

July 1, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Company Name: Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.
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**Announcement regarding Issuance of New Shares and Secondary Offering of Shares,
and Withdrawal of Shelf Registration Statement in Japan for Future Equity Issuances**

Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (“MHFG”) hereby announces that its board of directors resolved today to issue new shares and conduct a secondary offering of its shares, and to withdraw the shelf registration statement in Japan for future equity issuances, as set forth below:

1. Issuance of New Shares by way of Offering (Public Offering)

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| (1) Class and Number of Shares to be Offered | 2,804,400,000 shares of common stock of MHFG which is the sum of (i) and (ii) below.

(i) 2,608,800,000 new shares to be underwritten and purchased by the Japanese Initial Purchaser and the International Initial Purchaser in each of the offerings specified in (4) (i) and (ii) below.

(ii) A maximum of 195,600,000 shares which shall be the subject of purchase options to be granted to the International Initial Purchaser in the International Offering specified in (4) (ii) below for the purchase of the shares to be additionally issued. |
| (2) Method of Determination of the Amount to be Paid | The amount to be paid will be determined on a day during the period from Wednesday, July 15, 2009 to Friday, July 17, 2009 (the “Determination Date”) in accordance with the method stated in Article 25 of the Regulations concerning Underwriting of Securities, etc. of the Japan Securities Dealers Association (“JSDA”). |
| (3) Amount of Stated Capital and Additional Paid-in Capital to be Increased | The amount of stated capital to be increased shall be half of the maximum amount of stated capital increase, as calculated in accordance with Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Rules of Account Settlement of Corporations with any fraction less than one yen resulting from the calculation being rounded up to the nearest one yen. The amount of the additional paid-in capital to be increased shall be the amount obtained by subtracting the relevant amount of stated capital to be increased from the relevant maximum amount of stated |

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capital increase.

(4) Method of Offering

(i) Japanese public offering:

The offering to be made in Japan shall be conducted through a public offering (the “Japanese Public Offering”). A Japanese Initial Purchaser (the “Japanese Initial Purchaser”) shall underwrite and purchase all of the new shares with respect to the Japanese Public Offering; and several Japanese underwriters (the “Japanese Underwriters”) shall handle the Japanese Public Offering of the shares. Moreover, in the case where the shares remain unsubscribed, the Japanese Underwriters shall jointly and severally subscribe for such shares from the Japanese Initial Purchaser.

(ii) International offering:

The offering to be made in overseas shall be conducted through an offering in overseas market (provided that the offering shall be made, in the United States, to qualified institutional buyers only and, in Canada, to accredited investors only) (the “International Offering”). An international initial purchaser (the “International Initial Purchaser”) shall underwrite and purchase all of the new shares with respect to the International Offering; and several international managers (the “International Managers”) shall handle the International Offering of the shares. Moreover, in the case where shares remain unsubscribed, the International Managers shall severally subscribe for such shares from the International Initial Purchaser. In addition, MHFG shall grant the International Initial Purchaser the option to purchase the additionally issued shares as mentioned in (1) (ii); provided, however, that the International Initial Purchaser shall exercise the option to purchase such additional shares at the direction of the Joint Global Coordinators.

(iii) With regard to the offerings mentioned in (i) and (ii) above, the number of shares to be issued is scheduled to be 1,304,400,000 shares for the Japanese Public Offering and 1,500,000,000 shares for the International Offering (of which 1,304,400,000 shares will be underwritten and purchased as mentioned in (1) (i) above and 195,600,000 additional shares will be purchased upon exercise of the option mentioned in (1) (ii) above), although the final breakdown of the actual number of the shares shall be determined on the Determination Date by taking into account market demand and other conditions.

(iv) The Joint Global Coordinators with regard to each offering mentioned in (i) and (ii) above and the secondary offering mentioned in “2. Secondary Offering of Shares (Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment)” below shall be two of the Japanese Underwriters and affiliates of two of the International Managers.

