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Corporate Governance Report

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

AS ONE CORPORATION

Last Update: July 1, 2024
AS ONE CORPORATION

Takuji Iuchi, President and Representative Director

Contact: Public and Investor

Relations Department

Securities code: 7476

https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/

The corporate governance of AS ONE CORPORATION (the "Company") is described below.

# I. Basic Views on Corporate Governance, Capital Structure, Corporate Profile and Other Basic Information

1. Basic Views

Our basic approach to corporate governance is to pursue management efficiency to maximize corporate value while also reinforcing corporate ethics and increasing management transparency to increase the trust we earn from all our stakeholders.

# Reasons for Non-compliance with the Principles of the Corporate Governance Code Updated

[Principle 4.11 Prerequisites for ensuring the effectiveness of the Board of Directors and Board of Auditors] Supplementary Principle 4.11 (1)

After identifying the skills that Directors should possess in light of the management strategy, the Board of Directors establishes the approach related to the balance of knowledge, experience, and abilities, diversity, and size of the entire Board of Directors, and presents a so-called skills matrix, which lists the knowledge, experience, and abilities of each Director, which is included in the Convocation Notice of the General Meeting of Shareholders, integrated reports, etc.

Page 17 of the 63rd Convocation Notice https://ssl4.eir-parts.net/doc/7476/announcement1/100300/00.pdf

Integrated Report https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/ir library/integrated report/

From the viewpoint of independent Outside Directors with management experience at other companies, there are individuals who possess experience in their role as Outside Directors. However, at this time, we have not invited anyone who has actual internal management experience at other companies. On the other hand, in terms of management experience at other companies, there are in-house officers with sufficient experience, and we are leveraging their experience in the Company's Management Strategy.

#### Disclosure Based on the Principles of the Corporate Governance Code **Updated**

[Principle 1.4 Strategic shareholdings]

<Our policy on strategic shareholdings>

The Company's strategic shareholding policy for shares is as follows and is set at the minimum required holding level.

- The Company does not conduct strategic shareholding as a mere stable shareholder from the viewpoint of corporate governance.
- Shares are held only for the purpose of obtaining business benefits, such as the smooth promotion of business operations and the possibility of future business collaboration, and only when we believe that holding such shares will contribute to the enhancement of our medium- to long-term corporate value and sustainable growth.
- We will periodically review each individual share to determine whether the purpose of holding the stock and the benefits and risks associated with holding the stock are commensurate with the cost of capital, and will reduce the number of stocks held, focusing on those that are no longer necessary.

<Criteria for exercising voting rights on the Company's strategic shareholdings>

When exercising voting rights on the Company's strategic shareholding, we confirm whether or not the proposed agenda item will result in any damage to shareholder value. Then, after considering the investee company's situation, etc., we will decide whether to approve or disapprove the proposal and exercise our voting rights. When necessary, such as when confirming the purpose of a proposal, we hold discussions with the investee company.

#### [Principle 1.7 Transactions between related parties]

We manage transactions with related parties based on the "Related Party Transaction Management Regulations."

We both identify and investigate in advance transactions with related parties that have a special relationship with the Company, such as our affiliated companies and close relatives of directors and officers, and when initiating or continuing a transaction with such related parties, the Board of Directors examines the necessity and appropriateness of the transaction.

In addition, we disclose related-party transactions by including them in securities reports in accordance with the "Accounting Standard for Related Party Disclosures" and other rules and regulations.

[Principle 2.4 Securing diversity, including promotion of women's activities] Supplementary Principle 2.4 (1)

Based on "Respect for human rights\* in our Code of Conduct," the Company has instituted a "Human Resource Development Policy" and an "Policies to Enhance the Workplace Environment" to secure diversity. In addition, the Company discloses the status of its efforts to promote diversity by including such information in its Integrated Report.

Regarding the promotion of women to management positions, the ratio of female managers is 6.8% on a non-consolidated basis as of the end of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, and the Company has disclosed a target of raising the ratio to 10% by the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. The ratio of female managers was 7.9% on a consolidated basis as of the end of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

The ratio of foreign nationals in management positions is 0.7% on a non-consolidated basis as of the end of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, but since domestic sales account for the majority of the Company's sales, the Company does not disclose a target for this category.

The ratio of mid-career hires in management positions is 41.5% on a non-consolidated basis as of the end of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, and since the majority of mid-career hires in position of General Manager or higher, the Company does not disclose the target.

#### \* "Respect for human rights in our Code of Conduct,"

We respect all human rights mandated by law and outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international labor standards. We do not discriminate based on race, skin color, creed, religion, nationality, age, gender, or place of birth. We also do not accept or allow such discrimination.

# I. Ensuring Diversity

For the Company to enhance its corporate value over the medium- to long-term through contributing to the creation of a sustainable society, it is essential to consider ideas from a variety of perspectives. We shall respect the values of a diverse range of human resources and build a corporate culture and internal environment that maximizes the power of human resources, our most important management resource. The Company will conduct recruitment activities and human resource development based on respect for human rights in its Corporate Code of Conduct. The Company also implements various measures which contribute to ensuring diversity, including the promotion of women, foreign nationals, and mid-career hires to management positions. Furthermore, we will support the success of our human resources through our unique personnel and benefit systems.

#### II. Human Resource Development Policy

Our basic approach to human resources development and specifics of our human resources development program are disclosed in the "Human Resources Development" section of the Company's website (in Japanese)

. https://www.as-1.co.jp/csr/society/employee/nurturing/

# III. Internal Environmental Improvement Policy

Details regarding our internal environmental improvements are described in the "Office Environment and Various Systems" section of the Company's website (in Japanese). https://www.as-1.co.jp/csr/society/employee/systems/

# [Principle 2.6 Fulfilling the function as an asset owner for corporate pension plans]

The Company has introduced an elective defined contribution pension plan and a defined benefit corporate pension plan as benefit systems for eligible employees (beneficiaries). We have entrusted the management of pension assets, etc. to financial institutions that have announced their acceptance of the Stewardship Code. With the objective of ensuring stable investment returns and providing pension benefits that lead to asset formation for beneficiaries, the Company periodically monitors the investment status of pension assets and reviews them as necessary. Through dialogue and information exchange with entrusted institutions by those in charge of the Administration Department, the Company has established a cooperative system for managing conflicts of interest and discussing amendments to the rules and regulations, etc. Additionally, the Company actively grants opportunities for participation in external training and seminars to continuously develop human resources with specialized knowledge and qualities.

#### [Principle 3.1 Enhancement of information disclosure]

(i) Company goals (management philosophy, etc.), management strategies, and management planning

We disclose the Company's management philosophy, management strategies, and management planning on the Management

Information page of the Company's website and in the Convocation Notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders for each year. https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/(Management Information)

We also actively provide explanations at "earnings results briefings" held twice a year and at "company information sessions for individual investors" held as needed.

(ii) Basic views and basic policies on corporate governance As stated in the outset of "1. Basic Views" above.

(iii) Policies and procedures for determining the compensation of senior management and directors

#### 1) Basic policy

The Company's basic policy for the compensation of Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members is to ensure that the compensation is linked to the Company's performance and reflects their responsibilities and achievements. Specifically, the compensation system consists of monthly compensation as fixed compensation, bonuses as performance-linked compensation, and non-monetary compensation in the form of restricted stock compensation and the board benefit trust (BBT). Outside Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members are not paid bonuses, restricted stock compensation and stock benefit trust, as their role is to assume a supervisory function and monitor management from an independent standpoint. The amount of compensation for Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee Members is determined through deliberation by Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee Members is limited to a total of \mathbf{\frac{1}{100}} million per year (determined at the 60th Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on June 25, 2021). The following describes the policy for determining the compensation of Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members

#### 2) Policy on the determination of monthly compensation

The monthly compensation of the Company's Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members shall be determined based comprehensively on criteria such as the responsibilities of each position, the management environment, management ability, and level of contribution, while also taking into consideration the level of employee payroll, and other factors.

