# **News Release**



#### Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd

24-D-1831 March 7, 2025

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

### Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company (security code: -)

<Outlook Change>

Long-term Issuer Rating: A-

Outlook: from Stable to Positive

Ability to Pay Insurance Claims: A-

Outlook: from Stable to Positive

<Affirmation>

Bonds (Dated subordinated bonds): BBB Subordinated Loan: BBB

#### Rationale

- (1) Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company (the "Company") is the core company of the Asahi Life Group (the "Group"). Having Nanairo Life Insurance Co. ("Nanairo Life"), Ltd. in the agency business, along with other subsidiaries, the Company has, albeit rather small business size in terms of in-force policies, etc., been differentiating itself from other insurers by concentrating management resources to the individual insurance area to focus on the markets for seniors, among others. JCR evaluates the Group's creditworthiness as equivalent to A- rating, in light of such factors as the solid business base, high profitability, relatively sound assets and decent capital adequacy. The Group's annualized premiums from new policies have been steady, profitability on an economic value basis is relatively high, and the balance between risk and capital is improving rapidly. As interest rate risk is being reduced, the sensitivity of indicators on an economic value basis is being contained. The Company's issuer rating is as the same level as the Group's creditworthiness. JCR sees that the trend of maintaining earning capacity while further improving capital adequacy will continue, and has therefore changed the rating outlook to Positive.
- (2) The Group's market position and competitiveness are relatively strong. By efficiently investing management resources, the Company is developing primarily third-sector products for medical care, nursing care and dementia, in response to diversifying customer needs. With sales representatives as the core, the Company has positioned joint agencies, telemarketing, and others as growth drivers, and has achieved diversification and specialization of channels. Although the Company enjoys a reasonably strong position in the nursing care insurance market, its strength, competition is fierce as many life insurance companies have entered the market, and JCR will be watching to see whether the Company can maintain its advantage in the future. The sales representative channel has achieved a certain level of annualized premiums from new policies, thanks in part to the effectiveness of new products. Strengthening the training structure and improving the backup structure for sales activities using data are gaining positive results. Nanairo Life continues to perform well, steadily winning new policies through the continuous introduction of competitive third-sector products and an expansion in the number of agencies.
- (3) The Group's earning capacity is stable and at a level commensurate with the A rating category. Annualized insurance premiums for new policies continue to increase, with the cumulative total for the third quarter of the fiscal year ending March 2025 above the same period of the previous year. The proportion of third-sector products in in-force and new policies is higher than that of other companies, and profitability on an economic value basis is relatively high. Fundamental profit has been maintained at a certain level on the back of a large amount of risk gains. Although there were fluctuations due to increased foreign exchange hedging costs, current profit levels are rising. The negative strain, which stems from the large number of contracts in force with high scheduled interest rates, is being resolved.
- (4) JCR sees that the Group's capital adequacy is commensurate with the A rating category. The ESR based on internal management was 255% as of the end of September 2024, a level that can maintain soundness even under conditions of considerable stress. Interest rate risk due to the duration gap between assets and debt is reduced through changes in the debt structure, etc., and the sensitivity of the ESR is being suppressed. Although the ratio of debt capital is relatively high, it is gradually declining, and capital adequacy is steadily improving. The Group is working to enhance its ERM, and



economic value-based thinking, including the introduction of sales indicators and asset management policies, has become widespread within the Company.

Tomohiro Miyao, Kota Matsuzawa

Rating

Issuer: Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company

<Outlook Change>

Long-term Issuer Rating: Outlook: Positive Ability to Pay Insurance Claims: A-Outlook: Positive

<Affirmation>

Amount (bn) Issue Date **Due Date** Coupon Rating

1st Series Deferrable Interest and Callable Unsecured Subordinated Bonds (private placement)

JPY 15 Feb. 10, 2022 Feb. 10, 2057 (Note) **BBB** 

Note: 1.50% from February 11, 2022 to and including February 10, 2027. 5-year JGB interest rate as of February 10, 2027 or the reference date every five years thereafter + 2.50% from February 11,

2027 onward.

Amount (bn) **Execution Date** Repayment Date Interest Rate Issue Rating

Perpetual Subordinated Loan

JPY 34 Mar. 29, 2024 No Maturity (Note) **BBB** 

Note: Base rate + initial spread for the interest periods beginning on any date from the Execution Date to but excluding the interest payment date in March 2029. Base rate + initial spread + 1.00% step-

up interest rate for the interest periods beginning on or after that date.

Rating Assignment Date: March 4, 2025

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols 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 the rating methodology is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (October 1, 2024), "Life Insurance" (February 8, 2024), "Ratings of Hybrid Securities" (September 10, 2012) and "Rating Methodology for Financial Institutions' Capital and TLAC Instruments" (April 27, 2017) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

The rating stakeholder participated in the rating process of the aforementioned credit ratings.

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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.)



#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

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

Issuer:	Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company
Rating Publication Date:	March 7, 2025

- 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. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- 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. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule17g-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)(l) 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 warranty made by the issuer, the publication by the issuer, 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.
  - $\cdot\,\,$  If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

## 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 received 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 public or private 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.

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:

https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/

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

  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 order of seniority in repayment of interests and principal. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches if the issuer's financial structure differs so much and thereby the balance between debts shifted so greatly. Rating change is also possible in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turns out to be inaccurate. The change of the credit rating is assumed to be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.
- 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.

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## The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	December 19, 2018	BBB-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	February 12, 2020	BBB	Positive
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	March 4, 2021	BBB+	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	March 9, 2022	BBB+	Positive
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	March 7, 2023	A-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Issuer(Long-term)	March 11, 2024	A-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	December 19, 2018	BBB-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	February 12, 2020	BBB	Positive
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	March 4, 2021	BBB+	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	March 9, 2022	BBB+	Positive
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	March 7, 2023	A-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Ability to Pay Insurance Claims	March 11, 2024	A-	Stable
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Bonds no.1(subordinated)	February 4, 2022	BBB-	
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Bonds no.1(subordinated)	March 9, 2022	BBB-	
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Bonds no.1(subordinated)	March 7, 2023	BBB	
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Bonds no.1(subordinated)	March 11, 2024	BBB	
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Loan(subordinated)(perpetual)	January 31, 2024	BBB	
Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Company	Loan(subordinated)(perpetual)	March 11, 2024	BBB	

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

I, Tomohiro Miyao, 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.

宮尾知浩

Tomohiro Miyao

General Manager of Financial Institution Rating Department