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- (v) The issue price (offer price) with respect to each offering mentioned in (i) and (ii) above shall be determined on the Determination Date, based on the tentative pricing range calculated by multiplying the closing price in regular trading of the shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on the Determination Date (or, if no closing price is quoted, the closing price of the immediately preceding date) by 0.90-1.00 (with any fraction less than one yen being rounded down), in accordance with the method stated in Article 25 of the Regulations concerning Underwriting of Securities, etc. of the JSDA, taking into account market demand and other conditions.
 - (vi) MHFG shall not pay any underwriting fees to the initial purchasers and the underwriters of each offering mentioned in (i) and (ii) above, although the aggregate amount of the difference between (a) the issue price (offer price) in the Japanese Offering and (b) the amount to be paid to MHFG by the Japanese Initial Purchaser shall be retained by the Japanese Initial Purchaser, which shall be allocated to each of the Japanese Underwriters as underwriting fees for the Japanese Underwriters, and the aggregate amount of the difference between (a) the issue price (offer price) in the International Offering and (b) the amount to be paid to MHFG by the International Initial Purchaser shall be retained by the International Initial Purchaser, which shall be allocated to each of the International Managers as underwriting fees for the International Managers.
- (5) Subscription Period (in Japan) The subscription period shall be from the business day immediately following the Determination Date to the second business day immediately following the Determination Date.
 - (6) Payment Date The payment date shall be a day during the period from Thursday, July 23, 2009 to Monday, July 27, 2009, provided, however, that such day shall be the fifth business day immediately following the Determination Date.
 - (7) Subscription Unit 100 shares
 - (8) Use of Proceeds The net proceeds, together with the approximate net proceeds from the issuance of the new shares by way of third-party allotment mentioned in “3. Issuance of New Shares by way of Third-Party Allotment” below, shall be used to make investments in MHFG’s consolidated subsidiaries.
 - (9) Determination of the amount to be paid, the issue price (offer price), the amount of stated capital and additional paid-in capital to be increased, the final breakdown of the numbers for shares to be issued for the Japanese Public Offering and those for the International Offering (including the further breakdown of the latter which refers to the numbers of new shares to be underwritten and purchased as mentioned in (1) (i) above and additional shares to be purchased upon exercise of the option in (1) (ii) above) and any other matters necessary for the issuance of new shares by way of the offering shall be delegated to the President & CEO of MHFG.

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(10) The Japanese Public Offering shall be conditioned upon the securities registration statement to be filed under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan becoming effective.

2. Secondary Offering of Shares (Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment) (See 1. of “For Reference” attached hereto)

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| (1) Class and Number of Shares to be Sold | 195,600,000 shares of common stock of MHFG.

The number of shares mentioned above is the maximum number of shares to be sold. The above number may decrease, or the Japanese secondary offering by way of over-allotment may be cancelled entirely, depending on market demand and other conditions of the Japanese Public Offering. The number of shares to be sold shall be determined on the Determination Date, taking into account market demand and other conditions of the Japanese Public Offering. |
| (2) Seller | One of the Joint Lead Managers of the Japanese Public Offering. |
| (3) Selling Price | Undetermined (The selling price will be determined on the Determination Date; provided, however, that such selling price shall be the same as the issue price (offer price) in respect of the Japanese Public Offering.) |
| (4) Method of Secondary Offering | Taking into account market demand and other conditions of the Japanese Public Offering, the Seller will make a secondary offering of shares that it borrows from certain shareholder(s) of MHFG. |
| (5) Subscription Period | The subscription period shall be the same as the subscription period in respect of the Japanese Public Offering. |
| (6) Delivery Date | The delivery date shall be the business day immediately following the payment date in respect of the Japanese Public Offering. |
| (7) Subscription Unit | 100 shares |
| (8) Determination of the selling price and any other matters necessary for the Japanese secondary offering by way of over-allotment shall be delegated to the President & CEO of MHFG. | |
| (9) The Japanese secondary offering by way of over-allotment shall be conditioned upon the securities registration statement to be filed under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan becoming effective. | |

3. Issuance of New Shares by way of Third-Party Allotment (See 1. of “For Reference” attached hereto)

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|---|---|
| (1) Class and Number of Shares to be Offered | 195,600,000 shares of common stock of MHFG. |
| (2) Method of Determination for the Amount to be Paid | The amount to be paid will be determined on the Determination Date; provided, however, that such amount to be paid shall be the same as the amount to be paid in respect of the Japanese Public Offering. |

