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Financial Services Agency Newsletter

Access FSA

No.262



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Annual meeting of the National Association of Shinkin Banks —Speech by Minister of State for Financial Services Kato

On June 20 this year, the annual meeting of the National Association of Shinkin Banks was held, and Minister Kato delivered the following speech.

Opening remarks

My name is Kato Katsunobu, and I am Minister of State for Financial Services. I sincerely appreciate being invited to the annual meeting of the National Association of Shinkin Banks today.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you for holding this meeting and offer a few words upon its opening.

I express once again my respect to Shinkin Banks for leading the growth of regional economies by not only providing financing assistance to regional business operators but also supporting them in various aspects on a day-to-day basis.



Photo: Minister Kato delivering a speech
(Source) The National Association of Shinkin Banks

On U.S. tariff measures

Recently, we have heard some voices of concern from business operators about the future impact of the U.S. tariff measures.

In order to prevent disruptions to financing for business operators, in April, ahead of the announcement of the government's package of measures to deal with the tariff measures, I issued a ministerial statement requesting financial institutions to:

- actively identify the business situation and fund needs of business operators by establishing and operating contact points for consultation; and
- make sure to provide meticulous assistance, including granting a repayment moratorium and modifying lending terms.

As we continue to cooperate with relevant ministries and agencies in doing our utmost to deal with the tariff measures, I request understanding and cooperation from you.

On a Regional Financing Capacity Enhancement Plan

Facing these economic circumstances, I am reminded how much regional business operators rely on you.

I believe that this is evidence that you have for many years embodied the “Face-to-Face” catch phrase, which is used as a logo design for the Shinkin Bank industry, and cultivated trust through close communications with regional business operators. I expect that Shinkin Banks will play a significant role in the Regional Revitalization 2.0 initiative by taking advantage of their close relationships with regional business operators to unlock the latent potential of regions, for example.

In order to energize regional economies amid expectations of population decline and the aging society, I believe that it is essential that Shinkin Banks exercise, to the maximum possible extent, their capacity to contribute to regional economies, that is, the regional financing capacity, so under my leadership, the FSA will draw up a Regional Financing Capacity Enhancement Plan, which will comprise a package of relevant measures.

While the details have yet to be considered, the Plan will have the following two pillars:

- supporting regional financial institutions in exercising a broad range of financial intermediary functions; and
- developing an environment that enables regional financial institutions to sufficiently perform that role.

Regarding the first pillar, I believe that the government needs to strongly promote not only the supply of funds (investments and loans) to promising projects but also initiatives to contribute to regions, such as:

- providing M&A support for regional business operators;
- attracting necessary businesses and workers to regions; and
- supporting DX activity by regional companies.

I hope that Shinkin Banks will use their arsenal of resources, including regional information, networks of regional economies, human resources, and wisdom.

As for the second pillar, in order to continue exercising high-quality financial intermediary functions, it is necessary for Shinkin Banks themselves as support providers to develop a management foundation suited to devoting efforts to providing support, in terms of both financial and human resources, without worry.

Specifically, we will consider extending the period of and expanding the scale of systems for capital participation and financing that are intended to enhance the financial functions. In light of recent cases of misconduct at regional financial institutions, the FSA also plans to consider how to ensure appropriate business management and operation at financial institutions that accept capital participation.

Going forward, we will draw up the Plan by the end of this year and strongly promote it.

We will draw up and promote the Plan while moving in step with and soliciting forward-looking proposals from Shinkin Banks, which are responsible for exercising regional financing capacity.

On Promoting Japan as a leading asset management center

Along with the enhancement of the regional financing capacity, promoting Japan as a leading asset management center is another major policy challenge.

The government is conducting an initiative to promote Japan as a leading asset management center in order to consolidate the shift from savings to investment and support asset formation by the people.

Because of the efforts made by Shinkin Banks, since the shift to the new NISA system, some

results have become visible. For example, one in four people aged 18 or older have recently come to hold a NISA account, while the goal of increasing the cumulative amount of purchases made through NISA accounts to 56 trillion yen has been attained more than two years ahead of schedule.

To maintain and strengthen the momentum toward establishing Japan as a leading asset managing center, it is important to continue developing the following initiatives in various sectors:

- enabling individuals to engage in asset formation in line with their respective life plans;
- steadily promoting the reforms of the asset management industry and asset ownership; and
- implementing governance and management reforms in ways that deliver substantial results.

While listening to the opinions of relevant people from various quarters, including the financial industry, the government will conduct an in-depth study and work out measures that should be implemented in the future,

Shinkin Banks are familiar places for local customers where they can seek consultation about asset formation, so we request your continued cooperation.

