

CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY

Sumitomo Bank is committed to contributing to society, at the local, national and global levels, through a wide range of volunteer and donor activities. To promote these efforts, it created the Social Development Department, which coordinates and encourages charity and volunteer work throughout the Bank. In selecting projects, the Bank has tended to concentrate on activities and ventures, which require institutional continuity or which can benefit particularly from the expertise and organization of a bank, or which it feels can contribute to its employees' personal development and human fulfillment.

Since 1992, Sumitomo Bank has been a key promoter of UNICEF Coin Aid in Japan. The Bank places collection boxes in all of its branches to support this charity. As the point of such promotions is to gather unwanted foreign coins from travelers who have returned from abroad, the Bank has a useful role to play in the collection, sorting and remittance of the money collected. During fiscal 1999, nearly 36 tons in currency, worth some 237 million yen, was gathered.

In a parallel initiative, the Bank created a free banking facility, which allows customers to contribute the after-tax interest on their savings and other accounts to UNICEF. It also promotes this United Nations' agency with bulk purchases of UNICEF greeting cards for distribution to customers. This provides wide exposure to the organization's message, with half of the card revenues going to support UNICEF activities.

Every year between October and December, all domestic branches display posters and collection boxes for the "Red Feather Campaign," a nationwide umbrella organization that gathers money for a wide group of charities.

In a more recent initiative, Sumitomo Bank employees have contributed some 200 boxes of used clothing to assist the work of the "Motherland Academy," an overseas aid foundation specializing in sending clothes to African countries such as Mali. Sumitomo Bank has also helped this organization to meet its shipping costs.

Volunteerism is a potent force at Sumitomo Bank. At the local level, employees are involved in a great variety of local charities and other worthy causes. To keep employees fully informed about opportunities for voluntary work in their local communities, the Bank maintains and regularly updates an e-mail bulletin board called "Volunteer Information."

As part of its "Volunteer Staff" initiative, the Bank also plans, organizes and supports additional programs which emphasize employee participation.

Sakura Bank also maintains an active volunteer presence in the local communities it serves. The merger with that bank in April 2001 will further strengthen this important feature of employee life.

The work of the Sumitomo Bank Global Foundation is one of the Bank's most important contributions to global society. Its mission is to fund university scholarships for students from Asia. Since the mid-1990s, more than 2,200 students from Thailand, China, Indonesia and Singapore have received financial support for their studies.

Spurred by the merger with Sakura Bank, the Bank expects to expand the scope of its work in this vital area during the next decade.