News Release

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

26-D-1018
November 19, 2026

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

HANWA CO., LTD. (security code: 8078)

<Outlook Change>

Long-term Issuer Rating:	A
Outlook:	from Stable to Positive

<Affirmation>

Bonds:	A
Subordinated Loan:	BBB+
CP:	J-1

Rationale

(1) HANWA CO., LTD. (the “Company”) is the largest independent steel trading company. In the steel business, it has been pursuing differentiation through the “SOKOKA (Just-in-Time delivery, small lot, processing)” strategy by incorporating downstream distribution and processing functions through investments in distributors, steel processors, etc. While primarily engaging in the steel business, it also operates a wide range of other businesses including primary metal, metal recycling, food products and energy & living materials. Overseas, it is working on business expansion in growth markets, including Southeast Asia, as part of which it acquired in 2026 U.S.-based Associated Steel Group, LLC, which manufactures steel structures, as a subsidiary. It is aiming to become a supply chain creation company that goes beyond traditional trading to design and enhance supply chains themselves through business investment and business management.

(2) Earnings base is becoming stronger. Despite the challenging environment surrounding the core steel business, the Company is steadily generating profits by leveraging the SOKOKA strategy and its strengths in contract-based businesses, including steel frame construction. In other businesses, too, albeit some fluctuations in profits due to changes in commodity markets, it is making efforts to diversify earnings sources and increase added value, which underpin overall profits. Moreover, the financial structure is improving further as equity capital is strengthened through profit accumulation. Looking ahead, an increase in working capital and aggressive growth investments are anticipated, but the Company will probably continue disciplined financial management. Based on the above, JCR, while affirming the ratings on the Company, changed the outlook to Positive. Attention will be paid to such factors as progress in the measures to increase earnings capacity to be reflected in the rating.

(3) The Company projects ordinary income to rise 24.4% over the year to 65 billion yen in the fiscal year ending March 2027 (FY2026) to mark a new high. While profits are likely to remain at a high level in the steel business, equity in earnings/losses of an equity-method affiliate, which engages in the production of chromite ore and ferrochrome, is expected to improve from the previous year in the primary metal business. In the energy and living materials business, the Company has been able to secure a stable supply of products and translate this into profits even in the midst of the turmoil in the Middle East. Given that trading volumes are expected to keep growing overseas in FY2027 and beyond, including Southeast Asia, JCR assumes that robust performance will be maintained.

(4) Both equity ratio and net D/E ratio have improved significantly over the past few years, standing at 37.3% and 0.5x as of the end of FY2025, after considering the equity content of subordinated loans. In the medium-term business plan covering three years from FY2026, the Company sets an investment and lending capacity of 160 billion yen and intends to accelerate growth investment. As working capital requirements are also expected to increase with revenue growth, interest-bearing debt is most likely to remain on an uptrend during the period covered by the business plan. Yet, given that the Company also places importance on financial soundness, as evidenced by the quantitative target of keeping net D/E ratio at around 1.0x or below, JCR assumes it unlikely that the financial base will be materially impaired.

Masayoshi Mizukawa, Yosuke Sato

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Rating

Issuer: HANWA CO., LTD.

<Outlook Change>

Long-term Issuer Rating: A Outlook: Positive

<Affirmation>

Issue	Amount (bn)	Issue Date	Due Date	Coupon	Rating
Bonds no. 31	JPY 10	Sept. 25, 2018	Sept. 25, 2028	0.590%	A
Bonds no. 33	JPY 5	Nov. 2, 2022	Nov. 2, 2027	0.600%	A
Bonds no. 35	JPY 10	June 1, 2023	June 1, 2028	0.540%	A
Bonds no. 36	JPY 10	Oct. 24, 2024	Oct. 24, 2029	1.013%	A
Bonds no. 37	JPY 10	Sept. 10, 2026	Sept. 10, 2029	2.387%	A
Bonds no. 38	JPY 10	Sept. 10, 2026	Sept. 10, 2031	2.720%	A
Issue	Amount (bn)	Execution Date	Repayment Date	Interest Rate	Rating
Subordinated Loan	JPY 50	Mar. 15, 2024	Mar. 17, 2059	(Note)	BBB+

Note: 6M JPY TIBOR + initial spread for the interest periods from the Execution Date to and including the interest payment date 5 years later. 6M JPY TIBOR + initial spread + 1.00% step-up interest rate for the interest periods beginning after that date.

CP: J-1

Maximum: JPY 100 billion

Rating Assignment Date: November 16, 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), "Iron & Steel" (June 15, 2022) and "Ratings of Hybrid Securities" (September 10, 2012) 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.

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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.)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

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

Issuer:	HANWA CO., LTD.
Rating Publication Date:	November 19, 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.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

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 Rule17g-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)(l) 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) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

E) 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.

F) 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.

G) 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.

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The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 25, 2000	BBB-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 31, 2001	BBB-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 10, 2002	BBB-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 1, 2003	BBB	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 14, 2004	BBB	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 30, 2005	BBB	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 24, 2006	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 29, 2007	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 22, 2008	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 20, 2009	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 3, 2010	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 9, 2011	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 15, 2012	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 11, 2013	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 1, 2014	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 11, 2015	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 21, 2016	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 19, 2017	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 11, 2018	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 2, 2019	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 2, 2020	BBB+	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 1, 2021	A-	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 19, 2022	A-	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 13, 2023	A	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	November 21, 2024	A	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	Issuer(Long-term)	September 24, 2025	A	Stable
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 28, 1990	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	July 17, 1991	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	August 31, 1992	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	November 24, 1993	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	January 19, 1994	#J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	April 4, 1994	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 8, 1996	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	April 3, 1998	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 25, 2000	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 31, 2001	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 10, 2002	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 1, 2003	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 14, 2004	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 30, 2005	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 24, 2006	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 29, 2007	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 22, 2008	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 20, 2009	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 3, 2010	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 9, 2011	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 15, 2012	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 11, 2013	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 1, 2014	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 11, 2015	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 21, 2016	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 19, 2017	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 11, 2018	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 2, 2019	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 2, 2020	J-2	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	December 1, 2021	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 19, 2022	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	February 20, 2023	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	October 13, 2023	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	November 21, 2024	J-1	

The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
HANWA CO., LTD.	CP	September 24, 2025	J-1	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	September 14, 2018	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	December 11, 2018	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	December 2, 2019	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	December 2, 2020	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	December 1, 2021	A-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	October 19, 2022	A-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	October 13, 2023	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	November 21, 2024	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.31	September 24, 2025	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.33	October 27, 2022	A-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.33	October 13, 2023	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.33	November 21, 2024	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.33	September 24, 2025	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.35	May 26, 2023	A-	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.35	October 13, 2023	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.35	November 21, 2024	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.35	September 24, 2025	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.36	October 18, 2024	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.36	November 21, 2024	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.36	September 24, 2025	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.37	September 4, 2026	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Bonds no.38	September 4, 2026	A	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Loan(subordinated)	February 29, 2024	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Loan(subordinated)	November 21, 2024	BBB+	
HANWA CO., LTD.	Loan(subordinated)	September 24, 2025	BBB+	

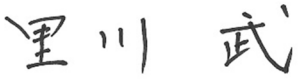
Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Takeshi Rikawa, 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.



Takeshi Rikawa
General Manager of Corporate Rating Department I

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