The government is also promoting Japan as an investment powerhouse that attracts capital from within and outside Japan for bold investments in industries, including investments in regions.

We will strive to facilitate flows of necessary funds to regional companies and industries with growth potential while obtaining cooperation from regional financial institutions in inducing investment for growth through consulting with clients and supplying long-term risk funds through regional revitalization funds.

Closing remarks

At the 254 Shinkin Banks across Japan, around 100,000 employees work hard day to day to support regions.

Although the Japanese economy is facing structural challenges, I am convinced that the accumulation of support from each of you will no doubt lead to the development of regions, energize the whole of Japan and open up the future.

I would like to conclude my speech by praying for the further development of the Shinkin Bank industry and the well-being of all the people participating in this meeting.

Balance Adjustments Regarding CPA Examination

—Reforming the Framework for Operating the Examination and the Contents of Questions to Accurately Assess the Abilities of Candidates

YOSHIZAWA Takashi, Planning Management and CPA Examination Division, Executive Bureau,
Certified Public Accountants and Auditing Oversight Board

1. Introduction

In order to implement measures related to capital markets, such as promoting Japan as a leading asset management center, it is necessary for discipline in capital markets as infrastructure supporting a virtuous cycle in the investment chain to work sufficiently and that the credibility of the markets is ensured. To that end, it is important for the audit process, which ensures the credibility of financial information disclosed by investee companies, to continue functioning appropriately, so securing the qualifications and abilities of certified public accountants (CPAs), who are responsible for conducting the audit process, has become an important challenge.

The CPA Examination is a test conducted at the start of the process of selecting and training CPAs. Around 20 years have passed since the CPA examination took the current format in 2006. In the meantime, as the number of registered CPAs has more than doubled, the number of accounting professionals on a society-wide basis has become very large. Meanwhile, because of an increase in candidates for the CPA examination and the expansion of the scope of knowledge and abilities required of CPAs, concerns have emerged from the viewpoint of securing the qualifications and abilities of candidates who have passed the examination.

In light of the above situation, the Certified Public Accountants and Auditing Oversight Board (hereinafter the “CPAAB”) published “Balance Adjustments Regarding CPA Examination—Reforming the Framework for Operating the Examination and the Contents of Questions to Accurately Assess the Abilities of Candidates” (hereinafter the “examination balance adjustment”) in June this year.^{*1}

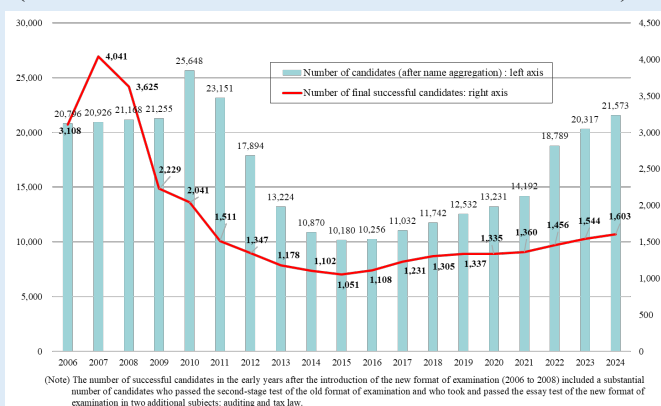
2. Necessity of examination balance adjustments

(1) The situation surrounding CPAs

Following the introduction of the new format of examination in 2006, the number of candidates for the CPA examination fell to around 10,000 people due to the “waiting successful candidate problem” but has risen above 20,000 in recent years. <See Figure 1>

Following the increase in the number of candidates, the pass rate for the multi-choice test^{*2} test has declined, while the pass rate for the essay test^{*3} has become relatively high. This situation poses problems from the viewpoints of the respective positions and roles of those tests.

<Figure 1> Changes in the numbers of candidates and final successful candidates (since the introduction of the new format of examination)



Specifically, the multi-choice test is intended to assess whether candidates have a systematic grasp of the knowledge that is necessary for taking the essay test by asking a broad range of basic questions.

^{*1} Published on June 12, 2025 <https://www.fsa.go.jp/cpaaob/kouninkaikeshi-shiken/20250612.html> [Available in Japanese]

^{*2} The multi-choice test is conducted twice each year under the bubble sheet system. Candidates are required to take the test in the following four subjects: financial accounting, management accounting, auditing, and corporate law.

^{*3} The essay test is conducted once each year for candidates who have passed the multi-choice test. Candidates are required to take the test in the following five subjects: accounting (financial accounting and management accounting), auditing, corporate law, and tax law, and one of the optional subjects (business administration, economics, Civil Code, or statistics).

