

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

## TAKARA HOLDINGS INC. (security code: 2531)

### <Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: A  
Outlook: Stable  
Bonds: A  
Shelf Registration: Preliminary A  
CP: J-1

### Rationale

- (1) TAKARA HOLDINGS INC. (the "Company") is the holding company of the TAKARA Group centering on the alcoholic beverages and seasonings business. It has TAKARA SHUZO CO., LTD. and TAKARA BIO INC. (listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange) under its umbrella and spun off TAKARA SHUZO's overseas business in July 2017 to establish Takara Shuzo International Co., Ltd. It holds the largest domestic share for ko-type shochu and mirin and increasing share for sake, which is now the second largest. As part of the growth strategy, it has recently been expanding the Japanese food wholesale business in overseas markets through M&As. Given strong unity among group companies, as shown by the holding company's governance, etc., JCR reflects the entire Group's creditworthiness in the ratings on the Company.
- (2) The Company is successfully enhancing its business base. Despite Japan's constantly shrinking alcoholic beverage market, it ensures steady earnings from the core businesses by leveraging its own product development and marketing capabilities. Moreover, the Japanese food wholesale business is beginning to drive the Group's growth with expanded operations. All in all, the overall earnings will probably remain firm. Growth investments will likely continue for a while with the aim of transformation into a well-balanced business structure that can withstand changes in the business environment. Even so, JCR assumes the Company can maintain the financial structure at around the current level without any problems. Based on the above, JCR affirmed the ratings on the Company and retained the Stable outlook.
- (3) Operating income marked a record in the fiscal year ended March 2017 (FY2016) after 22 years, which is forecast to reach a new high at 15.3 billion yen in FY2017. A major driving force expected here is full-year contribution from the M&As carried out in the U.S. and Australia for the Japanese food wholesale business in FY2016. In the alcoholic beverages and seasonings business, sales are expected to decline for shochu but improve for sake and light-alcohol refreshers, and SG&A expenses will be reduced, pushing up the income. The biomedical business in the meantime generates stable earnings as research reagents are selling well and appears to be making steady progress in the project to commercialize gene therapies.
- (4) Equity ratio as of September 30, 2017 was 48.8%. With ample ready liquidity, the entire Group is in the net cash position. The Company has been constantly carrying out M&As in the Japanese food wholesale business since 2010, while spending a total of USD 110 million for the M&A implemented in the biomedical business at the beginning of 2017. However, these expenditures are not heavily weighing on the Company financially. Cash flows are controlled properly, including profit returns to shareholders. Even though M&A activities are expected to continue in overseas operations, they are not likely to become a financial constraint thanks to the stable cash flow generation capacity.

Yoshinori Namioka, Takeshi Fujita

### Rating

Issuer: TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.

### <Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: A      Outlook: Stable

Issue	Amount (bn)	Issue Date	Due Date	Coupon	Rating
bonds no.11	Y5	May 26, 2010	May 26, 2020	1.561%	A
bonds no.13	Y5	Apr. 26, 2012	Apr. 26, 2022	1.162%	A

bonds no.14	Y5	Apr. 25, 2017	Apr. 25, 2022	0.100%	A
bonds no.15	Y5	Apr. 25, 2017	Apr. 25, 2024	0.220%	A
bonds no.16	Y5	Apr. 25, 2017	Apr. 23, 2027	0.315%	A

Shelf Registration: Preliminary A

Maximum: Y20 billion

Valid: two years effective from February 21, 2017

CP: J-1

Maximum: Y10 billion

**Rating Assignment Date: December 15, 2017**

The criteria used for identifying matters which serve as assumptions for the assessment of the credit status, and the criteria used for setting of grades indicating the results of the assessments of the credit status are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of methodology for determination of the credit rating is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (November 7, 2014), "Foods" (July 13, 2011), "Rating Methodology for a Holding Company" (January 26, 2015) and "Rating Viewpoints on Pure Holding Companies (Domestic Industrial Corporations)" (July 1, 2003) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

**Glossary:**

A preliminary rating is a credit rating assigned as a preliminary evaluation while material terms for issue to be rated are not yet finalized. When the issuing terms are finalized, JCR will confirm them and will assign a credit rating anew. The rating level of the final rating may be different from that of the preliminary rating, depending on the final content of the terms, etc.

