

10 October 2012

SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.

### **SBI Pharmaceuticals Opens a Representative Office in Bahrain**

SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao), a subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc., engaged in research and development of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and health foods using 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA), opens a representative office in Manama, the capital of Bahrain.

As announced in the press release on April 13, 2012, titled "Notice on the Agreement with Bahrain Government for the Promotion of the 5-ALA Business" SBI Pharmaceuticals reached a basic agreement and concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Bahrain Government on the close cooperation for promoting the research and development of 5-ALA and its diffusion in Bahrain and GCC (\*1).

SBI Pharmaceuticals officially acquired a permit of opening a representative office from Bahrain Economic Development Board on October 9, 2012. The opening of Bahrain Representative Office will enhance closer relationship to the Bahrain Government, and Bahrain will be SBI Pharmaceuticals' hub for the research and development of pharmaceuticals in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

SBI Pharmaceuticals continues to explore the various possibilities of 5-ALA and endeavor to conduct R&D on it jointly with partners in Japan and abroad, aiming to contribute to the health of as many people as possible in the world.

#### **【Outline of the Representative Office】**

Name	: SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. Bahrain Representative Office
Location	: 13th floor, Seef Tower, P.O.Box 11299, Manama, Bahrain (in Bahrain Economic Development Board)
Date of Opening	: October 9, 2012
Manager	: Ichiro Masui

\*1 About GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) :

An abbreviation for the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, the Middle East and Arabian Gulf regional cooperation organization, which includes Bahrain.

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