Given that the pass rate is too low and questions with a high number of points allotted have a disproportionately large impact on pass or failure, many candidates may fail despite having a systematic grasp of the necessary knowledge. On the other hand, in the case of the essay test, which is intended to make final assessment as to whether candidates possesses the academic knowledge and application skills that are necessary for CPAs by placing assessment emphasis on thinking ability and application skills, candidates who are not sufficiently trained in terms of thinking ability and application skills may pass the test given that the pass rate is relatively high and that the required length of written answers has been reduced in some subjects.

(2) The situation surrounding CPAs

The situation surrounding CPAs is changing. For example, while it is necessary to enhance audit quality control, there are moves to use IT in the audit process and to introduce the disclosure of sustainability information and sustainability assurance at the same time. As a result, the scope of knowledge and abilities required of CPAs and those who have passed the CPA Examination is expanding.

In response to this situation, CPAAOB has decided to reform the framework for operating the examination and the contents of questions (examination balance adjustments) so that the abilities of candidates can be assessed more accurately.

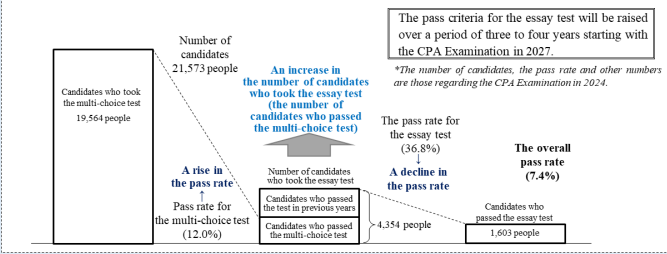
3. Specifics of examination balance adjustments

- (1) Adjustment of the pass rates for the multi-choice test and the essay test (Revision of the pass criteria for the essay test) [To be implemented starting with the CPA Examination in 2027]

The low pass rate for the multi-choice test is forcing candidates to concentrate efforts on this test, which mainly comprises true-or-false questions. This situation raises concerns from the viewpoint of securing the qualifications and abilities of candidates who have passed the test.

Therefore, in order to enable more people to take the essay test and ensure fair competition in the test, the number of candidates eligible to take the essay test (candidates who have passed the multi-choice test) will be increased. (The pass criteria for the essay test will be raised.) <See Figure 2>

<Figure 2> Diagram showing the increase in the number of candidates for the essay test



- (2) Adjustment of the number of points allotted per question in the multi-choice test and the test duration [To be implemented starting with the examination in 2026]

In the subjects of the multi-choice test that ask calculation questions (financial accounting and management accounting), the number of questions asked is small due to the time constraint, and this poses a problem from the viewpoint of accurately assessing the abilities of candidates. Moreover, the small number of questions asked means that the number of points allotted per question is high, and the questions asked in those two subjects therefore have a disproportionately large impact on pass or failure.

Therefore, in the subjects of the multi-choice test that ask calculation questions (financial accounting and management accounting), the number of questions will be increased in order to reduce differences across subjects in the number of points allotted per question. Accordingly, the durations of time allotted to the individual subjects will be adjusted. <See Figure 3>

<Figure 3> Specifics of the adjustment of the number of points allotted per question and the duration of test regarding the multiple-choice test

	Points allotted (total number of points)	Duration of test	Number of questions	Number of points allotted per question		Points allotted (total number of points)	Duration of test	Number of questions	Number of points allotted per question
Financial accounting	200 points	120 minutes	28 questions	8 points for theoretical and calculation questions (4 points for comprehensive questions related to consolidated accounting)		200 points	150 minutes	Approx. 35 questions	Lowering the points allotted per question (raising the number of points for comprehensive questions related to consolidated accounting)
Management accounting	100 points	60 minutes	16 questions	5 points for theoretical questions 7 or 8 points for calculation questions		100 points	75 minutes	18 questions	Lowering the points allotted per question for calculation questions
Auditing	100 points	60 minutes	20 questions	5 points		100 points	50 minutes	20 questions	5 points
Corporate law	100 points	60 minutes	20 questions	5 points		100 points	50 minutes	20 questions	5 points

There will be no change in the number of points allotted to the individual subjects or in the ratio between the number of points allotted to calculation and the number of points allotted to theoretical questions.

(3) Approach to issues related to questions asked in the CPA Examination and the assessment of abilities

It is necessary to ensure that the contents of questions asked in the examination are appropriate to the knowledge and abilities required of CPAs, so the measures (i) to (iii) indicated below will be implemented.

(i) Questions appropriate to the positions and roles of the multi-choice test and the essay test [To be implemented starting with the examination in 2026]

In some subjects of the essay test, the required length of written answers is too short (there are no questions that require written answers long enough to allow logical development). Therefore, questions that require a certain length of written answers will be asked in order to examine the thinking and writing abilities.

