CHAPTER 1

Overview of The Norinchukin Bank

In this section, we introduce an overview of the Bank, the cooperative organizations (the cooperative system organizations) that are closely connected with the Bank, and our Purpose, as the background information to help readers better understand this Integrated Report.

Q How does The Norinchukin Bank differ from ordinary financial institutions?

A The Bank is the national financial institution for the cooperative system, whose members (investing organizations) include Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JAs), Japan Fishery Cooperatives (JFs), and Japan Forest Owners' Cooperatives (JForests). While the Bank provides financial services such as deposits and loans, it differs from ordinary financial institutions in that Article 1 of the Norinchukin Bank Act, its governing law, explicitly defines its mission as contributing to the development of the AFF industries by facilitating the smooth provision of financial services to these cooperative organizations and those engaged in the AFF industries.

Q Could you explain the relationship between the Bank and the cooperative organizations (JAs, JFs, and JForests)?

A For the Bank, cooperative system organizations such as JAs, JFs, and JForests are not only member organizations and capital contributors, but also users of our financial services, including deposits. In addition, as represented by the network of financial institutions known as JA Bank and JF Marine Bank, many of the Bank's businesses are carried out in close collaboration with these cooperative system organizations. The Bank and the cooperative organizations are also partners that work as one in promoting the development of the AFF industries through their integrated business operations.