Comprehensive Measures to Facilitate Financing for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), etc.

"Act concerning Temporary Measures to Facilitate Financing for SMEs, etc." <Temporary Legislation>

Responsibility of Financial Institutions

When requested by an SME or a residential mortgage borrower to ease debt burden, financial institutions* strive to revise the loan terms, etc.

(*) banks; Shinkin banks, credit cooperatives, labor banks, agricultural cooperatives, fishery cooperatives, and those federations; and the Norinchukin Bank

Obligations of Financial Institutions

Financial institutions are obliged to:

- Develop internal systems for fulfilling the above responsibilities of financial institutions
- · Disclose information on implementation of the responsibilities of financial institutions and the development of internal systems (False statements are subject to criminal penalty.)

Administrative Measures

- Financial institutions are obliged to report the information on their implementation to the supervising agencies (False statements in the report are subject to criminal penalty.)
- The authority will summarize the reports from financial institutions and publish the summary on regular basis.

Further Support Measures

The Credit Guarantee System is further enhanced, etc.

Other Measures

- Government-related Financial Institutions, etc. are also requested to strive to revise the loan terms, etc. in order to facilitate financing for SMEs, etc. in accordance with the intention of the Act.
- The executives of the Financial Services Agency directly meet and exchange opinions with local SMEs, in cooperation with the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, etc.
- The consideration of utilizing the "Act on Special Measures for Strengthening Financial Functions" is further promoted.

Measures of the **Financial** Inspection and Supervision

- •The Inspection Manual and Supervisory **Guidelines are revised** in line with the enforcement of the Act.
- Financial inspection and supervision will focus on checking the efforts of financial institutions for enhanced financing and support for business improvement of SMEs.