

and its subsidiaries classify certain investments included in "Marketable securities" and "Other investments" by the ability and intent as held-to-maturity, trading or available-for-sale securities, and report held-to-maturity securities at amortized cost, trading securities at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses included in earnings, and available-for-sale securities at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses included in "Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)" in stockholders' equity on a net-of-tax basis. The cost of certain investments sold is determined using the moving-average cost method.

The Company and its subsidiaries periodically review its investments for impairment to determine whether the fair value of held-to-maturity and available-for-sale securities has declined below cost and if such decline is believed to be other than temporary. If the decline in fair value is judged to be other than temporary, the cost basis of those securities is written down to fair value as a new cost basis. Whether the decline in value is other than temporary is determined by considering the severity (the extent to which fair value is below cost) and the duration (the period of time that a security has been impaired).

Non-marketable securities included in "Other investments" are reported at cost or the fair value if it is lower.

f. Investments in Associated Companies

The Company and its subsidiaries initially record investments in associated companies (generally, those in which the Company and its subsidiaries own 20% to 50% of the outstanding voting stocks) at cost and adjust the carrying amount of the investment to recognize their share of the undistributed earnings or losses of the associated companies after the date of acquisition. Under the equity method, the Company and its subsidiaries make adjustments to eliminate significant unrealized intercompany profits and to reduce the carrying amount of the investment by dividends received. The excess of the acquisition costs over the underlying equity in the net assets acquired is allocated first to identifiable assets based on relative fair value at the date of acquisition. The unassigned residual amount is not amortized but tested for impairment at least annually.

g. Impaired Loans and Allowance for Doubtful Receivables

In accordance with SFAS 114, "Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan, an amendment of FASB Statements No.5 and 15" and SFAS 118, "Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan – Income Recognition and Disclosures, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 114," the Company and its subsidiaries measure impairment for certain loans based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, the loan's observable market price or the fair value of the underlying collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, and recognize an impairment by creating and adjusting a valuation allowance if the fair value of the loan is less than the recorded amount.

The Company and its subsidiaries recognize, principally using a cash basis method, interest income on the recorded investment in an impaired loan.

h. Long-lived Assets

In accordance with SFAS 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets," the Company and its subsidiaries perform an impairment test for a long-lived asset (asset group) to be held and used or to be disposed of other than by sale, using undiscounted expected future cash flows, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that some portion of the carrying amount of the asset (asset group) may not be recoverable. If the sum of the undiscounted expected future cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the asset (asset group), an impairment loss is recognized as determined by the amount by which the carrying amount of a long-lived asset (asset group) exceeds its fair value. A long-lived asset (asset group) to be disposed of by sale is reported at the lower of its carrying amount or fair value less cost to sell.

i. Depreciation

Depreciation of property and equipment (including property leased to others) is computed principally by the unit-of-production method for mineral rights and by the straight-line method for property and equipment other than land, construction in progress and mineral rights, using rates based upon the estimated useful lives of the related property and equipment.

j. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

In accordance with SFAS 141, "Business Combinations," the Company and its subsidiaries account for all business combinations using the purchase method, and also have written guidance relating to the recognition of acquired intangible assets apart from goodwill. In accordance with SFAS 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," the Company and its subsidiaries do not amortize goodwill regularly but perform an impairment test at the reporting unit level at least on an annual basis and between annual tests if an event occurs or circumstances change that would indicate that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is below its carrying amount. An intangible asset with a definite useful life is amortized over its estimated useful life and is reviewed for impairment in accordance with SFAS 144. An intangible asset determined to have an indefinite useful life is not amortized but is instead periodically tested for impairment in the same manner as goodwill.

In accordance with SFAS 141, the Company and its subsidiaries recognized as an extraordinary gain the remaining excess of fair value of acquired net assets over the cost relating to an investment in associated companies for the year ended March 31, 2004. The extraordinary gain recognized was ¥1,828 million, net of tax of ¥1,271 million, and has been presented in the consolidated statements of operations as "Extraordinary items – gain on negative goodwill, less applicable income taxes of ¥1,271 million."

k. Asset Retirement Obligations

In accordance with SFAS 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations" the Company and its subsidiaries recognize the fair value of a tangible long-lived asset retirement obligation as a liability in the period in which it is incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made and capitalize