#### 3) Policy on the determination of performance-linked compensation

Bonuses are linked to the Company's business performance. Specifically, an amount calculated based on consolidated operating profit for each fiscal year and taking into consideration dividends, employee bonus levels, trends at other companies, medium- to long-term business performance, and past bonus payments, etc., are paid at a certain time each year. The board benefit trust (BBT) is paid as non-monetary compensation. The BBT grants points equivalent to shares of stock in accordance with the Board Benefit Regulations established by the Company, with the achievement of the annual plan in the Medium-term Management Plan as a condition for the grant of points. The Board of Directors decides at a certain time each year whether or not to grant the points to the BBT based on sales and operating profit, which are easy-to-understand indicators of the degree of achievement under the Medium-term Management Plan.

## 4) Policy on the determination of restricted stock compensation

Restricted stock compensation is a system under which shares are granted by the Company to Directors as non-monetary compensation, with restrictions such as the inability to sell the shares (restriction on transfer) for a certain period of time that is initially set. The amount to be paid is calculated based on comprehensive consideration of the responsibilities of each position, the management environment, management ability, and level of contribution, etc., and is paid at a certain time each year.

- 5) Guaranteeing objectivity and transparency based on the deliberations of the Nomination and Compensation Committee In determining the policies described in 2), 3), and 4), the Nomination and Compensation Committee, which is composed of a majority of independent Outside Directors, shall deliberate on comparisons with the compensation levels of other companies and the appropriateness of the coefficients for each position, etc., before making decisions. The objectivity and transparency of these policies shall be guaranteed.
- 6) Matters concerning the determination of the amount of compensation to be paid to each individual The total amount of compensation to directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committed Members shall be within the range set forth in the resolution of the 60th General Meeting of Shareholders held on June 25, 2021, as follows.
- a. The maximum amount of compensation for directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members is 500 million yen per year (of which the maximum amount of compensation for Outside Directors is 100 million yen per year).
- b. The amount of board benefit trust, which is separate from a., is not more than \(\frac{4}{2}00\) million for five fiscal years.
- c. The amount of restricted stock compensation, which is separate from a and b, is within the limit of 100 million yen per year or less.

The ratio of compensation by type for individual Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members (excluding Outside Directors) shall be such that the percentage of performance-linked compensation shall increase with the higher the position. The guideline for the ratio of each type of compensation, etc. shall be as follows: monthly compensation: performance-linked compensation (bonus): non-monetary compensation = 6:2:2.

The specific ratio of each type of compensation and the amount of compensation for each individual shall be reviewed as a guide by the President and the Director in charge of human resources, and Takuji Iuchi, the President, shall be delegated the responsibility of determining the specific details of the ratio of each type of compensation, in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the above limits. The details of such authority shall be determined in accordance with the above decision-

making policy. The details of such delegation of authority include the specific type of compensation ratio for each individual, the amount of monthly compensation, the allocation of bonuses based on performance, and the amount of restricted stock compensation to be paid. The reason for delegating this authority to the President is that he is best suited to determine the amount of compensation for Directors in a comprehensive manner, while taking a holistic view of the Company's business environment and management status,

In determining the ratio and amount of compensation by specific type for each individual, from the perspective of ensuring objectivity and transparency, the appropriateness, etc. of compensation shall be consulted with the Nomination and Compensation Committee in advance, and the findings of said Committee shall be respected.

(iv) Management personnel, Director and Auditor appointment, dismissal and nomination as candidate policies and procedures < Appointment and nomination policy >

In the appointment of management personnel and nomination of candidates for directors, the Company comprehensively examines from the perspective of having the right person in the right position, taking into consideration accurate and prompt decision-making, appropriate risk management, monitoring of business activities, and a balance of covering each function of the Company and each business corporation. In nominating candidates for Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, the Company comprehensively examines them from the perspective of having the right person in the right position, while ensuring a balance between their knowledge of finance and accounting, their extensive knowledge not limited to the Company's business fields, and their diverse perspectives.

# < Appointment and nomination procedures >

The Nomination and Compensation Committee will review the nominees in accordance with the above basic policy, and the Board of Directors will make their selections. Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee Members are subject to the prior consent of the Audit and Supervisory Committee.

#### <Dismissal policies and procedures>

When circumstances arise that require the dismissal of a Director in light of Principle 3-1 (iv) < Appointment and nomination policy >, the Board of Directors, after consulting with the Nomination and Compensation Committee and after timely and appropriate deliberation, will submit a proposal for dismissal to the General Meeting of Shareholders. The dismissal of a director who is not an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member will be made by an ordinary resolution, while the dismissal of a director who is an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member will be made by a special resolution. The Board of Directors' deliberations will take into consideration the opinions of independent Outside Directors.

## (v) Explanation of nominations as candidates for Directors

The background of each candidate for director and the reasons for their appointment are set forth in the Reference Documents for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The "Reasons for the nominations" of Directors whose election was proposed at the 62nd and 63rd Annual Meeting of Shareholders are as follows.

<Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members >

#### Takuii Iuchi

Since assuming the office of Representative Director of the Company, the candidate has played a key role in expanding the Company's business and increasing corporate value. He has many achievements as a manager, increasing sales by 2.1 times, net profit per share by 2.8 times, and net assets per share by 2.2 times. The candidate has held positions of responsibility in sales, marketing, purchasing, international, and IT-related matters at the Company, and the Company has determined that he is qualified as a manager who will formulate and promote the Company's mid-term management plan, which is the Company's goal, and has therefore nominated the candidate for the position of Director.

# Kazuhito Yamada

As he has experience and a track-record, having served as manager in sales, merchandising and IT-related sections in the Company, the Company judges that he is ideally suited to be corporate manager to formulate and promote the medium-term management plan aimed by the Company, and therefore renominates him as a candidate for Director.

#### Toshiki Hara

As he has abundant experience and extensive knowledge as a representative director of financial institutions and an IT company, the Company judges that he is ideally suited to be corporate manager to formulate and promote the medium-term management plan aimed by the Company, and therefore nominates him as a candidate for Director.

#### Keisuke Nishikawa

As he has served as a manager in marketing and corporate planning sections of the Company, the Company judges that he is ideally suited to be corporate manager to formulate and promote the medium-term management plan aimed by the Company, and therefore renominates him as a candidate for Director

#### Kazuhiko Odaki

He has a wide ranging experience and professional knowledge having served as an official at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and also as professor of economics at universities, the Company judges that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision of management and offer effective advice. The Company therefore renominates him as a candidate

for Outside Director.

<Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee Members>

#### Kazutaka Suzuki

He has abundant experience and knowledge in the area of finance. Including the period of tenure as Outside Auditor (full-time), he has provided strict management supervision and advice from the perspective of corporate governance. The Company judges that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision of management and offered effective advice, and therefore nominates him as a candidate for Outside Director who is Audit and Supervisory Committee Member.

#### Hideaki Mihara

As he has professional knowledge and extensive experience as a certified public accountant and tax accountant, and the Company judges that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision of management and offer effective advice.

#### Michiko Kanai

She has professional knowledge as a lawyer, and the Company judges that she will provide supervision of management and offer effective advice making use of her abundant experience and extensive knowledge.

