

# T HE BANK IN OUTLINE

*The Shoko Chukin Bank—the Central Cooperative Bank for Commerce and Industry—was founded in 1936 as a government-affiliated financial institution. The Bank’s primary mission, as stipulated in the Shoko Chukin Bank Law, is to provide a stable source of long- and short-term financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).*

*The Bank provides its clients with a full range of financial services through its extensive domestic network of 99 offices. It also has a strong overseas presence, with a branch in New York and representative offices in London and Hong Kong.*

*About eighty percent of the Bank’s capital is held by the Japanese government. The remainder is owned by cooperatives of SMEs. With total assets of around ¥14 trillion (US\$140 billion), the Bank is one of the world’s largest financial institutions devoted exclusively to serving SMEs.*

*The Shoko Chukin Bank is one of a select group of financial institutions privileged to issue debentures in Japan. As such, it is able to provide a stable source of funds to SMEs which play an important role in the Japanese economy.*

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