

December 21, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd
Maybank Investment Bank Berhad

Mizuho Securities and Maybank IB Sign MOU to Form Strategic Alliance

Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. (“MHSC”) and Maybank Investment Bank Berhad (“Maybank IB”), hereby jointly announce the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding to form a strategic alliance and work together in areas such as primary and secondary markets, M&A advisory, and Islamic markets, and to leverage our mutual expertise, experience and robust global networks to further develop markets in Malaysia, Japan and other regions.

The agreement was signed between President of MHSC, Keisuke Yokoo and the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Maybank IB, Mohammed Rashdan. Both MHSC and Maybank IB are confident that this new opportunity, along with greater coordination with the parent companies, Mizuho Corporate Bank and Maybank, will enable us to further strengthen our mutual businesses and provide our customers with a wider range of top-quality services.

As aggressive, innovative and forward-looking companies, our successful partnership will form the ideal platform to further develop businesses in the Asian region and spearhead a foray into new markets to complement the growing global aspirations of our parent companies.

Based on positive business growth from the existing strategic alliance between MHSC and Maybank IB, this tie-up provides optimal synergies for both parent company groups in terms of profiling and revenue potential. Both parties, MHSC and Maybank IB are optimistic that the collaboration will greatly expand our expertise and business networks in many areas.

About Maybank Investment Bank

Maybank Investment Bank was established in 1973 and is a full-fledged investment bank, whose business covers a broad range of financial solutions and advisory services. Maybank Investment Bank has demonstrated its resilience against the backdrop of an increasingly competitive and challenging operating environment – as evident from its entrenched position as one of the top investment banks on the local front. This is further noted by the numerous league table ranking and awards it has received between 2008 and 2009, such as The Asset Triple A Awards 2009 – Most Innovative Islamic Finance Deals, The Edge Starmine Awards 2009 – Top Rank in Mid and Small Cap Earning Estimates and RAM 2008 Lead Manager’s League Table – Ranked No. 1 by Value of Issues.

About Maybank

Maybank is Malaysia’s largest financial services group with operations in 13 other countries and over 700 offices worldwide. Total assets of the Group as at September 2009 stood at over MYR317 billion. The Maybank Group offers a comprehensive range of financial services and products ranging from commercial banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, credit cards, offshore banking, leasing and hire purchase, insurance, factoring, trustee services, asset management, stock broking, nominee services, venture capital and Internet banking. Maybank was voted Malaysia’s Most Valuable Brand in 2007 and 2008 (4As/Interbrand Poll). It was also ranked 122nd (first among Malaysian banks) in the list of world’s top 500 banking brands (Brand-Finance Global 500).

About Mizuho Securities

The new Mizuho Securities was formed on May 7, 2009, through the merger of Mizuho Securities and Shinko Securities. Concentrating on its combined strength as a global investment bank backed by a nationwide client base in Japan and full-service securities business network, Mizuho Securities provides best-in-class professional services to its diverse array of clients, ranging from individuals and households to domestic and overseas institutional investors, financial institutions, non-financial companies, and public corporations and entities.

Mizuho Securities, as a global investment bank, contributes to the development and expansion of capital markets, and, through its corporate activities, seeks to contribute to the creation of a better society where sustainable development is a reality.

About Mizuho Corporate Bank

Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. provides financial and strategic solutions for the increasingly diverse and sophisticated needs of clients, focusing its efforts on serving major corporations, financial institutions, and public sector entities. A relationship management approach to serving clients enables Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd., together with affiliates such as Mizuho Securities Co. Ltd., to develop customized solutions in areas such as corporate, structured and project finance, investment banking, transaction banking and risk management. With offices in more than 28 countries, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. offers clients both localized service and the extensive reach of a global business network. Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd. is a subsidiary of the Japan-based Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (NYSE: MFG), one of the largest financial services companies in the world, with total assets of over \$1.7 trillion as of September 30, 2009.