Risk Information

Summary

The following principal categories of business risks and other risks affecting our Group's business may have a material impact on investment decisions. From the point of disclosing information, we have also listed risk factors below which may not completely match our business. In recognizing these latent risks, we will work to avoid any such risks and take appropriate measures in the event that any such risk arises.

Also, the following contains contents about the future based on current information (29, June 2011).

Risks Relating to Our General Operations

1) Our corporate structure, which consists of a large number of public and private companies in multiple business lines, exposes us to challenges not found in companies with a single business line

Our Group consists of portfolio companies operating in multiple industries, including asset management, brokerage and investment banking, financial services, housing and real estate and other businesses. Our Group also comprises of some publicly traded subsidiaries. Due to the diverse characteristics of our portfolio companies, we face challenges not found in companies with a single business line. In particular, there are three aspects:

- we are exposed to business, market and regulatory risks relating to different industries.
  We need to devote substantial resources to monitor changes in different operating environments, so that we can react with appropriate strategies that fit the needs of the portfolio companies affected;
- due to our large number of portfolio companies involved, successful operation of our Group requires an effective management system that emphasizes accountability, imposes financial discipline on portfolio companies, and creates value-focused incentives for management. As we continue to grow through acquisitions of businesses in an increasing number of different industries, our operations will become more complex, which increases the difficulty of implementing our management system; and
- our portfolio companies in different operating segments may determine that it is in their respective shareholders' interests to pursue business ventures together. We cannot assure you that such business ventures will be successful or generate the synergies expected.

2) Our voting interests in our portfolio companies may be diluted

Our portfolio companies may become publicly traded, which will dilute our voting interests in these entities. In addition, our portfolio companies may from time to time need additional capital to achieve their expansion plans or other business objectives and may issue additional shares or other equity securities to meet their capital needs. We may choose not to, or be unable to, subscribe for the securities offered in any such additional issuances by our portfolio companies. If we fail to subscribe for additional securities of a portfolio company on a pro-rata basis to our existing shareholding in such company, our equity interest in the portfolio company will be diluted.

A dilution in our equity interest in a portfolio company would reduce our share of the profits earned by such portfolio company, which may have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Further, if our ownership were reduced significantly, it may cause our representation on such company's board of directors to be reduced, or otherwise reduce our ability to direct or influence the operations of that portfolio company.

3) The growth we expect in the market for our online products and services may not materialize

The market in Japan for online financial products and services continues to evolve. Our success depends substantially on continued growth in the use of online products and services, such as online brokerage services, Internet banking, Internet-based insurance products and services by individuals. If this growth does not materialize, our business will suffer. Factors that could discourage Japanese individuals from using online products and services include security or privacy concerns, inconsistent quality of service and frustration with actual or perceived difficulties in using the Internet to conduct brokerage and other financial transactions.

4) Changes in the legal or financial stability of, or cultural or business strategic differences with, any counterparties with whom we enter into joint ventures or alliances

We operate joint ventures and enter into alliances with foreign and domestic counterparties and the success of these operations is often dependent upon the financial and legal stability of our counterparties. If one of the counterparties with whom we operate a joint venture or continue a business alliance suffers a decline in its financial condition for any reason, or is subject to instability owing to a change to the laws governing its operations after we have invested in the joint venture or the business alliance, we may be unable to successfully operate the joint venture or alliance, or we may be required to invest additional capital or cease operations altogether. Likewise, significant differences in corporate culture and business strategy between ourselves and such partners may come to light and may result in significant changes to the assumptions that we made when we decided to enter into the joint venture or alliance. If our joint venture or counterparties are unable to perform as expected, or if any unexpected events relating to the alliances occur, then we may be unable to continue those businesses successfully. Our inability to successfully operate joint ventures or alliances may adversely affect our reputation and our results of operations.

5) Risks relating to business reputation

We are vulnerable to poor market perception and reputational risk since we operate in industries where integrity and the trust and confidence of our clients are of utmost importance. Negative publicity (whether or not justified) associated with us or any of our funds, products, services, officers or employees, partners or alliances, or the occurrence of any of the risks set out in this section could result in a loss of clients and/or mandates. Our business operations are highly dependent on our officers, employees, partners and/or alliances. The actions, misconduct, omissions, failures or breaches of any of our officers or employees, partners and/or alliances may, by association, create negative publicity in relation to our Group. Accordingly, any mismanagement, fraud or failure to discharge legal, contractual, regulatory or fiduciary duties, responsibilities, liabilities or obligations, or the negative perception resulting from such activities or any allegation of such activities, could have an adverse effect on our Group's business, growth prospects, results of operations and/or financial condition.

6) Risks relating to business restructuring and expansion

As a "Strategic Business Innovator," one of our Group's basic policies is to perpetuate "Self Evolution."

