

*Translation*

*The following is an English translation of an independent assurance report prepared in Japanese and is for information and reference purposes only. In the event of a discrepancy between the Japanese and English versions, the Japanese version will prevail.*

July 22, 2024

**Independent practitioner's assurance report**

TO :

Mr. Yoshihisa Kasahara, President and Representative Director  
Kyushu Financial Group, Inc.

*Scope*

We have been engaged by Kyushu Financial Group, Inc. (hereafter the "Company") to perform a 'limited assurance engagement', as defined by International Standards on Assurance Engagements (hereafter referred to as the "engagement") to report on the Company's Principles 2.1 through 2.3 and 5.1 included in the PRB report (hereafter the "Report") and part of the quantitative information (hereafter the "Indicators") (both together the "Subject Matter") for the period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 as contained in the Company's website "Initiatives for the PRB (Principles for Responsible Banking)" (hereafter the "WEB Information"). For the Indicators, the scope of our assurance procedures was limited to the Indicators marked with the symbol "☑" in the WEB Information.

*Criteria applied by the Company*

In preparing the Subject Matter, the Company applied the "UNEP FI PRB Reporting and self-assessment template" and "Definition of ESG investments and loans" included in the WEB information (hereafter the "Criteria").

*The Company's responsibilities*

The Company's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the Subject Matter in accordance with that Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant to the preparation of the subject matter, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*EY's responsibilities*

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the presentation of the Subject Matter based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the *International Standard for Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* ('ISAE 3000 (Revised)'), and the terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with the Company on May 10, 2024. Those standards require that we plan and perform our engagement to express a conclusion on whether we are aware of any material modifications that need to be made to the Subject Matter in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria, and to issue a report. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusions.

#### *Our independence and quality management*

We have maintained our independence and confirm that we have met the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, and have the required competencies and experience to conduct this assurance engagement.

EY also applies International Standard on Quality Management 1, *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services engagements*, which requires that we design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

#### *Description of procedures performed*

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the Subject matter and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Making enquiries regarding the Criteria used and evaluating the appropriateness thereof;
- Inspecting relevant documents with regard to the design of the Company's internal controls related to the Subject Matter, and enquiring of personnel responsible thereof,
- Performing analytical procedures concerning the Subject Matter;
- Testing, on a sample basis, underlying source information and conducting relevant re-calculations.

We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Additionally, the procedures we have carried out in response to the PRB report are based on the "Guidance for Assurance Providers: Providing Limited Assurance for Reporting (Version 2)" published by UNEP FI in November 2022.

Our objective was to evaluate if the Company's description of processes, activities and their outcomes described in the Report sufficiently reflects actions taken by the Company, rather than evaluating the applied approach itself. This individual assessment of whether the Company is aligned with the requirements of the Principles of Responsible Banking and is meeting its commitments will be undertaken by a sustainability expert within the UNEP FI Secretariat (the Review Expert).

*Conclusion*

Based on our procedures performed and the evidence obtained, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the Subject Matter for the period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria.

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