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**Japan Responsible Care Council Establishes Responsible Care Award
to Commend Environment/Safety Promotion Activities by Individuals
and Groups at Chemical Companies**

Japan Chemical Industry Association
Japan Responsible Care Council

The Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) and the Japan Responsible Care Council (JRCC) have recently established the “Responsible Care Award”, a new award program to commend individuals or groups of the member companies of JRCC who have contributed to the promotion and expansion of Responsible Care activity.

As honored recipients of the first Responsible Care Award, employees of Ube Industries (group of three persons), Showa Denko (group of three persons), Sumitomo Chemical (one person), JSR (one person), and Konica Minolta Holdings (one person) or a total of nine persons from five companies were selected. It is for the first time JRCC has established an award program for individuals and groups.

JRCC was established in 1995 to encourage companies that handle chemicals to voluntarily take measures to secure the “environment, safety and health” in all the processes of development, manufacturing, distribution, use, final consumption, and disposal of chemicals. Further, the companies are to make their achievements public as well as promote dialogues and communications with the public. Currently, its membership totals 103 companies (as of April 25, 2007), and they have substantially improved their performance relating to the environment, safety and health for the past 12 years and have been promoting Responsible Care activity in various forms such as holding regular dialogue meetings in their communities.

Today, the roles of industrial sectors have become increasingly important, including developing measures to cope with global environmental issues such as reduction of the emission of carbon dioxide and implementing corporate social responsibility. Under these circumstances, JRCC decided to establish its “Responsible Care Award” for individuals and groups at its member companies with the objectives of further

encouraging Responsible Care activity and increasing the willingness of those people who are involved in the activity.

In selecting the awardees, JRCC had first requested that its member companies submit recommendations with a description of the content and achievements of the Responsible Care activity of the individuals or groups. Those recommendations were then screened by the award selection taskforce in the JRCC offices and the awardees were selected with the approval of the Planning and Steering Committee. The recently selected awardees will be honored at a meeting of JRCC members to be held in Osaka on July 4, 2007 with a citation and a memento or a prize.

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