

R&I Signed the Three Parties MOU with NICE & Dagong

R&I signed the three parties MOU with National Information & Credit Evaluation, Inc. and Dagong Global Credit Rating Co.

Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) is pleased to announce that on May 10, 2007, it signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Korea's National Information & Credit Evaluation, Inc. ("NICE", President and C.E.O: Mr. Yong Hi Lee) and China's Dagong Global Credit Rating Co. ("Dagong", President: Mr. Guan Jianzhong) to promote the mutual cooperation.

Since 2000, R&I has been strengthening the cooperative relations with NICE by mutually exchanging the non-confidential information and published materials related to credit ratings, and by exchanging the analysts for the training purposes. This time, by enlarging this cooperative framework with Dagong and deepening the business relationship among the three credit rating agencies based in Japan, Korea and China, R&I endeavors to further develop their capability as credit rating agencies in these three countries. Under the MOU, the three parties will exchange the non-confidential information and research results related to credit ratings and industries, and send their analysts to each other's place of business in order to better understand the rating methodologies and criteria. The MOU also includes the holding of the joint seminars. As the market of credit rating information is expected to grow in East Asia, R&I will provide more information on the creditworthiness of the Japanese companies located in Korea and China, as well as the trends of capital markets.

R&I was established in 1998 by a merger of Nippon Investors Service (NIS) and Japan Bond Research Institute (JBRI). Since JBRI started its rating activity as the first rating agency in Japan in 1977, R&I has been providing more ratings than any other credit rating agency in Japan. As of March 31, 2007, R&I had 673 Issuer Ratings with respect to Japanese issuers. In addition to its prominence in the capital markets for its ratings of Japanese issuers, R&I rates securities and issuers on a global basis. For additional information about R&I and R&I's credit ratings, please visit www.r-i.co.jp

Profile of Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I)

Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan

Capitalization : 588 million yen

President & C.E.O.: Keiichiro Kuboniwa

Number of employees: 162 (as of March 31, 2007)

Main Shareholder: Nikkei Group (58.52% as of March 31, 2007)