

**NIPPON LIFE ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT IN
SOCIAL BOND ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION**

Tokyo, July 25, 2017 - Nippon Life Insurance Company (President: Yoshinobu Tsutsui, hereinafter “Nippon Life”) today announced the completion of the USD 100 million investment in a Social Bond issued in a private placement format by the International Finance Corporation (hereinafter “IFC”). This marks IFC’s first issuance for institutional investors of a Social Bond in a private placement format.

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. IFC has played a leadership role in developing guidelines and procedures for the green bond market and the burgeoning social bond market.

IFC will use the bond proceeds to finance projects that help improve social outcomes in developing countries – specifically by providing finance to companies that buy from smallholder farmers, provide utilities for low-income households, offer affordable health services, education, or housing to low-income people. The funds will also be used to support financial institutions that lend to women-owned enterprises in emerging markets. Nippon Life expects this investment to contribute to resolving various social agenda in developing countries and to secure long-term stable returns.

In the previous fiscal year, Nippon Life signed the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. In addition, in the new Mid-term Management Plan (Fiscal 2017 –2020), Nippon Life is aiming at an investment of JPY 1.5 trillion in new and emerging growth fields, and our quantitative target for investing into ESG bonds over the next four years is JPY 200 billion. Investing in the bond is categorized as ESG bonds for social contribution.

Nippon Life will continue to contribute to the formation of a sustainable society by bolstering ESG investment and financing taking into account matters of a social and public nature and investment returns.



“IFC is very proud to collaborate with Nippon Life on the further development of IFC’s Social Bond Program and offer a tailor-made transaction which offers exposure to a new impact-investment product. Thanks to the commitment from Nippon Life we now have a platform to build out the Social Bond Program in a variety of markets, including benchmarks, private placements and retail.”
said Benjamin Powell, Head of Funding at IFC.

“Nippon Life promotes “investment into new and emerging growth fields” in its Mid-term Management Plan, and especially, investing in the ESG field matches our Fundamental Management Principles. We will strive to fulfill our social responsibilities by investing in the ESG field. I am pleased to contribute through this investment to supporting low-income people who lack access to basic goods and services and women-owned small and medium enterprises in emerging markets. Understanding the mission of the life insurance business and its public nature, Nippon Life will continue to seek investments which will satisfy its policyholders.” **said Hiroshi Ozeki, CIO at Nippon Life.**



< Project Case Studies >

Below are examples of projects that may be financed by the Social Bond.

Agribusiness Support for small-scale farmers



Educational Support for low-income students

