

## ■ Corporate Governance

### Corporate Governance Policy

We have been working to achieve a streamlined and nimble management structure while strengthening our corporate governance by inviting outside directors to join our board, etc. We will continue our efforts to enhance the transparency and efficiency of our management through corporate governance, with strict observance of all laws and regulations, pursuing our business activities in a fair and honest manner that does not conflict with the norms accepted by society.

In addition, we established the “Mizuho Code of Conduct” which is a set of common values and ethical principles shared by the corporate officers and employees of the group.

#### *Social Responsibility and Public Mission:*

We are acutely conscious at all times of our social responsibilities and public mission as Japan's leading comprehensive financial services group. We therefore work to ensure that we maintain close communication with the communities in which we operate and pursue corporate activities in a manner that is in harmony with societal expectations.

#### *Placing Our “Customers First”:*

We place our customers first and always offer the best service possible. We believe that being trusted by our customers is the basis for the trust by our shareholders, society and all other stakeholders.

#### *Strict Compliance with Laws, Regulations and Internal Rules:*

We are committed to strict observance of all laws and regulations and pursuing our business in a fair and honest manner that does not conflict with the norms accepted by society. As a global financial services group, we also strive to respect the laws, customs and cultures of the foreign countries in which we operate.

#### *Respect for Human Rights:*

We respect the human rights of our customers, corporate officers, employees and other individuals and strive to achieve a corporate culture that promotes human rights.

#### *Disavowal of Anti-Social Elements:*

We will firmly oppose the activities of any anti-social elements that threaten the rule of law, public order and safety.

## Corporate Governance Structure

### ● Board Members and Board of Directors

MHFG's board of directors, which consists of nine members, determines important matters pertaining to the management policy of MHFG and its group companies and monitors the business conduct of directors and executive officers. Three of the directors are outside directors that do not engage in the day-to-day management of MHFG. Their participation serves to strengthen the management and monitoring functions of the board of directors.

In order to ensure transparency and impartiality in matters of personnel decisions affecting the board of directors and directors' compensation, a Nomination Committee and a Compensation Committee made up of directors including outside directors have been established to advise the board of directors on these matters.

### ● Corporate Auditors

The Board of Corporate Auditors receives reports on important issues about audit matters, discusses them and makes decisions. Three of the five corporate auditors are outside corporate auditors.

The Corporate Auditors audit the performance of the directors' duties and review our business performance and financial condition by attending board meetings and other important meetings to receive reports on the business from directors and other corporate officers, inspecting important documents and receiving reports from the Internal Audit Division, subsidiaries and accounting auditors, among others.

### ● Execution of Duties

MHFG introduced the executive officer system in order to separate managerial decision making and its implementation and to clarify levels of authority and responsibility.

In respect of the execution of duties, the President & CEO manages MHFG according to the fundamental management policies determined by the board of directors. The Executive Management Committee was established to serve as an advisory body for the President & CEO and discusses important matters concerning the execution of business operations. Business Policy Committees were established to discuss cross-sectional issues.

<Business Policy Committees>

#### **Portfolio Management Committee:**

Discusses, coordinates and monitors basic portfolio policies and their implementation.

**ALM & Market Risk Management Committee:**

Discusses, coordinates and measures performance of basic ALM policies, risk planning, fund procurement and investment, and market risk control.

**Compliance Committee:**

With the participation of external experts (one lawyer and one certified public accountant (CPA)) as special members, discusses and coordinates legal compliance oversight, and matters related to antisocial elements and the handling of accidents.

**Information Security Management Committee:**

Discusses and coordinates the promotion of policies on information management, risk management pertaining to information security, compliance with the Law Concerning the Protection of Personal Information, and rules and regulations concerning information management.

**Disclosure Committee:**

Discusses, coordinates and measures performance of basic disclosure policies and controls.

**CSR Committee:**

Discusses and coordinates matters concerning the status of CSR related initiatives, key matters to be addressed, action plans and CSR reports.

Five other committees have been established separately from the Business Policy Committees to deal with

specific issues. These committees discuss, disseminate information and promote policies concerning operations under their jurisdiction.

**Business Continuity Management Committee:**

Discusses, disseminates information and promotes basic Business Continuity Management policies.

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Committee:**

Discusses, disseminates information and promotes policies concerning human rights initiatives.

**Committee to Encourage Employment of People with Disabilities:**

Discusses, disseminates information and promotes policies concerning the employment of handicapped people and securing their role in the workplace.

**Social Contribution Committee:**

Discusses, disseminates information and promotes policies concerning activities that contribute to society.

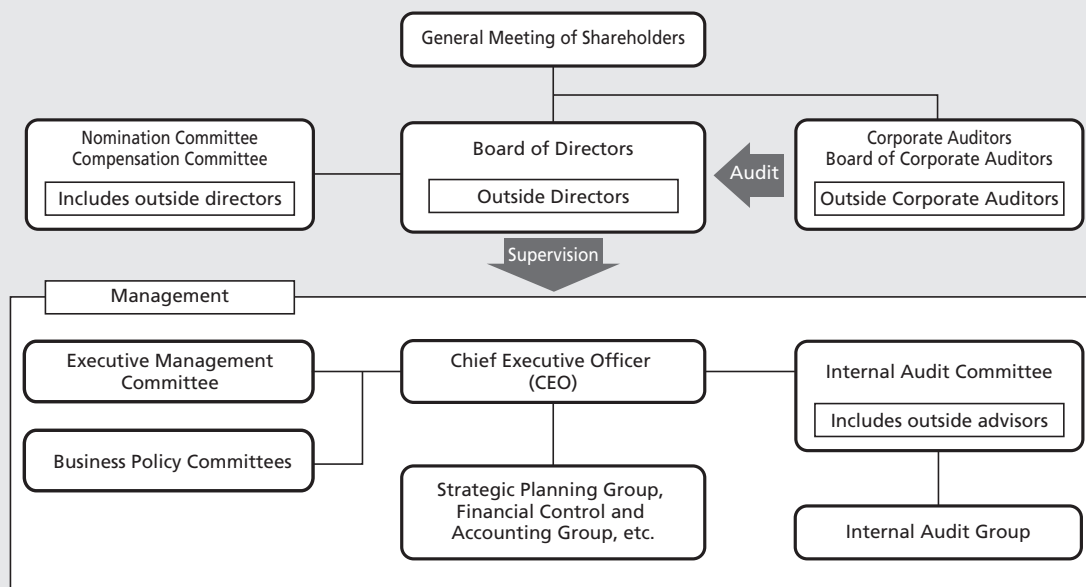
**Environmental Issues Committee:**

Discusses, disseminates information and promotes policies concerning global environmental initiatives.

● **Internal Audit Function and Others**

The Internal Audit Committee fulfills an internal audit function under the President & CEO. The committee discusses and determines important matters concerning internal audit on the basis of the basic policy determined

**MHFG's Corporate Governance Structure**



by the board and reports all decisions made by the committee to the board.

To ensure independence of the internal audit function from the audited sections, we separate the Internal Audit Group from the groups which it audits and establish it as an independent group in its own right under the control of the Internal Audit Committee.

External experts in their field (consisting at present of one lawyer and one CPA) are also on the Internal Audit Committee to strengthen the specialist nature and impartiality of the committee.

The internal audit infrastructure MHFG has established is as follows: MHFG has set up an Internal Audit Division to carry out internal audits based on the basic audit policies and the internal audit regulations determined by the board of directors. It also checks the internal control structure of the principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies\* on the basis of the reports it receives from them of the results of internal audits and problems and issues that have been investigated by them. Thus, all information on the status of the principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies' internal audits is held and controlled by MHFG's Internal Audit Division.

The results of both MHFG's and the principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies' internal audits are reported to the Internal Audit Committee on a regular basis and at other times as necessary by the head of the Internal Audit Group who is the director with responsibility for internal audits.

The Internal Audit Division, Corporate Auditors and the accounting auditors exchange opinions and information on a regular basis and as necessary to strengthen cooperation so as to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the overall audit function.

\*Principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies:  
MHCB, MHBK, MHTB, MHSC, MHIS, TCSB, MHAM, DIAM, MHRI, MHIR, MHFS, MHPW

(As of June 26, 2008)

## Profit Management System

### Profit Management System Based on Legally Separate Subsidiaries in Accordance with Customer Segmentation and Business Functions

We aim to reinforce our financial strength by vigorously increasing profitability and cutting costs. Centered on MHFG, we manage profits for the group based primarily on our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies.

More specifically, we have clarified the strategic positions of our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies within the group on the basis of our group business portfolio strategy and, having ensured their autonomy and independence while bringing them closer together through the unifying force of MHFG, we are seeking to maximize group corporate value.

Based on our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies, MHFG is making efforts to optimize its business portfolio through the following:

- formulating plans for gross profits, net business profits and net income, and carrying out performance management,
- allocating management resources such as investments and expenses, personnel, risk capital and risk assets, and
- risk controls and profitability assessments based on the allocation of risk capital drawn from equity capital and other sources.

Further, our principal banking subsidiaries and certain other core group companies establish their own profit plans for and manage the performance of their respective company's business group/units based on the management policy, overall profit plans and resource allocations drawn up by MHFG.

The above group companies have also introduced the allocation of risk capital among each company's business groups/units, which is one of the most important management frameworks of the group. Each group company engages in business activities within the limits of that risk capital and RAROC is then used as a performance index to evaluate the return on allocated risk capital.

### Glossary

#### ► RAROC (Risk Adjusted Return on Capital)

RAROC is a measure of the profitability of allocated capital and is used as an index for assessing capital efficiency. RAROC is calculated by dividing risk-adjusted profits (profits adjusted to reflect statistically expected risk) by capital.

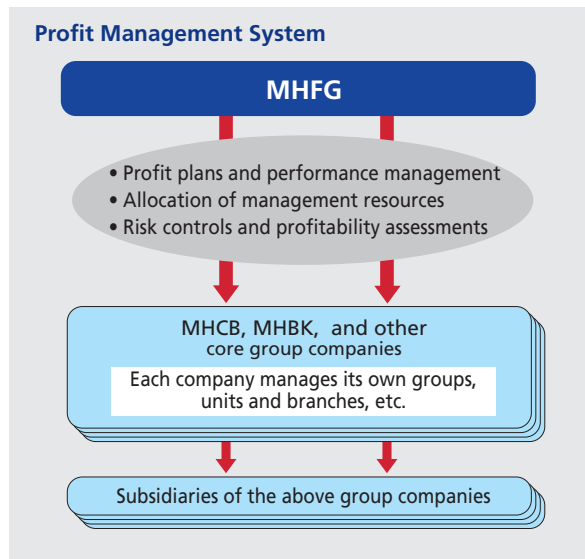
Basically, the group companies have adopted a common profit management system and framework, but in actual operations, each adopts a flexible, rapid-action approach that is optimized for its individual business models.

