investments, which in turn will affect our gains and losses on sales of such investments or may result in the write-off or impairment of such investments;
- changes in our asset prices, including equity, real estate and other assets, which in turn will affect our gains and losses on sales of such assets or may result in the write-off or impairment of such assets;
- changes in the financial and commodity markets; and
- changes in the credit quality of our customers.

As such, you should not rely on comparisons of our historical results of operations as an indication of our future performance.

#### **The risk that we may not be able to achieve the managerial targets set forth in our medium-term business plans**

As part of our efforts to strengthen our position as a leading global business enterprise, we intend to increase our profitability and our earnings base and to improve our financial strength and the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. As part of these continuing efforts, we set and implement a medium-term business plan every two years. In the medium-term business plan, we set certain quantitative and qualitative targets and undertake efforts to achieve such targets while monitoring the status of progress. The targets are set based on the gathering and analysis of information deemed appropriate at the time of such target-setting. However, since we may not be able to always gather all the necessary information, we may not be able

to achieve the targets due to changes in the operating environment and other factors.

In our business plan, we use two key management measures that we call "risk-adjusted assets" and "risk-adjusted return ratio," which are targets set for each of our industry-based business units and for our company as a whole. These targets involve a certain statistical confidence level, estimates and assumptions. Since they are different from return on assets or any other measure of performance determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP, they may not be useful to all investors in making investment decisions.

#### **The risk that economic conditions may change adversely for our business**

We undertake operations in over 70 countries, including Japan. Since we are engaged in business activities and other transactions in a broad range of industrial sectors in Japan and abroad, we are affected by not only general Japanese economic conditions but also the economic conditions of the relevant countries in which we operate and the world economy as a whole.

Moreover, economic conditions in key countries for our operations, such as the United States, Indonesia, Russia and other countries in Southeast Asia, have been adversely impacted by events such as the continued fear of future terrorist attacks and political instability. Although China has seen continuing growth, there have been increasing concerns with respect to its ability to maintain such growth. Some emerging markets in which we operate have experienced hyperinflation, currency depreciation, and liquidity crisis and may experience them again in the future.

As such, changes in economic conditions and consumer behavior in key countries for our operations, including Japan, may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

#### **Risks associated with intense competition**

The markets for many of the industries in which we are involved are intensely competitive. For many of our businesses, we are involved at all levels of the supply chain and compete with companies that are engaged in certain of the same businesses as we are, but that are more concentrated in individual business segments. We also compete with other integrated trading companies in Japan which often establish and pursue similar strategic business plans as ours. Our competitors may have stronger relationships and associations with our current or potential customers, suppliers, counterparties and business partners. Our competitors may also have greater financial, technical, marketing, distribution, information, human and other resources than we do and may be stronger in certain of the market segments in which we operate.

In this intensely competitive environment, our results of operations will be adversely affected if we are unable to:

- anticipate and meet market trends to timely satisfy our customers' changing needs;
- maintain relationships with our customers and suppliers;
- maintain our global and regional network of associated companies and business partners;
- obtain financing to carry out our business plans on reasonable terms or at all; and
- adapt our cost structure to constantly changing market conditions so as to maintain our cost competitiveness.

### **Credit risk arising from customers and counterparties**

We extend credit to our customers in the form of accounts receivable, advances, loans, guarantees and other means and therefore bear credit risk. Some of our customers are also companies in which we invest. In those cases, our potential exposure includes both credit risk and the investment exposure. We also enter into various swap and other derivative transactions largely as a part of our hedging activities and have counterparty payment risk on these contracts. If our customers or counterparties fail to meet their financial or contractual commitments to us, or if we fail to collect on our receivables, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We undertake efforts to manage credit risk by carrying out credit checks on customers based on our internal credit rating system, obtaining collateral or guarantees, and having a diversified customer base. We make allowances for doubtful receivables based on certain assumptions, estimates and assessments about the creditworthiness of our customers, the value of collateral we hold and other items.

