

IRCJ reaches agreement on purchase of Usui Department Store companies' debt

Tokyo, October 31, 2003 – Under Article 25, Clause 1 of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation Act of 2003, the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan (“the IRCJ”) today reached agreement with financial institutions on the purchase of debt owed by Usui Department Store K.K. (“Usui Department Store”).

Note: This agreement on the purchase of debt means that agreement has been reached between the necessary financial institutions and the IRCJ in respect of either a) sale of debt by the financial institutions concerned to the IRCJ at market price or b) financial support by the financial institutions concerned (for example debt forgiveness while continuing to hold the balance of debt, debt equity swaps, etc.). Any decision by the IRCJ to purchase the debt of companies it has approved for assistance is only made at a point when it is evident that the revitalization plan of the business concerned can be progressed as planned.

1. Name(s) of company concerned

Usui Department Store K.K.
Usui Honsha K.K.

2. Principal value of debt to be purchased

¥4,537 million

Note 1: The principal value of ¥4,537 million is 30.2% of the principal value of the total debt amount of ¥15,035 million for which purchase was requested.

3. Credit obligations under this agreement subject to trust undertakings

None.

4. Comment from the State Minister In Charge Of Industrial Revitalization And Administrative Reforms

None expressed.

Note on comments from ministers: The IRCJ is a quasi-governmental organization. As such it is IRCJ policy to obtain comments about decisions to assist private-sector companies from the government ministries that regulate the industries in which these companies operate.

For more information, please contact

Corporate Planning Department
The Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan
Tel: 03-6212-6437

#

About the IRCJ

The IRCJ was established jointly by the public and private sector on April 16, 2003, with the aim of providing revitalization assistance beneficial to both the industrial and the financial sectors in Japan. It targets assistance at companies that have sound business fundamentals but are unable to thrive because of excessive debt levels or other factors. The IRCJ has approximately 130 employees and is based in Tokyo. For more information please visit www.ircj.jp