### Consolidated Profit Management

While each principal banking subsidiary or core group company works to enhance its own profitability, we manage their profits on a consolidated basis as a means of building a balanced, optimized business portfolio for the entire group and improving capital efficiency.

Specifically, in addition to our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies, we formulate profit plans and manage performance for the strategically important subsidiaries and include their profits with those of our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies.

MHFG also manages profits for business segments centered on three global groups, publicly disclosing segment information for each global group, and RAROC by segment.



(As of June 26, 2008)

## Human Resources System

### Vision for Human Resources: ROE on Human Resources Investment

The group and its employees have set a shared vision for human resources as follows:

"We promote the 'ROE' principle for human resources with a view to lasting value creation and creating an attractive and fulfilling working environment for employees."

In this vision, "ROE" stands for the following:



### Establishing a Corporate Culture Full of Vitality

We have established the following five values as the group's common code of conduct. These values, serving as the axis of our personnel evaluation system used by general managers, along with the 360-degree employee performance evaluation\*, are being instilled in all employees of the group.

- (1) Possessing a "customer-first" corporate objective.
- (2) Facing the challenges of innovation.
- (3) Being rational and fair in making decisions.
- (4) Placing importance on speed.
- (5) Being accountable for all actions.

\*Personnel evaluation scheme whereby personal evaluations of managers involve subordinates and persons from other divisions with whom they have close working relationships.

### Optimizing the Uniqueness of Group Companies and Synergies

Employees are employed by one of the group companies (MHFG, MHCB, MHBK, MHTB, MHSC, MHIR) with the aim of creating a group of specialists that can deliver maximum innovativeness and speed.

At the same time, facilitated by the group's common compensation system (group-wide common platform for human resources), we are able to maximize group synergy through cross-company personnel transfers to place the right person in the right job.

### Promoting the "Professional Career Path"

We have put in place multi-featured compensation systems that meet the needs of employees and the increasingly fluid labor market.

One example is the promotion of the "Professional Career Path," with a salary system that is in line with market standards.

### Rejuvenating the Organization and Pursuing Specialization

In January 2003, we launched an internal job application system for branch general manager positions to encourage the quick development and advancement of younger employees. As of May 31, 2008, we achieved a dynamic rejuvenation of the organization by selecting 61 applicants in their thirties and appointing them as branch general managers.

We also introduced a group-wide "job application system" and a "rookies' job request system" for young employees who have not experienced personnel transfers to encourage employees to acquire greater specialization in which employees can apply for specific positions throughout the group. We intend to strengthen this scheme further by expanding the number of positions available for the "job application system."

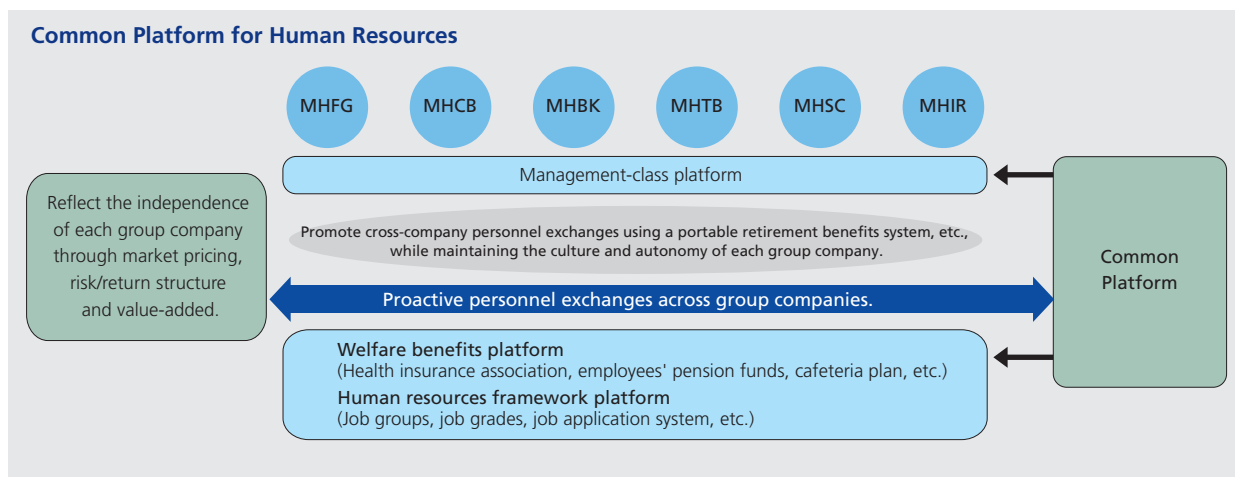
### Positive Action Initiatives

With the aims of invigorating our organization by proactively recruiting women, and of improving the morale of female employees, we are taking joint measures in our approach to positive action\*.

\*Initiatives that a company adopts proactively and autonomously in order to eliminate gender discrimination in recruitment and to promote the utilization of womens' capabilities to the fullest extent possible.

Note: Contents appearing in this section describe the group's human resources system in Japan.

(As of June 26, 2008)



# Internal Control Systems

## Compliance Structure

### Basic Compliance Policy

As one of Japan's leading comprehensive financial groups, we remain conscious of the importance of our social responsibilities and public mission at all times. We define compliance as “the strict observance of all laws and regulations and the pursuit of fair and honest corporate activities that conform to the norms accepted by society” and view ongoing compliance as one of the basic principles of sound business management. Each of our group companies maintains its own compliance structure in line with the basic policies established by MHFG.

### Compliance Structure

The chief executive officer of MHFG, MHCB and MHBK each generally oversees compliance matters of the respective company, and such chief executive officers also head their respective compliance committees at which important matters concerning compliance are discussed. The three companies also have individual compliance divisions under a chief compliance officer. These divisions are responsible for compliance planning and implementation and control overall compliance management at the respective companies. At the level of each organizational unit (such as branches and divisions) at the three companies, the head of the unit is responsible for guidance and implementation related to compliance matters within such unit, and the compliance officer or the compliance

administrator at each unit reviews the status of compliance.

MHFG has established the Internal Controls and Audit Hotline, a system designed for obtaining concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters from in and outside the company.

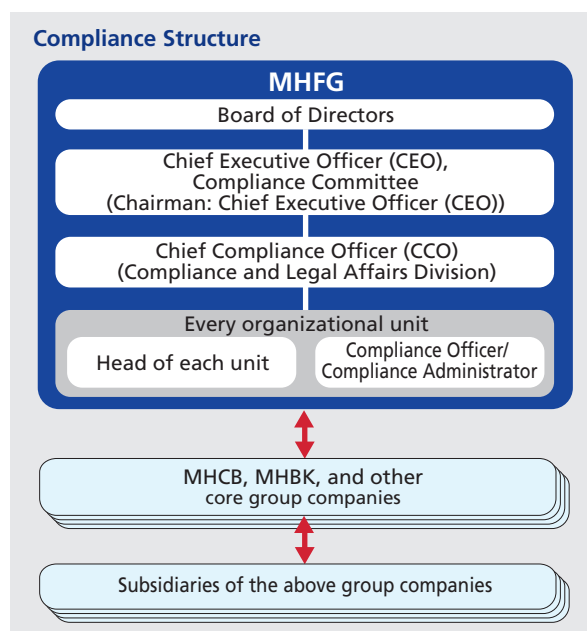
Other core group companies such as MHTB and MHSC have also established compliance structures adapted to the characteristics of their respective businesses.

MHFG monitors the status of compliance of the group through reports submitted by our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies and adopts appropriate responses when necessary.

Compliance at subsidiaries of our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies is monitored and managed by their respective parent.

### Compliance Activities

We have established the “Mizuho Code of Conduct,” which sets forth clear and concrete standards of ethical



#### “Internal Controls and Audit Hotline”

—A system designed for obtaining concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters—

#### Reporting Items:

MHFG has established a hotline to receive reports from in and outside the company in connection with problems concerning internal controls and audits of accounts and financial reports.

#### Contact Point:

This hotline has been established within an external law office. Please use conventional mail or e-mail for reporting.

Conventional mail:

6F Round-Cross Ichibancho Bldg., Ichibancho 13-banchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0082

Mizuho Accounting Hotline, c/o Ohta Ishii Law Office

E-mail : mizuho-kaikei@ohta-ishii.com

- When reported matters are within the scope of the reporting items, MHFG will do reasonable efforts to investigate the facts behind the information received and report back on the results.
- Anonymous tips are also acceptable, but there are cases where it will not be possible to fully satisfy the intentions behind such tips owing to constraints on investigations and the inability to report back.
- Information on persons making such reports is not disclosed to third parties other than the group companies except in cases where the assent of the person in question has been obtained or such disclosure is required under laws and ordinances, etc.

behavior, and distributed it to all directors, senior management and employees of the group so that they are well aware of its content and act accordingly.

Each of our group companies has also prepared a compliance manual, which serves as a practical guidebook for rigorous compliance enforcement and clarifies the laws and regulations that the group companies must observe in pursuing their business activities and the compliance activities they are required to follow.

We conduct compliance training for directors, senior management and employees so that they are fully acquainted with the contents of the manual. We monitor the status of compliance levels through self assessments conducted by individual organizational units and monitoring conducted by the compliance division of each company.

Every fiscal year, each of our group companies establishes a compliance program, which contains concrete measures for compliance enforcement such as measures related to the management of the compliance framework, training and assessments. Progress regarding the implementation of the compliance program is monitored every six months.

(As of June 26, 2008)

## Management of Customer Protection Structure

### Basic Approach

We give first priority to our customers, and based on the policy that earning the trust of our customers is the basis for ensuring sound management and earning the trust of other stakeholders, we will continuously verify and improve the operations of the group from the perspective of customers in order to ensure adequacy of operations and improve customer convenience as well as compliance, and manage customer protection uniformly in the group.

