

Sojitz Cororation

## **Expansion of Asia's Only Coal-related Internet-based Service**

### **Turning CoalinQ into a Fully-owned Sojitz Subsidiary**

(Japan, December 14, 2004)--In January 2001, Sojitz Corporation (formerly Nissho Iwai Corporation), jointly with ITOCHU Corporation and Marubeni Corporation, established a website mainly to offer Internet-based spot coal purchases, and CoalinQ Corporation was formed as the operating company with an equal capital investment. In the three years following its formation, CoalinQ has acquired a membership of one hundred and sixty, including public agencies, and has sold approximately 6 million tons of coal in total to power utilities and customers such as steel and cement companies at home and overseas.

Japan currently imports approximately 160 million tons of coal per annum, a little over 10 percent of which, approximately 17 million tons, is handled by Sojitz. Further, Sojitz owns interests in a large number of coal mines in Australia.

Sojitz added the subject company CoalinQ as a business to generate new profits following investments in interest, to the e-commerce business the company traditionally carries out, and acquired the interests of ITOCHU and Marubeni in November 2004, turning CoalinQ into a wholly-owned Sojitz subsidiary. Sojitz aims to foster CoalinQ as a 'general electronic web site for coal business' that provides information gathering, consultation and research study services.

In order to make best use of the advantages of being an independent undertaking, Sojitz will develop more full-fledged services that reflect the company's coal technologies and its networks in Russia, China and Indonesia, in which areas the company has advantages and strengths. Further, the company aims to increase the number of memberships to three hundred, and to achieve an annual transaction volume of 5 million tons within the next three years. Sojitz considers the independence and neutrality of the CoalinQ site to be of importance, and will maintain its conventional operation form, that is, an operation driven by CoalinQ.

**[Outline of CoalinQ Corporation]**

Establishment: January 31, 2001  
Share Capital: 299,850,000 Japanese Yen  
Head Office: 1-1-11 Shimo-Meguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo  
Investment Ratio/Amount:  
(To November 23, 2004)

Sojitz Corporation	33.33 % (99,950,000 Japanese Yen)
ITOCHU Corporation	33.33 % (99,950,000 Japanese Yen)
Marubeni Corporation	33.33 % (99,950,000 Japanese Yen)

(From November 24, 2004)

Sojitz Corporation 100.00 % (299,850,000 Japanese Yen)

URL: <http://www.coalinq.com>

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