

July 6, 2017
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

Mizuho Announces Housing Loans Now More Accessible for Customers in Same-Sex Partnerships

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (President & CEO: Koji Fujiwara) announces today that, in line with Mizuho's commitment to providing a more inclusive environment for individuals who identify as LGBT¹, we have revised our internal rules and regulations governing housing loans to include "same-sex partner" in the definition of "spouse". This means that same-sex couples who meet certain criteria will now be eligible for "family pair repayment"² and combined income calculations³. This is a first for a Japanese bank.

In conjunction with increased societal awareness of individuals who identify as LGBT and the related initiatives of local municipalities in recent years, if a same-sex couple presents a copy of a certificate of their partnership issued by Shibuya ward⁴ in Tokyo, Mizuho Bank will consider such persons as a married couple.

Mizuho is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming work environment for employees who identify as LGBT, and is also committed to raising awareness among all employees regarding the LGBT community and issues they face, by holding internal training and co-sponsoring LGBT events, among other initiatives.

Going forward, we believe the incorporation of the diverse ideas and opinions of our employees in day-to-day business will create new and innovative value for Mizuho and improve our customer service.

Notes

- 1: LGBT is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and here also includes all other non-heterosexual sexual orientations and non-binary gender identities.
- 2: "Family pair repayment" refers to repayment by couples who live together and jointly own a home, and who are each party to the loan.
- 3: "Combined income calculations" refers to a loan applicant combining his or her income with that of another family member (including spouse) in a loan application for the purpose of providing evidence of ability to service his or her loan.
- 4: At this time, Shibuya ward in Tokyo is the only local municipality whose same-sex couple certificates of partnership have legal standing. Similar documents issued by other municipalities may be accepted in the future based on the status of their legal standing.