

March 24, 2015  
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

## **Collaboration Agreement with the Australian Trade Commission**

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (MHBK; Nobuhide Hayashi, President and CEO) today signed a collaboration agreement with the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade).

Austrade is the Federal Government body responsible for promoting exports from Australia, foreign direct investment into Australia, and export education. It has a network of 82 offices in 48 countries around the world, and approximately 50 officials are assigned to Austrade's 4 offices in Japan.

Australia has sustained economic growth on the back of its strengths as a natural resources, energy, agriculture, and dairy nation. The country has been attracting global attention in recent years in areas including food processing using agricultural produce as raw materials, research and development such as clinical trials in the medical sector, and service industries such as retail and restaurants. This has also driven growing interest from Japanese corporations. Further, agreement was reached for the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement in July 2014, and this took effect in January 2015. The economic relationship between Japan and Australia has been strengthened by the agreement, and we are forecasting further growth in trade and direct investment between our two nations across a broad range of industries going forward.

In conjunction with the moves by the governments of both countries, MHBK and Austrade signed the collaboration agreement in this instance in order to invigorate actions toward promoting investment in the private sector. Specifically, we will take actions including (1) periodically exchanging information in relation to direct investment in Australia, (2) expanding information provision functions using tools such as the Internet, and (3) holding seminars and workshops in cooperation with Austrade, all while making use of the wealth of information held by Austrade. As well as contributing to development of the economic relationship between Japan and Australia, Mizuho will use this agreement to further strengthen our support structures for customers considering new entrance into the Australian market or expansion of their existing operations.