

November 20th, 2007

SBI Holdings, Inc.

Keio University

**SBI Holdings and Keio to Collaborate in Supporting Asian University Venture Business
MoU signing and explanatory session at 40 Roppongi Academy Hills from 16:10, Nov. 22nd, 2007**

SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director & CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao, hereinafter “SBI Holdings”) and the Incorporated Educational Corporation Keio University (Main Campus: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Yuichiro Anzai, hereinafter “Keio University”) recently reached a basic agreement on collaboration to support venture business developed by universities in the Asian region. This framework for business startup support, in collaboration with 27 universities and research institutes in 13 Asian countries, is the first attempt of its kind in the world. An MoU signing ceremony will be held, as shown below with the use of remote video link between Tokyo and Osaka, followed by an explanation of the collaboration to members of the press and other participants. We hope you will be able to cover this event.

1. MoU signing ceremony & explanation session

Date & time: Thursday November 22nd, 2007 16:10-17:00

Place: 40th Floor Roppongi Academy Hills (40th Floor, Mori Tower, Roppongi Hills) C2

Participants: Yoshitaka Kitao, Representative Director & CEO, SBI Holdings, Inc. (via remote video link from Osaka)

Prof. Jun Murai, Vice-President, Keio University / Professor of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University

Prof. Jiro Kokuryo, Director, Incubation Center, Keio University / Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

* This event will take the form of an “Asian Entrepreneur Emerging Conference” as part of the “SFC Open Research Forum” held at 40 Roppongi Academy Hills on Thursday, November 22 and Friday November 23. The purpose of the Forum is to make presentations on three-way collaborative research conducted at the Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus (SFC) by industry, government and academia.

2. Background and significance of this agreement

Keio University, together with “SOI Asia (School on Internet Asia)” (a project for international cooperation in Asian education that is organized and promoted by the University) has cooperated with 27 partner universities and research institutes in 13 Asian countries(see Table 1) in exchanging high quality education with the use of remote lectures through satellite Internet links and development of human resources in the IT field . Having become acutely aware of the strong entrepreneurship of students in Asian countries through these activities, we have also come to realize that partners offering stable financial support will be necessary in order to promote the commercialization of technologies and business models presented by Asian universities. Through this collaboration, we aim to contribute to the development of technologies in Asian universities and the growth of commercialization based on the seeds of these technologies.

SBI Holdings is one of Japan’s largest venture capital companies, with a rich track record of investment and in fostering domestic IT and biotech ventures. In recent years, the company has stepped up its ventures in the Asian region, and aims to nurture industry outside Japan as well. The present collaboration with Keio University stands as an example of this. We feel that this collaboration will contribute to the creation of university-based entrepreneurs in the Asian region, and therefore has very great social significance.

3. Details of the collaboration

SBI Holdings will soon launch a new fund for investing in venture businesses started by lecturers, researchers, students and graduates of Asian universities and research institutes engaged in education and research collaboration through the activities of SOI Asia.

The Keio University Incubation Center (Director: Jiro Kokuryo) is considering to establish an SOI Asia Business Social Platform LLP (tentative) in collaboration with SOI Asia. The LLP will serve as a bridge for smooth cooperation between industry and academia and will be responsible for actively as promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship in Asia as well as supporting university-based venture business. The Incubation Center will design the requisite activity content, together with rules and other requirements. This design itself is unprecedented. We will promote this activity as research on new forms of collaboration between industry and academia, with the aim of encouraging the emergence of entrepreneurs in the Asian region and contributing to the development of research activities in universities. At the same time, we will also disclose the outcome of this research to society at large.

With the opportunities provided by the new fund, SBI Holdings and Keio University will collaborate in various ways to create entrepreneurs and materialize business from Asian universities in future.

Table 1: List of SOI Asia Partners

Country	Institute
Republic of Indonesia	Sam Ratulangi University, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Hasanuddin University, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Brawijaya University
Kingdom of Cambodia	University of Health Sciences of Cambodia, Institute of Technology of Cambodia
Singapore	Temasek Polytechnic
Kingdom of Thailand	Asian Institute of Technology, Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Chulalongkorn University, Prince of Songkla University
Kingdom of Nepal	Tribhuvan University
People’s Republic of Bangladesh	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Republic of the Philippines	University of San Carlos, Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI)
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	Hanoi University of Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Institute Of Information Technology (IOIT)
Malaysia	Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, Universiti Sains Malaysia
Union of Burma	University of Computer Studies, Mandalay, University of Computer Studies, Yangon
Mongolia	Mongolian University of Science and Technology
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	National University of Laos
Japan	Keio University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology

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