

NEWS RELEASE

AOZORA ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF MERGER BETWEEN AOZORA SECURITIES AND JAPAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT SECURITIES AND COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Tokyo February 1, 2012 – Aozora Bank, Ltd. (“Aozora” or the “Bank”), a leading Japanese commercial bank, today announced the completion of the merger between its wholly-owned subsidiaries Aozora Securities Co., Ltd. and Japan Wealth Management Securities, Inc., and the commencement of their combined operations as the new Aozora Securities Co., Ltd.

Through the merger between Aozora Securities and JWM and the consolidation of their management resources, Aozora intends to streamline its business and enhance the range of products and services it provides to its retail and institutional customers, as well as strengthen and expand its asset management consultation business.

Brian F. Prince, Representative Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Aozora Bank stated, “We believe that the newly established Aozora Securities will make a significant contribution to the Bank's retail strategy by providing products and services to meet the needs of our customers. The firm will continue to enhance its services for corporate and financial institution customers taking advantage of the Bank's customer network. We appreciate the continued business and support from our customers.”

Sakae Yoshii, President and Representative Director of Aozora Securities, commented, “As a result of the merger, we will be in a good position to serve more customers as a member of a strong financial group such as Aozora. We appreciate your continued support, and our team at Aozora securities looks forward to working with our customers to meet their needs.”

Profile of the New Company after the Merger

(1) Name	Aozora Securities Co., Ltd.
(2) Address of Head Office	Shiroyama Trust Tower, 4-3-1 Toranomom, Minato-ku, Tokyo
(3) Name of Representative	Sakae Yoshii
(4) Capital	JPY 3,000 million
(5) Shareholder	Aozora Bank, Ltd. 100%