

September 20, 2024
SBI Holdings, Inc.

**Notice Regarding Strategic Capital Alliance with Gateway Partners Group
—“Partnership for growth” will enhance SBI Group’s access to emerging markets—**

SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, Chairman, President & CEO, Yoshitaka Kitao; hereinafter the “Company”), hereby announces that it has concluded a strategic partnership with Gateway Partners Group (Operating entities: Singapore & Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Co-Founder and CEO: V. Shankar ; hereinafter “Gateway Partners”), an emerging markets investment manager, to strengthen the investment business in emerging markets.

Gateway Partners is an emerging markets investment manager with multiple private equity / private credit funds focused South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, and has led USD 1.5bn worth of investments since 2015 in 25 portfolio companies.

The Company will purchase a minority equity position in Gateway and will have a seat on the Gateway Holdings Limited Board. In addition, the Company will gain an observer status of the investment committee and will assist in mobilizing commitments from other Japanese investors as well as invest in a private equity fund established by Gateway Partners. On the other hand, Gateway Partners will, by utilizing its abundant expertise related to emerging markets, support the Company in finding opportunities for joint investments in the markets that Gateway Partners focuses on, and contribute to the enhancement of the Company’s emerging market network centred on Southeast Asia, India, Middle East and Africa, and its private equity investment strategy.

Separately, Dr Roger Ferguson, the renowned economist, former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve and former President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA will serve as Co-Chair of Gateway's Global Advisory Council.

With this strategic Partnership, the Company will further strengthen the Company’s emerging market network and further expand the group’s private equity investment strategy.

Yoshitaka Kitao, Representative Director, Chairman, President & CEO of SBI Holdings, Inc. said:

“This partnership demonstrates SBI Group’s continued commitment to emerging economies. Gateway Partners Group presents a one-stop solution to investing across the exciting growth markets of Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa. The partnership with Gateway presents an opportunity for SBI Group to further develop its private equity investment strategy. It will significantly bolster the ability of Japanese investors to access emerging markets products. Finally, it will also provide a gateway for emerging market investors to access Japan by leveraging SBI Group’s extensive distribution capabilities.”

V. Shankar, Co-Founder and CEO of Gateway said that the sale of the minority stake to SBI Holdings was a validation of the firm’s investment approach and governance.

“We are deeply honoured to have such high-quality investors as SBI Holdings and Dr Roger Ferguson on our cap table, and their participation validates Gateway’s differentiated investment strategy, diverse geographic focus and exemplary governance. They will help expand our investor access in developed markets, particularly Japan and America, and their valuable insights and experience will complement our own approach. We are fully aligned with our new partners, and this alliance assures Gateway’s future growth in some of the world’s most attractive and rapidly rising regions.”

About Gateway Partners Group

Gateway Partners Group is an emerging markets manager that invests responsibly in the fast-growing economies of South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Since 2015, the business has spearheaded investments worth \$1.5 billion across 25 portfolio companies. Gateway now manages two active private equity funds, Gateway Fund I, L.P. and Gateway Fund II, L.P., as well as a private credit fund, Africa Credit Opportunities Fund L.P., which is a joint venture with African Export-Import Bank. Gateway intends to launch further funds in 2025. Gateway is also a UN PRI signatory and the first asset manager worldwide to acquire a Governance and Control Effectiveness rating (A, positive outlook) from Sigma Ratings, the world's first non-credit risk rating organization (www.sigmaratings.com).

More details about Gateway and the Global Advisory Council can be found at www.gatewayfund.net

For further information, please contact:

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