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- (3) Amount of Stated Capital and Additional Paid-in Capital to be Increased The amount of stated capital to be increased shall be half of the maximum amount of stated capital increase, as calculated in accordance with Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the Rules of Account Settlement of Corporations with any fraction less than one yen resulting from the calculation being rounded up to the nearest one yen. The amount of the additional paid-in capital to be increased shall be the amount obtained by subtracting the relevant amount of stated capital to be increased from the relevant maximum amount of stated capital increase.
- (4) Allottee The Seller referred to in (2) of “2. Secondary Offering of Shares (Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment)”
- (5) Subscription Period Tuesday, August 4, 2009
- (6) Payment Date Wednesday, August 5, 2009
- (7) Subscription Unit 100 shares
- (8) Shares not subscribed within the subscription period mentioned in (5) above shall not be issued.
- (9) Determination of the amount to be paid, the amount of stated capital and additional paid-in capital to be increased and any other matters necessary for the issuance of new shares by way of third-party allotment shall be delegated to the President & CEO of MHFG.
- (10) The issuance of new shares by way of third-party allotment shall be conditioned upon the securities registration statement to be filed under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan becoming effective.

4. Withdrawal of Shelf Registration in Japan for Future Equity Issuances

(1) Outline of Withdrawn Shelf Registration

- (i) Date of Filing Friday, May 15, 2009
- (ii) Type of Securities to be Offered Common stock of MHFG
- (iii) Planned Issuance Period Within one year commencing from effective date of the Shelf Registration Statement (From May 23, 2009 until May 22, 2010)
- (iv) Planned Amount of Issuance Up to JPY 600 billion

(2) New Shares Already Issued under the Shelf Registration

None.

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(3) Reason for Withdrawal of Shelf Registration in Japan

MHFG decided to cancel any equity offering by way of the Shelf Registration and to file securities registration statements for the offerings of shares of common stock.

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[For Reference]

1. Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment and other matters

The Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment as mentioned in “2. Secondary Offering of Shares (Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment)” above, is a secondary offering in Japan to be made in relation to the Japanese Public Offering mentioned in (4) (i) of “1. Issuance of New Shares by way of Offering (Public Offering)” for shares of common stock of MHFG, in a number not to exceed 195,600,000 shares, that will be borrowed by one of the Joint Lead Managers of the Japanese Public Offering from certain shareholder(s) of MHFG, taking into account market demand for the offerings mentioned above and other conditions. The number of shares to be offered in the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment is scheduled to be 195,600,000 shares; however, this is the maximum number of shares to be sold, and such number may decrease, or the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment may be cancelled entirely, depending on market demand and other conditions.

In connection with the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment, the board of directors of MHFG has resolved, at the meeting held on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, that MHFG will issue 195,600,000 shares of its common stock to the Joint Lead Manager referred to in the previous paragraph (the “Allottee”) by way of third-party allotment (the “Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment”), with the payment date set to be Wednesday, August 5, 2009, as set forth in “3. Issuance of New Shares by way of Third-Party Allotment”, in order for the Allottee to obtain the number of shares necessary to return the shares of common stock of MHFG that were borrowed by the Allottee from certain shareholder(s) of MHFG, as mentioned above (the “Borrowed Shares”).

The Allottee may also purchase shares of common stock of MHFG (the “Syndicate Cover Transactions”) on the Tokyo Stock Exchange up to the number of shares to be offered in the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment, for the purpose of returning the Borrowed Shares. Such Syndicate Cover Transactions would be made during the period from (a) the day immediately following the last day of the subscription period for the Japanese Public Offering and the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment to (b) Wednesday, July 29, 2009 (the “Syndicate Cover Transaction Period”). All of the shares of common stock of MHFG purchased by the Allottee through the Syndicate Cover Transactions will be used to return the Borrowed Shares. During the Syndicate Cover Transaction Period, the Allottee may decide not to conduct any Syndicate Cover Transaction or may decide to terminate the Syndicate Cover Transactions before the number of shares purchased reaches the number of shares offered in the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment.

The Allottee may conduct stabilizing transactions along with the Japanese Public Offering and the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment. The shares of common stock of MHFG purchased through such stabilizing transactions may be used, in part or in whole, to return the Borrowed Shares.