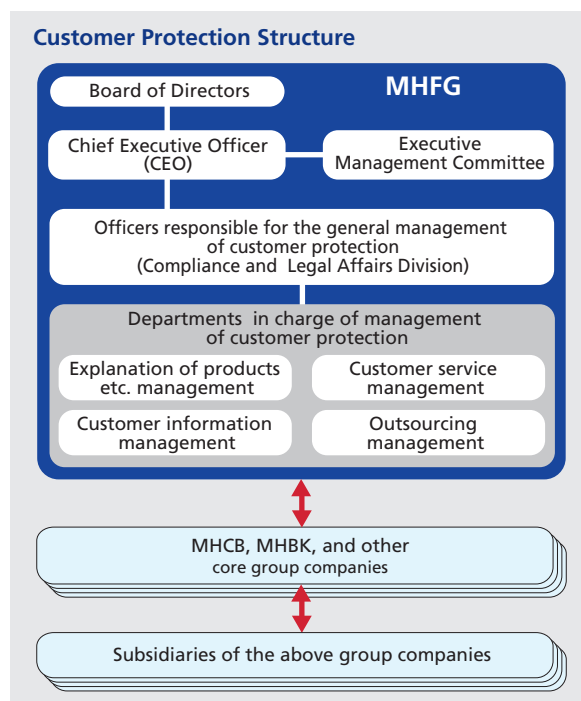
### Overview of Management of Customer Protection

We define management of customer protection as described below, clarifying the group management structure as well as management methods, and ensuring that each company draws up customer protection management regulations.

Management of customer protection refers to the management required for achieving the following from the perspective of improving the protection of our customers and improving customer convenience.

1. Ensuring the adequacy and sufficiency of the explanation of transactions, products etc. as well as the provision of information (explanation of products etc.) to customers regarding transactions and products.
2. Ensuring the adequacy and sufficiency of handling customer consultations and complaints (customer service).
3. Ensuring the adequacy of the management of customer information (customer information management).
4. Ensuring the adequacy of managing customers and customer information in the event that our operations are outsourced (management of outsourcing).

In addition to designating the compliance department as the customer protection general management department, each company establishes its own management structure by stipulating which departments are in charge of management of explanation of products etc., management of customer service, management of customer



information and management of outsourcing (hereinafter customer management tasks).

The chief executive officer of MHFG appoints officers responsible for the general management of customer protection in order to promote appropriate management of customer protection. The Compliance and Legal Affairs Division is in charge of general management and monitor management of each customer management task. The department responsible for each customer management task draws up and implement proposals concerning the management tasks under their jurisdiction. MHFG also provides centralized monitoring and management of customer protection management at the principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies. The principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies also manage customer protection management at their own group companies.

(As of June 26, 2008)

## Information Security Management System

### Basic Approach

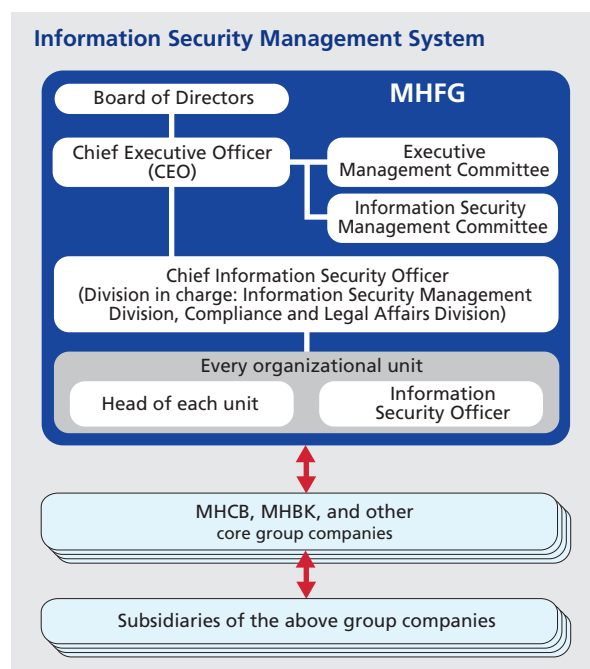
As the advanced information-telecommunication society evolves and use of information increases exponentially, appropriate protection of the informational assets held by a company becomes a social responsibility, while appropriate usage of the same assets becomes the foundation of the company's competitiveness. As a provider of comprehensive financial services in Japan and abroad, we believe that appropriate protection and use of informational resources are extremely important issues.

We are striving to strengthen our information security management system, defining information security management as all acts associated with the appropriate protection and use of group informational assets. This includes adopting information security management measures to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of our informational assets, and responding to requests for disclosure from "data subjects" (the people to whom specific information pertains) concerning personal information.

## Overview of the Information Security Management System

We have clarified the group management system as well as management methods for information security management, and each company has drawn up its own regulations concerning information security management. We are also building an information security management system, stipulating that the compliance departments of the individual companies are to act as information security management departments.

The chief executive officer of MHFG appoints a chief information security officer who supervises planning, proposals and implementation in connection with overall group information security management, and the information security management committee handles discussions and coordination of cross-divisional issues relating to overall group information security management. In addition, the Information Security Management Office has been established within the Compliance and Legal Affairs Division to specialize in information security management and provide centralized monitoring and control of the information security management situation at our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies. The information security management situation at subsidiaries of our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies is monitored and managed by our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies themselves. In every organizational unit, the head



of each unit is also responsible for information security management, and an information security management officer is appointed to check on how information is handled and ensure that personnel are fully aware of and well trained in safety management measures.

Based on this information security management system, we have drawn up and published the Privacy Policy Regarding Customer Information\* that complies with Japan's Law Concerning the Protection of Personal Information. We are also building a system to deal with requests for disclosure, and strengthening our safety management measures.

\*The Privacy Policy Regarding Customer Information includes the policy and procedures for management of customer information. Our group companies have each established privacy policies regarding customer information, which are published on their individual websites, in this annual review, and via other disclosure tools.

### **MHFG Acquires Certification for Information Security Management**

MHFG obtained certifications for the Information Security Management Systems of all divisions of the company under both the Conformity Assessment Scheme, "ISO/IEC27001: 2005," the international standard, and "JIS Q 27001: 2006," the domestic standard. MHBK also obtained the same certifications for its "Planning, promotion and sales supporting divisions of financial products and services for individuals, corporate and public sector customers" of the head office.

MHFG is striving to strengthen its information management procedures by promoting efforts to obtain a broader range of credentials. This includes encouraging our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies to acquire certification in specific operational sectors.

(As of June 26, 2008)

## **Strengthening Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

### **Basic Principles**

We aim to win the highest regard of our shareholders and the market and to earn the trust of society as Japan's leading comprehensive financial services group. For this reason, we place one of the highest management priorities on continuing to disclose information to our customers, shareholders, and investors both in and outside Japan in a fair, timely and appropriate manner, in order that they may form proper judgments and appraisals of the group. To achieve this aim, we observe applicable domestic and international laws and regulations as well as stock exchange rules relating to corporate disclosure, and we establish and implement appropriate Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

### **Outline of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

#### **● Establishment and Implementation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our Disclosure Controls and Procedures are established to observe applicable domestic and international laws and regulations as well as stock exchange rules and to implement fair, timely and appropriate corporate disclosure. The Disclosure Controls and Procedures are the process carried out by directors, officers and employees of our group and include internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements. We have established the basic principles underlying our Disclosure Controls and Procedures as well as our internal rules related to Disclosure Controls and Procedures that govern the management framework for the entire group including group companies, and we endeavor to establish, implement and continuously improve our Disclosure Controls and Procedures. Our disclosure committee is the principal management body that is responsible for discussing and exploring matters relating to Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

#### **● Evaluation of Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

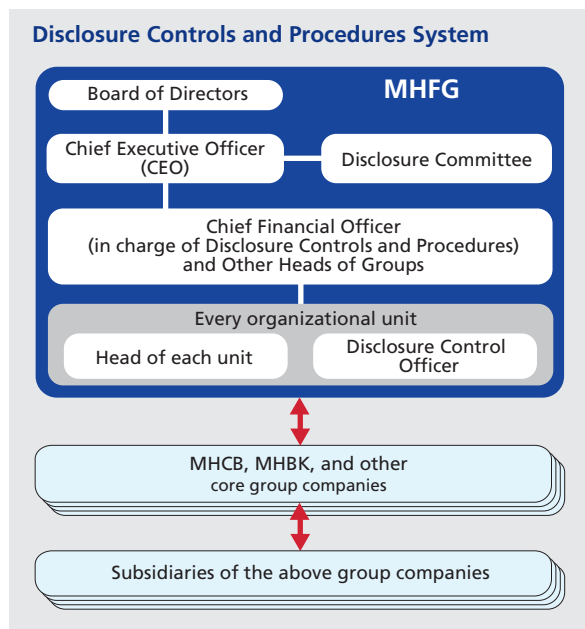
Our Disclosure Controls and Procedures are documented, and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of our Disclosure Controls and Procedures is conducted regularly by reviewing the contents of such documentation and

their implementation. In addition, evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures is conducted through internal audits.

● **Others**

We established a “Code of Ethics for Financial Professionals” to be observed by all directors and executive officers, as well as all managers and other employees within our group who engage in financial reporting, accounting or disclosure. We have also developed the “Internal Controls and Audit Hotline”, a system designed for obtaining concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters from both inside and outside the group (Please refer to page 51).

Moreover, we established “Disclosure Policy” which includes basic principles regarding disclosure and framework of disclosure controls and procedures, and announce on our website as well as this annual review.



