Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.
December 14, 2012

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**Business Cooperation Agreement with the Banque Pour Le Exterier Lao Public**

Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. (MHCB; Yasuhiro Sato, President & CEO) signed a business cooperation agreement with the Banque Pour Le Exterier Lao Public (BCEL; Vamhkham Voravong, President), a major bank in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on December 13, 2012. The agreement covers a wide range of fields including commercial and investment banking business, and it is the first time that BCEL has signed a business cooperation agreement with a Japanese bank.

The agreement aims to enhance our ability to provide information to Japanese corporations that are considering expanding their businesses into Laos, and enhance our service structure for them when they do. Specifically, we will (1) offer local currency services, (2) introduce local business partners and local purchasers, (3) exchange information regarding local financial markets and regulations, and (4) providing training and seminars.

BCEL was established in 1975 as the international arm of the Bank of the Lao PDR (the central bank of Laos) and the central bank currently holds 70% of its shares. It is the largest state commercial bank in Laos in terms of asset size and has a domestic network of 18 branches. BCEL has strengths in both corporate banking and foreign exchange.

Laos has a geographically strategic position in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, which includes its neighboring countries, and increasing numbers of Japanese corporations are expanding their businesses there on the back of its low labor costs and logistical advantages. Economic growth in Laos is strong, with a GDP growth rate of 8.0% in 2011, and it is attracting increasing interest as an investment destination. MHCB and other group companies including Mizuho Bank, Ltd. will unite in using this business cooperation agreement as an opportunity to provide a wide range of support to our customers as they expand their businesses into the region.