

Santen Announces Proposed Change of Accounting Auditors

May 9, 2003, Osaka, Japan -- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (President and CEO: Takakazu Morita; Headquarters: Osaka, Japan), announced today that Santen has proposed a change of accounting auditors, which, as certified public accountants, conduct accounting audits for Santen, pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Article 193-2 of Securities Exchange Law of Japan.

For this proposed change in accounting auditors, the company's Board of Directors adopted a resolution on May 9, 2003. The proposed change will be submitted for, and subject to, approval at the company's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on June 26, 2003.

1. Reason for change of accounting auditors

The term of Santen's current accounting auditors, Shin Nihon & Co., will expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled to be held on June 26, 2003. Furthermore, as part of reorganizations taking place in the international accounting industry, the division of Shin Nihon & Co. that has been responsible for auditing Santen's financial statements has split from Shin Nihon & Co., and formed a new firm, AZSA & Co. In order to substantially maintain Santen's current auditing structure, the company will propose the appointment of AZSA & Co. as its new accounting auditors.

2. New audit firm

Company name: AZSA & Co.
Location of head office: Kawara-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan

3. Current audit firm

Company name: Shin Nihon & Co.
Location of head office: Azuchi-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan

4. Effective date

The appointment of AZSA & Co. will take effect on the day of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, scheduled to be held on June 26, 2003.

Note: AZSA & Co. is a member firm of KPMG International.

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