

March 9, 2015

Capital and Business Alliance with Major Nursing Care Firm Message

Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Holdings, Inc. (President: Kengo Sakurada; “SOMPO HOLDINGS” hereinafter) has entered into a capital and business alliance agreement as of March 9 with Message Co., Ltd. (Chairman & CEO: Toshiaki Hashimoto; “Message” hereinafter), a major nursing care company, for the purpose of providing and extending nursing care and nursing care-related services by utilizing their operating resources.

1. Background and purpose

SOMPO HOLDINGS seeks, under the group’s management philosophy of providing services of the highest quality that contribute to the security, health, and wellbeing of its customers, to aggressively expand into various business sectors based on the insurance sector. In the nursing care sector, it is accelerating its efforts to create new services utilizing the know-how and resources that it has cultivated in order to address various social challenges and new demands as a result of a “super-aged society.”

At the same time, Message has made efforts for the “provision of an environment where elderly people can, even when they come to need nursing care, continue to live in ways they like in the place (residence) where they hope to live” since its incorporation in 1997. It is developing compound nursing care services addressing various contemporary needs in the aging society, including, “provision of housing” such as serviced rental housing for the elderly and pay nursing homes with long-term care, and “home visitation” such as regular visitation and as-needed response home-visit nursing care and home-visit care.

Subsequently, SOMPO HOLDINGS and Message have decided to enter into a capital and business alliance agreement in order to realize together a rich aging society where elderly people and their families can feel security and wellbeing in their lives and which we can boast of to the World. They will achieve this by the comprehensive provision of services addressing the super-aged society’s various challenges and changes in nursing care needs by integrating SOMPO HOLDINGS’ extensive network and considerable credibility, and Message’s high quality service skills and know-how in the nursing care business.

Along with the entry into the capital and business alliance agreement, as of the same date, Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc., a subsidiary of SOMPO HOLDINGS, has agreed with Mr. Toshiaki Hashimoto, the founder of Message, to acquire 703,500 Message common shares (3.5% of the total number of the shares issued and outstanding) from him.

2. Overview of Message Co., Ltd.

(1) Company name	Message Co., Ltd.
(2) Head office	552-1 Nishiichi, Minami Ward, Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture, Japan
(3) Name and title of representatives	Toshiaki Hashimoto, Chairmen & CEO Hiroshi Furue, President & COO
(4) Line of business	Management of pay nursing homes with long-term care, serviced rental housing for the elderly, and group homes; in-home services business; etc.
(5) Established	May 1997

(6) Stated capital	JPY 3,925,160,000
(7) Shares issued and outstanding	20,080,000 shares
(For reference)	
Net sales (consolidated)	JPY 74.2 billion (fiscal year ended March 2014)
Employees (consolidated)	16,945 (end of March 2014, including temporary workers)

3. Future outlook

SOMPO HOLDINGS and Message will study and confer on their cooperation in a wide range of business domains such as the extended provision of nursing care services and nursing care-related services, spreading and extending “inclusive community care for aging in place” (在宅老人ホーム®) services* addressing the needs of single life elderly people, developing counseling and consultation services, etc. addressing the issue of people having to resign from their jobs in order to care for elderly family members, and developing new insurance products addressing the aging society.

SOMPO HOLDINGS will, together with Message, by providing services of the highest quality that contribute to the security, health, and wellbeing of its customers in the nursing care and health care sector, contribute to society.

* “Inclusive community care for aging in place” (在宅老人ホーム®) services are full-package type home nursing care services managed by the Message group.



SOMPO HOLDINGS is the abbreviation representing the Company (Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Holdings, Inc.) and our Group (Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Group).