Supplementary Principle 3.1 (3)

We have established a basic sustainability policy and are working to promote sustainability. In addition, an overview of our sustainability activities and details on human capital, intellectual capital and climate change in line with the framework of the TCFD are described in our annual securities report and Integrated Report.

https://www.as-1.co.jp/csr/basicpolicy/

Integrated Report <a href="https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/ir library/integrated report/">https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/ir library/integrated report/</a>

 $[Principle\ 4.1\ Board\ of\ Directors'\ roles\ and\ responsibilities\ (1)]$ 

Supplementary Principle 4.1 (1)

We have established the Board of Directors Regulations and the Agenda Items for the Board of Directors Criteria and clarify the scope and content of matters to be judged and decided by the Board of Directors. Matters not included in these Regulations and Criteria are delegated to management based on the Administrative Authority Criteria, depending on the scale and nature of the transaction and business activities.

[Principle 4.9 Criteria for independence and qualifications]

This is described in "II 1. [Matters Concerning Independent Officers] Other Matters Concerning Independent Officers" in this report.

[Principle 4.10 Utilization of optional systems]

Supplementary Principle 4.10 (1)

This is described in "II 1. [Voluntary Established Committee(s)]" of this report.

#### Supplementary Principle 4.11 (2)

The status of Directors' concurrent positions with other companies has traditionally been appropriately disclosed in business reports, etc., and we believe that all such positions are within a reasonable range in terms of the time and effort required to serve on the Board of Directors or Audit and Supervisory Committee.

# Supplementary Principle 4.11 (3)

The Company has been periodically evaluating whether the Board of Directors as a whole is functioning correctly and has been evaluating the effectiveness of the Board of Directors since FY2022 to continue identifying issues and making improvements. A summary of the method and results of the evaluation is provided below. Based on the results of these evaluations, the Company strives to continue to improve the effectiveness of the Board of Directors.

Issues and results of measures taken in the previous fiscal year

Issue (1): Timing and volume of the distribution of Board of Directors materials

Solution results (1): We have reduced the volume of materials from the drafting department by summarizing them as much as possible and coordinated with the relevant departments to distribute the materials four business days before the Board of Directors meeting. This has advanced the quality of the discussions at the meetings of the Board of Directors.

Issue (2): Topics of discussion at meetings of the Board of Directors

Solution results (2): At the April 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors, we advanced the effectiveness of the Board of Directors by revising the Rules on Administrative Authority to promote the delegation of authority and by sharing appropriate information with Board members, such as by holding the Board of Directors meeting at a logistics center that also served as an inspection.

Evaluation results for this fiscal year

Evaluation method/Anonymous, online survey

Target/ Attendees and participants of the Board of Directors meetings (8 Directors and 5 Executive Officers), excluding the Chairperson of the Board (President)

Evaluation results/

Issue (1): Timing and volume of distribution of Board of Directors materials

Issue (2): Topics of discussion at meetings of the Board of Directors

Target/

Solution (1): In collaboration with the drafting department, promote further improvement of the quality of discussions at Board of Directors meetings by thoroughly providing information on materials four days prior to the meeting and by preparing summary materials (summaries) of agenda items.

Solution (2): Further advance the effectiveness of the meetings of the Board of Directors by ensuring that there is ample time for matters to be discussed by taking measures such as providing written reports for regular agenda items and sharing the annual discussion topics at the meetings of the Board of Directors at the beginning of the fiscal year.

[Principle 4.14 Training of Directors and Auditors] Supplementary Principle 4.14 (2)

We appoint directors from internally and externally who are capable of fulfilling the roles and responsibilities expected of directors. For new officers who are promoted from within the company, we provide and facilitate training opportunities to promote understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including legal knowledge, which they should acquire as management executives. Outside Directors are provided with opportunities to gain an understanding of the company's business and functions. In addition, we provide opportunities for information exchange and mutual study as an opportunity to update their knowledge after assuming office.

[Principle 5.1 Policy on constructive dialogue with shareholders]

With the aim of promoting constructive dialogue with shareholders, we have formulated a vision for the Company's sustainable growth and medium- to long-term enhancement of corporate value, and endeavor to clearly explain the Company's management policies in an easy-to-understand manner so that they can be understood by shareholders.

<Designation of management team for dialogue with shareholders>

At the Company, the President plays a central role in the dialogue with shareholders and investors, assisted and promoted by the director in charge of IR and the Public Relations & Investor Relations Division.

<Initiatives for organic cooperation among internal divisions>

In promoting dialogue with shareholders and investors, the Company's director in charge of investor relations and the Corporate Communications & Investor Relations Division play a central role, with the accounting, general affairs, and business divisions cooperating to support this effort. In addition, the director in charge of IR or the Public Relations & Investor Relations Division attends important meetings and organically collaborates with each division in order to contribute to the realization of timely and appropriate dialogue.

<Initiatives to enhance means of dialogue beyond individual meetings>

In addition to the Company's financial results presentation meetings for analysts and investors at the end of the fiscal year and after the second quarter financial results are released, we hold company information meetings using securities companies' conferences and remote meetings via the Internet, etc. In addition, through the use of webinars and other means, the Company holds "company information sessions for individual investors" from time to time in an effort to achieve closer communication with shareholders and investors.

<Initiatives for feedback of shareholders' opinions and concerns>

The director in charge of IR provides feedback to the Board of Directors and other important meetings on opinions and concerns about the Company that have been identified through dialogues with shareholders and investors.

<Initiatives for the management of insider information>

This is described in "V. Others 2. Other Matters Concerning the Corporate Governance System" of this report.

[Measures to achieve cost of capital and stock price conscious management]

In Project ONE ver. 2.0, our Medium-term Management Plan that concludes in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, we set a target to increase ROE from 10.9% in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020 to 11.6% in the final year of the plan. Our goal is to achieve a balance between sustainable growth as a company and enhancement of our corporate value. We also request an external financial institution to calculate the cost of capital based on the risk-free rate, beta value, and 50-year Japanese equity risk premium at the beginning of each fiscal year to identify the cost of capital, and confirm that we have achieved a return on capital that exceeds the overall cost of capital in any beta calculation.

Moving forward, we will enhance our disclosure of current analyses, specific policies and targets, and details of our efforts to realize management with an awareness of cost of capital and our stock price through IR materials.

[Implementation Status of Dialogue with Shareholders, etc.]

The Company engages in dialogue with more than 430 shareholders and investors annually. These are led by the Director in charge of investor relations and the Public and Investor Relations Department, including overseas investor relations by top management. In addition, when engaging in topics including ESG, we may enter into dialogue with the attendance of the those responsible for corporate planning, sustainability and personnel selection. A summary of the dialogue with institutional investors and shareholders is generally compiled monthly by the Public and Investor Relations Department and reported to the Board of Directors

2. Capital Structure

For	eign Shareholding Ratio	30% or more

**Status of Major Shareholders Update** 

Name or Company Name	Number of Shares Owned	Percentage (%)
The Master Trust Bank of Japan, Ltd. (Trust account)	4,885,800	13.61
IUCHISEIEIDO, Ltd.	3,783,146	10.54
Resona Bank, Limited	1,810,650	5.04
SSBTC CLIENT OMNIBUS ACCOUNT	1,709,205	4.76
Custody Bank of Japan, Ltd. (Trust Account)	1,598,299	4.45
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK 380055	1,408,940	3.93
Ikue Iuchi	959,886	2.67
Hideo Iuchi	786,238	2.19
SUMITOMO LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	702,300	1.96
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK 385632	701,501	1.95

