

April 13, 2005

Suzuken Co., Ltd.

Yoshiki Bessho, President and CEO

Stock Code: 9987

Securities Traded: Tokyo, Nagoya, and Sapporo Stock Exchanges

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Suzuken Co., Ltd. To Conduct Voluntary Early Retirement Program

The Suzuken Board of Directors approved a resolution on April 13, 2005 to conduct a voluntary early retirement program as follows.

1. Reason for early retirement program

As measures aimed at reforming Japan's healthcare system gain momentum, Suzuken is faced with the need to alter almost every aspect of its operations to deal with the enormous changes taking place in its operating environment. Exemplifying these events are the rising health consciousness of individuals, a shift in the perspectives of patients, and the increasing number of healthcare institutions and dispensing pharmacies that serve larger geographic areas.

In response, Suzuken is increasing the concentration of resources on its core ethical pharmaceutical wholesaling business. The aim is to establish a low-cost operating framework through actions such as raising the number of temporary workers and building an efficient product distribution system.

However, reaching the objective of being the pharmaceutical wholesaling industry's most powerful company demands that Suzuken fulfill two critical goals: establish a decisive competitive edge as a wholesaler of pharmaceuticals; and use new businesses to add more competitive advantages. Accomplishing this requires that Suzuken quickly build a base capable of conducting structural reforms.

Based on this outlook, Suzuken reached the decision to ask employees to participate voluntarily in an early retirement program in order to execute the necessary reforms. As part of this program, Suzuken will assist employees who choose early retirement in pursuing a second career that meets their personal goals.

2. Summary of early retirement program

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| (1) Number of employees | 200 (planned) |
| (2) Duration of program | May 23 through June 3, 2005 |
| (3) Eligible employees | All full-time employees who are between the ages of 35 and 58 as of June 30, 2005 |
| (4) Retirement date | June 30, 2005 |

3. Outlook

In the event that 200 employees participate in the program as planned, Suzuken expects to post an extraordinary loss of 2.4 billion yen to cover the necessary retirement payments.

This extraordinary loss will be included in operating results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.