(ii) Ensuring appropriate assessment of abilities in the optional subjects of the essay test

Economics and statistics, which are among the optional subjects, are supposed to be chosen mainly by candidates who are good at those two subjects, so the average of raw scores obtained by candidates in those subjects is high. This means that candidates who choose those subjects are put at a disadvantage when the test scores are converted into the score ratio as is the case at present. Therefore, we will consider a score conversion method that enables appropriate assessment of abilities.

(iii) Questions adapted to the expansion of the scope of tasks and abilities required of CPAs

In light of the relevance of English proficiency to the tasks for CPAs due to factors such as the expansion of the scope of companies to which IFRS is applicable, the Tokyo Stock Exchange's requirement for English-language disclosure, and the enhancement of group audit, we will consider asking questions in English in the subjects of accounting and audit.

We will also consider asking questions related to the disclosure of sustainability information, sustainability assurance, and the use of IT in light of how the introduction of relevant systems is proceeding.

4. Conclusion

Regarding the CPA Examination, it is necessary not only to make examination balance adjustments but also consider measures to address issues related to the operation of the examination, such as digitalization, including the introduction of computer-based testing (CBT), the reduction of operating cost, and the exemption system.

CPA AOB will continue to implement the CPA examination in a stable manner and improve the operation of the examination in light of the situation surrounding the CPA examination and CPAs by addressing issues related to the examination, including examination balance adjustments.

<Reference> Outline of the balance adjustments regarding the CPA Examination

[Approach (i)] **Adjustment of the pass rates for the multi-choice test and the essay test**

(revision of the pass criteria for the essay test) [To be implemented starting with the CPA Examination in 2027]

- The low pass rate for the multi-choice test is forcing candidates to concentrate efforts on this test, which mainly comprises true-or-false questions. This situation raises concerns from the viewpoint of securing the qualifications and abilities of candidates who have passed the test.



To enable more people to take the essay test and ensure fair competition in the test, the number of candidates eligible to take the essay test (candidates who have passed the multi-choice test) will be increased. (The pass criteria for the essay test will be raised.)

*As a result, the pass rate for the multi-choice test is expected to rise, while the pass rate for the essay test is expected to decline.

[Approach (ii)] **Adjustment of the number of points allotted per question in the multi-choice test and the test duration**

[To be implemented starting with the CPA Examination in 2026]

- In the subjects of the multi-choice test that ask calculation questions (financial accounting and management accounting), the number of questions asked is small due to the time constraint, and this poses a problem from the viewpoint of accurately assessing the abilities of candidates. (Moreover, the small number of questions asked means that the number of points allotted per question is high, and the questions asked in those two subjects therefore have a disproportionately large impact on pass or failure.)



In the subjects of the multi-choice test that ask calculation questions (financial accounting and management accounting), the number of questions will be increased in order to reduce differences across subjects in the number of points allotted per question. (Accordingly, the durations of time allotted to the individual subjects will be adjusted.)

*There will be no change in the number of points allotted to the individual subjects or in the ratio between the number of points allotted to calculation questions and the number of points allotted to theoretical questions.

[Approach (iii)] **Approach to issues related to questions asked in the CPA Examination and the assessment of candidates' abilities**

- It is necessary to ensure that the contents of questions asked in the examination are appropriate to the knowledge and abilities required of CPAs.



(1) Questions appropriate to the positions and roles of the multi-choice test and the essay test

[To be implemented starting with the examination in 2026]

- In the essay test, it is necessary to ask questions that require a certain length of written answers in order to examine the thinking and writing abilities.
- (2) Ensuring appropriate assessment of abilities in the optional subjects of the essay test
 - Regarding optional subjects that are chosen by fewer candidates, CPA AOB will consider a score conversion method that enables appropriate assessment of abilities.
- (3) Questions adapted to the expansion of the scope of tasks and abilities required of CPAs
 - CPA AOB will consider asking questions in English and questions related to the disclosure of sustainability information, sustainability assurance, and the use of IT.

Fintech Evolution held as a spinoff program of FIN/SUM 2025 (@ Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai)

This program was held during the [Theme Weeks of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai](#) as a spinoff of [FIN/SUM 2025](#),*1 the largest fintech conference in Japan, launched in 2016 under the co-sponsorship of Nikkei Inc. and the FSA and held in March this year to discuss themes such as generative AI, digital assets, local communities, and insurance from various viewpoints. In the program, three-part panel discussions were held with respect to the current state of and future outlook on the technology.