### **Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.**

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

---

Information herein has been obtained by JCR from the issuers and other sources believed to be accurate and reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, JCR makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to accuracy, results, adequacy, timeliness, completeness or merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, with respect to any such information, and is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for results obtained from the use of such information. Under no circumstances will JCR be liable for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages of any kind caused by the use of any such information, including but not limited to, lost opportunity or lost money, whether in contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, and whether such damages are foreseeable or unforeseeable. JCR's ratings and credit assessments are statements of JCR's current and comprehensive opinion regarding redemption possibility, etc. of financial obligations assumed by the issuers or financial products, and not statements of opinion regarding any risk other than credit risk, such as market liquidity risk or price fluctuation risk. JCR's ratings and credit assessments are statements of opinion, and not statements of fact as to credit risk decisions or recommendations regarding decisions to purchase, sell or hold any securities such as individual bonds or commercial paper. The ratings and credit assessments may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of information as well as other factors. JCR retains all rights pertaining to this document, including JCR's rating data. Any reproduction, adaptation, alteration, etc. of this document, including such rating data, is prohibited, whether or not wholly or partly, without prior consent of JCR.

JCR is registered as a "Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization" with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to the following four classes. (1) Financial institutions, brokers and dealers, (2) Insurance Companies, (3) Corporate Issuers, (4) Issuers of government securities, municipal securities and foreign government securities.

JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

---

Copyright © Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. All rights reserved.



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

## Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.
Rating Publication Date:	December 20, 2017

**1** The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

**2** The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

**3** The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

**A) Business Bases**

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

**B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality**

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

**C) Liquidity Positions**

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. - by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders

B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders

## 9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the publication by the issuer or some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.

## 10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

## 11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

### A) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

### B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

### C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's

business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

**E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

**F) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

**G) Various Events**

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

**12**

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<http://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

**13**

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

**A) Business Bases**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

**B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's parent company or subsidiaries, guarantor or other providers of credit enhancement, the government of the issuer's business domicile or other related parties' status and stance of support/ assistance for the issuer. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if there is a major change on the part of related parties, such as replacement, disappearance, some drastic improvement/ deterioration of financial grounds/ balances, etc.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14

Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

**Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.**

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

## The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	April 7, 2006	A	Negative
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	February 9, 2007	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	March 21, 2008	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	November 12, 2008	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	October 23, 2009	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	November 17, 2010	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	November 22, 2011	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 26, 2012	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 26, 2013	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 25, 2014	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 21, 2015	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 22, 2016	A	Stable
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 20, 1993	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	January 27, 1998	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	March 3, 2000	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	March 27, 2001	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	April 1, 2002	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	April 30, 2003	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	March 29, 2004	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	February 7, 2005	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	April 7, 2006	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	February 9, 2007	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	March 21, 2008	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	November 12, 2008	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	October 23, 2009	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	November 17, 2010	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	November 22, 2011	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 26, 2012	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 26, 2013	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 25, 2014	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 21, 2015	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	CP	December 22, 2016	J-1	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Shelf Registration	February 21, 2017	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	May 19, 2010	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	November 17, 2010	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	November 22, 2011	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	December 26, 2012	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	December 26, 2013	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	December 25, 2014	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	December 21, 2015	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.11	December 22, 2016	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	April 20, 2012	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	December 26, 2012	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	December 26, 2013	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	December 25, 2014	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	December 21, 2015	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.13	December 22, 2016	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.14	April 19, 2017	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.15	April 19, 2017	A	
TAKARA HOLDINGS INC.	Bonds no.16	April 19, 2017	A	



## Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Yoshinori Namioka, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

涛岡 由典

Yoshinori Namioka

General Manager of Corporate Rating Department II

**Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.**

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026