In addition to internal business restructuring, such as the share exchange in August 2008 and the share exchange in August 2009 through which respectively SBI SECURITIES Co., Ltd. and SBI Futures Co., Ltd. became our wholly-owned subsidiaries and we transferred all our shares in SBI AXA Life Insurance Co., Ltd. to AXA Japan Holding Co., Ltd. on 16 February 2010. We intend to aggressively pursue business expansion, including mergers and acquisitions of businesses that we believe offer favorable synergies with our core businesses. We face the risk that our restructuring and business expansion activities may not produce the results that we expect. Failure to achieve expected results could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

As of the Latest Practicable Date, we executed a share exchange agreement to convert SBI VeriTrans Co., Ltd. into a wholly-owned subsidiary on 24 February 2011. Meanwhile, Morningstar Japan K.K. executed a share exchange with Gomez Consulting Co., Ltd. to make Gomez Consulting Co., Ltd. its wholly-owned subsidiary on April 22, 2011.

The materiality threshold adopted by the Directors in determining whether an investment, partnership or acquisition is material or not is based on an assessment of the amount involved for such investment, partnership or acquisition, how material such investment, partnership or acquisition is in relation to the overall strategy of the Group and the effect or size of the impact such investment, partnership or acquisition would have on the Group's income, profit/loss and financial position if such investment, partnership or acquisition were to proceed. We may not be able to identify suitable investment opportunities, partners or acquisition candidates. Even if we do identify suitable investment opportunities, partners or acquisition candidates, we may be unable to negotiate terms that are commercially acceptable to us or complete those transactions at all. With respect to our acquisitions, we could have difficulty in integrating these companies or businesses, including internal operations, distribution networks, product lines and personnel, with our existing business, and there is no assurance that the expected strategic benefits of any acquisitions or alliances will be realized. The acquired companies may have low margins and require significant restructuring to increase efficiency. In addition, the key personnel of an acquired company may decide not to work for us. The acquired company could involve a number of specific risks, including diversion of management's attention, higher costs, unanticipated events or circumstances, legal liabilities, failure of the business of the acquired company, fall in value of investments and amortization of acquired intangible assets, some or all of which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In the event that we plan to acquire or invest in an overseas company, we may be required to obtain the prior approval of the relevant regulators and/or the government and there can be no assurance that such approvals will be obtained in a timely manner or at all. In addition, any acquisition of an overseas company will expose us to foreign exchange risks, foreign regulations applicable to its business and different environments that we are not familiar with.

7) Risks relating to entering new businesses

Based on the management principle of "Aiming to Be a New Industry Creator," we are aggressively creating and nurturing new businesses. If our new businesses are unable to achieve their business plans as originally formulated, and if they are unable to record earnings commensurate with their initial investments, such failure could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, our new businesses could become subject to new laws and regulations or be placed under the guidance of particular regulatory authorities. Any violations by our new businesses of the laws, regulations or guidance that is applicable to them, and any administrative or legal actions directed at them, could impede the conduct of their operations and have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

8) Risks relating to being a financial conglomerate

We are classified as a financial conglomerate as defined by the regulations of Financial Services Agency (FSA). As a result, we are further strengthening risk management and compliance systems in order to maintain financial soundness, and to conduct business activities properly. However, if we are subject to an administrative action or other punishment by FSA, for whatever reason, we may have difficulty conducting business operations.

9) Risks relating to investment securities

We hold a large amount of investment securities, including investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and affiliated companies. We could experience impairment losses on our investment securities as a result of declines in their value, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

10) Litigation risk

We are exposed to litigation risk relating to the operations of our business segments on an ongoing basis. While we cannot predict the outcome of any pending or future litigation, given the inherent unpredictability of litigation, it is possible that an adverse outcome in any one or more matters could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

11) Risk relating to risk management and internal control

We have established risk management and internal control systems and procedures. Certain areas within our risk management and internal control systems may require constant monitoring, maintenance and continual improvements by our senior management and staff. If our efforts to maintain these systems are provided to be ineffective or inadequate, we may be subject to sanctions or penalties and our business prospects and reputation may be adversely affected.