Name of Controlling Shareholder, if applicable (excluding Parent Company)	***
Name of Parent Company, if applicable	None

Supplementary Explanation Update

- 1. 1 The above shows the status of major shareholders as of March 31, 2024. The Company conducted a 2-for-1 stock split of common stock on April 1, 2024, but this is not reflected in the status of major shareholders.
- 2. The number of shares held in trust for trust bank and other trust business activities is not exhaustively available for the Company, so the number of shares held in the name on the shareholders' register is shown.
- 3. Percentage is calculated by deducting treasury stock (3,983,701 shares) from the total number of shares issued and outstanding.
- 4. Treasury shares (3,983,701 shares) does not include the Company's shares (89,599 shares) held by the "Board Benefit Trust (BBT) (for directors)" and the "Stock Benefit-type ESOP Trust."
- 5. The above-mentioned shares held by the Custody Bank of Japan, Ltd. (Trust Account) include 89,599 Company shares held by the "Board Benefit Trust (BBT) (for directors)" and the "Stock Benefit-type ESOP Trust."
- 6. Although, in the large volume holding report revision report made available for public inspection on October 16, 2013, states that International Value Advisers, LLC held 1,034,800 shares (shareholding ratio: 5.00%) as of October 9, 2013, the Company is unable to confirm the actual number of shares held as of March 31, 2024, so this is not included in the above status of major shareholders.
- 7. Although, in the large volume holding report revision report made available for public inspection on December 22, 2020 states that Resona Bank, Ltd. and Resona Asset Management, Ltd. jointly held 1,195,855 shares (shareholding ratio: 5.78%) as of December 15, 2020, the Company is unable to confirm the actual number of shares held as of March 31, 2024, and is therefore not included in the above status of major shareholders.
- 8. Although in the large volume holding report revision report made available for public inspection as of March 18, 2021, Kaboutor Management, LLC is listed as owning 995,847 shares (shareholding ratio: 4.81%) as of March 12, 2021, the Company is unable to confirm the actual number of shares held as of March 31, 2024 and is therefore not included in the above status of major shareholders.
- 9. Although in the large volume holding report made available for public inspection on November 18 2022, JPMorgan Asset Management (Japan) Limited and joint holders are listed as owning a total of 1,603,531 shares (shareholding ratio: 3.88%) as of November 15, 2022, the Company is unable to confirm the actual number of shares held as of March 31, 2024, and is therefore not included in the above status of major shareholders.
- 10. Although in the large volume holding report made available for public inspection on April 7, 2023, Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. and its joint holders are listed as owning a total of 1,930,934 shares (shareholding ratio: 4.79%) as of March 31, 2024, the Company is unable to confirm the actual number of shares held as of March 31, 2023, and is therefore not included in the above status of major shareholders.

11 On March 29. 2024, the Company cancelled 400,000 treasury shares and conducted a 2-for-1 stock split of common stock on April 1, 2024. The figures in 6-10 above are before the split and the ratios are before the cancellation.

3. Corporate Attributes

Listed Stock Exchange and Market Segment	TSE Prime Market
Fiscal Year-End	March
Business Sector	Wholesale Trade
Number of Employees (Consolidated) as of the End of the Previous Fiscal Year	500 or more and fewer than 1,000
Net Sales (Consolidated) as of the End of the Previous Fiscal Year	¥10 billion or more and less than ¥100 billion
Number of Consolidated Subsidiaries as of the End of the Previous Fiscal Year	Fewer than 10

4. Policy on Measures to Protect Minority Shareholders in Conducting Transactions with Controlling Shareholder

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5. Other Special Circumstances which May have Material Impact on Corporate Governance

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# II. Business Management Organization and Other Corporate Governance Systems regarding Decision-making, Execution of Business, and Oversight in Management

1. Organizational Composition and Operation

 	P	
Corporate Governance System		Company with Audit and Supervisory Committee

## **Directors**

Number of Directors Stipulated in Articles of Incorporation	17
Directors' Term of Office Stipulated in Articles of Incorporation	1 year
Chairperson of the Board	President
Number of Directors Update	8
Election of Outside Directors	Elected
Number of Outside Directors Update	4
Number of Independent Directors Update	4

Outside Directors' Relationship with the Company (1) Update

Name	Attributes		Relationship with the Company*									
Name	Auributes		b	С	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
Kazuhiko Odaki	From another company											
Kazutaka Suzuki	From another company								Δ			
Hideaki Mihara	From another company											
Michiko Kanai	From another company											

<sup>\*</sup> Categories for "Relationship with the Company".

(Use " $\circ$ " when the director presently falls or has recently fallen under the category; " $\triangle$ " when the director fell under the category in the past; " $\bullet$ " when a close relative of the director presently falls or has recently fallen under the category; and " $\blacktriangle$ " when a close relative of the director fell under the category in the past.)

- a. Person who executes business of the Company or a subsidiary
- b. Person who executes business or a non-executive director of a parent company
- c. Person who executes business of a fellow subsidiary
- d. Person/entity for which the Company is a major client or a person who executes business for such person/entity
- e. Major client of the Company or a person who executes business for such client
- f. Consultant, accounting expert, or legal expert who receives large amounts of cash or other assets in addition to director/Audit and Supervisory Board Member compensation from the Company
- g. Major shareholder of the Company (in cases where the shareholder is a corporation, a person who executes business of the corporation)
- h. Person who executes business for a client of the Company (excluding persons categorized as any of d, e, or f above)

- (applies to self only)i. Person who executes business for another company holding cross-directorships/cross-auditorships with the Company (applies to self only)
  Person who executes business for an entity receiving contributions from the Company (applies to self only)
- k. Other

Outside Directors' Relationship with the Company (2) Update

Name	Membership of Supervisory Committee	Designation as Independent Director	Supplementary Explanation of the Applicable Relationship	Reasons for Appointment						
Kazuhiko Odaki		0	Not applicable	He has a wide ranging experience and professional knowledge having served as an official at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and also as professor of economics at universities, the Company judges that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision of management and offer effective advice.  In addition, since the criteria for independence of outside officers in the Company are satisfied, the Company has judged that there is no risk of a conflict of interest between general shareholders and the Company, and has appointed him as an independent officer.						
Kazutaka Suzuki			He has experience working for Resona Bank, Ltd., a bank with which the Company does business, and it has been more than 11 years since his retirement.  As of March 31, 2024, the Company's total outstanding loans amounted to 3,600 million yen, 3.7% of total assets, and 27% of total cash and deposits, indicating a low dependence on loans. Furthermore, borrowings from the bank are a mere 1,375 million yen, or about 1.4% of total assets, and can be adequately replaced by other means of sourcing.	He has extensive experience and insight in the financial sector, and has provided strict supervision and advice on management from the perspective of corporate governance since his appointment as Outside Auditor (full-time) in June 2013. The Company has judged that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision and effective advice on the management of the Company.  The amount of borrowings from Resona Bank is minimal and can be adequately replaced by other means of sourcing. In addition, since the criteria for independence of outside officers in the Company are satisfied, the Company has judged that there is no risk of a conflict of interest between general shareholders and the Company, and has appointed him as an independent officer.						
Hideaki Mihara	0	0	Not applicable  Not applicable	Because of his professional knowledge and extensive experience as a certified public accountant and tax accountant, the Company judged that he will continue to provide appropriate supervision and effective advice on the Company's management.  In addition, because he meets the criteria for independence of outside officers at the Company, we judged that there is no risk of a conflict of interest between general shareholders and the Company, and appointed him as an independent officer.  She has professional knowledge as a						

lawyer, and the Company judges that
she will provide supervision of
management and offer effective advice
making use of her abundant experience
and extensive knowledge.
In addition, since the criteria for
independence of outside officers in the
Company are satisfied, the Company
has judged that there is no risk of a
conflict of interest between general
shareholders and the Company, and
has appointed her as an independent
officer.

