

**For Immediate Release**

**October 30, 2019**  
**LIXIL Group Corporation**

## **JICA and LIXIL Sign MOU to Improve Sanitation in Developing Economies**

**Tokyo** – LIXIL Group Corporation (“LIXIL Group”, TSE Code: 5938), maker of pioneering water and housing products, today signed a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (“JICA”). The two organizations will collaborate to improve sanitation and access to clean water in developing economies, marking the first time JICA has entered into a collaborative MOU with a private company in the water and sanitation field.



LIXIL Group and JICA will jointly look into the use of toilets and sanitary conditions in developing countries in Africa and Asia, while raising awareness and stimulating demand for sanitary toilets. Currently, one in four people in the world – or approximately two billion people – do not have access to basic sanitation, while open defecation is still commonplace in many countries. By collaborating and sharing know-how developed on the ground, LIXIL Group and JICA will aim to further contribute to Goal 6 of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

Global Sanitation and Hygiene forms one of LIXIL Group’s three strategic pillars under its corporate responsibility strategy and the company is already active in improving access to basic sanitation. So far, LIXIL Group has developed a number of solutions, primarily the SATO toilet system, designed for developing economies. SATO is supported by a social enterprise business approach, encompassing production, distribution, installation and maintenance in local and regional markets. By entering into this MOU, LIXIL Group will combine its solutions with JICA’s strengths, including its network with government-affiliated organizations and expertise in sanitation-related issues, to improve hygiene conditions in developing economies.

JICA President, Shinichi Kitaoka, commented, "JICA has expanded its activities to improve sanitary conditions in developing economies in close cooperation with various stakeholders, from governments, international organizations, corporates and locals in the countries it operates. To help achieve the SDGs, we believe it is essential to partner with companies such as LIXIL Group. We will leverage the strengths of both organizations to improve hygienic conditions in developing economies, which is a truly vital issue."

LIXIL Group President and CEO, Kinya Seto, said, "At LIXIL, we believe that making a positive difference to the world through our business matters. JICA and LIXIL Group have been working together to address global sanitation issues for some time now. Signing this MOU will further strengthen our cooperation in this field, enabling us to provide safe and sanitary toilets to more people. These activities will also support the further development of solutions that reflect local conditions and consumer needs in developing economies, which will further accelerate our efforts to resolve sanitation issues."

LIXIL's SATO toilet system is today used in over 25 countries, improving sanitation mostly in Asia and Africa. Together with JICA, we will carry out field surveys and activities to stimulate demand. The MOU was signed by both parties at JICA Headquarters in Tokyo, effective today.

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#### **LIXIL's Corporate Responsibility**

LIXIL is committed to making better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere, and to pursuing the growth of its business through responsible and sustainable innovations. Aligning its business and CR strategies, "Global Sanitation and Hygiene," "Water Conservation & Environmental Sustainability," and "Diversity & Inclusion" form what it calls its three strategic CR pillars. These are the fields in which LIXIL strives to make its biggest positive impact on society, while contributing to global efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Goals (SDGs).

#### **About LIXIL**

LIXIL makes pioneering water and housing products that solve everyday, real-life challenges, making better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere. Drawing on our Japanese heritage, we create world-leading technology and innovate to make high quality products that transform homes. But the LIXIL difference is how we do this; through meaningful design, an entrepreneurial spirit, a dedication to improving accessibility for all, and responsible business growth. Our approach comes to life through industry leading brands, including INAX, GROHE, American Standard, and TOSTEM. With approximately 75,000 colleagues operating in more than 150 countries, we are proud to make products that touch the lives of more than a billion people every day.

**LIXIL Group Corporation (TSE Code: 5938) is the listed holding company for LIXIL's portfolio of businesses.**

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