(As of June 26, 2008)

■ **Risk Management Structure**

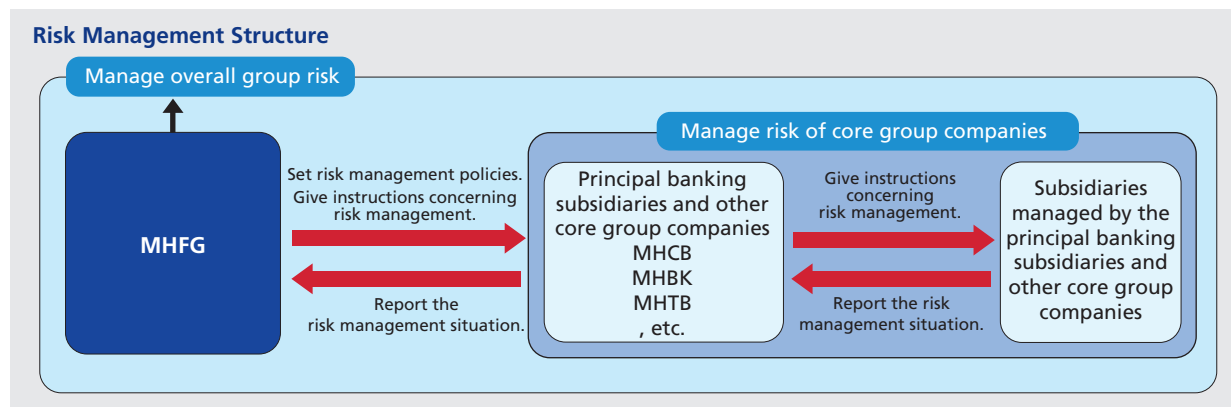
**Commitment to Risk Management**

**Basic Approach**

Progress in financial deregulation and internationalization has led to rapid growth in the diversity and complexity of banking operations, exposing financial institutions to various risks, including credit, market operations, information technology, legal, settlement and other risks. We recognize the conducting of operations tailored to the risks and managing such risks as a key issue relating to overall management. In order to implement our business strategy while maintaining our financial stability, we maintain comprehensive risk management and control measures. We maintain basic policies for risk management established by our board of directors that are applicable to the entire group. These policies clearly define the kinds of risks to be managed, set forth the organizational structure and provide for the human resources training necessary for appropriate levels of risk management. The policies also provide for audits to measure the effectiveness and suitability of the risk management structure. In line with these basic policies, we maintain various measures to strengthen and enhance the sophistication of our risk management system.

**Risk Management Structure**

Each of our subsidiaries adopts appropriate risk management measures for its business based on the size and nature of its risk exposures, while MHFG controls risk management for the group as a whole. MHFG regularly receives reports and applications concerning the risk management situation from our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies and gives them appropriate instructions concerning risk management. Our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies each maintains its own system for managing various types of risk, regularly receiving reports on the status of risk at their respective subsidiaries, and gives them appropriate instructions concerning risk management.



### Approach to Basel II

The BIS Regulations, the regulations for international standards of the health of banks first implemented in 1992, have been revised in light of developments in risk management methods in order to better reflect the actual substance of the risks. These amended regulations, known as "Basel II," focus on three main points. The first is minimum capital requirements relating to risk which should be maintained by banks, with respect to which the calculation method for credit risk was changed and operational risk was added. The second is a supervisory review process with respect to assessment of risks that cannot be fully addressed through minimum capital requirements alone. The third is market discipline allowing for assessment by the market through appropriate disclosure. We have obtained the necessary approvals from government authorities on calculation methods for each type of risk and have been calculating capital adequacy ratios based on Basel II from March 31, 2007, when the Basel II was implemented in Japan. In addition, we are planning and preparing to apply advanced approaches for calculating credit risk and operational risk that can reflect our risk profiles more appropriately.

each type of risk individually, we have established a risk management structure to identify and evaluate overall risk and, where necessary, to devise appropriate responses to keep risk within limits that are managerially acceptable in both qualitative and quantitative terms. In line with the basic policies relating to overall risk management laid down by MHFG, companies within the group identify risk broadly and take a proactive and sophisticated approach to risk management, including methodologies for operations that involve exposures to multiple categories of risk such as settlement and trust businesses.

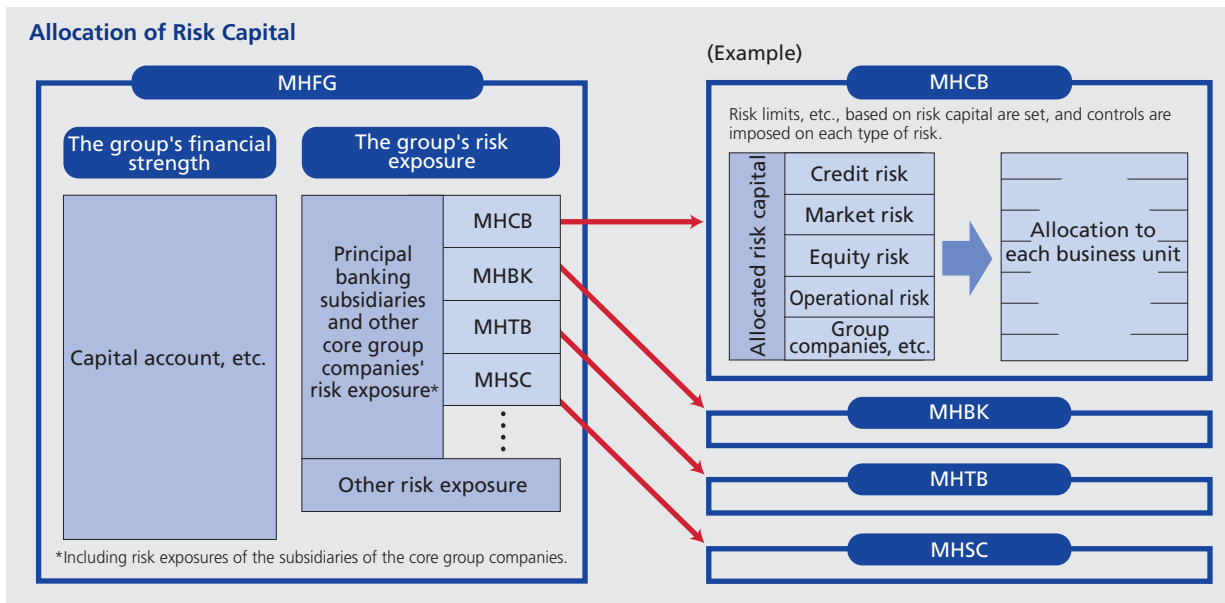
### Risk Capital Allocation

We endeavor to obtain a clear grasp of the group's overall risk exposure and have implemented measures to keep such risks within the group's financial base in accordance with the risk capital allocation framework. More specifically, we allocate risk capital to our principal banking subsidiaries, including their respective subsidiaries, and other core group companies to control risk within the limits set for each company. We also control risk within managerially acceptable limits by working to ensure that the overall risk we hold on a consolidated basis does not exceed shareholders' equity and other measures of financial strength. To ensure the ongoing financial health of MHFG, our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies, we regularly monitor the manner in which risk capital is being used in order to obtain a proper grasp of the risk profile within this framework. Reports are also submitted to the board of directors and other committees of each company. Risk capital is allocated to MHC, MHB, MHT and MHSC by risk category, and is further allocated within their respective business units based on established frameworks.

## General Concept of Risk Management

### Basic Approach

We classify our risk exposures according to the various kinds of risk, including credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk and operational risk, and manage each type of risk according to its characteristics. In addition to managing



## Credit Risk Management

### Basic Approach

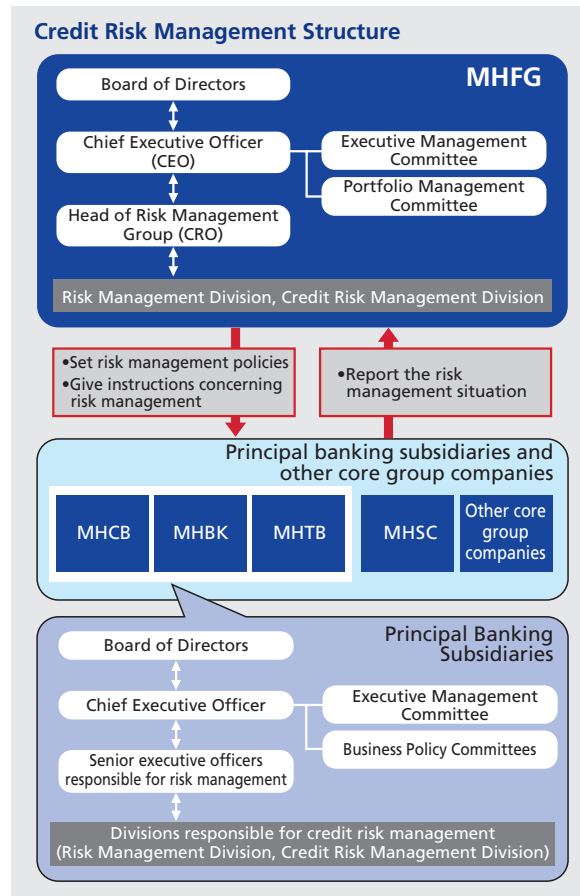
We define credit risk as the group's exposure to the risk of losses that may be incurred due to a decline in, or total loss of, the value of assets and off-balance-sheet instruments, as a result of deterioration in a counterparty's financial position. We have established the methods and structures necessary for grasping and managing credit risk, which has become increasingly complex due to financial deregulation, internationalization and the growing sophistication of transactions. MHFG manages credit risk for the group as a whole. More specifically, we have adopted two different but mutually complementary approaches in credit risk management. The first approach is "credit management," in which we manage the process for each individual transaction and individual obligor from execution until collection, based on our assessment of the credit quality of the customer. Through this process, we curb losses in the case of a credit event. The second is "credit portfolio management," in which we utilize statistical methods to assess the potential for losses related to credit risk. Through this process, we identify credit risk and respond appropriately.

### Credit Risk Management Structure

#### ● Credit Risk Management of MHFG

Our board of directors determines the group's basic credit risk management policies. In addition, the portfolio

management committee of MHFG discusses and coordinates basic credit risk policy and overall credit portfolio management and monitoring for the group. The chief risk officer of MHFG is responsible for matters relating to credit risk management planning and operations. The



Risk Management Division and the Credit Risk Management Division of MHFG jointly monitor, analyze and submit suggestions concerning credit risk and formulate and execute plans in connection with basic matters pertaining to credit risk management.

### ● Credit Risk Management at Our Principal Banking Subsidiaries and Other Core Group Companies

Our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies manage their credit risk according to the scale and nature of their exposures in line with basic policies set forth by MHFG. Each company's board of directors determines key matters pertaining to credit risk. Our principal banking subsidiaries have each established business policy committees to discuss and coordinate overall management of their individual credit portfolios and transaction policies towards obligors. The senior executive officer of each principal banking subsidiary responsible for risk management oversees matters relating to credit risk management planning and operations. The credit risk management division of each principal banking subsidiary is responsible for credit management and credit risk measuring and monitoring, and such division regularly presents reports regarding the risk management situation of such banking subsidiary to MHFG. Individual credit examination divisions approve individual transactions in accordance with the lines of authority set forth in the basic policies for credit risk management. To provide checks and balances, each of our principal banking subsidiaries has also established credit review divisions to function as internal auditors that are independent of the business divisions.

