

February 23, 2012
Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.
The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited

Cooperation Agreement Signed
Between Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. and the Standard Bank of South Africa Limited

Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. (MHCBS) and The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd (SBSA) entered into a Non Exclusive general business cooperation agreement on February 22, 2012. The cooperation agreement covers a wide range of investment and commercial banking business, and this represents the first time that SBSA has entered an agreement of this nature with a Japanese financial institution.

This cooperation agreement is aimed at fostering closer cooperation in financial services to assist Japanese companies in Africa. MHCBS will seek to provide a full range of support to its Japanese clients, many of whom already have established businesses on the African continent or who are conducting business with African companies. MHCBS and SBSA will be able to offer a variety of services such as Local currency denominated remittances, Local currency denominated loans and other financing, trade finance, and project finance.

MHCBS is one of the main subsidiaries of Mizuho Financial Group (MHFG) and serves major Japanese and international corporations and their group companies, as well as financial institutions and public sector entities globally. MHFG is one of the largest financial institutions in Japan, offering a broad range of financial services. The group has over 57,000 staff working in approximately 950 offices inside and outside Japan, and total assets of US\$1.9 trillion (as of March 2011). MHFG has an exceptionally strong client base and business relationships with 70% of listed Japanese companies

SBSA is the largest Bank in South Africa, with approximately 25.5% of total assets of South African banking system. It is South Africa's largest bank, distinguished by its extensive operations in 17 African countries. Standard Bank customers benefit from its knowledge and expertise in emerging markets, coupled with its global outlook.

South Africa is the economic powerhouse of Africa, leading the continent in industrial output and mineral production and generating a large proportion of Africa's electricity. The country has abundant natural resources, well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy and transport sectors, a stock exchange ranked among the top 20 in the world, and a modern infrastructure supporting efficient distribution of goods throughout the southern African region. Not only is South Africa itself an important emerging economy, it is also the gateway to other African markets.

Together with other group companies, both MHCBS and SBSA aim to take advantage of this cooperation agreement to support their respective clients as they conduct business within the region by fully meeting their financial needs.