➤ Date and time

May 22 (Thursday) 10:30-16:00

➤ Venue

Theme Weeks Studio, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

➤ Program

Part 1: The History of Fintech and Where We Are Now

Part 2: Explaining the use of fintech inside and outside the Expo site

Part 3: The Future Created by Fintech



▀ What is Theme Weeks? ▀

This is an initiative to realize the vision of “designing a future society for our lives” through dialogue among countries around the world in order to resolve global challenges.

Dialogue programs and business exchanges were held under eight themes: “Co-creating cultures for the future,” “The Future of Community and Mobility,” “Necessities of Life: Food, Clothing and Shelter,” “Health and Well-being,” “Learning and Playing,” “Peace, Human Security and Dignity,” “The Future of Earth and Biodiversity,” and “SDGs+Beyond Future Society for Life.” Fintech Evolution was held as a program under “The Future of Community and Mobility” theme.



Part 1: The History of Fintech and Where We Are Now

➤ Speakers

- ◆ OGAWA Keiko, EY Strategy & Consulting/EY Japan FSO (Financial Services Organization), Leader Partner
- ◆ KAWAI Yuko, Deputy President, Kochi Bank
- ◆ BESSHO Masaki, Kobe Branch Manager, Bank of Japan
- ◆ MIWA Junpei, CEO, National Liberal Arts, Inc./Director, Fintech Association of Japan
- ◆ YAMADA Yasuaki, CEO, GiveFirst
- ◆ BABA Yumi (moderator), Deputy Director, Innovation Promotion Office, Risk Analysis Division, Strategy and Management Bureau, FSA

➤ Outline

In Part 1, the speakers held discussions on what they expect of fintech in the future while reflecting on the history of fintech in Japan.

While the perception was shared that among the major factors that have led to the emergence in Japan of fintech as a term and technology and its social implementation since the 2010s were the arrival of smartphones and the spread of e-commerce, it was pointed out that the banking industry at that time was lacking from the viewpoints of enhancement of customer experience and data utilization.

*1 An overview of Japan Fintech Week 2025, including FIN/SUM2025, held in March, was provided in the April issue of ACCESS FSA (No. 260) as well.

<https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/newsletter/accessfsa2025/260.pdf>

It was recognized that Japan has now come to a stage where users use financial services without being conscious of using fintech and that going forward, it will become necessary to monetize fintech by using payment data accumulated through this technology.

At the same time, the opinion was expressed that it is necessary to use fintech from a broader perspective in light of the possibility that the technology may contribute to resolving social challenges, including the population decline and tourism promotion.

The FSA mentioned that the AI Discussion Paper, published in March,^{*2} pointed out that regarding AI, financial institutions are facing the “risk of not taking actions” and indicated the policy of supporting active use of AI in the financial industry.



〔 Photo: Discussion being held in Part 1 〕

Part 2: Explaining the use of fintech inside and outside the Expo site

Speakers

- ◆ FUJIMOTO Mamoru, Executive Officer, SBI Holdings
- ◆ ENDO Naoki, Executive Officer, Head of Transaction Business Division, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
- ◆ KAWABE Hidefumi, Executive Officer and Group CDIO, in charge of the Personal DX Department, Corporate DX Department and Data Science Department, Resona Holdings, Inc.
- ◆ SATO Ichio (moderator), Big Data Division Manager, President's Office, SBI Holdings

Outline

In Part 2, the representatives from the three companies that provide fintech-based services, “MYAKU-PE!” (payment), “MYAKU-PO!” (points), and “MYAKU-N! (NFT: Non-Fungible Token)” at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, took the podium and explained how fintech is being used at the expo and the attractive features of those services.

MYAKU-PE!, a service provided by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, is adapted to code payment, contactless payment and ID payment and can be used at convenience stores and supermarket stores across Japan. In addition, it was mentioned that at stores at the expo site, hands-free payment using facial recognition technology, which is a payment method of the future, is available.

The representative from Resona Bank explained the features of MYAKU-PO, a point-collecting app using a blockchain, and described the results of a regional premium coupon program sharing the infrastructure with MYAKU-PO and the use of MYAKU-PO within and outside the expo site.

The representative from SBI Holdings explained the features of MYAKU-N, an NFT service, including various ways of enjoying the service, including acquiring NFTs such as Status MYAKU-N, Campaign MYAKU-N and My MYAKU-N tokens, and original NFTs created in collaboration with municipalities across Japan.



