FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Memorandum of Understanding with the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (MHBK; Yasuhiro Sato, President and CEO) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding for business cooperation with the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with the objective of supporting and promoting investment into Laos by Japanese corporations. This is the first time that the MPI has signed a memorandum of understanding for business cooperation with a Japanese bank.

The memorandum aims to enhance Mizuho's ability to provide information to Japanese corporations who are considering expanding their businesses or investing into Laos, and also to enhance Mizuho's support structure for market entry and investment procedures when they do. Specific initiatives will include (1) Mizuho and the MPI holding investment seminars (2) providing support to MHBK customers through the MPI in relation to their business expansion and investment in Laos.

The MPI is a Laos Central Government Ministry that serves as a "one stop service" for the promotion and authorization of investment by foreign corporations into special economic zones and various investment opportunities in Laos.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic holds a geographically strategic position among its neighboring countries and in the Greater Mekong Subregion, and increasing numbers of Japanese corporations are expanding their businesses there. The attractiveness of Laos includes low labor costs and logistical advantages on the Indochina Peninsula such as the East-West Economic Corridor. Economic growth is strong in Laos, with GDP growth rates of approximately 7-8% in recent years, and it is attracting increasing interest as an investment destination. MHBK and other Mizuho group companies will unite in using this memorandum of understanding as an opportunity to provide wide-ranging support to our customers as they expand their businesses into Laos and other parts of the Greater Mekong Subregion.