Our internal control system, no matter how sophisticated in design, still contains inherent limitations caused by misjudgment or fault. As such, there is no assurance that our risk management and internal control systems are adequate or effective, notwithstanding our efforts, and any failure to address any internal control matters and other deficiencies could result in investigations and/or disciplinary actions or even prosecution being taken against our Group and/or our employees, disruption to our risk management system, and an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

12) Risks relating to funding liquidity

We raise working capital through various means, including equity finance in the capital markets, loans from financial institutions, and issuances of corporate bonds. Due to the ongoing global economic crisis and the resulting deterioration in the global credit markets, including reduced lending by financial institutions, we may face difficulty raising funds under favorable conditions or at all. In addition, potential downgrades to our credit ratings could interfere with our ability to raise funds from external sources. In such circumstances our access to funds could be restricted, and our financing costs could increase. Any such events could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

13) Derivatives risk

We utilize derivative instruments to reduce investment portfolio price fluctuations and to manage interest rate and foreign exchange rate risk. However, we may not be able to successfully manage our risks through the use of derivatives. Counterparties may fail to honor the terms of their derivatives contracts with us. Alternatively, our ability to enter into derivative transactions may be adversely affected if our credit ratings are downgraded.

We may also suffer losses from trading activities, a part of which include the use of derivative instruments. As a result, our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

14) We depend in part on payments from our subsidiaries and other entities

We depend in part on dividends, distributions and others from our subsidiaries and other entities, such as partnerships and other investment vehicles, to fund payments on our obligations, including our debt obligations. Regulatory and other legal restrictions, including contractual restrictions, may limit our ability to transfer funds to or from our subsidiaries and other entities. Some of our subsidiaries and other entities which we depend on, in part, for payments are subject to laws and regulations that authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds to us, or that prohibit such transfers altogether in certain circumstances. These laws and regulations may hinder our ability to access funds that we may need to make payments on our obligations.

15) Reliance on key personnel

Our business operations depend on the leadership of our Representative Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Yoshitaka Kitao, and other key members of our management team. If one or more of our current management teams becomes unable to continue to operate our businesses, such event could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Any remedial action adopted by management to deal with a loss of key personnel may not take effect immediately or at all.

16) Risks relating to employees

We employ who we consider highly skilled and qualified personnel to work under our management team. If we are unable to continue to engage highly skilled and qualified personnel of the requisite caliber and skills, this could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

17) Risks relating to trademarks and other intellectual property rights

Our businesses involve various types of intellectual property, including patents, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property, particularly those related to our “SBI” brand. We rely on our ability to protect the intellectual property we own and use in our business. If we fail to sufficiently protect our intellectual property, or if we are unable to acquire the necessary licenses for the use of third-party intellectual property, we may experience difficulty in developing technologies or providing services. Also, we may be the subject of legal actions brought by third parties alleging infringement of their intellectual property. In addition, we may experience increased costs in connection with intellectual property, especially those related to copyright. Such additional costs could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

18) Risks relating to enactment of, or changes in, laws, regulations and accounting standards

Enactment of, or changes in, laws and regulations may affect the way that we conduct our business, the products or services that we may offer in Japan or overseas, as well as our customers, borrowers, portfolio companies and funding sources. Such enactment or changes are unpredictable and may cause our costs to increase. As a result of such enactment or changes, our business activities, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Withdrawal or amendment of any regulatory approval or of any exemption from registration in respect of any part of our Group’s activities or any of our funds in any jurisdiction might oblige us to cease conducting a particular business or change the way in which it is conducted. Similarly, the withdrawal of either a license or an approval of one or more individuals would hinder their ability to perform their current role. The carrying on of regulated activities by unauthorized persons could have a number of consequences including the possibility of agreements made in the course of carrying on such activities being unenforceable.

Enactment of, or changes in, accounting standards may have a significant effect on how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations, even if our underlying business fundamentals remain the same. As a result of such enactment or changes, our business activities, our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

19) Risks relating to insurance coverage

To manage operating risks, we maintain in our portfolio companies insurance coverage of various kinds. However, we cannot assure you that all claims under their insurance policies will be honored fully or on time. Furthermore, we are generally unable to insure against certain types of losses, including losses caused by earthquakes, typhoons, floods, wars and riots, and we do not have business interruption insurance. To the extent that any of our portfolio companies suffer loss or damage that is not covered by insurance or that exceeds the limit of its insurance coverage, our financial condition and results of operations and cash flow may be adversely affected.

20) Past results may not be indicative of future performance

Our historical financial information may not necessarily reflect our financial condition, or results of operations in the future. We may experience slower growth in some of our businesses and we may not be successful in launching new businesses. New businesses may not achieve as quick or as large growth as anticipated, and our multiple business strategy may not be successful and we may not be able to successfully integrate future businesses or assets into our existing operations.

21) We may suffer substantial losses in the event of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, terrorist attack or other casualty event in Japan or other markets in which we operate

A substantial portion of our assets, as well as our head office, are located in Japan and a substantial portion of our net sales are derived from our operations in Japan. Our overseas operations are subject to similar or other disaster risks. Additionally, large disasters, outbreaks, terrorist attacks or other casualty events affecting our operational network, either in Japan or overseas, could disrupt our operations even in the absence of direct physical damage to our properties, or cause a material economic downturn in the affected area or country, which in turn could result in significant interruptions to or an adverse effect on our businesses, financial condition and results of operations.