# **Audit and Supervisory Committee**

Composition of Supervisory Committee and Attributes of the Chairperson

	All Committee Members	Full-time Members	Inside Directors	Outside Directors	Committee Chair
Audit and Supervisory Committee	3	0	0	3	Outside Director

Appointment of Directors and/or Staff to Support the Supervisory Committee	Not Appointed
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Matters Concerning Independence of Said Directors and/or Employees from Executive Officers

Although we have not appointed any directors or employees to provide full-time assistance at this time, a system is in place to ensure adequate auditing through the appointment of appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, their attendance at major internal meetings, and collaboration with the Internal Audit Department. If the Audit and Supervisory Committee requests the appointment of assistant staff, such staff shall be appointed as necessary, and directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members and the Audit and Supervisory Committee shall exchange opinions regarding the appointment of such assistant staff in advance. In such cases, such support staff shall not concurrently serve as employees of other divisions but shall exclusively follow the orders of the Audit and Supervisory Committee.

Status of Coordination between Audit and Supervisory Committee, Accounting Auditor, and Internal Audit Department

Update

The Audit and Supervisory Committee holds meetings in principle every other month, but it is noted that in past years it has met almost every month, and in the fiscal year under review, it met 14 times (with an average duration of about one hour) using online meetings.

As activities for the fiscal year under review, the Company adopted a resolution on audit policies, plans, and the assignment of responsibilities at the start of the audit in July, exchanged opinions based on reports from appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Members on business audits, including visits by to offices and audits of important approval documents, reviewed and deliberated on internal control based on reports from the Internal Audit Department, and deliberated on the legality of the regular Board of Directors meeting proposals, and shared information on risk issues and other matters. For proposals for which it is deemed necessary to share information with outside directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, outside directors who are not members of the Audit and Supervisory Committee also attend as observers to facilitate communication. The specific considerations for the fiscal year under review included the formation of opinions on the legality and appropriateness of treasury stock acquisition (market purchase) and retirement (cancellation) of treasury stock, examination of the appropriateness and legality of policy investment projects via opinions from the directors in charge and considering information gathered by appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, a discussion on the selection of a KAM in light of a discussion with an auditing firm, as well as a resolution of concurrence on a proposal for the election of a candidate for Director candidate who is an alternate Audit and Supervisory Committee Member. Additionally, the Board passed resolutions for reappointment and consent to auditing compensation based on the evaluation of the accounting auditor and formed opinions on the appointment and dismissal of directors who are not an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member, compensation, and other matters. For the fiscal year under review, an appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Member (one person) visits each division and subsidiary throughout the year, participates in major meetings such as the Executive Officer Committee and the General Managers' Meetings, inspects the minutes of important meetings and various important documents, including approval documents, and receives explanations, requests reports from directors and employees on any questions, and expresses opinions, as appropriate. Also, in addition to witnessing visits by the Accounting Auditor and the Internal Auditing Department, the appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Member collaborates with those other parties and exchanges opinions as appropriate, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of audits. The other part-time (appointed) Audit

and Supervisory Committee Members attend meetings of the Board of Directors and Audit and Supervisory Committee meetings, ask appropriate questions, and express their opinions from time to time based on their knowledge as accounting and legal experts in response to reports and explanations from the appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Member.

The Company determined that the appointment of full-time members is not necessarily required as it has established a system in which the Internal Audit Department assists the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members in their duties in the two years since the Company shifted to company structure with an Audit and Supervisory Committee and the effectiveness of the internal control system has been verified. Because of this, from the fiscal year under review, a full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee Member was not appointed, and a systematic audit structure utilizing the Internal Audit Department and an internal control system was adopted. However, until the previous fiscal year, Kazutaka Suzuki, an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member who had served full-time for 10 years (including as a full-time auditor), was appointed as an appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Member. He will continue to perform important operational auditing duties, including attending Executive Officer Committee/General Managers' Meetings and other major meetings, inspecting various important documents, and visiting important business divisions and subsidiaries, so we have, therefore, assessed that there were no particular problems with the audit activities during the fiscal year under review.

Also, for the current fiscal year, we have established an Audit and Supervisory Committee Secretariate consisting of three persons, including the Head of the Audit and Supervisory Committee and the Head of the Administration Department, to support the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members' auditing activities by providing various information regarding internal controls through regular meetings with the appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Members.

# **Voluntary Established Committee(s)**

Voluntary Establishment of Committee(s) equivalent to Nomination Committee or compensation Committee

Established

Status of Voluntarily Established Committee(s), Attributes of Members Constituting the Committee and the Committee Chair (Chairperson)

	Committee's Name	All Members	Full-time Members	Inside Directors	Outside Directors	Outside Experts	Other	Chairperson
Voluntarily Established Committee Equivalent to Nomination Committee	Nomination and Compensation Committee	5	2	2	3	0	0	Inside Director
Voluntarily Established Committee Equivalent to compensation Committee	Nomination and Compensation Committee	5	2	2	3	0	0	Inside Director

#### Supplementary Explanation

The Nomination and Compensation Committee was established in June 2021 as an advisory body to the Board of Directors for the purpose of enhancing corporate governance by strengthening the fairness, transparency, and objectivity of the procedures related to the nomination and compensation of the Company's directors. The Nomination and Compensation Committee is entrusted by the Board of Directors to fully deliberate on matters related to nomination and compensation and report to the Board of Directors. The committee consists of the President, Director who is General Manager of Administration Division, and three Outside Directors.

# **Matters Concerning Independent Directors**

Number of Independent Directors Update

4

Other Matters Concerning Independent Directors

<Criteria for independence of outside officers>

In order to ensure objectivity and transparency necessary for proper governance of the Company, the Company considers it desirable for our Outside Directors to have as much independence as possible, and only if none of the following items apply to Outside Directors of the Company shall the Company consider them to be independent.

a) A person who does not fall under the requirements under the laws and regulations

- b) A party to whom the Group is a principal business counterparty (which receives payment from the Group accounting for 2% or more of the annual consolidated net sales of the party in the most recent business year), or the parent company or a significant subsidiary thereof, or when such party is a company, executive director, executive, executive officer or, manager or other employee thereof
- c) A party that is a principal business counterparty (except for those under item d)) of the Group (which made payments to the Group accounting for 2% or more of the annual consolidated net sales of the Group in the most recent business year), or the parent company or a significant subsidiary thereof, or when such party is a company, executive director, executive, executive officer or, manager or other employee thereof
- d) Director, auditor, accounting advisor, executive, executive officer or, manager or other employee of a financial institution and other large account creditor that is indispensable to the funds procurement of the Group and on which the Group relies to the extent that there is no alternative, or the parent company or a significant subsidiary thereof
- e) Consultant, accounting expert such as a certified public accountant, legal expert such as a lawyer, and other expert that has received 10 million yen or more in monies and other property per year in average for the past three years from the Group, in addition to compensation as officer
- f) A party that receives a donation or a subsidy from the Group in an amount of 10 million yen or more per year from the Group
- g) A major shareholder of the Company (that directly or indirectly holds 10% or more of the total voting rights) or if the major shareholder is a corporation, director, auditor, accounting advisor, executive, commissioner, executive officer or, manager or other employee of the relevant major shareholder or the parent company or a significant subsidiary thereof
- h) Financial auditor of the Group or member, partner or employee of tax accounting firm of the Group
- i) Director, auditor, accounting advisor, executive or executive officer of a company that accepts directors (irrespective of whether full-time or part-time) from the Group, or the parent company or a subsidiary thereof
- j) Relative within the second degree of kinship of a director of the Group
- k) A party that used to fall under any of b) to j) of the above in the most recent five years
- l) Any other party that may have a conflict of interest with the collective general shareholders of the Company due to circumstances other than the reasons considered in items b) through l) above

# **Incentives**

Implementation Status of Measures related to Incentives Granted to Directors

Introduction of Performance-linked compensation Scheme, Other

Supplementary Explanation for Applicable Items

The Company has established a bonus plan as a performance-linked monetary compensation, and a board benefit trust (BBT) scheme as a non-monetary compensation.

