

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **Comprehensive Business Alliance with The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd.**

**TOKYO, May 24, 2007** – Aozora Bank Co., Ltd. (Chairman and CEO: Kimikazu Noumi, “Aozora Bank”) announces the conclusion of a comprehensive business alliance agreement with The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd. (President: Tadashi Ogawa, “The Bank of Yokohama”), to supplement the development of The Bank of Yokohama’s investment banking business aimed at corporate customers.

This business tie-up presents an opportunity for mutual business expansion in the joint provision of a diverse range of financial solutions for the investment banking needs of The Bank of Yokohama customers.

The Bank of Yokohama personnel are to operate a dedicated ‘The Bank of Yokohama Desk’ within Aozora Bank’s Investment Banking Division, together with the introduction of measures including systems for the dispatch of personnel for investment banking training, and short-term training for The Bank of Yokohama sales staff, in order to enhance the sourcing function for joint deals.

The establishment of an *Alliance Committee*, comprising representatives of both banks, is planned with the objective of maximizing the effectiveness of this tie-up.

The two parties view this alliance as starting point for continuing discussion on future collaborations outside of the investment banking business, but is in no way intended to stifle potential future alliances with other financial institutions.

Aozora Bank has long held a unique position in the Japanese banking sector, differentiating itself from other financial institutions through its neutrality, and partnership through its network of financial institutions.

Since the change in its top management in February 2007, Aozora has reaffirmed its commitment to being a unique, indispensable institution, firmly rooted in the Japanese financial system as a revitalized bank, to promote its management philosophy to fully implement global best practice standards, and to co-operate with regional financial institutions for mutual benefit.

This collaboration with The Bank of Yokohama represents an important step in Aozora Bank's mid- to long-term growth strategy to strengthen strategic business alliances, based on the development of mutually beneficial relationships with regional financial institutions in conjunction with the establishment of a stable business model. The alliance is firmly grounded in Aozora Bank's development of investment banking for financial institutions, as customers of the Bank.

*About Aozora Bank:*

*Aozora Bank, Ltd. is a leading provider of lending, securitization, business and asset revitalization, asset management, loan syndication and investment advisory services to financial institutions, corporate and retail customers. Originally established in 1957 as the Nippon Fudosan Bank, Ltd., the Bank changed its name to Aozora Bank, Ltd. in 2001. Aozora is proud of its heritage and the long-term relationships it has developed with corporate, financial and individual customers over the years. Building on this heritage, Aozora has created a strong customer-oriented and performance-based culture that will contribute to both innovative business solutions for customers and sustainable earnings growth for investors and shareholders. On November 14, 2006, Aozora successfully listed its shares on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.*

*News and other information about Aozora Bank, Ltd. is available at <http://www.aozorabank.co.jp/en/company/>*

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