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President

Code:8377 (Tokyo Stock Exchange (First Section), Sapporo Securities Exchange)

**Revision of earnings forecast for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014**

Tokyo February 3, 2014—Hokuhoku Financial Group, Inc. (“Hokuhoku FG”) announces the revision of consolidated earnings forecast for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014, which was released on November 11, 2013.

1. Revision of earnings forecast (From April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) (In millions of JPY)

|   | Ordinary income | Ordinary profits | Net income | Net income per share of common stock (JPY) |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------|--|
| Previous forecast (A)                                   | 187,000         | 33,500           | 18,000     | 12.23                                      |
| Revised forecast (B)                                    | 188,000         | 42,500           | 22,000     | 15.22                                      |
| Change (B-A)  | 1,000           | 9,000            | 4,000      |  |
| Change (%)  | 0.5%            | 26.9%            | 22.2%      |  |
| (reference)<br>Business results of previous fiscal year | 199,136         | 29,332           | 18,105     | 12.19                                      |

2. Reason of revision

Hokuhoku FG revised its consolidated earnings forecast for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014. It is mainly due to increase in ordinary profits and net income of subsidiary banks, which is caused by decrease in total credit costs.

(Reference) Earnings forecast of subsidiary banks

(1) Revision of earnings forecast (From April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014) (In billions of JPY)

|                             | Hokuriku Bank         |                      |              | Hokkaido Bank         |                      |              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                             | Previous forecast (A) | Revised forecast (B) | Change (B-A) | Previous forecast (A) | Revised forecast (B) | Change (B-A) |
| Core gross business profits | 77.0                  | 77.0                 | -            | 63.0                  | 64.5                 | 1.5          |
| G&A expenses                | 51.0                  | 51.0                 | -            | 44.0                  | 44.0                 | -            |
| Core net business profits   | 26.0                  | 26.0                 | -            | 19.0                  | 20.5                 | 1.5          |
| Total credit costs          | 3.0                   | (1.5)                | (4.5)        | 5.5                   | 4.0                  | (1.5)        |
| Ordinary profits            | 21.5                  | 26.5                 | 5.0          | 12.5                  | 15.5                 | 3.0          |
| Net income                  | 12.0                  | 14.5                 | 2.5          | 7.0                   | 8.5                  | 1.5          |

\* This forecast is made based upon the information available at the date of press release and actual results may differ materially from such estimated figures as a result of various factors.

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