

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

The Awa Bank, Ltd. (security code: 8388)

<Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: AA-

Outlook: Stable

Rationale

- (1) The Awa Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") is a regional bank headquartered in Tokushima City, Tokushima Prefecture with a fund volume of 3.4 trillion yen. Having advantages in lending to SMEs, the Bank's shares for deposits and loans are the largest in Tokushima Prefecture. In addition to loans to SMEs in the Kanto and Kansai regions, in recent years, the Bank has been expanding the scope and scale of its business to maritime businesses in the Setouchi area as well as to large corporations. Furthermore, it is also striving for strengthening the non-interest businesses primarily for expansion of the balance of customer assets through a comprehensive business alliance with Nomura Securities Co., Ltd. The long-term issuer rating reflects the solid business base centered on the prefecture, favorable earning capacity and capital adequacy, among others. A key focus for JCR's rating is whether the Bank can continue to expand its deposit and loan balances while maintaining its strong earning capacity and capital adequacy in an environment of rising domestic interest rates.
- (2) The earning capacity is commensurate with AA range. The ROA based on core net business income (excluding gains/losses on cancellation of investment trusts; the same hereinafter) is in the lower 0.5% range, which ranks in the middle among regional banks in JCR's AA rating category. Core net business income for the first nine-month period of the fiscal year ending March 2026 (FY2025) increased by over 30% year-on-year. Although funding costs rose due to higher domestic interest rates, this was more than offset by growth in interest on loans and interest and dividends on securities. Going forward, increases in interest on deposits, personnel expenses, and DX investment are anticipated. On the other hand, JCR expects core net business income to remain firm, as loan balances are likely to increase through the strengthening of lending to the maritime businesses and structured finance, and lending yields are expected to improve amid rising market interest rates.
- (3) The soundness of loan assets has been maintained. The non-performing loans ratio disclosed under the Financial Reconstruction Act is around 2%, which does not give a rise of concern. Due in part to the high proportion of lending to SMEs, a number of other borrowers requiring caution is somewhat many. That said, these are well secured by collateral and guarantee, and the ratio of classified loans to the total credits does not give a rise of particular concern. Credit cost has been stable, and the credit cost ratio is remaining below 10 bps. Although attention needs to be paid to impacts in business conditions of borrowers caused by rising inflation and personnel expenses, JCR views that it is unlikely credit costs will largely increase since loans have been diversified into small amounts.
- (4) In securities investment, the Bank has not taken excessive risk. The amount of interest rate risk in both yen and foreign-currency exposures is maintained at a level that is not considered problematic relative to capital. Although price fluctuation risk involved in shares is large, valuation gains are functioning as buffers. Without planning to engage in active risk taking activities, the market risk is expected to be controlled appropriately given the large amount of valuation gains on available-for-sale securities.
- (5) The Bank's capital adequacy is commensurate with the AA range. The adjusted core capital ratio on a consolidated basis, after deducting items such as the allowance for doubtful accounts, stood at the higher 10% range at the end of the first half of FY2025. Going forward, risk-weighted assets are expected to grow due to strengthening loans to SMEs, and the impact of full implementation of Basel III finalization. Meanwhile, the Bank continues to manage its operations with an emphasis on maintaining a sound financial position, and it intends to maintain the consolidated capital adequacy ratio above 10%. In addition, profit levels have increased compared with previous fiscal years, making the accumulation of retained earnings more predictable. Considering the large amount of valuation gains centering on stocks, the Bank is expected to maintain the capital margin relative to substantive risk at a reasonable level for AA categories.

Hidekazu Sakai, Kei Aoki



Rating

Issuer: The Awa Bank, Ltd.

<Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: AA- Outlook: Stable

Rating Assignment Date: March 19, 2026

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of the rating methodology is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (October 1, 2024) and "Banks" (October 1, 2021) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

The rating stakeholder participated in the rating process of the aforementioned credit ratings.

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

Information herein has been obtained by JCR from the issuers and other sources believed to be accurate and reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, JCR makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to accuracy, results, adequacy, timeliness, completeness or merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, with respect to any such information, and is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for results obtained from the use of such information. Under no circumstances will JCR be liable for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages of any kind caused by the use of any such information, including but not limited to, lost opportunity or lost money, whether in contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, and whether such damages are foreseeable or unforeseeable. JCR's ratings and credit assessments are statements of JCR's current and comprehensive opinion regarding redemption possibility, etc. of financial obligations assumed by the issuers or financial products, and not statements of opinion regarding any risk other than credit risk, such as market liquidity risk or price fluctuation risk. JCR's ratings and credit assessments are statements of opinion, and not statements of fact as to credit risk decisions or recommendations regarding decisions to purchase, sell or hold any securities such as individual bonds or commercial paper. The ratings and credit assessments may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of information as well as other factors. JCR receives a rating fee paid by issuers for conducting rating services in principle. JCR retains all rights pertaining to this document, including JCR's rating data. Any reproduction, adaptation, alteration, etc. of this document, including such rating data, is prohibited, whether or not wholly or partly, without prior consent of JCR.

JCR is registered as a "Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization" with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to the following four classes. (1) Financial institutions, brokers and dealers, (2) Insurance Companies, (3) Corporate Issuers, (4) Issuers of government securities, municipal securities and foreign government securities.

JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	The Awa Bank, Ltd.
Rating Publication Date:	March 25, 2026

1

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

2

The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

3

The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

A) Business Bases

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

C) Liquidity Positions

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. - by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders

B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders

9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the warranty made by the issuer, the publication by the issuer, some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.
- If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of public or private credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

A) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

D) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when

the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

F) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

12

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

13

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

A) Business Bases

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

D) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the order of seniority in repayment of interests and principal. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches if the issuer's financial structure differs so much and thereby

the balance between debts shifted so greatly. Rating change is also possible in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turns out to be inaccurate. The change of the credit rating is assumed to be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14

Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	March 31, 1997	A+	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	August 10, 1998	A+	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	February 17, 2000	AA-	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	May 11, 2001	AA-	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	August 22, 2002	AA-	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 1, 2003	A+	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 25, 2004	A+	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 7, 2005	A+	
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 15, 2006	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 21, 2007	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 18, 2008	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 18, 2009	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 21, 2010	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 14, 2011	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 15, 2012	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 8, 2013	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 29, 2014	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 1, 2015	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 27, 2016	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 27, 2017	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	November 16, 2018	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 6, 2019	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 4, 2020	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	January 31, 2022	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	January 27, 2023	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	January 23, 2024	AA-	Stable
The Awa Bank, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	February 14, 2025	AA-	Stable

Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Tomohiro Miyao, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

宮尾 知浩

Tomohiro Miyao
General Manager of Financial Institution Rating Department

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026