〔 Photo: Discussion being held in Part 2 〕

^{*2} Published on March 4, 2025.
<https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/news/2025/20250304/aidp.html>

Part 3: The Future Created by Fintech

Speakers

- ◆ OKITA Takashi, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Fintech Association of Japan/CEO, Nudge
- ◆ ITO Masaki, President and CEO, Senshu Ikeda Holdings/Group 01 Bank
- ◆ UCHIDA Syuji, Deputy General Manager, WESTER-X Business Division, and General Manager, Payment Services, West Japan Railway Company
- ◆ KANEMITSU Midori, Executive Officer and Head of Business Strategy Division, bitFlyer
- ◆ IGARASHI Hozue (moderator), Counselor, Risk Analysis Division, Policy Management Bureau, FSA

Outline

In Part 3, discussions were held across the industrial, regional, and administrative boundaries with a view to demonstrating the possibilities of fintech services with unique Japanese features.

Four people, Mr. Okita, Mr. Ito, Mr. Uchida, and Ms. Kanemitsu, explained the attractive features of fintech services in Japan from various standpoints. Okita is in charge of a credit card service collaborating with *oshikatsu* fandom activities, while Ito is planning a digital bank for small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in collaboration with SaaS (Software as a Service). Uchida, whose company has entered the fintech sector from an industry related

neither to finance nor technology, is in charge of a payment service, and Kanemitsu, is involved in a regional revitalization initiative using DAO (decentralized autonomous organization).

Explanations were also provided about fintech activities that lead to the resolution of social challenges in Japan, including an initiative to promote the sophistication of loan screening at the same time as encouraging SMEs to improve operational efficiency using SaaS (01Bank) and an initiative to use purchase data and mobility data to promote tourist circulation and increase the non-resident population (JR West).

The FSA expressed hope to promote fintech businesses with better potential for development while using the regulatory framework based on the idea that the regulation is not something that restricts business but has a role to play as a blueprint for cocreation.



(Photo: Discussion being held in Part 3)



The FSA will strive to develop an environment in which innovation in the Japanese financial sector can lead the world and achieve development.

Japan Fintech Week 2026 for next year is scheduled to be held from February 24 to March 6, 2026. FIN/SUM (March 3 to 6) will mark its 10th anniversary next year. Please feel free to attend the event.



A Nationwide Campaign, Financial and Economic Education Caravan

- Events in Fukuoka Prefecture (May 31) and in Okayama Prefecture (June 21)
Deputy Director-General, WANISA, Busy Making Courtesy Visits! vol.2

The Financial Services Agency has been carrying out a nationwide campaign, **Financial and Economic Education Caravan**, “Learn with Wanisa: Money Class for the Future,” in collaboration with Local Finance Bureaus, local governments, financial institutions, business companies and others, with the aim of expanding financial and economic education throughout Japan. The FSA held events in **Fukuoka Prefecture on Saturday, May 31**, and in **Okayama Prefecture on Saturday, June 21**.

The FSA’s official mascot character, “Wanisa,” livened up stage shows and various programs as Deputy Director-General, WANISA, who is in

charge of the promotion of people’s asset building and financial and economic education, together with other performers with their rich characters.

The events on both days welcomed many visitors, including families with children. They seemed to enjoy learning about money.

Deputy Director-General WANISA will continue visiting various places nationwide to hold events.

Next time, Wanisa will visit your town!?
Don’t miss it!!

Event in Fukuoka Prefecture on May 31



Prime Minister Ishiba appeared in a video at the opening and talked about the importance of financial and economic education.

Prime Minister Ishiba gave a direction to Deputy Director-General WANISA, saying “Visit governors nationwide and promote the Financial and Economic Education Caravan together with local residents.” He also gently told us not to be surprised by a visit from Deputy Director-General WANISA.

Venue: AEON MALL Fukuoka

Performers: Member, Ganbareruya, Masaru, Taketo (master of ceremonies), Toshi-kun, Unko Sensei, and Wanisa

* On the day

(Upper) Video message by Prime Minister Ishiba

(Lower right) Stage program

“Unko Money Drill: Life Edition”

(Lower center) Unko Sensei giving a lesson in a program that required prior application

(Upper right on the next page) A participant enjoying a stamp rally at a booth

(Upper left on the next page) Group photo of the stage-show performers





Event in Okayama Prefecture on June 21

Venue: AEON MALL Okayama Mirai Square
Performers: Member, Bambino, Hello Ueda, Enishi Akiyoshi, Gion (master of ceremonies), Shimajiro, Toushi-kun, Unko Sensei, and Wanisa

* On the day
(Right) Stage-show performers (FSA Commissioner ITO attended)
(Lower right) Hands-on experience at a bank's booth
(Lower left) Lecture program, "Unko Money Drill: Economy Edition"