### ● Individual Credit Management

Our principal banking subsidiaries use a unified credit rating system and credit risk measurement tools to ascertain and monitor the status of their portfolios. They are also improving their credit decisions and post-transaction management functions by examining individual transactions from these viewpoints, providing internal audits and risk management guidance to individual business promotion offices. MHSC and other core group companies follow credit risk management procedures that suit the characteristics of their respective business sectors.

### ● Credit Policies

The basic code of conduct for all of our officers and employees engaged in the credit activities is set forth in our credit policies. Seeking to fulfill the bank's public and social role, our basic policy for credit activities is

determined in light of fundamental principles focusing on public welfare, safety, growth and profitability.

### ● Internal Rating System

One of the most important elements of the risk management infrastructure of our principal banking subsidiaries is the use of an internal rating system that consists of credit ratings and pool allocations. Credit ratings consist of obligor ratings which represent the level of credit risk of the obligor, and transaction ratings which represent the possibility of ultimately incurring losses related to each individual claim by taking into consideration the nature of any collateral or guarantee and the seniority of the claim. In principle, obligor ratings apply to all obligors and are subject to regular reviews at least once a year to reflect promptly the fiscal period end financial results of the obligors, as well as special reviews as required whenever the obligor's credit standing changes. This enables our principal banking subsidiaries to monitor both individual obligors and the status of the overall portfolio in a timely fashion. Because we consider obligor ratings to be an initial phase of the self-assessment process regarding the quality of our loans and off-balance-sheet instruments, such obligor ratings are closely linked to the obligor classifications and are an integral part of the process for determining the reserves for loan losses and write-offs in our self-assessment of loans and off-balance-sheet instruments (Please refer to Connection between Obligor Ratings, Definition of Obligor Classifications of Self-Assessments, Claims Disclosed under the FRL and Non-Accrual, Past Due & Restructured Loans). Pool allocations are applied to small claims that are less than a specified amount by pooling customers and claims with similar risk characteristics and assessing and managing the risk for each such pool. We efficiently manage credit risk and credit screening by dispersing a sufficient number of small claims within each pool. We generally review the appropriateness and effectiveness of our approach to obligor ratings and pool allocations once a year in accordance with predetermined procedures.

### ● Self-Assessment, Reserves and Write-Offs

We conduct self-assessment of assets to ascertain the status of assets both as an integral part of credit risk management and in preparation for appropriate accounting treatment, including reserves for loan losses and off-balance-sheet instruments and write-offs. During the process of self-assessment, obligors are categorized into

**Connection between Obligor Ratings, Definition of Obligor Classifications of Self-Assessments, Claims Disclosed under the FRL and Non-Accrual, Past Due & Restructured Loans**

Definition of Obligor Classifications of Self-Assessment	Obligor Ratings (Major Category)	Definition of Ratings	Category I (Non-Categorized)	Category II	Category III	Category IV (Non-Collateralized)	Claims Disclosed under the FRL	Non-Accrual, Past Due & Restructured Loans
Normal Obligors	A1–A3	Obligors whose certainty of debt fulfillment is very high, hence their level of credit risk is excellent.	All credit given to Normal Obligors.				Normal Claims	
	B1–B2	Obligors whose certainty of debt fulfillment poses no problems for the foreseeable future, hence their level of credit risk is sufficient.						
	C1–C3	Obligors whose certainty of debt fulfillment and their level of credit risk pose no problems for the foreseeable future.						
	D1–D3	Obligors whose current certainty of debt fulfillment poses no problems, however, their resistance to future environmental changes is low.						
Watch Obligors	E1	Obligors who require close watching going forward because there are problems with their borrowings, such as reduced or suspended interest payments, problems with fulfillment such as de facto postponements of principal or interest payments, or problems with their financial positions as a result of their poor or unstable business conditions.		Credit given to Watch Obligors other than those included in Category I.			Claims for Special Attention	Restructured Loans Loans Past Due for 3 Months or More
	E2 R							
Intensive Control Obligors	F1	Obligors who are not yet bankrupt but are in financial difficulties and are deemed to be very likely to go bankrupt in the future because they are finding it difficult to make progress in implementing their management improvement plans (including obligors who are receiving ongoing support from financial institutions).	Credit to obligors which has pledged collateral or is covered by guarantees, considered of high quality, such as deposit collateral.	Credit to obligors which is covered by general collateral, such as real estate and guarantees.	Credit given to Intensive Control Obligors other than those included in Category I and Category II.		Claims with Collection Risk	Non-Accrual Delinquent Loans
Substantially Bankrupt Obligors	G1	Obligors who have not yet gone legally or formally bankrupt but who are substantially bankrupt because they are in serious financial difficulties and are not deemed to be capable of restructuring.						
Bankrupt Obligors	H1	Obligors who have already gone bankrupt, from both a legal and/or formal perspective.			The difference between the assessed value and market value of collateral on credit to Bankrupt and Substantially Bankrupt Obligors (i.e., the portion of loans for which final collection problems or losses are anticipated).	Credit to Bankrupt and Substantially Bankrupt Obligors, other than those in Category I, Category II and Category III (credit that is judged to be unrecoverable or without value).	Claims against Bankrupt and Substantially Bankrupt Obligors, and equivalent	Loans to Bankrupt Obligors

**Method for Reserves and Write-Offs**

Normal Obligors	Calculate the value of estimated loss based on the probability of failure over the coming year for loans by obligor rating and appropriate it for the General Reserve for Possible Losses on Loans.
Watch Obligors	Calculate the estimated loss on loans based on the probability of failure over the next three years and appropriate it for the General Reserve for Possible Losses on Loans. Further, in regard to Special Attention Obligors, for obligors with large claims more than a certain amount, if the cash flow from the return of principal and interest payments can reasonably be estimated, set up a reserve under the DCF method.
Intensive Control Obligors	Provide an amount for Specific Reserve for Possible Losses on Loans as calculated by one of the following methods after deducting amounts anticipated to be recoverable from the sale of collateral held against the claims and from guarantors of the claims: a) an amount calculated based on the overall ability of the obligor to pay, or b) the estimated loss calculated on the basis of the balance and the probability of failure over the next three years. Further, for obligors with large claims more than a certain amount, if the cash flow from the return of principal and interest payments can reasonably be estimated, set up a reserve under the DCF method.
Substantially Bankrupt Obligors	Provide the entire balance after deducting amounts anticipated to be recoverable from the sale of collateral held against the claims and from guarantors of the claims for Specific Reserve for Possible Losses on Loans, or write-off the entire balance.
Bankrupt Obligors	

certain groups taking into consideration their financial condition and their ability to make payments, and credit ratings are assigned to all obligors, in principle, to reflect the extent of their credit risks. The related assets are then categorized into certain classes based on the risk of impairment. This process allows us to identify and control the actual quality of assets and determine the appropriate

accounting treatment, including reserves for loan losses and off-balance-sheet instruments and write-offs. Specifically, the credit risk management division of each of our principal subsidiaries is responsible for the overall control of the self-assessment of assets of the respective banking subsidiaries, cooperating with the administrative divisions specified for each type of asset, including loan

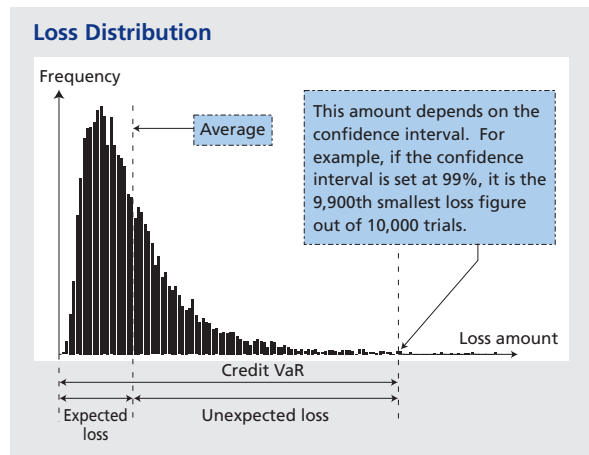
portfolios and securities, in executing and managing self-assessments.

● **Credit Screening**

Prevention of new non-performing loans through routine credit management is important in maintaining the quality of our overall loan assets. Credit decisions involve analysis and screening of each potential transaction within the relevant business division. In case the screening exceeds the authority of the division, the credit division at headquarters carries out the screening. The credit division has specialist departments for different industries, business sizes and regions, carries out timely and specialized examinations based on the characteristics of the customer and its market, and provides appropriate advice to the business division. In addition, in the case of obligors with low obligor ratings and high downside risks, the business division and credit division jointly clarify their credit policy and in appropriate cases assist obligors at an early stage in working towards rehabilitation.

● **Collection and Disposal of Non-Performing Loans**

With respect to collection and disposal of non-performing loans, our specialist unit maintains central control and pursues corporate revitalization or collection efforts, as appropriate, toward taking the non-performing loans off-balance. Specifically, we believe that supporting the revitalization efforts of corporations is an important role for financial institutions, and we support corporations undergoing revitalization by reviewing business plans, advising on revitalization methods and utilizing corporate revitalization schemes such as divestitures and mergers and acquisitions, taking advantage of our group-wide resources. These efforts have been steadily producing satisfactory results. In addition, we work on final disposal of non-performing loans efficiently and swiftly by conducting bulk sales and by utilizing Mizuho Servicing, our subsidiary that specializes in performing debt collection services for our group companies.



**Portfolio Management**

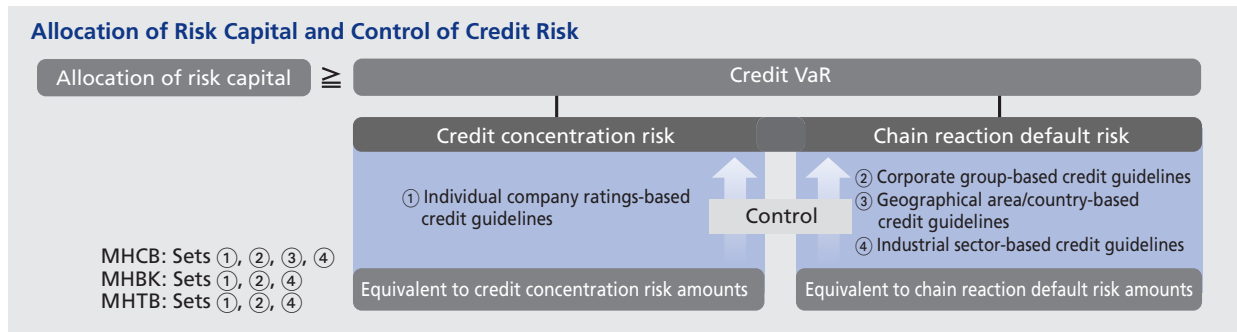
● **Risk Measurement**

We use statistical methods to manage the possibility of loan losses by measuring the expected average loss for a one-year risk horizon ("expected loss") and the maximum loss within a certain confidence interval ("credit VaR").