In addition, a restricted stock compensation plan, which is non-monetary compensation, has been introduced as a post-grant incentive.

# Persons Eligible for Stock Options

Supplementary Explanation for Applicable Items

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**Director compensation** 

Status of Disclosure of Individual Directors' compensation

Disclosure for Selected Directors

Supplementary Explanation for Applicable Items Update

Total amount of compensation for directors in FY 2023: 284 million yen (including 40 million yen for Outside Directors)

Number of Directors: 12 (including 7 Outside Directors)

Breakdown of compensation

Fixed compensation: 183 million yen (monetary compensation: 162 million yen (including 40 million yen for Outside Directors), non-

monetary compensation: 21 million yen (including - yen for Outside Directors))

Performance-linked compensation: 101 million yen (monetary compensation: 88 million yen (including – yen for Outside Directors), non-monetary compensation: 13 million yen (including – yen for Outside Directors))

The following information is disclosed for directors whose total amount of compensation exceeds 100 million yen.

Relevant person: Takuji Iuchi, President

Total amount of compensation: 113 million yen

Breakdown

Fixed compensation: 67 million yen (monetary compensation: 56 million yen, non-monetary compensation: 11 million yen)

Performance-linked compensation: 46 million yen (monetary compensation: 41 million yen, non-monetary compensation: 5 million yen)

Policy on Determining compensation Amounts and the Calculation Methods Thereof

Established

Disclosure of Policy on Determining compensation Amounts and the Calculation Methods Thereof

Described in "I. Disclosure Based on the Principles of the Corporate Governance Code [Principle 3.1 Enhancement of information disclosure] (iii) Policies and procedures for determining the compensation of senior management and directors."

# **Support System for Outside Directors Update**

Although special full-time staff to support Outside Directors are not assigned, staff in charge of legal affairs and other staff are available to provide support as needed. We have established an Audit and Supervisory Committee Secretariate consisting of three persons, including the Head of the Audit and Supervisory Committee and the Head of the Administration Department, to support the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members' auditing activities by providing various information regarding internal controls through regular meetings with the appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Members.

If the Audit and Supervisory Committee Member requests the appointment of assistant staff, such staff shall be appointed as necessary, and the Audit and Supervisory Committee and the Directors who are not members of the Audit and Supervisory Committee will exchange opinions regarding the appointment of support staff in advance. In such cases, such assistant staff shall not hold concurrent positions as employees of other departments and shall exclusively follow the instructions and orders of the Audit and Supervisory Committee.

# 2. Matters Concerning Functions of Business Execution, Auditing and Supervision, Nomination, and Compensation Decisions (Overview of Current Corporate Governance System) Update

The Company has adopted a corporate governance structure as a Company with Audit and Supervisory Committee Members. The adoption of this corporate governance structure strengthens oversight functions by making Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, the people responsible for the audit and oversight of business execution by directors, members of the Board of Directors. This strengthening of our monitoring functions will further enhance corporate governance and enable the broad consignment of business execution tasked to the Board of Directors to various directors. This shift will not only increase the speed of decision-making related to business execution, it will also allow the Board of Directors to focus on decisions related to critical management matters such as the Medium-Term Management Plan. Overall, this shift will contribute to improvement in our corporate value. We also established a Nomination and Compensation Committee to increase transparency for the evaluation and decision-making processes related to director nomination and compensation.

### <Board of Directors>

The Board of Directors is comprised of 8 Directors, consisting of 8 directors (including four outside Directors and one female Directors), who are in charge of making managerial decisions and supervising the execution of duties. By inviting independent Outside Directors who have no vested interest in the Company, we have enhanced the supervisory function of the Board of Directors. In principle, a meeting of the Board of Directors is held once a month, and extraordinary meetings of the Board of Directors are held as needed. The Company's corporate governance structure is shown in the diagram on the final page of this document.

#### <Audit & Supervisory Committee>

The Audit and Supervisory Committee consists of three Audit and Supervisory Committee Members (all Outside Directors, including one full-time member). Each Audit and Supervisory Committee Member conducts audits in accordance with the audit policy, audit plan, etc. established by the Audit and Supervisory Committee, as described in Audit and Supervisory Committee.

# <Nomination and Compensation Committee

The Nomination and Compensation Committee fully deliberates matters relating to nominations and compensation in response to inquiries from the Board of Directors. It then reports its findings to the Board of Directors. This committee consists of the President, the Head of the Administration Division and three Outside Directors. That means Outside Directors account for the majority of the members of this committee.

# <Executive Officer Committee>

The Executive Officer Committee is a meeting body that supplements the decision-making process for business activities with the aim

of speeding up the decision-making process by substantially delegating authority from the Board of Directors to the executive directors, and is composed of executive directors and executive officers. An appointed Audit and Supervisory Committee Member attends the meetings as an observer.

# 3. Reasons for Adoption of Current Corporate Governance System Update

The Company has opted to be a Company with Audit and Supervisory Committee, and four of the eight members of the Board of Directors are independent Outside Directors, who oversee the execution of the directors' duties. Based on the Company's basic philosophy on corporate governance, the Company has adopted the current corporate governance system, judging it to be appropriate in light of the Company's size and business activities.

# III. Implementation of Measures for Shareholders and Other Stakeholders

# 1. Measures to Vitalize the General Shareholder Meetings and Facilitate Exercise of Voting Rights <mark>Update</mark>

Measures to Vitalize the General Shareholder Meetings and Facilitate Exercise of Voting Rights Opdate		
	Supplementary Explanation	
Early Posting of Notice of the General	The Convocation Notice of the General Shareholders Meeting will be sent out	
Shareholders Meeting	one week earlier than last year and posted 21 days prior to the meeting date.	
Scheduling of the General Shareholders	Held on June 26, 2024	
Meeting During Non-Peak Days		
Electronic Exercise of Voting Rights	Shareholders may exercise their voting rights via the Internet by accessing the Company's designated voting website from a personal computer, smartphone or cell phone.  It is also possible to exercise voting rights through the electronic voting platform operated by ICJ, Inc.	
Participation in a Platform for the Electronic Exercise of Voting Rights and Other Initiatives to Enhance Environment for Institutional Investors to Exercise Voting Rights	The Company participates in an electronic voting platform operated by ICJ, Inc. and posts the Convocation Notice and its English translation.	
Provision of Notice (or Summary of Notice) of the General Shareholders Meeting in English	As mentioned above, an English translation of the Convocation Notice (simplified version) is posted on the electronic voting platform, and an English translation of the Convocation Notice is also posted on the Company's website.	
Other	We endeavor to provide easy-to-understand information by making the Convocation Notice in colors other than simply black and white and visually clear.	