🔥 Deputy Director-General, WANISA, Busy Making Courtesy Visits! vol.2

As introduced in Access FSA No. 261, Wanisa is actively making courtesy visits to prefectural governors and people in the finance sector. Videos of Wanisa's courtesy visits are posted on the official X account (@Wa_nisa_FSA). Please keep an eye on Wanisa's movements! * In order of delivery date



▶ Courtesy visit to Kanagawa Governor Kuroiwa (delivered on May 26)



▶ Courtesy visit to President Goto of the Bank of Fukuoka (delivered on May 28)



▶ Courtesy visit to Fukuoka Governor Hattori (delivered on May 30)



▶ Courtesy visit to President Kasahara of Higo Bank (delivered on June 9)



▶ Courtesy visit to President Hanzawa of MUFG Bank (delivered on June 19)



▶ Courtesy visit to President Sakai of the Bank of Saga (delivered on June 23)

* Appointment of "Deputy Director-General, WANISA"

<https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/newsletter/accessfsa2025/258.pdf>

(Note) Deputy Director-General, WANISA, is not an official position but a fictional role as part of the mascot character's setting.



JFSA's Major Activities in May (May 1 to May 31)

- [Publication of "FSA Analytical Notes \(2025.5\): I. Attempt to effectively utilize text data, and II. Current trends in deposits" in Japanese \(May 30\)](#)
- [The seventh meeting of the Working Group on Disclosure and Assurance of Sustainability-related Financial Information \(of the Financial System Council\) \(May 29\)](#)
- [Updated : Speeches \(Vice Minister for International Affairs\) \(May 28\)](#)
- [The Council of Experts Concerning the Follow-up of Japan's Stewardship Code and Japan's Corporate Governance Code: Thirtieth Meeting \(May 26\)](#)
- [Updated list of issuers of gift certificates in repayment procedures based on the 'Payment Services Act' \(May 20\) \(May 26\)](#)
- [Response in Light of the Impact of U.S. Tariff Measures \(Statement by KATO Katsunobu, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Financial Services\) \(May 21\)](#)
- [The fourth meeting of the Expert Study Group on Assurance of Sustainability-related Financial Information \(of the Financial System Council\) \(May 20\)](#)

JFSA's official English X(formerly Twitter) account
https://x.com/JFSA_en



**We are promoting
information dissemination
using X (formerly Twitter) !**

Contributions by the Financial Services Agency Employees

The Financial Services Agency has been writing about the status of its activities, including the introduction and explanation of measures taken by the Agency, in various publications, and publishing such writings on the website of the [Financial Research Center](#). This article covers some of these writings.

—Introduction of recently published contributions—

- ◆ [Influence on Japanese banks and international trends in relation to the application of the finalization of Basel III](#) (provisional English title) [available only in Japanese]

AOSAKI Minoru, Head of the Prudential Standards Office, Risk Analysis Division,
Strategy Development and Management Bureau, FSA

(Published in the June 3 issue of the Kinzai Weekly Financial Affairs)

- ◆ Results of the review of annual securities reports for FY2024, matters to note based thereon, and examples of information disclosure to be referred to in dealing with problems ([Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), and [Vol. 3](#)) (provisional English title) [available only in Japanese]

OKAMURA Kenji, Deputy Director,
MINAMI Takashi, Officer,

ITO Norihiro, Special Researcher,

Corporate Accounting and Disclosure Division, Policy and Markets Bureau, FSA

(Published in the April 7 issue, April 14 issue, and April 21 issue of the Weekly Keizai Zaimu)

- ◆ [Efforts for customer-oriented business conduct for promoting Japan as a leading asset management center](#) (provisional English title) [available only in Japanese]

YASHIKI Toshinori, Director-General, Strategy Development and Management Bureau, FSA

(Published in the April 14 issue of Fund Information No. 456)

👉 For other contributions, please visit the website of the Financial Research Center.
<https://www.fsa.go.jp/frtc/kikou/index.html> (Available in Japanese)



Editorial Postscript

This is the last editorial postscript for the current program year. I would like to look back on this year at the Public Relations Office.

“The FSA will make organizational efforts to effectively and efficiently publicize its policies and deal with the media. For that purpose, we will endeavor to create external networks and accumulate the knowledge obtained therefrom to enhance staff members’ capacity and knowledge on public and media relations.” This was the public relations-related policy advocated in the “FSA Strategic Priorities July 2024 - June 2025,” which was published last August.

