

16 January 2013  
SBI Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.

**Notice on the Press Release Published by the Bahrain Economic Development Board**

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) officially acquired a permit of opening a representative office on October 9, 2012, as announced in the press release on October 10, 2012, titled “SBI Pharmaceuticals Opens a Representative Office in Bahrain”.

Regarding the above subject, we would like to inform that the Bahrain Economic Development Board (“EDB”) published a press release related to this matter.

The press release from the EDB

Title: JAPANESE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY ESTABLISHES REGIONAL PRESENCE THROUGH OPENING OF REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN BAHRAIN - SBI HOLDINGS GROUP CEO IN THE KINGDOM FOR OFFICIAL LAUNCH -

(\*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.

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