



**As the founding executives, it is our great pleasure to invite shareholders and stakeholders of the newly formed Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation to read the Bank's first annual report. We strive to provide complete disclosure on an impartial, timely and continuous basis in an easily understood format as part of our mission to enhance shareholder value and offer value to customers. This report outlines the strategies for SMBC and summarizes the fiscal 2000 results for the two founding banks. We hope that it will provide you with a greater understanding of where we have come from, what we have accomplished and where we are headed.**

**Banks will have to reinvent themselves repeatedly in the next few years to thrive amid the significant changes wrought by the various regulatory reforms, the IT revolution and the globalization of the financial industry. We are positioning SMBC to have a stronger foundation on which to heighten profitability and enhance our international profile. To accomplish this, we are putting emphasis on gaining initiatives in various businesses to keep abreast of the pace of change, and fostering creativity and originality to provide us with a leading edge.**

**Although economic conditions over the next few years will be daunting, we shall navigate resolutely toward a bright future. We look forward to your continued support and guidance to achieve growth.**

July 2001

Akishige Okada  
Chairman of the Board

Yoshifumi Nishikawa  
President and Chief Executive Officer