

January 27, 2015
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

Memorandums of Understanding for Business Cooperation with the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency and the Austrian Business Agency

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (MHBK; Nobuhide Hayashi, President and CEO) signed memorandums of understanding for business cooperation with the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) and the Austrian Business Agency (ABA-Invest in Austria) on January 26, 2015.

Economic growth is continuing in the central and eastern areas of Europe, driven by direct investment from mainly Western European nations. There is a particularly strong concentration of investment from motor vehicle manufacturers from around the world, and progress is being made in strengthening production capacity for not only Central and Eastern European markets but also as a manufacture and export base for global markets. We are projecting further economic growth there going forward in mainly manufacturing industries.

The Slovak Republic is taking advantage of the benefits that it has introduced the Euro to proactively attract manufacturing industries from within Europe. German, French, and Korean motor vehicle manufacturers all have manufacturing facilities in the country, and industry clusters are forming as increasing numbers of supplier companies such as automotive parts manufacturers also enter the market.

The Republic of Austria is positioned on the easternmost edge of Western Europe. As a result of its geographical position bordering the three Central and Eastern European countries with the largest numbers of manufacturing facilities of Western European companies (Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Hungary), its stable economy, and its infrastructure base, Austria is the host of many regional headquarters for multinational corporations.

As of the end of December 2014, approximately 50 Japanese companies are operating in the Slovakia and approximately 90 are operating in Austria, and we are projecting these numbers to increase.

By entering these memorandums of understanding with the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency and the Austrian Business Agency, which are the government organizations that support the market entrance of foreign corporations in their respective countries, we will be able to take advantage of the wealth of information they hold to aim to enhance our support structures for customers including Japanese corporations that are considering new market entrance or alliances with local companies in Slovakia and Austria. MHBK has also entered similar memorandums of understanding with the investment promotion agencies in Poland and Hungary, which together with the memorandums signed in this instance will enable us to widely cover central and eastern areas of Europe, where both economic growth and increasing entrance of Japanese corporations is projected going forward. We will provide robust support to meet the needs of our customers through high-quality services including assistance in market entrance and business matching.