22) We cannot guarantee the accuracy of facts and statistics with respect to certain information obtained from official governmental sources and other data

Facts and statistics relating to Japan, the Japanese economy and the financial sector (including the financial services industry) and other sectors in which we operate derived from official government or other industry sources are generally believed to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee the quality or reliability of such information. We have not prepared or verified the accuracy of the information received from such sources. We make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of such facts and statistics from these sources. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that these sources have stated or compiled such facts and figures on the same basis or with the same degree of accuracy or completeness as may be the case elsewhere. In all cases, you should not unduly rely on these facts and statistics.

Risks by Business Domain

Risks Relating to Our Asset Management Segment

1) Impact of changes in the business environment on our asset management segment

The main investment revenue sources for our asset management segment and investment partnerships managed by our Group, are capital gains on the disposal of shareholdings and management revenue from investment partnerships. However, these revenue sources are easily affected by fluctuations in the political, economic and industrial situation and in stock market conditions, particularly the market for initial public offerings. These external factors beyond our control may contribute to fluctuations in the performance of our asset management segment, and thereby exert a substantial influence on the performance of the entire Group. Our performance may also be subject to large fluctuations as the realization of investment profits may be concentrated in a fixed period.

2) Risks associated with outside investors in our funds

We could experience difficulty raising new capital, both from existing and new outside investors, if our funds perform poorly. In addition, we may not be able to draw upon the commitments of existing outside investors, if those investors experience decreased liquidity, impaired financial soundness or other financial hardships. Difficulty in raising new funds in our asset management business may interfere with our ability to operate our funds as planned, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

3) Investment risk

We, and investment partnerships managed by us, have invested in many venture companies and companies undergoing restructuring. The future prospects of these companies are affected by many uncertainties and various potential future events that could cause fluctuations in their performance. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- changes in the competitive environment caused by the rapid progress of technological innovation and fluctuations in industrial standards;
- the hiring and retention of exceptional managers and staff;
- vulnerabilities in these companies' financial structure; and
- the non-disclosure of important information by the companies.

In addition, some of the businesses that we invest in operate in industries that are inherently speculative and risky. The investment risks associated with such uncertainty could lead to losses that could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

4) Foreign currency risk

We, and investment partnerships managed by us, are exposed to foreign currency risk when making investments denominated in foreign currencies. Fluctuations in exchange rates may affect our financial condition and results of operations due to uncertainty over both the timing of the recovery of the investment and the amount recovered.

5) Overseas investment risk

When investing overseas, we, and investment partnerships managed by us, face potential social unrest caused by changes in local economic conditions, changes in political factors, changes in the legal system or terrorism. Country risk may be difficult to minimize or perfectly avoid and may affect our financial condition and results of operations.

In particular, our funds invest in companies in emerging markets, including China and other countries in Asia. Many emerging market countries are developing economically and politically and could not have firmly established securities markets. Investments in companies in emerging markets may involve a high degree of risk and may be speculative.

We cannot guarantee that we will be able to achieve satisfactory investment performance for our funds in emerging markets in the future. Failure to do so could have an adverse effect on our business, growth prospects, fund establishment fees, offering investment funds, fund management fees and success fees, results of financial condition and/or operations.

6) Competition in our asset management segment

At a time of intense competition in the venture investment business and restructuring investment business, including from new entrants, and with domestic and overseas financial institutions and investment companies launching numerous funds, there is no assurance that we will be able to maintain our competitiveness. We may not be able to raise investment funds of a sufficient scale in line with our plans, or to find promising investee companies that would provide adequate returns on investment, as a result of industry rivals deploying revolutionary new services or due to mergers and collaborations between industry rivals.

7) Legal regulations affecting our asset management segment

The investment partnerships we manage are subject to, and must comply with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (FIEA), the Money Lending Business Act of Japan, the Companies Act, the Civil Code of Japan, the Limited Partnership Act for Investment of Japan and other laws, domestic and foreign. We also operate investment trust management companies that are registered as investment management businesses or as investment advisory or agency businesses in accordance with the FIEA. The business operations of our asset management segment may be hindered, and adversely affected, in the event of revisions to the FIEA or other related laws, or in the event that required registrations are revoked.

Risks Relating to Our Brokerage and Investment Banking Segment

1) Impact of changes in the business environment affecting our brokerage and investment banking segment

Brokerage commissions account for the majority of the revenue from customers of our brokerage and investment banking segment. This segment is, therefore, highly exposed to fluctuations in the trading volume and trading values of stock markets. Trading volume and trading values on stock markets are affected by various factors, such as corporate profits, exchange rate fluctuations, interest rates, international political conditions, fluctuations in the main global markets and investor sentiment. A fall in share prices tends to lead to a contraction in trading volume. There can be no guarantee of favorable stock market conditions in the future, and the performance of our brokerage and investment banking segment could be adversely affected by declines in share prices and any resulting drop in trading volumes.

