

April 28, 2022

Bank of Japan

Statement on Monetary Policy

1. At the Monetary Policy Meeting held today, the Policy Board of the Bank of Japan decided upon the following.

(1) Yield curve control (an 8-1 majority vote) ^[Note 1]

a) The Bank decided to set the following guideline for market operations for the intermeeting period.

The short-term policy interest rate:

The Bank will apply a negative interest rate of minus 0.1 percent to the Policy-Rate Balances in current accounts held by financial institutions at the Bank.

The long-term interest rate:

The Bank will purchase a necessary amount of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) without setting an upper limit so that 10-year JGB yields will remain at around zero percent.

b) Clarification of how the Bank conducts fixed-rate purchase operations for consecutive days

In order to implement the above guideline for market operations, the Bank will offer to purchase 10-year JGBs at 0.25 percent every business day through fixed-rate purchase operations, unless it is highly likely that no bids will be submitted.

(2) Guidelines for asset purchases (a unanimous vote)

With regard to asset purchases other than JGB purchases, the Bank decided to set the following guidelines.

a) The Bank will purchase exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and Japan real estate investment trusts (J-REITs) as necessary with upper limits of about 12 trillion yen and about 180 billion yen, respectively, on annual paces of increase in their amounts outstanding.

b) The Bank will purchase CP and corporate bonds at about the same pace as prior to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, so that their amounts outstanding will

gradually return to pre-pandemic levels, namely, about 2 trillion yen for CP and about 3 trillion yen for corporate bonds.

2. The Bank will continue with Quantitative and Qualitative Monetary Easing (QQE) with Yield Curve Control, aiming to achieve the price stability target of 2 percent, as long as it is necessary for maintaining that target in a stable manner. It will continue expanding the monetary base until the year-on-year rate of increase in the observed consumer price index (CPI, all items less fresh food) exceeds 2 percent and stays above the target in a stable manner.

For the time being, while closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19, the Bank will support financing, mainly of firms, and maintain stability in financial markets, and will not hesitate to take additional easing measures if necessary; it also expects short- and long-term policy interest rates to remain at their present or lower levels. ^[Note 2]

^[Note 1] Voting for the action: Mr. KURODA Haruhiko, Mr. AMAMIYA Masayoshi, Mr. WAKATABE Masazumi, Mr. SUZUKI Hitoshi, Mr. ADACHI Seiji, Mr. NAKAMURA Toyoaki, Mr. NOGUCHI Asahi, and Ms. NAKAGAWA Junko. Voting against the action: Mr. KATAOKA Goushi. Mr. Kataoka dissented, considering that it was desirable to further strengthen monetary easing by lowering short- and long-term interest rates, with a view to encouraging firms to make active business fixed investment for the post-COVID-19 era.

^[Note 2] Mr. Kataoka dissented, considering that further coordination of fiscal and monetary policy was necessary and it was appropriate for the Bank to revise the forward guidance for the policy rates to relate it to the price stability target.

Reference

Meeting hours:

Wednesday, April 27: 14:00-15:52

Thursday, April 28: 9:00-12:02

Policy Board members present:

Mr. KURODA Haruhiko, Chairman (Governor)

Mr. AMAMIYA Masayoshi (Deputy Governor)

Mr. WAKATABE Masazumi (Deputy Governor)

Mr. SUZUKI Hitoshi

Mr. KATAOKA Goushi

Mr. ADACHI Seiji

Mr. NAKAMURA Toyoaki

Mr. NOGUCHI Asahi

Ms. NAKAGAWA Junko

[Others present]

April 27

From the Ministry of Finance:

Mr. ONO Heihachiro, Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Planning and Coordination
(14:00-15:52)

From the Cabinet Office:

Mr. INOUE Hiroyuki, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (14:00-15:52)

April 28

From the Ministry of Finance:

Mr. OIE Satoshi, State Minister of Finance (9:00-11:41, 11:49-12:02)

From the Cabinet Office:

Mr. KIKAWADA Hitoshi, State Minister of Cabinet Office (9:00-11:41, 11:49-12:02)

Release dates and times:

Statement on Monetary Policy -- Thursday, April 28 at 12:09

Outlook for Economic Activity and Prices (Outlook Report)

The Bank's View -- Thursday, April 28 at 12:09

Full text -- Monday, May 2 at 14:00

Summary of Opinions -- Thursday, May 12 at 8:50

Minutes of the Monetary Policy Meeting -- Wednesday, June 22 at 8:50