However, such efforts may fail or be insufficient. Furthermore, these assumptions, estimates and assessments might be wrong. And if general economic conditions deteriorate, if other factors which were the basis for our assumptions, estimates and assessments change, or if we are adversely affected by other factors to an extent worse than anticipated, our actual losses could materially exceed our allowances.

### **Risks related to investment activities and our strategic business alliances**

In connection with our corporate strategy and the development of our business opportunities, we have acquired or made investments in newly established or existing companies and intend to continue to do so in the future. And we sometimes extend credit, through such as credit sales, loans, and guaranties, to the companies in which we invest. As our business investments sometimes require the commitment of substantial capital resources, in some instances, we may be required to contribute additional funds. We may not be able to achieve the benefits we expect from such investments. In addition, since a substantial portion of our business investments is illiquid, we may not be able to exit from such investments at the time or in the manner we would like.

In order to curb such risk as much as possible, we in principle invest only in projects that meet the specified hurdle rate at inception of investment. At the same time, as for large, important projects that could have a major impact on the entire company, the Corporate Group has a restraining function on business segments through the Loan and Investment Committee, which analyzes project risks from an specialist view point and assesses whether or not to go ahead with them prior to the investment.

We sometimes enter into partnerships, joint ventures or strategic business alliances with other industry participants in a number of business segments, including with our competitors. In some cases, we cannot control the operations and the assets of the companies in which we invest nor can we make major decisions without the consent of other shareholders or participants or at all. Our business could be adversely affected in such cases or if we are unable to continue with one or more of our partnerships, joint ventures or strategic business alliances.

### **Fluctuations of interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices**

We rely on debt financing in the form of loans from financial institutions or the issuance of corporate bonds and commercial paper to finance our operations. We also often extend credit to our customers and suppliers in the form of loans, guarantees, advances and other financing means. For example, through several subsidiaries, we are engaged in motor vehicle financing and leasing businesses in Japan and other countries. Revenues and expenses and the fair price of our assets and liabilities arising from such business transactions, in some cases, are affected by interest rate fluctuations.

Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations can affect the yen value of our investments denominated in foreign currencies as well as revenues and expenses and our foreign currency-denominated assets and liabilities arising from business transactions and investments denominated in foreign currencies. Exchange rate fluctuations can also affect the yen value of the foreign currency financial statements of our foreign subsidiaries. Although we attempt to reduce such interest rate fluctuations and foreign currency exchange risks, primarily by using various derivative instruments, we are not able to fully insulate ourselves from the effects of interest rate fluctuations and exchange rate fluctuations.

As a major participant in the global commodities markets, we trade in a variety of commodities, including mineral, metal, chemical, energy and agricultural products and invest in natural resource development projects. As such, we may be adversely affected by the fluctuations in the prices of the relevant commodities. Although we attempt to reduce our exposure to price volatility by hedge-selling commodities, matching the quantity and timing of buying and selling, and utilizing derivative instruments for hedging purposes, we are not able to fully insulate ourselves from the effects of commodity price movements.

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**Risks related to declines in Japanese real estate market or impairment loss on fixed assets, etc.**

Our real estate business involves developing, renting and managing of and providing services to office buildings and commercial and residential properties in Japan, especially in the Tokyo and Osaka metropolitan areas. If the real estate market in Japan deteriorates, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

Also, if land prices and rental values decline, we may be forced to write down the value of our properties as well as the value of land and buildings held for lease and land held for development. Not only real estate but also our property holdings are exposed to impairment risk. As such, our business, operating results and financial condition could be adversely affected.

**Risks related to continued volatility of equity markets in Japan and elsewhere**

A significant portion of our investments consists of marketable equity securities, particularly those of Japanese issuers. Our results of operation and financial conditions may be adversely affected if the Japanese equity market declines in the future because we would incur impairment losses for equity securities.

