

January 15, 2008  
Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.

**Announcement Regarding the Investment in Merrill Lynch & Co, Inc.**

We hereby announce that Mizuho Corporate Bank (President : Hiroshi Saito) and Merrill Lynch & Company, Inc, (CEO: John Thain) (“Merrill Lynch”) have agreed that Mizuho Corporate Bank invests \$1.2 billion in Merrill Lynch by the form of Non-Voting Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock.

The timing of the purchase is scheduled in January 2008.

(Description of Merrill Lynch)

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading wealth management, capital markets and advisory companies, with offices in 40 countries and territories and total client assets of almost \$2 trillion. As an investment bank, it is a leading global trader and underwriter of securities and derivatives across a broad range of asset classes and serves as a strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide. Merrill Lynch owns approximately half of BlackRock, one of the world's largest publicly traded investment management companies, with more than \$1 trillion in assets under management. For more information on Merrill Lynch, please visit [www.ml.com](http://www.ml.com)