

Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership Agreement with Gunma University

TOKYO, December 15, 2008 – Dowa Holdings Co., Ltd. today announced the signing of a comprehensive cooperative partnership agreement with Gunma University.

As the leading university in the North Kanto region, Gunma University has since its establishment responded with sincerity to the demands of the age through education and research in all areas, namely education studies, medical science, engineering and social information. In recent years, as a leader in education and research for a new age, the university has adopted an advanced and proactive approach to working collaboratively with the region and with industry, academia and government to respond to diversifying needs on a global scale, thus taking a multi-faceted and comprehensive view of the 21st century. As part of this, the Faculty of Engineering established a Department of Production Science and Technology and an engineering major in engineering studies and production science and technology at its new campus in Ota City, Gunma Prefecture last April. The field of production science and technology rejects the traditional approach of compartmentalizing engineering as mechanical, electrical, materials or information etc. in favor of practical studies of fusion techniques that place all processing technology at the core, and specializes in retraining middle-ranking technicians in the region.

Under the slogan “Embrace the challenge of the uncharted,” Dowa Holdings Co., Ltd. is developing its resource-recycling business segment across a wide range of fields including smelting, environmental management and recycling, electronics materials, metal processing and heat treatment. In the environmental management and recycling segment, we are undertaking the largest expansion in Japan including waste processing, soil decontamination and metals recycling. In the electronic materials segment, we are the market leaders in developing and supplying materials such as metal powders for computer backup tapes and infrared LEDs. In the heat treatment segment, we completed a new plant in Ota City, Gunma Prefecture in May this year as part of building the structures to be No. 1 in all segments.

Dowa Holdings Co., Ltd. and Gunma University have concluded the comprehensive cooperative partnership agreement in anticipation of major research results and contributions to the region by means of exploiting mutual resources and close personal exchanges. In the past, both parties have pursued joint research in the field of environmental management and recycling, but under the auspices of the coordinated agreement, there are plans to utilize the geographical advantage to set up auxiliary courses in surface treatment technology at the Ota Campus of Gunma University. There are also plans to undertake joint research across a wide range of topics by means of mutual use of research facilities and equipment, mutual support and promotion of education and staff training, and to increase technology exchange meetings between researchers.

On the occasion of this comprehensive cooperative partnership agreement, Dowa Holdings Co., Ltd. and Gunma University aim to develop next-generation technologies by combining the research results and technical strengths of both parties and by promoting collaboration between industry and academia while working to advance industrial technology and revitalize the region.