### 2. Status of IR-related Activities Update

	Supplementary Explanation	Explanation by a representative director or a representative executive officer
Formulation and Publication of Disclosure Policies	We have formulated an IR Basic Policy, which is available on the Company's website. https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/ir_basic_policy/	
Regular Investor Briefings held for Individual Investors	Individual Investor Briefings (Held 5 times: FY 2023 results)	Held
Regular Investor Briefings held for Analysts and Institutional Investors	Distributed a video presentation of the financial results and the second quarter financial results during the COVID-19 pandemic	Held
Regular Investor Briefings held for Overseas Investors	Although irregular, conducted overseas IR, held small meetings and participated in conferences.	Not Held
Online Disclosure of IR Information	https://www.as-1.co.jp/en/ir/ir_library/ Convocation Notice of the General Meeting of Shareholders, financial statements, timely disclosure materials, annual securities reports, quarterly reports, shareholder newsletters, financial results briefing materials, transcripts of financial results briefings, financial highlights, Mid-term Management Plan, Integrated Report, etc.	
Establishment of Department and/or Placement of a Manager in Charge of IR	Division in charge of IR: Public and Investor Relations Department Person in charge of information handling: Director, Head of Administration Division Contact: Public and Investor Relations Department	

Urner	Meetings with institutional investors and analysts (total	
	of more than 430: FY2023 results)	

3. Status of Measures to Ensure Due Respect for Stakeholders Update

Status of Measures to Elisare Due Nesp	Supplementary Explanation
Establishment of Internal Rules Stipulating	Stipulated in our "Corporate Code of Conduct, " and "Code of Ethics"
Respect for the Position of Stakeholders	
Implementation of Environmental	The Company endorses the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-
Preservation Activities and CSR Activities,	related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and uses electricity based on partially
etc.	renewable energy sources.
	The Company's Osaka Head Office, Tokyo Office, Osaka Distribution Center,
	Smart DC, Tokyo Distribution Center, and Rental & Calibration Center have
	obtained ISO 14001 certification. We are working on the following priority
	environmental themes
	(1) Effective use of resources and energy
	(2) Sales of environmentally friendly products
	(3) Improvement of catalog quality
	(4) Improvement of logistics efficiency/ordering efficiency
	(5) Improvement of business operations efficiency
	In addition, as part of our CSR activities, we are engaged in activities with a
	view to coexistence with society and the environment.
	(1) Catalog recycling
	(2) Donations to social contribution organizations (26 million yen in total
	FY2023)
	(3) Sponsorship of the "Black Eagles" American football team
	(4) Support activities for the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra
T 1. CD III C	(5) Children's Science Lab
Formulation of Policies, etc. on Provision of	Stipulated in our "Corporate Code of Conduct, " and "Code of Ethics." In
Information to Stakeholders	addition, we have established an IR Basic Policy.

# IV. Matters Concerning the Internal Control System

#### 1. Basic Views on Internal Control System and Status of Development

We have established the following "Basic Policy for Internal Control System" for the development of a system to ensure the appropriateness of business activities, including those of its subsidiaries. An overview of which is provided below.

1. Systems to ensure that the execution of duties by Directors and employees of the Company and its subsidiaries (hereinafter referred to as the "Group") is in compliance with laws, regulations, and the Articles of Incorporation

## (1) Matters concerning the entire Group

The "Corporate Code of Conduct," "Code of Ethics," and "Compliance Manual," which set forth the standards and norms of conduct to be taken by the directors and employees of the Group, shall be established for each company.

# (2) Matters concerning the Company's directors

- The Board of Directors shall establish the Board of Directors Regulations and shall make decisions on the execution of business activities of the Company in accordance with these Regulations.
- The President shall make decisions on the execution of the business activities of the Company as delegated by the Board of Directors, and shall perform their duties in accordance with such decisions and resolutions of the Board of Directors.
- In order for the Board of Directors to supervise the execution of duties by directors, directors shall report the status of business activities of the Company to the Board of Directors in accordance with the Board of Directors Regulations, and shall mutually monitor and supervise the execution of duties by other directors.
- The status of the execution of duties by directors shall be subject to audit by the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members in accordance with the Audit and Supervisory Committee audit standards and audit plans.
- The Company shall appropriately manage transactions between the Company and related parties in accordance with laws and regulations and the "Related Party Transaction Management Regulations."

# (3) Matters concerning employees of the Company

- The Company shall ensure and supervise the proper execution of business activities by its employees, and in the event of a problem, the Company shall take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Company's employment regulations.
- The division in charge of training shall conduct compliance education and training.
- The Internal Audit Department shall periodically conduct internal audits, provide feedback on the results to the audited divisions, and report the results to the President and the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members as appropriate.
- The Company shall establish a whistleblowing system that allows directors and employees to report directly to the Company or outside attorneys.
- (4) Matters concerning directors and employees of subsidiaries

- Subsidiaries shall operate their Boards of Directors and monitor and supervise the execution of directors' duties in accordance with the system to ensure that the execution of duties by the Company's directors complies with laws and regulations and the Company's Articles of Incorporation as set forth above.
- The Company shall assign an appropriate number of Audit and Supervisory Committee Members in accordance with the size and business conditions of the subsidiaries.
- The Company's Internal Audit Department shall, in principle, conduct an internal audit of each subsidiary once a year.
- The Company's Audit and Supervisory Committee or the Internal Audit Department shall conduct audits of subsidiaries as necessary.
- The Company shall establish a whistleblower system to enable directors and employees of subsidiaries to report directly to the Company or external attorneys.
- 2. Systems concerning the storage and management of information regarding the execution of duties by the Company's directors
  - The Company shall properly record information related to the execution of duties by directors, including records related to decision-making at meetings of the Board of Directors and other important meetings, and documents approved by each director in accordance with the Rules on Administrative Authority, and store such information for the period specified by law and the "Document Management Rules" and other relevant rules.
  - The Company shall establish "Information Security Regulations" and "Information Security Measures Standards" and properly manage information.
- 3. Regulations and other systems for managing the risk of the Group's losses
  - The Company shall establish the Risk Management Regulations, which stipulate the development of a management system for preventing the occurrence of risks and the response to risks that do occur.
  - The Company shall establish a Risk Management Committee, chaired by the President and Representative Director, to oversee the risk management business activities of each division and to determine basic policies, promotion systems, and other important matters concerning risk management.
  - Directors and employees who are the heads of each division of the Company shall, under the risk management system established in their respective divisions, organize the business activities for which they are responsible, identify, analyze, and evaluate inherent risks, and implement appropriate countermeasures, as well as supervise and periodically review the status of such risk management.
  - To prepare for potential risks that may have a significant impact on the Company's management, we have established the necessary response policies in advance, and respond as necessary to minimize losses due to the occurrence of such risks.
  - The Risk Management Committee shall oversee the risk management business activities of the subsidiaries and determine basic risk management policies, promotion systems, and other important matters.
  - The Company shall identify, analyze, and evaluate risks inherent in subsidiaries through reports from directors of subsidiaries, and implement appropriate countermeasures, while supervising and periodically reviewing the status of such risk management.
- 4. Systems to ensure the efficient execution of duties by the Company's directors
  - The Company's Board of Directors shall establish internal regulations such as "Organization Regulations," "Rules on Division of Duties," and "Rules on Administrative Authority" to clarify directors' responsibilities and improve efficiency in the execution of their duties.
  - The Company's Board of Directors shall establish a Medium-term Management Plan and annual budget, and the directors shall execute their duties to achieve the Plan and budget, and the Board of Directors shall manage the performance of the Plan and budget.
  - Through the Company's General Managers' Meeting and other meeting bodies, we ensure that the Company's management policies are known and communicated within the Company.
  - The subsidiaries shall also establish internal rules and regulations in line with those of the Company, and establish the necessary systems to comply with such rules and regulations.
  - The Company's Board of Directors shall formulate a Medium-term Management Plans and annual budgets for the subsidiaries and manage their performance.
- 5. Systems concerning reporting to the Company of matters related to the execution of duties by the directors of subsidiaries
  - The Company shall implement appropriate management control over its subsidiaries in accordance with the "Regulations Concerning Affiliate Company Management."
  - The Company shall require its subsidiaries to report regularly on their operating results, financial status and other important information.
- 6. Matters concerning directors or employees who are requested by the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members to assist them in their duties (hereinafter referred to as "assistant staff"); and matters concerning the independence of such assistant staff from directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members, and matters concerning the effectiveness of the Audit and Supervisory Committee's instructions to such assistant staff
  - If an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member requests the assignment of the assistant staff, the member of the assistant staff shall be appointed as necessary.
  - If the Audit and Supervisory Committee requests the assignment of assistant staff, the directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members and the Audit and Supervisory Committee shall exchange opinions in advance regarding the

