

## **The Japan Investor Relations Association Announces its Seventeenth Annual IR Grand Prix**

The Japan Investor Relations Association (JIRA, Chairman: Shuzo Sumi, Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc. President), the only privately-run non-profit organization working for the proliferation and improvement of investor relations (IR) activities in Japan, has announced the recipients of the 2012 Annual IR Grand Prix Awards. The IR Grand Prix (Committee Chairman: Masanobu Kaizu, Senior Research Fellow and Advisor, Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., Financial and Economic Research Center) is designed to recognize those companies which have achieved successful results and gained the support of the investment community for their strong understanding of and proactive efforts to promote investor relations. This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the IR Grand Prix has been held, and characteristics of the awards and their recipients are listed below.

- Management takes discussions with analysts and investors into consideration in their internal measures to raise profitability and improve operations
- Top management continues to aggressively promote IR despite changes in their operating environment
- IR division accurately assesses the interest of analysts and investors to devise and improve their disclosure of information and earnings announcement documents

Committee Chairman Masanobu Kaizu says that “the companies chosen for the IR Grand Prix are keenly aware of the expectations of analysts and investors and promote measures to improve shareholder value despite the continued stagnation of Japanese stock markets. Furthermore they continue to improve their information disclosure to increase the level of trust of stakeholders.” Of the members of JIRA, 294 publicly traded companies applied for screening in the 2012 IR Grand Prix. Of these companies, a total of 13 companies were selected for awards, including one for the IR Grand Prix Award, six for the Best IR Award, four for the IR Special Award, one for the Best IR Award for Small to Medium Sized Capitalization Companies, and one for the Special IR Award for Small to Medium Sized Capitalization Companies.

**Recipient, IR Grand Prix Award**

OMRON Corporation

**Recipients, Best IR Award**

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

Astellas Pharma Inc.

Eisai Co., Ltd.

ITOCHU Corporation

Lawson, Inc.

NIKON CORPORATION

**Recipients, IR Special Award**

Nabtesco Corporation

OTSUKA CORPORATION

Park24 Co., Ltd.

TOTETSU KOGYO CO., LTD.

**Recipient, Best IR Award for Small to Medium Sized Capitalization Companies**

Wacom Co., Ltd.

**Recipient, IR Special Award for Small to Medium Sized Capitalization Companies**

SEPTENI HOLDINGS CO., LTD.

Note: Companies above are listed in alphabetical order

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About JIRA

The Japan Investor Relations Association (JIRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1993. JIRA is comprised of 594 members (as of October 31,2012) and conducts educational activities, surveys, research, and provides opportunities for member companies to exchange information.

<https://www.jira.or.jp/jira/jsp/usr/english/en1.html>