The Japanese government, certain foreign governments and various financial instruments exchanges are currently promoting financial and stock market reforms. The substance of these reforms could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

2) Credit risk

Margin transactions for domestic stocks are one of the revenue sources for our brokerage and investment banking segment. However, the value of the collateral deposited by a customer for a margin transaction may be inadequate if the customer suffers a loss on the margin transaction or if the value of the securities posted as collateral declines. In addition, the funds required for margin transactions are primarily financed through borrowings from securities finance companies. However, the value of securities pledged by us to securities finance companies as collateral for such borrowings may also fluctuate. In the event of a decline in the value of securities pledged by us as collateral, the securities finance companies from which we have borrowed may request that we pledge additional collateral, in which case we would be required to secure the funds uniquely in order to fund such additional collateral requirements.

We would borrow shares from our customers and lend such shares to other broker-dealers. We may suffer losses if there are sharp changes in market values of securities and our counterparties to borrowing and lending transactions fail to honor their commitments. Any fluctuation in public equity markets may lead to the risk that parties to stock lending transactions may fail to meet their commitments. In addition, if we fail to expand our customer base for stock lending services and maintain good relationships with other securities companies to which we lend securities, it may have an adverse effect on our reputation and results of operations.

Moreover, over-the-counter foreign exchange margin transactions are transactions conducted by depositing certain amount of margin as collateral. Our customers may make large amount of profits or suffer large amount of losses compared to the amount of margin deposited. Subject to changes in foreign exchange market conditions, in cases where losses suffered exceed the amount of margin deposited, depending on the total amount or the number of incidences, our results of operations could be adversely affected, as bad debt losses may be incurred and further increase in loan loss provision may be necessary due to an increase in unsecured accounts receivable.

3) Foreign currency and counterparty risk

We face counterparty risk with respect to over-the-counter foreign exchange transactions with counterparties, which we perform in order to hedge foreign exchange fluctuations in the positions that we take in relation to our customers. If unforeseen circumstances should occur such as systemic damage to, or the deterioration of, the business and financial condition of, a counterparty, we may not be able to hedge market risk for our customers, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

4) Underwriting risk

In order to diversify our revenue sources, we are increasing the resources devoted to the underwriting of shares. Due to this we face increased underwriting risk in the event that underwritten securities cannot be resold. Price fluctuations of securities offered but not resold may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. A decline in the reputation of an issuer, either during or after a public offering for which we have acted as lead managing underwriter, could damage our reputation and hinder the development of our underwriting business, which would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

5) Risks relating to proprietary trading system (PTS) business

Our proprietary trading system, Japannext PTS, is an off-exchange electronic trading market to which multiple securities companies can connect. Any potential operational difficulties, whether caused by unexpected events such as system failures, non-settlement or late settlement, or the bankruptcy of participating securities companies, could damage the confidence of investors and participating securities companies in the reliability and security of the proprietary trading system, which would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

6) Competition in brokerage and investment banking segment

Competition among brokerage companies has been intensifying. We expect competition to continue to intensify as more companies from other industries enter the online securities brokerage market in response to deregulation, as well as due to the emergence of foreign companies. Furthermore, large securities companies are developing and improving their online securities brokerage businesses. In addition, the minimum unit cost needed to acquire a single new customer account is also projected to increase due to such competition. These factors could have an adverse effect on the operating performance of our brokerage and investment banking segment.

In addition, though we are striving to improve the level of convenience enjoyed by investors who use our proprietary trading system platform, if the services we offer do not compare favourably to those offered by our competitors' proprietary trading system platforms, trading activity on our proprietary trading system may decline, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

7) Legal restrictions on the brokerage and investment banking segment

a. Registration of financial instruments business operators and others

Our Group, in order to operate financial instruments business; we are registered as a financial instruments business operator (FIBO) in accordance with the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (FIEA), This business area is subject to the provisions of the FIEA and related laws such as the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act Enforcement Ordinance of Japan. In addition to the rules of Tokyo Stock Exchange, Osaka Stock Exchange, Nagoya Stock Exchange, Fukuoka Stock Exchange and Sapporo Securities Exchange of which we are a general trading member, we are subject to the rules and regulations established by the Japan Securities Dealers Association and Financial Futures Association of Japan, which are organizations established under the FIEA. In the event that we or our employees violate any of these laws, rules or regulations, our license to operate may be revoked or a court order may be issued requiring that we take administrative action in order to achieve specified improvements. Any such action or event could adversely affect our operation and results of operations.

