

ZAikai Honors President Takata with its 'Manager of the Year' Award

The general business magazine ZAIKAI held an award ceremony for the winners of its fiscal 2006 Zaikai Award and Manager of the Year Award in the Marunouchi district of Tokyo in January 2007. Shiga Bank President Koichi Takata was presented with the Manager of the Year award.

The award was given as recognition of the Bank's mission as a bank based near Lake Biwa to preserve the lake and the global environment (Environmental Management), and its pursuit of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). The magazine recognized that the Bank's "management that emphasizes the environment makes it an example not just for the financial sector, but for all industries, and highly values the importance of this."



Supporting School Safety Volunteers to Ensure Safety

Gifts of bicycles to all of the municipal elementary schools in the prefecture

In January 2007, the Shigagin Traffic Safety Sazanami Society (Chair: President Koichi Takata) donated one bicycle to every municipal elementary school in Shiga Prefecture, a total of 231 bicycles.

This Society (established in 1968) had been

donating pencils embossed with traffic safety slogans to new first grade students every year, paid for by a



portion of the interest accrued on fixed-term deposits. However membership of the society has fallen in recent years and the decision was taken to disband the society. The remaining funds were used to purchase the bicycles for the school safety volunteers.

¥1.5 million Donated to Shiga Prefecture Elementary Schools

The Shigagin Eco-Plus Time Deposit program was set up to support environmental initiatives. During the year, the Bank donated ¥0.5 million to each of three Shiga Prefecture elementary schools, for a total of ¥1.5 million, from the fund to help them undertake "School Biotope" activities.

The funds are used to foster regional environmental initiatives. The "School Biotope" is a program aimed at fostering schools as places of environmental learning and preserving, restoring,



ing, and regenerating areas around schools, which are home to various living things.

By supporting the program, we hope to promote a better understanding of nature among children, who are our future leaders, while encouraging them to learn about the importance of life and the environment.

Donation of ¥1.2 million to the Nigorobuna Reintroduction Program

To protect the *nigorobuna*, a carp indigenous to the Lake Biwa region, the Bank donated ¥1.2 million from the fund for its environmentally sensitive financial product, the Bright Future Carbon Neutral Loan to the *nigorobuna* reintroduction program.

The Bank computes the amount of money that corresponds to the amount of reduction of CO₂ achieved through introduction of solar electricity systems using the Bright Future Carbon Neutral Loan, and contributes that amount to the *nigorobuna* reintroduction program.

There were a total of 104 loans taken out during fiscal 2006, which resulted in a reduction of around 327 tons of CO₂. This was calculated to be worth ¥1.2 million (calculated using the EU carbon emission right trading price of ¥3,792/ton of CO₂).

This reintroduction aims to protect and promote



the local slow food culture (including *funazushi*) by increasing the number of *nigorobuna*.

Included in SRI Index

Shiga Bank was selected as a constituent of the Morningstar Japan Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Index for the fifth consecutive year (since 2002).

Launched by Tokyo-based Morningstar Japan K.K., the index screens companies based on their performance in CSR-related areas. Of 3,600 companies screened, only 150 were selected for inclusion in the index.

For the third successive year, the Bank was also included in the FTSE4 Good Global Index, operated by FTSE, a joint venture between The Financial Times and the London Stock Exchange.

The Women's Activity Promotion Committee

In order to further promote the Positive Action program that proactively



creates opportunities for women to excel, the Women's Activity Promotion Committee was established in December 2006.

The purpose of this committee is to go beyond CSR to develop opportunities for female employees of the Bank to make the most of their abilities against the backdrop of low birthrate and an aging population.