

Report of Independent Auditors

The Board of Directors
Nippon Mining Holdings, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Nippon Mining Holdings, Inc. and consolidated subsidiaries as of March 31, 2007 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended, all expressed in yen. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in Japan. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Nippon Mining Holdings, Inc. and consolidated subsidiaries at March 31, 2007 and 2008, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Japan.

As described in Note 2, effective for the year ended March 31, 2007, Nippon Mining Holdings, Inc. and its domestic consolidated subsidiaries early adopted "Accounting Standard for Measurement of Inventories"(ASBJ statement No.9, July 5, 2006). As described in Note 19, effective in April 2006, the Company changed the classification of its business segments.

The U.S. dollar amounts in the accompanying consolidated financial statements with respect to the year ended March 31, 2008 are presented solely for convenience. Our audit also included the translation of yen amounts into U.S. dollar amounts and, in our opinion, such translation has been made on the basis described in Note 1.

Ernst & Young ShinNihon

June 19, 2008