

Sumitomo Seika to Expand Super Absorbent Polymer Production in Japan

May 15, 2006

Sumitomo Seika today announced the plan to add a new super absorbent polymer train in its Himeji Works (Hyogo, Japan) to better meet the growing customers' needs based upon its high quality and reliability. The new train will add an additional 30 thousand metric tons to the current 55 thousand metric tons per year production capacity, with construction cost of 45 million US dollar. The new super absorbent polymer train is expected to complete in July of 2007.

This expansion will enable Sumitomo Seika to meet the rapidly growing demand for AQUA KEEP™. After the completion of expansion, the global capacity of AQUA KEEP™ in Sumitomo Seika, will be 140 thousand metric tons per year, with its Singapore plant of 55 thousand metric tons per year.

[For your reference]

Singapore Subsidiary :

Sumitomo Seika Singapore Pte. Ltd

Head Office: 20 Cecil Street #20-08, Equity Plaza, Singapore 049705

Managing Director: Shigeki Murase

Established: February 1997

Paid-in capital: 43 million Singapore dollar

Line of business: Manufacture and sales of super absorbent polymer

Investment ratio: 80% (joint venture with Sumitomo Chemical Singapore)