SBI SECURITIES Co., Ltd. on 12 February 2010 from Financial Services Agency (FSA), received a business improvement administrative order to alter our operation since our operation had been acknowledged to fall under the case which is 'Situation in which sufficient management of the electronic information processing systems relating to financial instruments business is deemed not to have been taken' as defined in Item 14, Paragraph 1, Article 123 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance on the Financial Instruments Business, based upon Item 2, Article 40 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. On 12 March 2010, we have submitted an improvement report to FSA. SBI SECURITIES Co., Ltd. and our Group solemnly receive the administrative action and hereon, by identifying the reason which caused this issue and revising management structure according to it, and by adjusting appropriately to defaults pointed out by outside system inspection, we are to strengthen and improve internal management system including system risk management system further on and to prevent reoccurrence and restore reputation. However, correspondence to this issue and restoration of our reputation requires time more than expected, our operation of our Group may be disturbed and may have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Correspondence to this issue, we have submitted our final improvement report on 31 March 2011.

b. Capital adequacy ratio regulations

Based on the FIEA and on the Cabinet Office Ordinance on the Financial Instruments Business regarding capital regulations for Type 1 FIBO, a system of capital adequacy ratio regulations has been created. Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is ratio of capital to the aggregate value of the non-fixed portion of capital, potential fluctuations in securities holdings, and other potential risks. Type 1 FIBO must maintain CAR of 120% or higher. If the ratio falls below 120%, FSA will order changes to operational methods and other changes, and if the ratio falls below 100%, the agency may order the suspension of business operations for a period of up to three months. If the ratio is still below 100% after business has been suspended for three months and the agency does not recognize the prospect of the relevant company's recovery, the agency may cancel the company's registration for securities business. In addition, Type 1 FIBO must on a quarterly basis prepare documents recording its CAR and make these documents available for public examination at all their facilities, and a fine shall be levied in the case of nonconformance with this requirement.

c. Separate management of customer assets/investor protection funds

To help ensure that securities companies return customers' assets to customers in an appropriate and timely manner, securities companies are required to keep securities and cash entrusted by customers separate from the securities company's own assets. However, this separation requirement does not apply to securities purchased via margin transactions or to the proceeds of the sale of securities via margin transactions. As an additional means of protecting investors, the FIEA requires securities companies to participate in a government-approved investor protection fund. Our Group participates in the Japan Investor Protection Fund (JIPF). Investor protection funds obtain their funds by requiring contributions from their securities company members. If a member of the JIPF were to become bankrupt, the fund will ensure that customers of the bankrupt company receive the securities entrusted to that company as well as other specified claims on that company up to ¥10 million. Accordingly, if the bankruptcy of a member company requires the disbursal of funds greater than those already accumulated by the JIPF, our Group and other members may be required to make additional contributions.

d. The Act on Sales of Financial Products / the Consumer Contract Act of Japan

Designed to protect investors when they purchase financial products, the Act on Sales of Financial Products requires financial product sellers to provide specified explanations. In the case that investors lose money on investments in financial products that were not adequately explained, the Act obliges financial product sellers to provide compensation and provides for measures to ensure that the noncompliant financial product sales methods are rectified.

Focusing on the structural gaps between consumers and businesses with regard to the volume and quality of available information as well as negotiating capabilities, the Consumer Contract Act of Japan enables consumers in specified situations to repudiate contracts. We have established internal administration systems designed to ensure its rigorous compliance with this law, and there have not been any cases of noncompliance to date. However, if such a case were to arise in the future, it could entail the payment of compensation for damages, undermine customers' trust in the Company, and have other negative effects, and there is a possibility that such a situation could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

e. Margin rate restriction of foreign exchange margin transactions

FSA has announced regulations concerning the gradual reduction of margin rate from 1 August 2010 with respect to foreign exchange margin transactions and margin rate will be even lowered on 1 August 2011. At this present moment, this restriction does not have an impact but there may be the possibility that it may affect our Group's results of operation in the future.

8) Systems risks affecting our brokerage and investment banking segment

The Internet is our primary sales channel. Accordingly, we recognize that ensuring the stability of its system for online transactions is the most crucial management issue. We are undertaking continual initiatives to maintain and enhance the level of service. Nevertheless, a system malfunction may occur due to reasons unforeseen at present, including hardware and software malfunctions, human error, a breakdown in communication lines, computer viruses, cyber terrorism, or a system malfunction caused by a natural disaster. We have implemented a number of countermeasures, which include building redundant mission critical systems and monitoring functions for 24/7, as well as establishing backup sites at multiple locations. Nevertheless, should a system malfunction occur despite the implementation of these countermeasures, there is a possibility that a delay or failure to appropriately respond may result in claims for damage resulting from such a malfunction, and this may also erode trust in our systems and support structure. This, in turn, may result in the loss of a large number of customers. In addition, we are developing new systems and increasing capacity in response to expected increases in the number of accounts and trading volume. However, if such number of accounts or trading volume increase less than our expectation, increased costs in relation to our systems such as depreciation and lease fees which do not contribute to our profit could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

