

Implementation of blast furnace improvement measure
at Kure Works of Nippon Steel Nisshin Co., Ltd.

Nippon Steel Nisshin Co., Ltd. (“Nippon Steel Nisshin”) has decided to conduct banking* of the No. 2 blast furnace at the Kure Works around mid-February 2020 and to focus on production of the No. 1 furnace, in order to improve production efficiency and further stabilize blast furnace operation. The reason for this is that both blast furnaces were operating at a low utilization rate due to a fire accident at the Kure Works in August 2019, in addition to the deteriorating environment for steel demand.

Nippon Steel Corporation (“Nippon Steel”) will provide technical assistance concerning the banking method and flexibly supply iron sources, namely, slabs and hot coils, to Nippon Steel Nisshin. This will enable Nippon Steel Nisshin to continue supplying the same products as at present.

Nippon Steel and Nippon Steel Nisshin are scheduled to merge in April 2020 and to be operated in an integrated manner to ensure the best interests of the Nippon Steel Group.

* “Banking” is to take measures to temporarily stop blast furnace production but make it possible to restart production at a later date by stopping the air blast flow.

[Details of blast furnaces of Nippon Steel Nisshin]

		<u>Inner volume (m³)</u>	<u>Start of operation</u>
Kure Works	No. 1 blast furnace	2,650	April 1995
	No. 2 blast furnace	2,080	November 2003

For inquires

Nippon Steel Corporation, General Administration Dept., Public Relations Center
Tel:+81-3-6867-2135, 2146, 2977, 3419

Nippon Steel Nisshin Co., Ltd., General Administration Dept., Secretary/ Public Relations Team
Tel:+81-3-3216-5566