In addition to the above, the shares of such common stock purchased through such stabilizing transactions may be transferred, in part or in whole, to the International Initial Purchaser for the purpose of settlement of shares in respect of the International Offering.

With respect to the number of shares obtained by deducting (a) the number of shares purchased through stabilization transactions and Syndicate Cover Transactions that are to be used to return the Borrowed Shares from (b) the number of shares to be offered in the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment, the

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Allottee will accept the allotment under the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment and will purchase an equivalent number of shares of common stock of MHFG. As a result, a part or all of the shares to be issued under the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment may not be subscribed for, which may result in a decrease in the definitive number of shares to be issued under the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment, or in the entire cancellation of the issuance.

Whether or not the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment is to be conducted, as well as the number of shares to be sold in the event the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment is to be conducted, will be determined on the Determination Date. If the Japanese Secondary Offering by way of Over-Allotment is cancelled entirely, the Allottee will not conduct the borrowing from certain shareholder(s) of MHFG of shares of common stock of MHFG mentioned above. Accordingly, no new shares will be issued under the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment, since the Allottee will not accept the allotment and will not subscribe shares under the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment. Further, no Syndicate Cover Transactions on the Tokyo Stock Exchange will be made.

The Syndicate Cover Transactions will be made by the Allottee after consultation with one of the Joint Global Coordinators and, when appropriate, with two other Joint Global Coordinators. In addition, the stabilizing transactions will be made by the Allottee after consultation with two of the Joint Global Coordinators and, when appropriate, with another Joint Global Coordinator.

2. Change in the number of issued shares as a result of this capital increase by way of public offering and third-party allotment

Total number of issued shares at present (as of May 31, 2009):

Common Stock:	11,179,071,120 shares
Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock:	914,752,000 shares
Thirteenth Series Class XIII Preferred Stock:	36,690,000 shares
Total:	12,130,513,120 shares

Increase in number of shares as a result of the capital increase by public offering:

Common Stock:	2,804,400,000 shares	(Note 1)
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Total number of issued shares after the capital increase by public offering:

Common Stock:	13,983,471,120 shares	(Note 1)
Eleventh Series of Class XI Preferred Stock:	914,752,000 shares	
Thirteenth Series Class XIII Preferred Stock:	36,690,000 shares	
Total:	14,934,913,120 shares	(Note 1)

Increase in number of shares as a result of the capital increase by way of third-party allotment:

Common Stock:	195,600,000 shares	(Note 2)
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Total number of issued shares after the capital increase by way of third-party allotment:

Common Stock:	14,179,071,120 shares	(Note 2)
Eleventh Series of Class XI Preferred Stock:	914,752,000 shares	

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Thirteenth Series Class XIII Preferred Stock:	36,690,000 shares
Total:	15,130,513,120 shares (Note 2)

- Notes:
1. These figures are based on the assumption that the International Initial Purchaser exercise the option set forth in (1) (ii) in “1. Issuance of New Shares by way of Offering (Public Offering)” above in full.
 2. These figures are based on the assumption that all of the new shares to be issued in “3. Issuance of New Shares by way of Third-Party Allotment” are subscribed by the Allottee and issued.
 3. The total number of issued shares of common stock, as mentioned below in (2) of “5. Other matters” in “For Reference”, may be increased by exercises of stock acquisition rights and/or conversion of preferred stock.

3. Use of proceeds

(1) Use of proceeds to be raised this time

Proceeds are planned to be used to make investments in MHFG’s consolidated subsidiaries.

(2) Change in the use of proceeds raised last time

Not applicable.

(3) Expected impact on business results

In light of the current uncertainty over the economy, MHFG believes that this issuance will allow MHFG to hold a solid and sufficient capital buffer in preparation for a further adverse business environment, and to enhance flexibility to re-capture business opportunities with our solid customer base to lead to our sustainable growth.

4. Profit distribution to shareholders, etc.

(1) Basic policy concerning profit distribution

MHFG is pursuing “strengthening of stable capital base” and “steady returns to shareholders” as its “disciplined capital management”.

(2) Concept of determination of dividends

MHFG will determine the cash dividend payment per share of common stock for each fiscal year, from the standpoint of providing stable periodic dividend payments to its shareholders, taking into account consolidated financial results, retained earnings and other factors.

