

September 4, 2019

JCR has become an Approved Verifier for Climate Bonds Certification



As of 28th August, 2019, the Climate Bonds Standard Board has approved Japan Credit Rating Agency (“JCR”) as an Approved Verifier of Climate Bonds Certification conducted by Climate Bonds Initiative (“CBI”). From now, our clients can choose the option to take Climate Bonds Certification through JCR.

JCR has been providing green/social/sustainable finance evaluation services (with the means of Rating/Scoring) to realize a sustainable society through enhancing sustainable finance. In addition to this service, we would like to further support our clients’ sustainability contributions to disseminate their information to domestic and worldwide market players through providing Verification services to gain CBI Certification.

<Who is CBI and what is Climate Bonds Certification?>

- Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) was established in December 2012. It is an international NPO which promotes large scale investment for a low carbon society. CBI based in London, U.K, focuses on providing information to investors, not-for-profit. CBI promotes investments in projects and assets necessary for global transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. The initiative’s activities mainly focus on determining green bond definitions and an international certification system (overseen by Climate Bonds Standard Board (CBSB*) representing 32 billion USD of asset management.) CBI supported work streaming of UN Climate Summit, China’s green bond development and participated in establishing EU taxonomy on sustainable finance as technical working group member.
- CBI has three workstreams;
 - (1) Market Intelligence; reporting on green bond market evolution through periodical reports, measuring the climate bonds universe and demonstrating green infrastructure pipelines
 - (2) Developing a trusted Standard and Climate Bonds Taxonomy, and
 - (3) Providing policy models and advice
- Climate Bonds Standard (CBS) is often referred to as a screening tool for investors and governments’ low carbon investments. CBS and labeled green bond database administered by CBI are utilized around the world.
- CBI aims to promote low carbon investment by pension funds, insurance companies, etc. by certifying certain bonds which meets the CBS and it is assessed and verified by an Approved Verifier that the bonds will contribute to low carbon society.

<CBI CEO & CO-founder>

Mr. Sean Kidney

<CBI Funders>

Confederation Suisse, Bloomberg Philanthropies, National Australia Bank, The Rockefeller Foundation, Bank of America, HSBC, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Frederick Mulder Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank, Oak Foundation, FSD Africa, European Climate Foundation, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, EU's Horizon 2020, Climate Works Foundation, UNDP GEF, Martin International, Climate-KIC, KR Foundation

*Disclosure: The CBSB is an Advisory Committee to the Climate Bonds Board.

Climate Bonds Certification process for issuers



(Source: Climate Bonds Initiative <https://www.climatebonds.net/certification/get-certified-1>)

In Japan, sustainable financing including green finance is rapidly growing. Under such situations, JCR determines to become a CBI's approved verifier, since the market needs a globally qualified third-party assessment with higher expertise. JCR conducts verification for CBI's certification with E&E Solutions experts, when we verify the area that we need high environmental expertise.

JCR is continually exploring the new efforts and knowledge accumulations in sustainable finance field, not just doing so with the long time experience in financial market as a credit rating agency. JCR has announced business cooperation agreement with E&E Solutions, which is one of Japanese qualified environmental consulting firms and with DNV GL, another CBI's approved verifier headquartered in Norway, in order to provide a qualified sustainable finance evaluation services. In addition, JCR participate in updating and developing international principles and analytic tools such as social bonds working group in ICMA and Positive Impact Finance Initiative working Group in United Nations Environmental Plan Financial Initiative.

In June 2019, EU publicized detailed Green Bond Taxonomy draft and it is expected that the registration system of external reviewers such as SPO providers, verifiers and ratings agencies, etc. will be stimulated in the coming several years. It is also expected that regulations for external reviewers may require us to have more expertise in sustainable developments, fairness and independence. CBI is the only global initiative with various experts and investors which has a rigorous verifier approval system by the board with European and U.S. investors and environmental experts. JCR hopes to connect Japanese green finance market to global green finance market by providing globally approved verification services with the status of a CBI's approved verifier. Our clients can expect our services meet necessary requirements for green finance which is consistent to global standards.

For those who are interested in obtaining Climate Bonds Certification with the verification from JCR, please contact:

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