

Pending Expiration of Cooperative Marketing Agreement between Abbott Japan and Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma

March 27, 2006 - Abbott Japan Co., Ltd. (President: Zahir Lavji; Pharma Products Head Office: Osaka) and Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd. (President: Kenjiro Miyatake; Head Office: Osaka) announced the pending expiration of their agreement for cooperative marketing of pharmaceutical products of Abbott Japan, which will expire with the conclusion of the term of the current agreement on March 31, 2006.

Since 1953, Abbott Japan, (formerly named Dainabot Co., Ltd.)—a now wholly-owned subsidiary of Abbott in the United States—and Dainippon Sumitomo Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., (formerly named Dainippon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.), have collaborated through several distribution and marketing agreements on Abbott products. This partnership has been very successful and beneficial to all the related parties.

Abbott Japan Co., Ltd. will begin autonomous distribution of its pharmaceutical products within the Japanese market from April 1, 2006. This transition is consistent with Abbott's global strategy, as it looks to further expansion in Japan with the expectation of long-lasting and productive business operations.

This matter was previously disclosed in Dainippon Pharmaceutical's public announcement, "On Modification of the Mid-Term Business Plan for the Second Period" dated February 6, 2004, with the sales of Abbott products also not included in the Financial Goals for Fiscal Year 2007 that were released by Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma on November 25, 2004 and May 16, 2005.

For any further information on this topic, please contact the following:	
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*About Abbott

Abbott is a global, broad-based health care company based in Chicago, Illinois, in the United States, and is devoted to the research, development and manufacture of new drugs as well as to the distribution and marketing of pharmaceutical/medical products, nutritional products, medical devices, medical instruments and diagnostics. The company employs 60,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries.

In Japan, more than 1,900 people are dedicated to the manufacturing and development of new drugs and the distribution and marketing of pharmaceutical/medical products, nutritional products, medical devices/instruments and diagnostics. Main offices are located in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukui and Chiba.

* About Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma

Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma was established on October 1, 2005 through the merger of Dainippon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. The company employs approximately 5,100 people (as of October 1, 2005), with its core business operations in ethical drug products.