## First Islamic Financing at Mizuho Bank (Malaysia) Berhad

Mizuho Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (MHBK Malaysia; Hiroyuki Yoshinari, Managing Director and CEO), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (MHBK; Yasuhiro Sato, President and CEO), has provided Islamic financing for the first time. The recipient of this Islamic financing was Century Tokyo Capital (Malaysia) Sdn.Bhd. (Naohiko Ogawa, Managing Director), a consolidated subsidiary of Century Tokyo Leasing Corporation (Shunichi Asada, President and CEO).

The Islamic financing provided to Century Tokyo Capital (Malaysia) Sdn.Bhd. is known as Commodity Murabahah. It involves the purchase and sale of a commodity to avoid interest, which is prohibited by the religion of Islam. Commodity Murabahah is used for a wide range of financing needs including general working capital. This is the first Islamic financing transaction executed by MHBK Malaysia, and it is also the first Islamic financing provided to a Japanese customer by the Mizuho group\*.

MHBK Malaysia commenced business in September 2011 and obtained approval from Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank of Malaysia, to establish an international currency business unit to conduct Islamic finance denominated in currencies other than the Malaysian Ringgit in January 2012. Islamic financing commenced in this unit in October 2013, and by the end of this month, upon approval from Bank Negara Malaysia, it will launch another Islamic financing product called Ijarah. Ijarah is similar to a lease and its usage includes financing of equipment and facilities.

The Muslim population of 1.6 billion accounts for approximately a quarter of the total world population, and Islamic countries are attracting increasing world attention as prospective markets. The Government of Malaysia has been promoting Islamic finance, which has resulted in the ratio of Islamic finance assets to total assets in the banking sector in Malaysia growing to approximately 25% as of the end of 2012. As the presence and importance of Islamic finance is expected to continue to grow, Mizuho intends to provide and expand our Islamic finance services in Malaysia, which is the center of Islamic finance in Asia.

\* Mizuho has a track record in syndicated Islamic financing through Mizuho Bank Nederland NV. This Islamic financing has been used in project and other finance with non-Japanese corporations.