In establishing transaction spread guidelines for credit transactions, we aim to ensure an appropriate return from the transaction in light of the level of risk by utilizing expected losses as a reference. Also, we monitor our credit portfolio from various perspectives and set certain limits so that losses incurred through a hypothetical realization of the full credit VaR amount would be within the amount of risk capital and loan loss reserves.

● **Risk Control Methods**

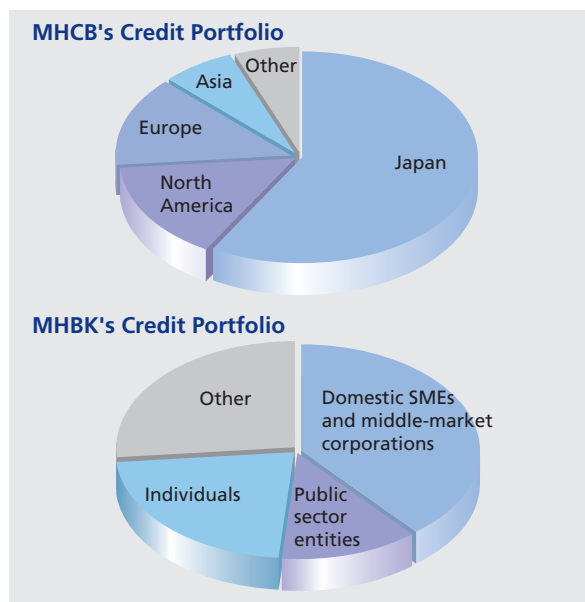
We recognize two types of risk arising from allowing too large a proportion of overall credit risk to be allocated in certain areas. One type is "credit concentration risk," which stems from granting excessive credit to certain individual counterparties. The other type is "chain-reaction default risk," which arises from granting excessive credit to certain corporate groups, industrial sectors and other groupings. We manage these risks in line with our specific guidelines for each. The individual risk management divisions of our



principal banking subsidiaries are responsible for monitoring adherence to these guidelines and reporting to their respective business policy committees. (Please refer to Allocation of Risk Capital and Control of Credit Risk.)

● **Portfolios of Our Principal Banking Subsidiaries and Certain Other Core Group Companies**

While MHCB's credit portfolio consists primarily of loans to Japanese public companies and other major Japanese enterprises, it also includes a significant proportion of loans to overseas corporations, including foreign subsidiaries of Japanese corporations that are diversified in terms of the regions in which the borrowers are located. MHBK's portfolio is diversified among relatively small accounts centered on individuals, domestic corporations including mainly small and medium-sized enterprises and middle-market corporations, public sector entities and other customers in Japan. While retaining the principal features of each of the two banking subsidiaries' respective portfolios, we aim to reduce expected losses while simultaneously utilizing sophisticated financial tools based on which they make strategic acquisitions and sales of assets. While closely monitoring the potential for unexpected losses, they also aim to raise overall group capital efficiency, boost profitability and shareholder value, and enhance the sophistication of their credit risk management. To control credit concentration in certain companies, MHTB and MHSC have set credit limits according to their customers' creditworthiness and control their portfolios in an appropriate manner by adhering to these limits.



**Market and Liquidity Risk Management**

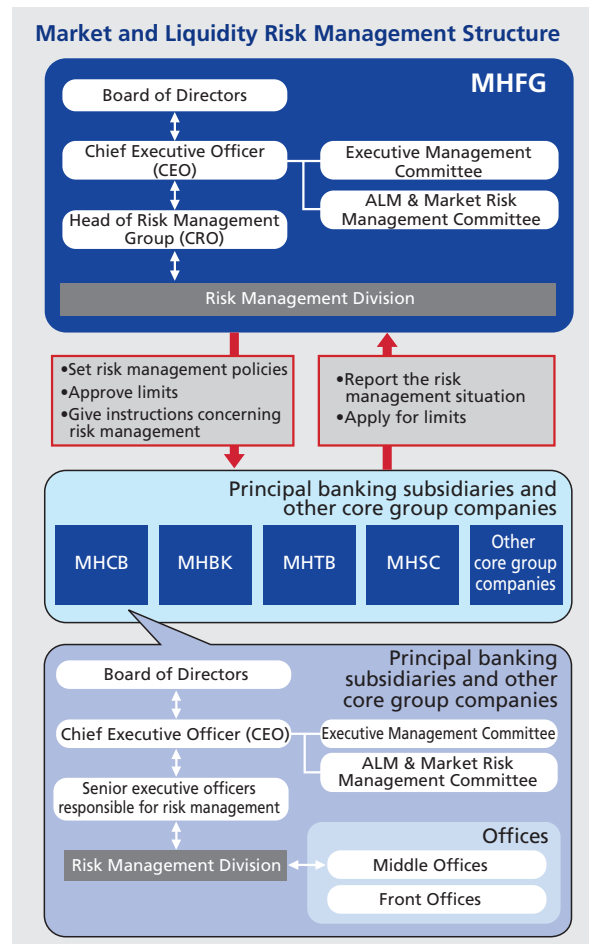
**Basic Approach**

We define market risk as the risk of losses incurred by the group due to fluctuations in interest rates, stock prices and foreign exchange rates. Our definition includes the risk of losses incurred when it becomes impossible to execute transactions in the market because of market confusion or losses arising from transactions at prices that are significantly less favorable than usual. We define liquidity risk as the risk of losses arising from funding difficulties due to a deterioration in our financial position that makes it difficult for us to raise necessary funds or that forces us to raise funds at significantly higher interest rates than usual. MHFG manages market and liquidity risk for the group as a whole.

**Market Risk Management Structure**

● **Market Risk Management of MHFG**

Our board of directors determines key matters pertaining to market risk management policies. The ALM & market



risk management committee of MHFG broadly discusses and coordinates matters relating to basic asset and liability management policies, risk planning and market risk management and proposes responses to emergencies such as sudden market changes. The chief risk officer of MHFG is responsible for matters relating to market risk management planning and operations.

The Risk Management Division of MHFG is responsible for monitoring market risk, reports and analyses, proposals, setting limits and guidelines, and formulating and implementing plans relating to market risk management. The Risk Management Division assesses and manages overall market risk of the group. It also receives reports from our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies on their market risk management that enable it to obtain a solid grasp of the risk situation, submitting reports to the chief executive officer on a daily basis and to our board of directors and the executive management committee of MHFG on a regular basis.

To manage market risk, we set limits that correspond to risk capital allocations according to the risk profiles of our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies and thereby prevent market risk from exceeding our ability to withstand losses based on our financial strength represented by capital, etc. The amount of risk capital allocated to market risk corresponds to VaR and additional costs that may arise in order to close relevant positions. For trading and banking activities, we set limits for VaR and for losses. For banking activities, we set position limits based on interest rate sensitivity as needed.

These limits are discussed and coordinated by the ALM & market risk management committee, discussed further by the executive management committee, then determined by the chief executive officer. Various factors are taken into account including business strategies, historical limit usage ratios, risk-bearing capacity (profits, total capital and risk management systems), profit targets and the market liquidity of the products involved.

### ● Market Risk Management at Our Principal Banking Subsidiaries and Other Core Group Companies

Our principal banking subsidiaries and MHSC which account for most of the group's exposure to market risk have formulated their basic policies in line with the basic policies determined by MHFG. Their boards of directors determine important matters relating to market risk

management while their chief executive officers are responsible for controlling market risk. Their respective business policy committees, including their ALM & market risk management committees, are responsible for overall discussion and coordination of market risk management. Specifically, these committees discuss and coordinate matters relating to basic asset and liability management policies, risk planning and market risk management and propose responses to emergencies such as sudden market changes. The chief risk officer of each subsidiary is responsible for matters pertaining to planning and implementing market risk management. Based on a common group risk capital allocation framework, the above-mentioned subsidiaries manage market risk by setting limits according to the risk capital allocated to market risk by MHFG.

These companies have established specialized company-wide market risk management divisions to provide integrated monitoring of market risk, submit reports, analyses and proposals, set limits and formulate and implement plans relating to market risk management. The risk management divisions of each company submit reports on the status of market risk management to their respective chief executive officers and top management on a daily basis, and to their board of directors and executive management committee on a regular basis. They also provide regular reports to MHFG. To provide a system of mutual checks and balances in market operations, they have established middle offices specializing in risk management that are independent of their front offices, which engage in market transactions, and their back offices, which are responsible for book entries and settlements. When VaR is not adequate to control risk, the middle offices manage risk using additional risk indices, carry out stress tests and set stop loss limits as needed. They monitor their market liquidity risk for individual financial products in the market while taking turnover and other factors into consideration.

### Liquidity Risk Management Structure

#### ● Liquidity Risk Management of MHFG

Our liquidity risk management structure is generally the same as the market risk management structure described above. However, the head of the Financial Control & Accounting Group of MHFG is additionally responsible for matters relating to planning and running cash flow management operations, while the Financial Planning Division is responsible for monitoring and adjusting the cash flow

management situation and for planning and implementing cash flow management. Reports on the cash flow situation are submitted to the ALM & market risk management committee, the executive management committee and the chief executive officer.

We measure liquidity risk using indices pertaining to cash flow, such as limits on funds raised in the market. Limits on liquidity risk are discussed and coordinated by the ALM & market risk management committee, discussed further by the executive management committee and determined by the chief executive officer. We have established classifications for the cash flow conditions affecting the group, ranging from "normal" to "cause for concern" and "critical," and have established procedures for dealing with cases which are deemed to fall into the "cause for concern" or "critical" categories. In addition, we have constructed a system under which we will be able to respond smoothly in the event of emergency situations that affect our funding by establishing action plans.

- **Liquidity Risk Management at Our Principal Banking Subsidiaries and Other Core Group Companies**

The liquidity risk management structures of MHCB, MHBK, MHTB and MHSC are generally the same as the aforementioned market risk management structures, but the senior executives responsible for risk management are responsible for matters pertaining to planning and conducting liquidity risk management, while the senior executives of the asset and liability management and trading units are responsible for matters pertaining to planning and conducting cash flow management.

