

## **Business Alliance** **Between Dah Sing Financial Holdings and The Norinchukin Bank**

The Norinchukin Bank (“**Norinchukin**”) and Dah Sing Financial Holdings Limited (“**DSFH**”) today announced that Norinchukin and Dah Sing Bank, Limited (“**DSB**”), a subsidiary of DSFH, have entered into a Business Cooperation Agreement (“**Agreement**”) which sets out the framework for future business and strategic cooperation between Norinchukin and DSB to promote the food and agriculture business, including but not limited to the export of Japanese food and agricultural products to the Greater Bay Area (the region comprised of Hong Kong, Macau, and nine municipalities in Guangdong province, China), as well as the banking businesses of both parties in the region.

DSB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dah Sing Banking Group Limited, which in turn is 74.37% owned by DSFH, one of the leading Hong Kong-based financial groups active in providing banking, insurance and other financial-related services in the Greater Bay Area. Norinchukin is the national-level financial institution established for cooperative members in the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors in Japan, with the mission to provide financial services to agricultural, fisheries and forestry cooperatives as well as other members of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry cooperative system.

The strategic cooperation with DSFH complements strongly Norinchukin’s China strategy to support its customers in the region and to capture new opportunities particularly in the Greater Bay Area. The Agreement enables both parties to enhance their financial services through cooperation in the areas such as local currencies settlement, financing, business matching, M&A advisory, among others, which benefits customers of each bank.

The food and agriculture sector is important for the sustainable growth of the Japanese economy, with emphasis placed by the Japanese government on supporting food exports over the past decade. Hong Kong and Mainland China have long been the largest export markets for Japanese food products. According to data released by the Japanese government, the value of exports of food, farm, forestry and marine products to Mainland China surged 35.2% to JPY 222.4 billion (approx. USD1.93 billion) in 2021, while exports to Hong Kong increased by 6% to JPY219 billion (approx. USD 1.9 billion). The surge in exports to Mainland China helped Japan achieve its JPY 1 trillion food export target last year, and laid a solid foundation for its targets of JPY 2 trillion and JPY 5 trillion by 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Hong Kong people have a strong appetite and long-held preferences for Japanese food and agricultural products because of our variety and reliable quality. With rising income

levels and increasingly affluent lifestyles in Mainland China, we believe the outlook is robust for growth in an increasingly diverse range of Japanese foods exports.