Business Cooperation Agreement with Bank of Ceylon

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (Nobuhide Hayashi, President and CEO), signed a business cooperation agreement on July 16th, 2014 with the largest state-owned commercial bank in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Bank of Ceylon (D. M. Gunasekara, General Manager / CEO). The agreement covers a wide range of business fields and is the first such agreement Bank of Ceylon has entered with a Japanese bank.

Sri Lanka is an island nation situated off the southern coast of the Indian subcontinent. Its location is strategically important in linking East Asia and India, and it is attracting increasing focus as a logistics hub for the South Asia region. In addition to its geographical superiority, Sri Lanka has enjoyed stable political and social conditions since the end of the civil war in 2009, as well as high and stable economic growth with a real GDP growth rate of 7.3% in 2013. Interest in Sri Lanka from Japanese companies has been increasing on the back of strong expectations for its potential for market expansion, and we are projecting there to be many business opportunities there including major projects associated with infrastructure development.

The objectives of the business cooperation agreement signed in this instance include providing information to mainly Japanese customers that are aiming to newly enter the Sri Lankan market or expand their businesses there, as well as expanding our service structures. Specifically, we will use the agreement to gather information on the local Sri Lankan economy and provide our customers with a wide range of financial services such as transactions in local currency, trade finance, lease finance, and project finance.

As well as strengthening access to business in Sri Lanka, where economic conditions are projected to be strong going forward, and contributing to economic development there, we will widely support the expansion of our customers' businesses by providing business opportunities in Sri Lanka.

About Bank of Ceylon

Bank of Ceylon is the largest state-owned commercial bank in Sri Lanka, with the largest share of domestic deposits and loans and the largest branch network (618 branches as of June 2014) in the country. It is the only bank in Sri Lanka to have exceeded LKR 1.00 Trillion asset base and has the largest number of foreign correspondents globally presently exceeding 860. It also handles the largest market share of foreign currency accounts and remittances into the country. In addition to commercial banking business, it provides a wide range of products including trade finance, lease financing, Islamic finance, and credit cards.