



SOUTHEASTERN ASSET
MANAGEMENT, INC.:

For immediate release

March 13, 2009

**Announced Merger of Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. and
NIPPONKOA Insurance Co.**

Southeastern Asset Management will await details before deciding our position. We will expect any combination to follow best practices on corporate governance and to reform investment policy and compensation policy in line with our longstanding views.*

We have been investors in both companies and their predecessors for over a decade, much longer than either management team has been in place. We have a strong interest in mergers that create value for all stakeholders and will expect to be involved in ongoing discussions to establish terms and conditions required to gain shareholder approval for any deal.

**Details on Southeastern's history and approach can be found on the site in Japanese and English at: <http://www.southeastern.jp/>*

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