**Risks regarding uncertainty about pension expenses**

Declines in the Japanese stock market would reduce the value of our pension plan assets, and could necessitate additional funding of the plan by us and an increase in pension expenses. This could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

**Concentration of risk exposure in specific fields**

Some parts of our operations and businesses are concentrated in a few particular markets, entities, and regions. As a result, if these operations and businesses do not perform as we expect or if the economic conditions in these markets and regions deteriorate unexpectedly, it could have a disproportionately negative effect on our businesses and results of operations. For example, we are involved in a large copper and gold mine project, a large power plant project, the automobile lease and finance business, liquefied natural gas projects and other business activities in Indonesia. As such, risk exposure is concentrated there.

**Risks stemming from restrictions on access to liquidity and capital**

We rely on debt financing in the form of loans from financial institutions or the issuance of corporate bonds and commercial paper etc. to finance our operations. If financial markets are in turmoil and financial institutions reduce their lendings to us and there is a significant downgrade of our credit ratings by one or more credit rating agencies, we may not be able to access funds when we need them on acceptable terms, our access to debt capital markets may become more restricted or the cost of

financing our operations through indebtedness may increase. This could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

**Risks regarding laws and regulations**

Our operations are subject to extensive laws and regulations covering a wide range of fields in Japan and many other countries. These laws and regulations govern, among other things, tariffs and other taxation, repatriation of profits, business and investment approvals, import and export activities (including restrictions based on national security interests), antitrust and competition, commercial activities, currency exchange, distributor protection, consumer protection and environmental protection. In some of the countries in which we operate, our operations may subject us to additional or future relevant laws and regulations. Also particularly in developing countries with relatively nascent legal systems, our burden of compliance may further increase due to factors such as the lack of laws and regulations, unexpected interpretations of existing laws and regulations and changing practices of regulatory, judicial and administrative bodies. Failure to comply with current or future laws and regulations could lead to penalties and fines against us and restrictions in our operations or damage to our reputation. If that occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

**Risks related to legal actions, etc.**

We are party to a number of legal actions and other disputes in Japan and abroad. In performing our business, lawsuits arising incidentally and claims that do not develop into lawsuits may be brought against us.

We incurred significant losses arising from the decade-long unauthorized copper trading by a former employee, which resulted in regulatory investigations and civil lawsuits brought against us for claiming damages from us. We already reached settlements with regulators, and investigations were completed. Also, the civil lawsuits claiming damages have almost come to an end by settlement or otherwise. The details of the status of the civil lawsuits are described in Note 22 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES, Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Financial Section of this Annual Report. Due to the inherent uncertainty of litigation, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of the actions in which we are involved at this time. There can be no assurance that we will prevail in any action or that we will not be materially adversely affected by such action in the future.

**Risks regarding internal control over executives and employees and regarding management of our information and communications systems**

Due to our size, as well as the diversity and geographic breadth of our activities, our day-to-day operations are necessarily decentralized. The nature of our operations requires extensive internal

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controls and management oversight to ensure compliance by our employees with applicable laws and regulations and our internal policies. There can be no assurance that we will succeed in preventing misconduct by our employees or that such misconduct, if it should occur, will be detected and remedied by our internal control and compliance systems. Employee misconduct could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, expose us to legal and financial risks and compromise our reputation.

We are dependent on the proper functioning of our information and communications systems to maintain our global operations. System malfunction may result in disruptions of our operations. If we encounter any problems with respect to our current information and communications systems, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

**There is no assurance that our risk management systems will effectively minimize various types of risks in our operations to appropriate levels.**

Our extensive and diverse businesses expose us to various types of risks. We conduct our business through nine industry-based business units and two sets of regional operations, domestic and overseas. At the same time, we are expanding our business activities into new areas. Accordingly, in addition to the risks and uncertainties that we face as a whole as an integrated trading company, each of our industry-based business units and regional operations may be subject to risks inherent in or relating to each industry, market and/or geographic focus.

Our existing risk management systems, which consist of various elements from risk measurement methodology and information system to internal rule and organization structure, may not work satisfactorily with respect to various risks. Furthermore, we may have no experience or only limited experience with the risks relating to our new business activities, products and services.

In such cases, our new business activities, products and services may require the introduction of more complex management systems and additional management resources, such as human resources.

Moreover, a shortage of management resources, such as human resources, may lead to a restriction of business operation.