(3) Use of retained earnings

MHFG will utilize the retained earnings as a source to strengthen its financial position and for future development of its business.

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(4) Dividends for past three fiscal years

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2007	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2008	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2009
Net income (or net loss) per share of common stock (JPY) (consolidated basis)	51,474.49	25,370.25	(54.14)
Cash dividends per share of common stock (JPY) (Interim dividends per share of common stock included)			
Common Stock	7,000 (—)	10,000 (—)	10 (—)
Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock	20,000 (—)	20,000 (—)	20 (—)
Thirteenth Series Class XIII Preferred Stock	30,000 (—)	30,000 (—)	30 (—)
Dividends pay-out ratio (non-consolidated basis)	6.85%	14.56%	31.24%
Net income on own capital (consolidated basis)	16.7%	8.5%	—
Dividends on net assets (consolidated basis)	2.29%	3.38%	5.57%

- Notes:
1. The net income or net loss per share of common stock for each fiscal year is a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount obtainable by subtracting (a) the total amount of dividends, etc. paid on the preferred stocks, from (b) the net income or net loss; and the denominator of which is the average number of outstanding shares of common stock (other than the treasury stock) during the relevant fiscal year.
 2. The dividends pay-out ratio for each fiscal year is a fraction (expressed as a percentage), the numerator of which is the total amount of dividends paid per share of common stock during the relevant fiscal year; and the denominator of which is the net income (non-consolidated basis) per share of common stock.
 3. The net income on own capital for each fiscal year is a fraction (expressed as a percentage), the numerator of which is the amount obtainable by subtracting (a) the total amount of dividends, etc. paid on the preferred stocks, from (b) the net income as of the end of the relevant fiscal year; and the denominator of which is the average, as between the beginning and the end of the fiscal year, of the amount obtainable by subtracting (a) the amount of preferred stocks, stock acquisition rights and shares owned by minority shareholders, from (b) the net assets. Net income on own capital for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009 is not provided, as we recorded a net loss.
 4. The dividends on net assets for each fiscal year is a fraction (expressed as a percentage), the numerator of which is the total amount of dividends paid per share of common stock during the relevant fiscal year; and the denominator of which is the average, as between the beginning and the end of the fiscal year, of net assets per share of common stock.

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5. Effective on Sunday, January 4, 2009, MHFG conducted an allotment of shares or fractions of a share without consideration (“Allotment of Shares or Fractions of a Share without Consideration”), with the record date of Saturday, January 3, 2009, and the same type of shares and fractions of a share were respectively allotted to all the shareholders at the rate of 999 shares per one (1) share, and to all the holders of fractional shares at the rate of 9.99 shares per every 0.01 share, depending on the number of shares of common stock, shares of each class of preferred stock and fractional shares held thereby, without any additional consideration. The figures provided in the above table for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009 are figures after the implementation of Allotment of Shares or Fractions of a Share without Consideration.

5. Other matters

- (1) Designation of person(s) to be allocated

Not applicable.

- (2) Information on dilutive shares

As stated in “2. Change in the number of issued shares as a result of this capital increase by public offering and capital increase by way of third-party allotment” above, MHFG has issued the Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock and the Thirteenth Series Class XIII Preferred Stock, of which the Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock entitle the holders thereof to make a request for delivery of the shares of common stock of MHFG in exchange of acquisition of the relevant preferred stocks by MHFG during the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2016. The effective conversion price of the Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock as of July 1, 2009 is JPY 322 as a result of the reset made to the conversion price on the same date. If all of the Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock (other than the treasury stock) that are outstanding as of May 31, 2009 are acquired at the conversion price effective on July 1, 2009, 2,831,928,580 shares of common stock will be delivered to the relevant holders upon acquisition by MHFG of the relevant preferred stocks. Such number of shares will represent 19.97 % of the total number of issued shares of common stock after the capital increase by public offering and the capital increase by way of third-party allotment.

MHFG has granted stock acquisition rights as stock options to the directors (excluding outside directors) and executive officers of MHFG and its subsidiaries. The ratio of (a) the remaining number of shares to be issued upon exercise as set forth below to (b) the total number of issued shares of common stock after the capital increase by public offering and the capital increase by way of third-party allotment will be 0.02 %.

