

Message from the President

I am pleased to report on the business performance of the Nishi-Nippon City Bank Group for the fiscal year ended March 2015.

On October 1, 2014, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our foundation; so, before beginning the report, I would like to express on behalf of our entire staff and management our most sincere appreciation to our valued customers, host communities, and shareholders for the warm support and patronage that they have so generously extended to us over the past decade.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015, the Japanese economy made a rather slow start, as consumption and production weakened in reaction to last-minute demands prior to the consumption tax hike in April. Since then, the economy has been on a mild recovery path as a result of a turnaround in consumer spending due to improvements in employment/income environments. The economy of Kyushu, where the Group is based, also continues to recover steadily on the back of improving employment/income environments, although it appears that consumer spending remains weak.

Under these business conditions, April 2014 saw the launch of our new Medium-term Business Plan “New Stage 2014 – Working up a Sweat for Our Customers,” which upholds the basic concept of a “Territorial Expansion and Qualitative Development Stage”: When we tap into the Group’s collective strength to achieve further growth for our customers.” While pursuing our four basic strategies, namely, “Developing trustworthy human resources,” “Establishing business promotion with optimal solutions for each customer,” “Improving lifetime comprehensive support,” and “Expanding the sales territory,”



we have focused on enhancing the Group’s comprehensive financial strength.

In addition to these initiatives, we launched a series of 10th anniversary celebratory projects out of a sincere desire to express our heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders and aim for “further leap forward” as we grow into the future together with our customers and host communities over the coming decade.

During the fiscal year under review, in which we kicked off the new Medium-term Business Plan, our efforts have borne fruit in terms of both income and volume.

Bearing our duty as a regional financial institution firmly in mind, both our staff and management will continue to make relentless efforts to revitalize the regional economy.

Your continued understanding of and support for our future endeavors is greatly appreciated.

July 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Tanigawa".

Hiromichi Tanigawa, *President*