

Statement of Purpose for the Establishment of the “Sado Island Gold Mines Conservation and Utilization Promotion Network”

Background

With the understanding and cooperation of companies and organizations, including members of the *Niigata Prefectural Citizens’ Council for the Promotion of World Heritage Registration of the Sado Gold and Silver Mines*, we have long been engaged in activities such as collecting signatures, disseminating information, and carrying out preservation efforts toward the goal of World Heritage registration.

As a result, on July 27, 2024 (Reiwa 6), at the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi, India, it was decided that “*The Sado Island Gold Mines*” would be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Outstanding Universal Value of “The Sado Island Gold Mines”

The Sado Island Gold Mines were recognized for their *Outstanding Universal Value* as an **exceptional example** in Asia where advanced **unmechanized mining methods** were maintained even during a period when mechanization of mining advanced in other parts of the world.

Future Direction

It is our responsibility to share the World Heritage Site “The Sado Island Gold Mines” with people around the world and to pass on its value to future generations. We believe that continued efforts to preserve and utilize the site must involve not only companies, organizations, and government bodies, but also individuals working together as a united community.

Furthermore, by using the World Heritage as a starting point, we intend to widely promote the appeal of Sado and Niigata Prefecture, and by expanding exchanges through collaboration between the public and private sector, we aim to achieve sustainable regional development, which is essential to passing this heritage on to the future.

Therefore, moving forward, the *Niigata Prefectural Citizens’ Council for the Promotion of World Heritage Registration of the Sado Gold and Silver Mines* will be dissolved, and a new organization, the “Sado Island Gold Mines Preservation and Utilization Promotion Network”, will be established to further advance the preservation and utilization of the heritage site following its registration.

May 22, 2025 (Reiwa 7)