The methodologies used for ensuring precise control of liquidity risk include the formulation of management indices pertaining to cash flow, such as limits on funds raised in the market. As with MHFG, the above-mentioned companies have established classifications for the cash flow affecting them, ranging from "normal" to "cause for concern" and "critical," and have established procedures for cases which are deemed to fall into the "cause for concern" or "critical" categories.

Each subsidiary has adopted stringent controls that call for the submission of reports on liquidity risk management and cash flow management to the ALM & market risk management committee and other business policy committees, the executive management committee and the chief executive officer of each subsidiary.

- **Our Response to Dislocation in Global Financial Markets**

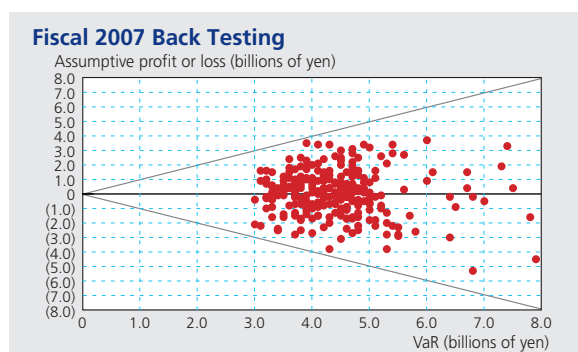
A steep rise in the U.S. subprime loan delinquency rate caused a sharp drop in the price of related securitization products. Thereafter, the price of securitization and other products, including securitization products not directly related to subprime loans, declined sharply in global financial markets as market liquidity was diminished. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, the global financial markets thus experienced a significant stress situation as a result of such market dislocation.

Because market risk measurements and management using the value-at-risk method is based on historical data, they are subject to limitations in such market environment. We thus (i) strengthened the management of maximum exposure limits for securitization products and (ii) conducted stress testing based on diminished market liquidity for securitization products.

- **Status of MHFG's Market Risk**

- **Back Testing**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of market risk measurements calculated using the value-at-risk method, we carry out regular back tests to compare value-at-risk with assumptive profits and losses. Assumptive profits and losses accounts for general market risk. The graph below shows daily value-at-risk of trading activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, and the corresponding paired distribution of profits and losses:



We had no cases where profits/losses exceeded value-at-risk during the period.

- **Stress Testing**

Because the value-at-risk method is based on statistical assumptions, we conduct stress testing to simulate the levels of losses that could be incurred in cases where the market moves suddenly to levels that exceed these

assumptions. The stress testing methods we use include the calculation of losses on the basis of the largest fluctuations occurring over a period of more than five years and the calculation of losses based on market fluctuations occurring during historical market events. We also added stress testing based on a sharp drop in the price of securitization and other products due to diminished market liquidity stemming from the U.S. subprime loan issues. The table below shows the assumed maximum loss results of stress testing in trading activities using the methods described above:

### Fiscal 2007 Stress Testing

At March 31, 2008 (billions of yen)

Assumed maximum loss result calculated by stress testing (holding period: one month)	48.2
Assumed maximum loss result calculated by stress testing based on a sharp drop in the price of securitization and other products due to diminished market liquidity (holding period: one year)	42.4

### ● Outlier Criteria

As part of the new capital adequacy requirements under Basel II, the losses arising from a banking book in hypothetical interest rate shock scenarios under certain stress conditions are calculated and compared with the sum of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital. If the interest rate risk of the banking book leads to an economic value decline of more than 20% of the sum of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital, we will be deemed an "outlier" and may be required to reduce the banking book risk or adopt other responses. We measure losses arising from our banking book each month as a part of our stress tests.

The table below shows the results of calculations of losses in the banking book in cases where interest rate

### Fiscal 2007 Results of Calculations under the Outlier Framework

(billions of yen)

	Amount of loss	Broadly-defined capital	Loss ratio to capital
At March 31, 2006	161.3	8,993.2	1.8%
At March 31, 2007	626.1	8,841.3	7.1%
At March 31, 2008	679.3	7,708.3	8.8%
Effect of yen interest rate	391.2	/	
Effect of dollar interest rate	230.2		
Effect of euro interest rate	44.3		

Notes: 1. In the above results of calculations of losses, a part of demand deposits without fixed intervals for amending applicable interest rates is deemed core deposits and is treated accordingly in the calculation.

2. For the interest rate shock scenario used in connection with the above figures, we generate annual rate fluctuation data for five years derived from daily raw historical interest rate data of the past six years and then apply the actual fluctuation data, which show a rise in interest rates, at a 99.0% confidence level to the shock scenario.

fluctuations occur under stress conditions. The results of calculations of losses in the banking book show that they are 8.8% of broadly-defined capital. Because the amount of risk on the banking book is therefore well under the 20% threshold and within controllable limits, we do not fall under the "outlier" category.

### ● Value-at Risk

We use the value-at-risk (VaR) method, supplemented with stress testing, as our principal tool to measure market risk. The value-at-risk method measures the maximum possible loss that could be incurred due to market movements within a certain time period (or holding period) and degree of probability (or confidence interval).

### Trading Activities

VaR related to our trading activities is based on the following:

- variance co-variance model for linear risk and monte-carlo simulation for non-linear risk;
- confidence interval: one-tailed 99.0%;
- holding period of one day; and
- historical observation period of one year.

The following tables show the VaR related to our trading activities by risk category for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and as of March 31, 2006, 2007 and 2008:

### VaR by Risk Category (Trading Activities)

(billions of yen)

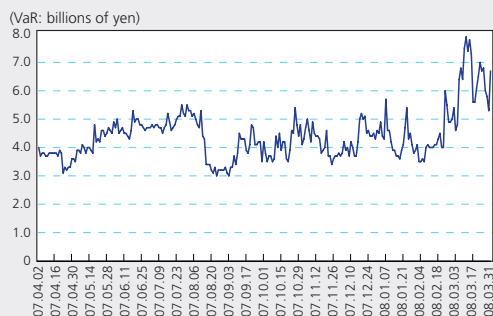
	Fiscal 2005			
	Daily average	Maximum	Minimum	At March 31
Interest rate	1.7	2.7	1.1	2.4
Foreign exchange	1.1	1.8	0.3	0.9
Equities	1.4	3.2	0.5	3.0
Commodities	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

	Fiscal 2006			
	Daily average	Maximum	Minimum	At March 31
Interest rate	2.3	3.9	1.4	1.5
Foreign exchange	1.2	4.0	0.5	1.8
Equities	1.8	3.5	0.7	1.8
Commodities	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>

	Fiscal 2007			
	Daily average	Maximum	Minimum	At March 31
Interest rate	2.3	3.8	1.5	2.6
Foreign exchange	2.0	6.4	0.9	4.4
Equities	1.6	2.8	0.8	1.3
Commodities	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>

The following graph shows VaR figures of our trading activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008:

### Fiscal 2007 VaR (Trading Activities)



The following table shows VaR figures of our trading activities for the fiscal years indicated:

### VaR (Trading Activities)

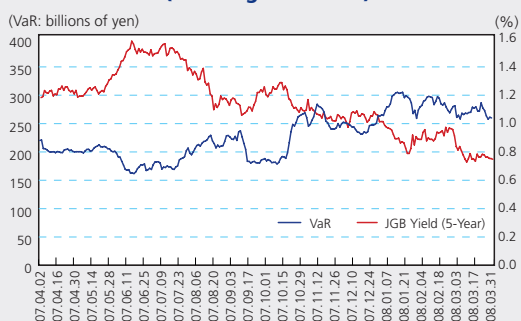
	(billions of yen)		
	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2007
Maximum	5.5	6.5	7.9
Minimum	2.0	3.2	3.0
Average	3.2	4.3	4.4
The number of cases where profits/losses exceeded VaR	no cases	no cases	no cases

### Non-Trading Activities

The VaR related to our banking activities is based on the same conditions as those of trading activities, but the holding period is one month.

The graph below shows the VaR related to our banking activities excluding our strategic equity portfolio for the year ended March 31, 2008.

### Fiscal 2007 VaR (Banking Activities)



The following table shows the VaR figures relating to our banking activities for the fiscal years indicated:

### VaR (Banking Activities)

	(billions of yen)		
	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2007
Maximum	247.2	251.5	303.9
Minimum	152.8	103.1	160.5
Average	213.9	179.4	226.8

### Characteristics of VaR Model

VaR is a commonly used market risk management technique. However, VaR models have the following shortcomings:

- By its nature as a statistical approach, VaR estimates possible losses over a certain period at a particular confidence level using past market movement data. Past market movement, however, is not necessarily a good indicator of future events, particularly potential future events that are extreme in nature.
- VaR may underestimate the probability of extreme market movements.
- The use of a 99.0% confidence level does not take account of, nor makes any statement about, any losses that might occur beyond this confidence level.
- VaR does not capture all complex effects of various risk factors on the value of positions and portfolios and could underestimate potential losses.

### Interest Sensitivity Analysis

We also conduct interest sensitivity analyses of interest risk, our main source of market risk. The following table shows sensitivity to yen interest risk in our banking activities as of the dates indicated. As shown in the table, we have reduced overall sensitivity to the risk of future increases in interest rates. Interest rate sensitivity (10 BPV) shows how much net present value varies when interest rates rise by 10 basis (0.1%), and it explains the impact of interest rate movements on net present value when short- and long-term interest rates behave differently.

### Interest Sensitivity by Maturity

	At March 31, (billions of yen)			
	2006	2007	2008	Change
Up to one year	(7)	(6)	(7)	(1)
From one to five years	(14)	(21)	(14)	7
Over five years	(6)	(20)	(27)	(7)
Total	(27)	(48)	(48)	(0)

### Market Risk Equivalent

In order to calculate the amount of capital necessary to meet the capital requirements relating to market risk (the "market risk equivalent"), we apply internal models to calculate general market risk (risks related to factors that apply generally to the market, e.g., interest rates, foreign exchange rates) and the standardized measurement method to calculate specific risks (risks other than general market risk, e.g., credit quality and market liquidity of an

individual security or instrument). In addition, our internal models are applied to trading transactions with market liquidity based on the relevant holding period. Under the internal models, the market risk equivalent is calculated by taking the greater of (i) VaR on the calculation date and (ii) the average VaR for the preceding 60 business days (including the calculation date) multiplied by a multiplication factor ranging from 3.00 to 4.00 that is determined based on the number of times VaR is exceeded upon back testing.

