

October 1, 2015  
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc.  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

**SMFG and SMBC Launch New “IT Innovation Department”**

Tokyo, October 1, 2015 – Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG, President: Koichi Miyata) and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC, President and CEO: Takeshi Kunibe) today announced the formation of a new “IT Innovation Department”, in order to strengthen efforts to pursue fintech-related innovation by SMFG as a whole.

Evolution of the IT and Internet Society has led to technology innovation and diversification of customer interest, which has quickly and dramatically transformed the business environment of existing financial institutions as fintech startups and non-financial corporations enter the financial industry.

SMFG originally formed a cross-SMFG project team in August 2012 to address these changes, which has led to efforts such as utilizing “IBM Watson” in contact center operations to improve quality of customer interactions, and signing partnership with Plug&Play Tech Center in Silicon Valley to reach out to the latest financial related technology and business models.

The newly established “IT Innovation Department” will not only inherit functions of the cross-SMFG project team, but will further strengthen our efforts to pursue innovation by implementing (a) the “Open Innovation” concept, which focuses on actively utilizing external knowledge and pursuing new business models through alliances with non-financial corporations and (b) the “Agile Development” concept, which accelerates cycles of planning and prototyping / testing of new financial products and services.

SMFG will seek to offer further convenient and high-quality services to our customers through these activities by being proactive towards the continuing evolution of the financial industry.