9) Security of customer information in our brokerage and investment banking segment

Any unauthorized orders for securities trades, leaks or destruction of important customer data could give rise to liabilities and in turn have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Any violations of the Personal Information Protection Act of Japan or any leaks or destruction of important customer data could have negative consequences, including a loss of customer trust, which would have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Relating to Our Financial Services Segment

1) Impact of changes in the business environment on our financial services segment

a. Effects of interest rate fluctuations

We obtain much of the funding required for purchases of leased assets in our leasing business through borrowing. Dramatic increases in the interest rates at which we are able to borrow would result in increased costs in our leasing business. Increases in interest rates could also lead to increased expenses in our consumer loan business. Accordingly, increases in interest rates could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

b. Responding to technical innovations

Because the Internet is the primary channel through which we provide services to our customers, it is imperative for our future growth prospects that we maintain thorough familiarity with the Internet and related technology. With technological innovation comes changes in the technical standards and user environments in which our customers operate. If we are slow to respond to technological advancements, the services we provide are likely to suffer and become inferior or obsolete, resulting in a loss of competitive advantage within the industry. Our financial condition and results of operations could be affected if we lag behind in our efforts to keep up with changes in our technological environment. In addition, we could incur significant expenses to develop new internal systems or perform major system upgrades in order to keep pace with important technological changes.

2) Competition in the financial services segment

Because initial capital investment requirements for comparison shopping websites, such as those that compare financial, insurance and loan products, are low and because such businesses may be launched with relatively low personnel costs, competition in this business is intensifying as more companies enter into the market. Such competitive pressures could have an impact on the profitability of our financial services segment. In addition, there are a number of competing websites in the non-financial services area, where three of our group companies are active. As the number of our competitors in these fields increases, the number of users who visit our websites could decrease, which could cause additional downward pressure on revenues. Any of these factors could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

3) Risk relating to banking business

In the banking industry, it is necessary to respond to a great variety of risks: credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, compliance risk, administrative risk, system risk, information security risk, risks associated with contracting with third parties, event risk, reputation risk, capital ratio risk, strategic risk, and risk associated with regulatory change. Any failure to adequately address these risks could be disruptive to business operations. In addition, if we are unable to achieve the targets projected in our initial business plan for this sector, and if future income is inadequate to cover our initial investments, operating results could be adversely affected.

4) Risk relating to insurance business

In the insurance industry, it is necessary to respond to a great variety of risks: insurance underwriting risk, market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, administrative risk, system risk, information security risk, legal risk and casualty risk. Any failure to adequately address any of these risks could be disruptive to our business operations. In addition, if we are unable to achieve the targets projected in our initial business plan for this sector, and if future income is inadequate to cover our initial investments, operating results could be adversely affected.

5) Legal risks affecting our financial services segment

Licenses, permits or registrations are required to conduct businesses under our financial services segment under the Money Lending Business Act, the Banking Act of Japan, Insurance Business Act of Japan and their respective related ordinances and regulations, the Insurance Act of Japan, the Act on Special Measures regarding Servicer Business of Japan and others. Our business would be adversely affected if any necessary licenses, permits or registrations were revoked for any reason.

6) Systems risks affecting financial services segment

Because our financial services segment relies heavily on computer systems, if unforeseeable events such as earthquakes, floods, fires, computer viruses, power outages, communications failures, work-stoppages by third-party service providers or unpredictable system failures were to result in a delay, suspension or cessation of services to our customers, such events could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

7) Security of customer information in our financial services segment

If any leaks of customer information should occur, we could lose the trust of our customers and incur significant legal and other costs, either of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, any violation of the Personal Information Protection Act of Japan or any leaks of customer information could lead to a loss of trust by our customers and could have an adverse effect on our operating results.