The following table shows total market risk equivalent as of the dates indicated calculated using the standardized measurement method and internal models:

**Fiscal 2007 Market Risk Equivalent**  
At March 31, (billions of yen)

	2007	2008	Change
Calculated using standardized measurement method	138.2	112.9	(25.3)
Calculated using internal models	36.7	51.2	14.5
<b>Total market risk equivalent</b>	<b>174.9</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>(10.7)</b>

Note: VaR used to calculate Market Risk Equivalent is based on the following:  
 • variance co-variance model for linear risk and monte-carlo simulation for non-linear risk;  
 • confidence interval: one-tailed 99.0%;  
 • holding period of 10 days; and  
 • historical observation period of one year.

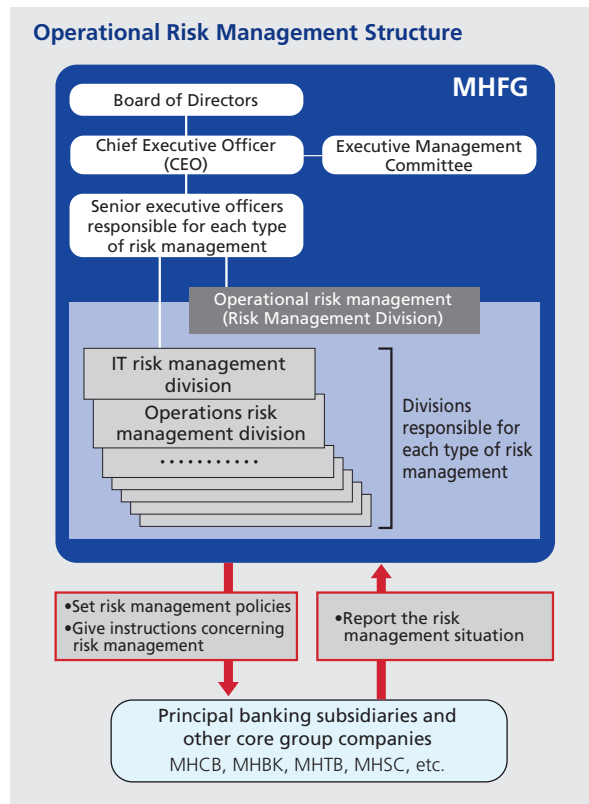
## Operational Risk Management

### Basic Approach

We define operational risk as the risk of loss that we may incur resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. We recognize that operational risk includes information technology risk, operations risk, legal risk, human resources risk, tangible asset risk, regulatory change risk and reputational risk. We have determined risk management policies concerning risk management structures and methods for each kind of risk. MHCB, MHBK, MHTB, MHSC, MHIS and TCSB each manage operational risk in an appropriate manner pursuant to risk management policies determined by MHFG.

### Operational Risk Management Structure

MHFG MHCB, MHBK, MHTB, MHSC, MHIS and TCSB share common rules for data gathering, and we measure operational risk on a regular basis, taking into account possible future loss events and the changes in the business



environment and internal management.

We have established and are strengthening management methods and systems to appropriately identify, assess, measure, monitor and control the operational risks which arise from the growing sophistication and diversification of financial operations and developments relating to information technology by utilizing control self-assessments and improving measurement methods.

Operational risk was introduced under Basel II with respect to regulatory capital requirements from March 31, 2007 and MHFG selected the standardized approach for the calculation of operational risk capital charge, which calculates operational risk by dividing its activities into eight business lines and multiplying gross income of each of those business lines by the applicable factor assigned to each of the business lines.

### Glossary

#### ▶ Control Self-Assessments

An autonomous method of risk management in which risk inherent in operations is identified and, after evaluating and monitoring risks that remains despite implementing risk control, the necessary measures are implemented to reduce risk.

## Definition of Risks and Risk Management Methods

As shown in the table below, we have defined each component of operational risk and we apply appropriate risk management methods in accordance with the scale and nature of each risk.

	Definition	Principal Risk Management Methods
<b>Information Technology Risk</b>	Risk that customers may suffer service disruptions, or that customers or the group may incur losses arising from system defects such as failures, faults, or incompleteness in computer operations, or illegal or unauthorized use of computer systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and evaluate the risk by setting specific standards that need to be complied with and implementing measures tailored based on evaluation results to reduce the risk.</li> <li>• Ensure ongoing project management in systems development and quality control.</li> <li>• Strengthen security to prevent information leaks.</li> <li>• Improve effectiveness of emergency responses by improving backup systems and holding drills.</li> </ul>
<b>Operations Risk</b>	Risk that customers may suffer service disruptions, as well as the risk that customers or the group may incur losses because senior executives or employees fail to fulfill their tasks properly, cause accidents or otherwise act improperly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish clearly defined procedures for handling operations.</li> <li>• Periodically check the status of operational processes.</li> <li>• Conduct training and development programs by headquarters.</li> <li>• Introduce information technology, office automation and centralization for operations.</li> <li>• Improve the effectiveness of emergency responses by holding drills.</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Risk</b>	Risk that the group may incur losses due to violation of laws and regulations, breach of contract, entering into improper contracts or other legal factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and confirm legal issues, including the legality of material decisions, agreements and external documents, etc.</li> <li>• Collect and distribute legal information and conduct internal training programs.</li> <li>• Analyze and manage issues related to lawsuits.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Resources Risk</b>	Risk that the group may incur losses due to drain or loss of personnel, deterioration of morale, inadequate development of human resources, inappropriate working schedule, inappropriate working and safety environment, inequality or inequity in human resource management or discriminatory conduct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct employee satisfaction surveys.</li> <li>• Understand the status of vacation days taken by personnel.</li> <li>• Understand the status of voluntary resignations.</li> </ul>
<b>Tangible Asset Risk</b>	Risk that the group may incur losses from damage to tangible assets or a decline in the quality of working environment as a result of disasters, criminal actions or asset maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the planning and implementation of construction projects related to the repair and replacement of facilities.</li> <li>• Identify and evaluate the status of damage to tangible assets caused by natural disasters, etc., and respond appropriately to such damage.</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory Change Risk</b>	Risk that the group may incur losses due to changes in various regulations or systems, such as those related to law, taxation and accounting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand important changes in regulations or systems that have significant influence on our business operations or financial condition in a timely and accurate manner.</li> <li>• Analyze degree of influence of regulatory changes and establish countermeasures.</li> <li>• Continuously monitor our regulatory change risk management mentioned above.</li> </ul>
<b>Reputational Risk</b>	Risk that the group may incur losses due to damage to our credibility or the value of the "Mizuho" brand when market participants or others learn about, or the media reports on, various adverse events, including actual materialization of risks or false rumors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish framework to identify and manage, on an integrated basis, information that may have a serious impact on group management and respond to such risk in a manner appropriate to its scale and nature.</li> <li>• Swiftly identify rumors and devise appropriate responses depending on the urgency and possible impact of the situation to minimize possible losses.</li> </ul>

We also recognize and manage "Information Security Risk" and "Compliance Risk", which constitute a combination of more than one of the above components of operational risk, as operational risk.

(As of June 26, 2008)

## Internal Audit Structure

### Basic Approach

Internal audits are designed as an integrated process, independent from other business operations, for evaluating the extent to which internal control achieves its objectives in key areas, including appropriate risk management, efficient and effective business operations, reliable financial reporting and compliance with laws, regulations and internal rules. We conduct internal audits from an objective and comprehensive standpoint, independent of operational reporting lines, and offer advice and remedial recommendations in connection with any problems that may be identified. Through this process, internal audits assist the boards of directors of each of our group companies to fulfill their managerial duties efficiently and effectively.

In line with the Basic Policy for Internal Audit established by MHFG, our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies conduct internal audits, which include the auditing of their respective subsidiaries. In addition, with respect to the management of risks applicable across the group, we coordinate internal audits throughout the group to assess the risk management status of the group as a whole.

### Internal Audit Management Structure

#### ● MHFG

Our internal audit committee determines all important matters concerning internal audits. The committee is chaired by our president and chief executive officer and is independent of our other business operations.

Our internal audit committee monitors and manages internal audits at our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies through internal audit reports submitted by such subsidiaries. Our internal audit committee discusses and makes decisions regarding internal audits at our principal banking subsidiaries and other core group companies and submits the results, together with the results of their examination of the internal audit reports, to our board of directors.

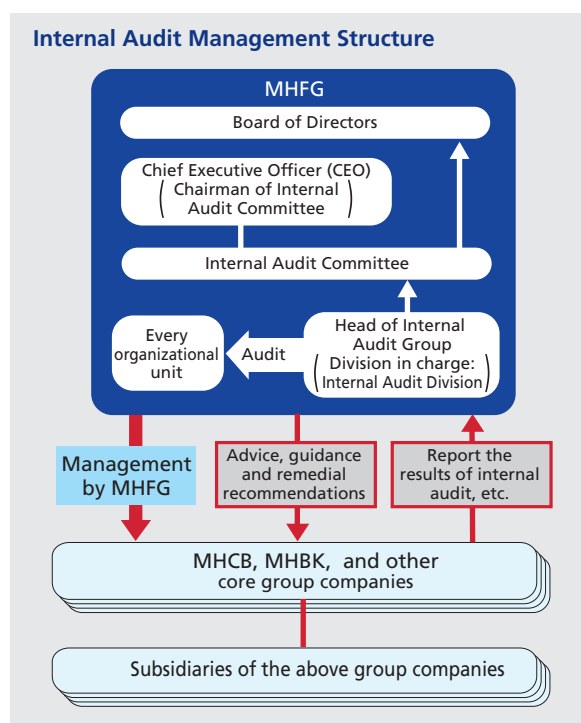
#### ● MHCB and MHBK

MHCB and MHBK have also established internal audit committees that are independent of their other business operations.

MHCB and MHBK have established internal audit divisions and credit review divisions to conduct internal audits at their respective domestic and overseas business offices, head office divisions and group companies. Specifically, the internal audit divisions assess the suitability and effectiveness of business activities associated with compliance and risk management. The credit review divisions audit credit ratings and the status of credit management in addition to auditing the self-assessment of assets to verify the accuracy and suitability of matters deemed necessary to assure the soundness of assets.

#### ● Other Core Group Companies

MHTB, MHSC and our other core group companies have also established effective and efficient internal audit structures adapted to the characteristics of their respective businesses.



(As of June 26, 2008)