

*Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this announcement.*



## **SBI HOLDINGS, INC.**

(Incorporated in Japan with limited liability)

(Stock code: 6488)

### **OVERSEAS REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENT**

This announcement is made pursuant to Rule 13.10B of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

Please refer to the attached copy of the Announcement.

On behalf of the Board

**SBI Holdings, Inc.**

**Yoshitaka Kitao**

*Representative Director,*

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Japan, 21 March 2013

*As of the date of this announcement, the executive Directors are Mr Yoshitaka Kitao, Mr Taro Izuchi, Mr Takashi Nakagawa, Mr Tomoya Asakura, Mr Shumpei Morita, Mr Noriaki Maruyama and Mr Peilung Li, the non-executive Directors are Mr Hiroyoshi Kido, Mr Noriyoshi Kimura, Mr Hiroshi Tasaka and Mr Takashi Okita and the independent non-executive Directors are Mr Masaki Yoshida, Mr Kiyoshi Nagano, Mr Keiji Watanabe, Mr Akihiro Tamaki and Mr Masanao Marumono.*

**Joint Clinical Research on Diabetes with Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain**

We are pleased to inform you that SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao; “SBI Pharmaceuticals”), a subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc., which is engaged in research and development of pharmaceuticals, health foods and cosmetics using 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) (\*1) has concluded an official contract with the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), following the basic agreement dated in January 2013 to start conducting a clinical research on diabetes with AGU in Bahrain.

According to a survey conducted by the International Diabetes Federation, the Middle Eastern countries, including Bahrain, account for a high percentage of diabetic patients, and therefore, with the conclusion of this contract, both parties will work on preparing to start the clinical research using 5-ALA at an early stage. In this clinical research, SBI Pharmaceuticals will provide a nutritional supplement containing key element of 5-ALA as an investigational drug, and AGU will lead and manage human resources, research facilities, participating hospitals and such, which are necessary for the clinical research in Bahrain.

We at SBI Pharmaceuticals and AGU will jointly establish a Clinical Research Executive Committee and, at the Committee, we will decide on specific details of the clinical research’s implementation plan and so forth.

SBI Pharmaceuticals will continue to work closely with the government of Bahrain in accommodating the needs of the country and advancing the business. As part of its global social responsibility, SBI we will endeavor to help people around the world stay healthy by further identifying the various possibilities of 5-ALA through pursuing R&D jointly with our partners inside and outside Japan.

**Arabian Gulf University**

A university with a medical center in Bahrain established by six Gulf Cooperation Council governments in 1981. It has the longest history in medical education in the region. The university is currently owned, financed and operated by six countries: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. The French-Arabian Business School was also established in 2007.

(\*1) 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA): An amino acid created in mitochondria. It is an important substance that serves as protein material related to energy production in the form of hemes and cytochromes, and its productivity is known to decrease with age. 5-ALA is contained in shochu distillation remnants, red wine and food such as radish sprouts. It is also known as a material forming chloroplasts in plants.

\*\*\*\*\*

For further information, please contact:

SBI Holdings, Inc.: Corporate Communications Dept., Tel: +81 3 6229 0126

SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.: Corporate Planning Dept., Tel: +81 3 6229 0095