w. Use of Estimates

The Company and its subsidiaries make estimates and assumptions to prepare these financial statements. Such estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and actual results could differ from those estimates.

(3) New Accounting Standards

a. Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations

In March 2005, the FASB issued FIN 47, "Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations — an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 143." FIN 47 clarifies that the term conditional asset retirement obligation as used in SFAS 143 refers to a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and (or) method of settlement are conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of the entity. Although the timing and (or) method of settlement may be conditional on a future event, the obligation to perform the asset retirement activity is unconditional even though uncertainty exists about the timing and (or) method of settlement. Accordingly, FIN 47 requires an entity to recognize a liability for the fair value of a conditional asset retirement obligation if the fair value of the liability can be reasonably estimated when incurred. Uncertainty about the timing and (or) method of settlement of a conditional asset retirement obligation should be factored in the measurement of the liability when sufficient information exists.

In addition, FIN 47 clarifies when an entity would have sufficient information to reasonably estimate the fair value of an asset retirement obligation.

FIN 47 is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2005, and the effect of adoption of FIN 47 on the Company and its subsidiaries' financial position and results of operations is currently under consideration and cannot be reasonably estimated until further analysis is completed.

b. Accounting for Stripping Costs Incurred during Production in the Mining Industry

The FASB EITF reached a consensus at the meeting of March, 2005 on EITF 04-6, "Accounting for Stripping Costs Incurred during Production in the Mining Industry."

In Issue EITF 04-6, the cost of removing overburden and waste materials to access mineral deposits are referred to as "stripping costs," and stripping costs incurred during the production phase of a mine are variable production costs that should be included in the costs of the inventory produced during the period that the stripping costs are incurred.

EITF 04-6 is effective for the first reporting period in financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005, and the effect of adoption of EITF 04-6 on the Company and its subsidiaries' financial position and results of operations is currently under consideration and cannot be reasonably estimated until further analysis is completed.

c. Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS 154, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections — a replacement of APB Opinion No. 20 and FASB Statement No. 3."

SFAS 154 applies to all voluntary changes in accounting principle and those changes required by an accounting pronouncement in the unusual instance that the pronouncement does not include specific transition provisions.

Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion 20 previously required that most voluntary changes in accounting principle be recognized by including in net income of the period of the change the cumulative effect of changing to the new accounting principle, but SFAS 154 requires retrospective application to prior periods' financial statements of changes in accounting principle, unless it is impracticable to determine either the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the change. When it is impracticable to determine the period-specific effects of an accounting change on one or more individual prior periods presented, SFAS 154 requires that the new accounting principle be applied to the balances of assets and liabilities as of the beginning of the earliest period for which retrospective application is practicable and that a corresponding adjustment be made to the opening balance of retained earnings for that period rather than being reported in an income statement. When it is impracticable to determine the cumulative effect of applying a change in accounting principle to all prior periods, SFAS 154 requires that the new accounting principle be applied as if it were adopted prospectively from the earliest date practicable.

In addition, SFAS 154 requires that retrospective application of a change in accounting principle be limited to the direct effects of the change. Indirect effects of a change in accounting principle should be recognized in the period of the accounting change, and a change in depreciation, amortization, or depletion method should be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate effected by a change in accounting principle.

Moreover, SFAS 154 carries forward the guidance contained in APB Opinion 20 for reporting the correction of an error in previously issued financial statements and a change in accounting estimate, and likewise requires justification of a change in accounting principle on the basis of preferability.

SFAS 154 is effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005. Because the effects are attributable to future events, the effect of adoption of SFAS 154 on the Company and its subsidiaries' financial position and results of operations cannot be reasonably estimated.

(4) Reclassification

Certain reclassifications and changes have been made to prior year amounts to conform to the current year's presentation.

The Company made some corrections of consolidated financial statements for the prior years corresponding to the corrections made by ITOCHU TECHNO-SCIENCE Corporation ("CTC"), a subsidiary of the Company. CTC concluded that some transactions with Medialinks Corporation did not qualify for revenue recognition. The correction by the Company was to reclassify "Trading margins and commissions on trading transactions" to other income in the amount of ¥1,070 million for the year ended March 31, 2003, and did not have an impact on net income or stockholders' equity.