Granted stock options (as of May 31, 2009)

Resolution of the Board of Directors	Remaining number of new shares to be issued upon exercise	Amount to be paid upon each exercise	Amount of stated capital to be increased	Exercise period
January 30, 2009	3,699,000 shares	JPY 1,000	JPY 500	From February 17, 2009 to February 16, 2029

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(3) Equity finance for past three years

(i) Equity finance
Not applicable.

(ii) Change in share prices for past three fiscal years and at the most recent time point

(in JPY, other than the price/earnings ratio)

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2007	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2008	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2009	Fiscal year ending March 31, 2010
Opening	968,000	759,000	368,000 *283	193
High	1,030,000	911,000	606,000 *299	274
Low	733,000	360,000	190,000 *166	188
Closing	759,000	365,000	257,7000 *188	226
Price/earnings ratio (consolidated basis)	14.74	14.38	—	—

- Notes:
1. Prices indicated above are the trading prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
 2. The mark “*” represents the share prices after the implementation of Allotment of Shares or Fractions of a Share without Consideration.
 3. The share prices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010 above are the prices as of Tuesday, June 30, 2009.
 4. Price/earnings ratio is a fraction, the numerator of which is the share price (closing price) as at the end of each fiscal year; and the denominator of which is the net income per share of common stock (consolidated basis) as at the end of the relevant fiscal year. As we recorded a net loss for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009, the price to earnings ratio is not provided for that period. In addition, the price/earning ratio for the fiscal year ending March 2010 has yet to be confirmed and thus is not indicated in the above table.

(4) Lock-up Agreement

In connection with the Japanese Public Offering and the International Offering, MHFG has agreed during the period of 180 calendar days starting from the date of the underwriting agreements regarding the relevant offering, without the prior written consent of the Joint Global Coordinators, not to issue any shares of common stock of MHFG or any securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to acquire, shares of common stock of MHFG, etc. The foregoing restrictions shall not apply to actions with respect to the stock split or the issue or transfer of shares of common stock of MHFG as a result of any allotment of shares without consideration to shares of common stock of MHFG, the sale of shares of common stock of MHFG upon request of any holder of less than one unit of shares to make such holder's

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holding one full unit of shares, the issue or transfer of shares of common stock of MHFG upon exercise of the stock acquisition rights or the right to request acquisition attached to any of shares of capital stock of MHFG, the issue of shares of common stock of MHFG in connection with the Japanese Public Offering, the International Offering and the Capital Increase by way of Third-Party Allotment, and the grant of stock options exercisable for shares of common stock of MHFG, etc.

The Joint Global Coordinators, at their discretion, have the right to jointly decide to partially or fully remove the lock-up restriction or to reduce the length of the lock-up period above.

(5) Others

MHFG is pursuing “strengthening of stable capital base” and “steady returns to shareholders” as its “disciplined capital management”. In July 2008, MHFG repurchased its own shares (common stock) of JPY149.9 billion and cancelled almost all of them in September 2008 for the purpose of offsetting the potential dilutive effect on its common stock from the conversion of the Eleventh Series Class XI Preferred Stock. However, in light of factors including the current financial market turmoil and global economic downturn, MHFG has been putting more priority on “strengthening of stable capital base” since the second half of fiscal year 2008 in order to prepare for a further adverse business environment. MHFG will continue to focus on enhancement of capital as the key issue of future management since it has become increasingly important for financial institutions to maintain a sufficient capital base amid a prolonged stagnation of both domestic and overseas economies.

More specifically, MHFG’s medium-term target is to increase our Tier 1 capital ratio to 8% level. Further, MHFG aims to maintain its prime capital, which is an item constituting the capital having particularly strong ability to absorb losses among types of Tier 1 capital, at a level of more than half of our Tier 1 capital. Prime capital is calculated as Tier 1 capital less preferred securities less preferred stock (excluding mandatory convertible preferred stock to which common stock is delivered in consideration of mandatory conversion of such preferred stock). MHFG will continue to pursue “disciplined capital management” through management that is optimally balanced between “strengthening of stable capital base” and “steady returns to shareholders” in accordance with changes in business environment.

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