

**Participation in Trade Finance Facilitation Program
of Inter-American Development Bank**

TOKYO, April 5, 2005 --- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (“SMBC”, President and CEO: Yoshifumi Nishikawa) announced today its participation in the Trade Finance Facilitation Program (“TFFP”) of Inter-American Development Bank (“IDB”). SMBC, together with major banks in the United States and Europe, is one of the Founding Partners Banks of the new program, which is being launched by IDB to promote trade in Central and South America.

In TFFP, IDB guarantees the trade financing related payment obligations of local banks. The purpose of the program is to support the improvement of intra- and inter-regional trade terms and conditions (for trade finance in particular) of exporters and importers in the region and thereby contribute to the promotion of trade inside and outside Central and South America.

The program will provide clients in the IDB Member Countries including Japan that are negotiating exports to Central and South America with a wider range of tools to hedge local banks’ country or credit risks. In addition, the program will provide fast-growing companies in the IDB Borrowing Member Countries with more diversified services and products for financing their exports to Asia and other regions.

SMBC provides global trade finance services and products through trade finance units in New York, London, Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Especially in Central and South America, SMBC offers trade finance services to local companies and banks by actively using policy programs provided by Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, and other government institutions. Participation in TFFP will enhance SMBC’s capability to provide trade finance services related to the flow of global companies’ products and commercial distribution of major commodities.

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