The Public Relations Office belongs to the secretariat section and fulfils functions as the secretariat, which are indispensable for an organization. The office does not have specific policies of its own but is in charge of a broad range of duties, such as dealing with the media on a daily basis (responses to the press club and other newspeople, etc.), providing accurate and certain information on the official website, managing the website system, checking and ascertaining news coverage and publications (including those on foreign media) on financial administration, and editing monthly issues of Access FSA. However, soon after I assumed office as Director of the Public Relations Office last July, I noticed that not many staff members of the FSA understood how daily duties (responses to the media and PR activities) are being performed in the office and what basic actions they are expected to take in that process, as well as myself. Around that time, I had an opportunity to attend the “Meeting among Directors of PR Offices of Kasumigaseki,” which I introduced in Access FSA No. 259 (March 2025 issue), and heard talks of PR Office Directors of other ministries and agencies. I felt that the duties of PR Offices are profound. Therefore, at the beginning, I set up a rather abstract objective for the year to confirm the basics again and look for better approaches, instead of a specific objective to start something new.

While actually engaging in daily work, I learned many new things. I noticed room for improvement in daily operations in terms of the development of information managed by the office and information published on the website, the delivery of information within the FSA, the management of aged equipment in the press conference room and the adjacent pressroom, the relationship with the press club and other newspeople, and the publication of contributions by staff members relevant to individual policies. Thus, I came to understand that the expected role of the Director of the Public Relations Office is to notice points to be improved and take concrete actions together with staff members, who are always very busy with their daily duties, while sharing roles with them.

For the last several years, the Director of the FSA's Public Relations Office has concurrently served as the Director for Planning and Management. The Director for Planning and Management is in charge of making adjustments in the FSA as a whole, collaborates with individual bureaus and departments of the FSA, makes contact with the Commissioner almost every day, often with secretaries of Minister's, State Minister's, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister's or with the secretary of the Prime Minister's Office sometimes, and with people concerned the Diet, thereby endeavoring to ensure through coordination so that the FSA as a whole will not take wrong actions. While receiving a lot of information and having connections with many related people, I feel that the duties of the Director for Planning and Management have a high affinity with the duties of the Public Relations Office. In particular, such functions work well when considering how to publish information that will attract people's attention in an effective manner. I think that this system of concurrently serving as the Director for Planning and Management has been meaningful in improving the business operations of the office. I hope that this system will continue working into the future.

I could have maintained the attitude to seek better approaches throughout this one year. I owe a great deal to the Commissioner Ito, who presented us his idea of seeing things with our own eyes and changing what we consider is not right. His attitude based on this idea has strongly backed up and encouraged us.

I also received a lot of suggestions and knowledge from the media and newspeople engaging in work to report on financial administration and the FSA's operations. The Minister for Financial Services came to concurrently serve as the Minister of Finance, and the Ministry of Finance has long been attracting attention. Under such circumstances, they have made me notice very important matters in the FSA's media relations. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks.

Regarding the work of the Public Relations Office members', many of the FSA staff have little opportunity to directly experience the front line of the media relations work, and it is difficult for the Public Relations Office members to be fully understood. Although materials to be published are well-prepared, the process of posting them on the website is left to less experienced people, which often causes a burden on our staff members. Nevertheless, they perform duties constantly and carefully, without omitting anything even in my absence due to my business as the Director for Planning and Management, and have pursued their duties throughout the year while sincerely receiving the directions I provided as the Director of the Public Relations Office. I would like to express my heartfelt respect for their contribution. I hope that we will be able to look back on and talk about this one year someday in the future. (Outside the Public Relations Office, I would like to express my thanks to Director for Planning and Management Kume, with whom I did secretariat work together, and all staff members of Planning and Management Offices 1 and 2 of the Planning and Management Division. I also owe a huge debt to my superiors, Director of the Planning and Management Division Tanabe and Vice Commissioner Ishida, who have let me do as I liked, and successive Directors of the Public Relations Office who have connected me to people related to public relations.)

I would like to hand down the knowledge I obtained and the points for improvement I noticed during this one year regarding what should be accumulated to the Public Relations Office and the FSA as a whole.

The ordinary Diet session ended and regular personnel changes were published. The Director of the Public Relations Office has been regularly replaced in one year, and I also received a transfer order unofficially. Thank you very much for the year.

The FSA was launched by reorganizing its predecessor, the Financial Supervisory Agency, on July 1, 2000, so its 25th anniversary falls on July 1, 2025. I hope that the financial administration, whose goal is to increase national welfare, will be further improved and that the Public Relations Office will continue supporting that process.



< Staff members of the FSA's Public Relations Office >
(Back) Kojima, Takahata, Ogura, Kawaguchi, and Kobori
(Front) Okumura, Kume, Honda, Sato, and Miyahara

HONDA Koichi, Director of the Public Relations Office, FSA
Edited and issued by the Public Relations Office, FSA

(*The opinions expressed in this report are the personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the organization with which the author is affiliated.)



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