Risks Relating to Our Housing and Real Estate Segment

1) Impact of changes in the business environment on our housing and real estate segment

a. Effects of real estate market conditions

Changes in real estate market conditions, such as land prices and lease rates, could affect our financial condition and results of operations in our real estate holdings, including our direct holdings and our holdings through investment partnerships. For example, we may be required to increase allowance for doubtful accounts with respect to real estate we hold as collateral for loans if the appraised value of such real estate decreases. In addition, since the housing loan business in our housing and real estate segment concentrates primarily on the provision of housing loans to consumers who are building or buying new homes, fluctuations in the volume of housing loans subject to external factors such as new housing starts could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

b. Effects of fluctuations in interest rates and related market conditions

Interest rate fluctuations lead to higher procurement costs, including procurement costs for non-recourse loans in our housing and real estate segment. In addition, in the real estate financing business in our housing and real estate segment, changes in interest rates could impact the interest rates on housing loans and mortgages, and may affect the number of new borrowers and refinancing borrowers. Drastic changes in interest rates could affect securitization of housing loans. Thus, changes in interest rates could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

2) Investment risk

If problems or defects that were not identified in the pre-purchase diligence process for a property are later revealed following the acquisition of that property, such as unusual rights relationships, poor soil quality, inadequate construction or environmental problems, those problems could have an adverse effect on the value or cash flow from that property. Other factors that could have an adverse effect on a property's price and cash flow include fires, riots, terrorism, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves and other unforeseeable natural disasters.

3) Foreign currency risk

Investments in our housing and real estate segment that are denominated in foreign currencies are subject to risk caused by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Because both the timing and amount of recovery from real estate properties are inherently uncertain, the operating results of our housing and real estate segment could be adversely affected by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates.

4) Risks relating to investment in overseas real estate

Investments in overseas real estate expose us to risks including losses due to disruptions in economic and political conditions, changes in the local legal system and social disruptions resulting from terrorism and other factors. We are thoroughly studying and analyzing conditions in other countries in order to reduce exposure to country risk. However, since it is difficult to completely avoid the effects of these risks, the occurrence of any of these problems could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

5) Competition in businesses relating to residential real estate

Competition in the residential real estate market is expected to intensify as the number of new entrants increases in response to greater business opportunities. If our efforts to maintain and strengthen our competitive position are unsuccessful, price competition in the real estate market could put downward pressure on our revenues, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

6) Legal regulatory risk relating to residential real estate and lifestyle networks

In addition to the Building Lots and Building Transaction Business Act of Japan, which requires a license to act as an agent and broker in the purchase or lease of real estate, other laws in Japan such as the National Land Use Planning Act of Japan, Building Standards Act of Japan, City Planning Act of Japan, Act Concerning Specified Joint Business in Real Estate of Japan, Leased Land and House Lease Act of Japan, Construction Business Act of Japan, Architect Act of Japan, Labor Health and Safety Act of Japan and the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act also apply to us. In addition, the Money Lending Business Act also applies to our real estate financing business. With respect to the method of payment settlement, laws in Japan such as the Act for Regulation of Receiving Capital Subscription, Deposits, and Interest Rates, etc., of

Japan, the Banking Act, and the Payment Services Act of Japan are also applicable.

Our lifestyle networks business is subject to laws in Japan such as the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions of Japan, the Consumer Contract Act of Japan, the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act of Japan, the Product Liability Act of Japan, the Unauthorized Computer Access Act of Japan, and anti-nuisance ordinances.

Any administrative action that would require us to take steps to alter our operations, or any revocation of a license, permit or registration required under these various legal requirements, could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

7) Systems risks affecting our residential real estate related business

Any computer failure causing a delay, suspension or cessation of services due to unforeseeable factors such as widespread earthquake or flood damage, fires, computer viruses, power outages, communications failures or work-stoppages by third-party service providers, could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

8) Security of customer information in our real estate related businesses

If any leak or destruction of customer information were to occur, it could result in legal liability and a loss of trust and credibility, either of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operation.

In addition, we have established an internal management structure, and are constantly working on making improvements for the purpose of complying with Japan's Personal Information Protection Act and associated regulations. In the event of a violation of a law or regulation at our Group, or an information leak, the resulting loss of trust among customers and other consequences could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Relating to Our Other Businesses

1) Risks relating to system solution business

Our system solution business is primarily engaged in entrusted development and operation and maintenance of system.

The information technology industry continues to bring about technological innovation and industry technical standards and customer usage conditions continue to evolve through the constant introduction of new technologies. If we were to lag behind in our response to these new technologies, our services could become unattractive or obsolete, which could adversely affect our competitiveness in this industry.

In addition, if our system solution business is unable to achieve the goals set out in its business plans as originally formulated, and if it is unable to record earnings commensurate with its initial investments, such failure could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

2) Risks relating to biotechnology business

We focus on the research and development of proprietary drugs. However, we cannot assure you that our research and development efforts will result in the development of commercially successful products or innovative production technologies, or that any such research projects will generate the expected results. Substantially all of our biotechnology products must undergo a clinical trial process before they can be introduced into the market for commercial sale. The process is expensive, lengthy and uncertain. Our results of operations may be adversely affected if, after we devote significant time and expense on research and development and the clinical trial process, a product under development fails to achieve approval for commercial sale or we are subject to product liability claims in respect of our biotechnology products.