



NEWS RELEASE

June 3, 2008

Bank Negara Malaysia Recognized R&I as an ECAI under Basel II R&I Contributes to the Funding Activities of Japanese Corporations in Malaysia

On June 3, 2008, Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) received a letter from Bank Negara Malaysia (Central Bank of Malaysia) informing that the recognition as an External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI) was given to R&I.

Malaysia has implemented revised capital frameworks for banking institutions under Basel II since January 1, 2008. R&I was recognized as an institution providing ratings that can be used for regulatory capital computation purposes of Malaysian banks. The recognition does not include Islamic debt securities but includes broad asset classes, i.e., public finance, corporates, banking institutions and investment companies, insurance companies and structured finance. There are many Japanese corporations and their subsidiaries active in Malaysia. With the recognition of R&I as an ECAI, Malaysian banks are allowed to refer to R&I's ratings when the banks extend loans to Japanese corporations or invest in debt securities issued by them.

This is the third recognition for R&I as an ECAI in the Asian region following recognitions in Japan and Hong Kong. R&I has also been designated as an Approved Credit Rating Agency by Securities Exchange Commission of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the rating of R&I can be used when non-residents and subsidiaries of overseas corporations issue debt securities denominated in local currency.

In the United States, R&I is registered as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO) under the Credit Rating Agency Reform Act by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

R&I believes that this recognition as an ECAI is a reflection of R&I's efforts to expand the acceptance of our ratings by investors, especially in the yen-denominated debt market, and the efforts to secure objectivity, independence, transparency and credibility of our ratings. R&I will strive further to improve the trustworthiness of our ratings, in order to become one of the most credible, most widely used credit rating agencies.

R&I was established in 1998 by a merger of Nippon Investors Service (NIS) and Japan Bond Research Institute (JBRI). As of May 31, 2008, R&I had 746 long-term issuer ratings with respect to Japanese Issuers. In addition, R&I rates securities and issuers on a global basis. R&I rates 88 foreign issuers, including 42 sovereigns. R&I has offices in New York and Hong Kong.

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

Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
Capitalization: 588 million yen
President & CEO: Keiichiro Kuboniwa
Number of employees: 187 (as of May 31, 2008)
Main Shareholder: Nikkei Group (58.6% as of May 31, 2008)

For further information, please contact R&I Corporate Planning Division
Tel: +81-3-3276-3448
E-mail: infodept@r-i.co.jp

Rating and Investment Information, Inc. Nihonbashi 1-chome Bldg., 1-4-1, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0027, Japan
Corporate Planning Dept. TEL:03-3276-3497 FAX:03-3276-3405 URL:<http://www.r-i.co.jp> E-mail:infodept@r-i.co.jp

Ratings are statements of R&I's opinion shown in certain symbols regarding an Issuer's general capacity (credit quality) to repay its financial obligation and individual debts (bonds and loans, etc.) and it is not a statement of recommendations to buy, hold, or sell any securities. Information has been obtained by R&I from sources believed to be reliable, however, its accuracy, adequacy, or completeness is not guaranteed. Therefore, R&I is not responsible for any errors or omissions or the result obtained from the use of the rating. As a general rule, R&I provides the rating services for a rating fee paid by the Issuer.

©Rating and Investment Information, Inc.