

## NIPPON MINING & METALS CO LTD

### GOLD BAR MANUFACTURER IN JAPAN

**Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd**, which produces gold mainly as a by-product of copper smelting, has its headquarters in the Minato-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and bar manufacture take place at the Saganoseki Refinery in the Oita Prefecture, about 1,000 km west of Tokyo.

The company issues a standard range of 4 cast bars: 400 oz, 10 kg, 1000 g, 500 g

While most of the smaller bars are sold in Japan, its London Good Delivery 400 oz bars are traded internationally.

A representative range of Nippon Mining bars is included in the Industry Collection.

#### BACKGROUND

**Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd**, incorporated in 1929, was founded in 1905 when the Hitachi copper mine was opened in the Ibaraki Prefecture, about 150 km north of Tokyo.

The refining of gold as a by-product of copper smelting dates back to the establishment of the Hitachi Refinery in 1908 and the Saganoseki Refinery in 1916.

For 16 years from 1981, the Hitachi Refinery became solely responsible for the company's gold refining and bar manufacture, until these operations were transferred to a new facility at the Saganoseki Refinery in 1997.

Since 2000, the sale of the company's gold bars has been undertaken jointly with Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co Ltd following the establishment of **Pan Pacific Copper Co Ltd** (PPCU), which is owned by Nippon Mining (66%) and Mitsui Mining (34%).

Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd operations include the mining and smelting of non-ferrous metals and the manufacture of chemicals, materials and products, notably for the electronics industry. It operates internationally through more than 30 subsidiary and affiliated companies that are located in Japan, Chile, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the USA.

Since 1999, the company has been closely associated with LS-Nikko Copper Inc, a major copper smelter in South Korea, which also produces London Good Delivery 400 oz gold bars.

Annual gold refining capacity at the Saganoseki Refinery is around 42 tonnes.

Number of employees: 2,070 (total company).



Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd, incorporated in 1929, refines gold at the Saganoseki Refinery.

Most gold is refined as a by-product of copper smelting.



Gold refining was transferred from the Hitachi Refinery to the Saganoseki Refinery in 1997.



The company has manufactured London Good Delivery 400 oz bars since 1981.



**Accreditation**

2000\* London Bullion Market Association  
 1982 The Tokyo Commodity Exchange

\* Accreditation in 2000 relates to the Saganoseki Refinery. The Hitachi refinery had been accredited in 1981.

**Websites:**

Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd: [www.nikko-metal.co.jp](http://www.nikko-metal.co.jp)  
 Pan Pacific Copper Co Ltd: [www.ppcu.co.jp](http://www.ppcu.co.jp)



**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Made	Serial Number System	System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	230 x 85 x 38 216 x 72 (base)	1988	Letter Plus 4 numbers Plus year date	1988
10 kg	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	182 x 87 x 35.5 172 x 80.7 (base)	1988	Letter Plus 4 numbers	1988
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	116 x 60 x 8 116 x 60 (base)	1988	Letter Plus 4 numbers	1988
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	89 x 40.6 x 7.2	1988	Letter Plus 4 numbers	1988

Source: Nippon Mining & Metals Co Ltd

**HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE**

Although gold bar manufacture dates back to the establishment of the Hitachi Refinery in 1908, historical information is limited.

400 oz bars have been manufactured since at least 1981, when the Hitachi Refinery was accredited to the London Gold Market.

Apart from the current range of 4 cast bars manufactured in their current dimensions since 1988, an extensive range of other bars were also produced between 1988 and 1997.

Historical bar weights over this period: 5 kg, 3 kg, 2 kg, 400 g and 100 g (cast bars) and 50 g, 10 g and 5 g (minted bars).

Although the company's circular symbol has been stamped on all bars since at least 1981, the stamping on most cast bars of the letters "HM" (indicating the Hitachi Refinery as the manufacturer) was discontinued in 1997, when bar manufacture was transferred to the Saganoseki Refinery.



The letters "NSS", which stand for the Saganoseki Refinery, have been applied to cast bars since 1997.



Casting room.



EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



500 g

**THE INDUSTRY COLLECTION OF GOLD BARS WORLDWIDE**

**The Industry Collection of Gold Bars Worldwide** is a worldwide project to create a unique collection of standard, innovative and unusual gold bars to support the promotion of gold.

Since 1993, manufacturers from across the globe have supported this international project by making their bars available. Founder was **N M Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited**, associated with N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London. Custodian and Official Location is **The Perth Mint**, wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia.

Curator is **Grendon International Research Pty Ltd (GIR)**. Apart from acting as a consultant within the gold industry, GIR has published several reference books on gold, including *The Industry Catalogue of Gold Bars Worldwide*.

Refer to disclaimer on website: [www.goldbarsworldwide.com](http://www.goldbarsworldwide.com)

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