- assignment of such assistant staff.
- The assistant staff members shall not concurrently serve as employees of other divisions, and shall exclusively follow the instructions and orders of the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members.
- 7. Systems for reporting to the Audit and Supervisory Committee by the Company's directors and employees, and other systems concerning reporting to the Audit and Supervisory Committee
  - Directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members and employees shall report the status of business activities of the Company to the Audit and Supervisory Committee upon its request.
  - When a director who is not an Audit and Supervisory Committee Member discovers a fact, etc., that has the potential to cause significant damage to the Company, they shall immediately report it to the Audit and Supervisory Committee in accordance with laws and regulations.
  - Audit and Supervisory Committee Members shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors and other important meetings, including General Managers' Meetings, as necessary, in order to gain an understanding of the important decision-making process and the status of business activities.
  - The department in charge of the whistleblower system shall regularly report the whistleblower status to the Audit and Supervisory Committee Members.
- 8. Systems concerning reporting to the Audit and Supervisory Committee by persons who receive reports from Directors, Auditors, and employees of subsidiaries or persons receiving reports from them.
  - Directors, Auditors, and employees of subsidiaries shall report the status of business activities of their subsidiaries upon request of the Company's Audit and Supervisory Committee.
  - When Directors and Auditors of subsidiaries discover facts, etc. that may cause significant damage to the Company or its subsidiaries, they shall immediately report such facts to the Company's Audit and Supervisory Committee of in accordance with laws and regulations.
  - Audit and Supervisory Committee Members of the Company shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors of the subsidiaries and other important meetings of the subsidiaries as necessary in order to understand the process of important decision-making and the status of business activities.
  - The department in charge of the whistleblower system of the Company shall regularly report to the Company's Audit and Supervisory Committee on the status of subsidiaries' whistleblower systems.
- 9. Systems to ensure that persons who report to the Audit and Supervisory Committee are not treated disadvantageously for having made such a report
  - The Company shall prohibit any person who makes a report to the Audit and Supervisory Committee or any related person from being dismissed or otherwise treated disadvantageously because of such report.
  - The Company shall give due consideration to the privacy of persons who report to the Audit and Supervisory Committee and the content of such reports, and shall strictly manage such information.
- 10. Matters concerning the policy for procedures for prepayment or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the execution of duties of the Audit and Supervisory Committee and other matters concerning the processing of expenses or liabilities incurred in the execution of such duties
  - When the Audit and Supervisory Committee makes a request to the Company for prepayment of expenses in accordance with Article 399-2, paragraph (4) of the Companies Act with respect to the execution of its duties, the department in charge shall, after deliberation, promptly dispose of the relevant expenses or debts, unless such expenses or debts are deemed not to be necessary for the execution of the duties of the Audit and Supervisory Committee.
  - In the event that the Audit and Supervisory Committee requests its own external professionals (attorneys, certified public accountants, etc.) to serve as advisors to the Audit and Supervisory Committee, the Company shall bear the costs of such advisors, except in cases where such advisors are deemed not necessary for the performance of the duties of such Audit and Supervisory Committee
  - The Company shall establish a budget of a certain amount each year to pay for expenses incurred in the performance of duties by Audit and Supervisory Committee.
- 11. Other systems to ensure that the Audit and Supervisory Committee's audits are conducted effectively
  - The Audit and Supervisory Committee shall meet with the President as appropriate to exchange opinions on important audit issues, etc.
  - The Audit and Supervisory Committee shall work closely with the Internal Audit Department, which is the internal auditing division, in an effort to enhance the internal auditing division.
  - The Audit and Supervisory Committee shall inspect and request key approval documents, reports, and other important documents concerning the execution of business activities, and when necessary, request explanations from directors who are not Audit and Supervisory Committee Members or employees.
  - The Audit and Supervisory Committee shall meet with the Accounting Auditor on a quarterly basis to exchange opinions and information, and request reports from the Accounting Auditor as necessary.
- 12. Details concerning the development of a system for the elimination of anti-social forces
  - The Company shall take a resolute stance against anti-social forces or groups that engage in illegal activities that pose a threat to the order and safety of civic life, and shall not have any relationship with such groups.
  - The Company shall endeavor to collect information on anti-social forces in normal times, and in the event of an emergency, shall

- take appropriate measures in cooperation with the police and other external specialized agencies.
- Subsidiaries of the Company shall also establish the necessary systems to eliminate antisocial forces in accordance with the rules and regulations stipulated in Section 1 (1) above.

## 2. Basic Views on Measures for Eliminating Anti-Social Forces and Status of Development

These views are described in Section 12 of the Basic View on Internal Control System and Status of Development.

# V. Other

# 1. Adoption of Anti-Takeover Measures

Adoption of Anti-Takeover Measures

Not Adopted

Supplementary Explanation for Applicable Items

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## 2. Other Matters Concerning the Corporate Governance System

The status of the Company's internal system for the timely disclosure of Company information is as follows.

- 1. As the person in charge of the handling of information, the Director who is General Manager of Administration Division of the Company is in charge of the overall management of corporate information and has filed a notification to that effect with the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
- 2. The person in charge of the handling of information reviews whether or not there is a need to disclose important decisions, events, etc. at the Company in accordance with the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and other laws and regulations, as well as the Timely Disclosure Rules established by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the timing and method of disclosure, etc., and promptly makes an announcement after a decision by the Board of Directors or approval by the President.
- 3. The person in charge of the handling of information manages corporate information in the following manner.
- (1) The person in charge of the handling of information attends meetings of the Board of Directors, the decision-making body, to ascertain important decisions.
- (2) The person in charge of the department in which the relevant fact occurred reports the important fact to the person in charge of the handling of information.
- (3) Information on financial results is prepared by the Accounting Department and submitted to the Board of Directors.
- (4) Information related to subsidiaries is managed by the Corporate Planning Department and reported to the person in charge of the handling of information.
- (5) Regarding inside information, the Company has established "Insider Trading Control Regulations" and strives to prevent insider trading by ensuring the proper management of inside information obtained by officers and employees in the course of their duties and by regulating the trading of Company stock and other transactions. In the event that a notification of trading in the Company's shares is submitted, the Administration Department reports to the person in charge of the handling of information and, if necessary, demands the person submitting the notification to take appropriate action, such as refraining from trading.
- Operations for information disclosure, such as TDnet registration and press releases, are handled by the Public and Investor Relations Department.

