

## Exchange Rates

The table below sets forth, for the periods and dates indicated, information concerning the noon buying rate for Won, expressed in Won per one U.S. dollar. The “noon buying rate” is the rate in New York City for cable transfers in foreign currencies as certified for customs purposes by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Unless otherwise stated, translations of Won amounts into U.S. dollars in this annual report were made at the noon buying rate in effect on December 31, 2012, which was 1,063.2 to US\$1.00. We do not intend to imply that the Won or U.S. dollar amounts referred to herein could have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars or Won, as the case may be, at any particular rate, or at all. On April 26, 2013, the noon buying rate was 1,111.1= US\$1.00.

	Won per U.S. dollar (noon buying rate)			
	Low	High	Average <sup>(1)</sup>	Period-End
2008	935.2	1,507.9	1,098.7	1,262.0
2009	1,149.0	1,570.1	1,274.6	1,163.7
2010	1,104.0	1,253.2	1,155.7	1,130.6
2011	1,049.2	1,197.5	1,106.9	1,158.5
2012	1,063.2	1,185.0	1,126.2	1,063.2
October	1,090.2	1,114.6	1,105.4	1,090.2
November	1,081.8	1,091.8	1,087.0	1,081.8
December	1,063.2	1,083.7	1,075.2	1,063.2
2013 (through April 26)	1,056.0	1,140.3	1,094.7	1,111.1
January	1,056.0	1,091.2	1,066.5	1,087.5
February	1,078.2	1,095.7	1,087.3	1,083.9
March	1,083.9	1,119.2	1,102.9	1,112.5
April (through April 26)	1,111.1	1,140.3	1,122.7	1,111.1

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

<sup>(1)</sup> The average of the daily noon buying rates of the Federal Reserve Bank in effect during the relevant period (or portion thereof).

### Item 3B. *Capitalization and Indebtedness*

Not Applicable

### Item 3C. *Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds*

Not Applicable

### Item 3D. *Risk Factors*

#### Risks relating to our corporate credit portfolio

*The largest portion of our exposure is to small- and medium-sized enterprises, and financial difficulties experienced by companies in this segment may result in a deterioration of our asset quality and have an adverse impact on us.*

Our loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises amounted to 81,618 billion, or 40.6% of our total loans, as of December 31, 2010, 83,624 billion, or 39.4% of our total loans, as of December 31, 2011 and 80,506 billion, or 36.4% of our total loans, as of December 31, 2012. As of December 31, 2012, Won-denominated loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises that were classified as substandard or below were 1,838 billion, representing 2.3% of such loans to those enterprises. See “Item 4B. Business Overview—Corporate Banking—Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Banking.” We recorded charge-offs of 821 billion in respect of our Won-denominated loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises in 2012, compared to charge-offs of 758 billion in 2011 and 614 billion in 2010. According to data compiled by the Financial Supervisory Service, the industry-wide delinquency ratios for Won-denominated loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises increased in 2011 but decreased in 2012. The delinquency ratio for small- and medium-sized enterprises is calculated as the ratio of (1) the outstanding balance of such loans in respect of which either

principal or interest payments are over due by one month or more to (2) the aggregate outstanding balance of such loans. Our delinquency ratio for such loans denominated in Won was 1.5% as of December 31, 2010, 1.6% as of December 31, 2011 and 1.3% as of December 31, 2012. Our delinquency ratio may increase in 2013 as a result of, among other things, adverse economic conditions in Korea and globally. See “Other risks relating to our business—Difficult conditions in the global financial markets could adversely affect our liquidity and performance.” Accordingly, we may be required to take measures to decrease our exposures to these customers.

In light of the deteriorating financial condition and liquidity position of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Korea as a result of the global financial crisis commencing in the second half of 2008, the Korean government introduced measures intended to encourage Korean banks to provide financial support to small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers. For example, the Korean government requested Korean banks, including Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank, to establish a “fast track” program to provide liquidity assistance to small- and medium-sized enterprises on an expedited basis. Under the “fast track” programs established by Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank, which are currently expected to be effective through December 31, 2013, liquidity assistance is provided to small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers applying for such assistance, in the form of new short term loans or maturity extensions or interest rate adjustments with respect to existing loans, after expedited credit review and approval by such banks. The overall prospects for the Korean economy in 2013 and beyond remain uncertain, and the Korean government may extend or renew existing or past policies and initiatives or introduce new policies or initiatives to encourage Korean banks to provide financial support to small- and medium-sized enterprises. We believe that, to date, our participation in such government-led initiatives (primarily through the “fast track” program) has not caused us to extend a material amount of credit that we would not have otherwise extended nor materially impacted our results of operations and financial condition in general. The aggregate amount of outstanding small- and medium-sized enterprise loans made by Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank under the “fast track” program was 290 billion as of December 31, 2012, which represented 0.4% of the total small- and medium-sized enterprise loan portfolio of such banks as of such date. Furthermore, loans made by us under the “fast track” program are partially guaranteed by the Korean government’s public financial institutions, including the Korea Credit Guarantee Fund and the Korea Technology Finance Corporation. However, there can be no assurance that our future participation in such government-led initiatives would not lead us to extend credit to small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers that we would not otherwise extend, or offer terms for such credit that we would not otherwise offer, in the absence of such initiatives. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the financial condition and liquidity position of our small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers benefiting from such initiatives will improve sufficiently for them to service their debt on a timely basis, or at all. Accordingly, increases in our exposure to small- and medium-sized enterprises resulting from such government-led initiatives may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Many small- and medium-sized enterprises represent sole proprietorships or very small businesses dependent on a relatively limited number of suppliers or customers and tend to be affected to a greater extent than large corporate borrowers by fluctuations in the Korean and global economy. In addition, small- and medium-sized enterprises often maintain less sophisticated financial records than large corporate borrowers. Therefore, it is generally more difficult for us to judge the level of risk inherent in lending to these enterprises, as compared to large corporations.

In addition, many small- and medium-sized enterprises have close business relationships with large corporations in Korea, primarily as suppliers. Any difficulties encountered by those large corporations would likely hurt the liquidity and financial condition of related small- and medium-sized enterprises, including those to which we have exposure, also resulting in an impairment of their ability to repay loans.

Financial difficulties experienced by small- and medium-sized enterprises as a result of, among other things, adverse economic conditions in Korea and globally, as well as aggressive marketing and intense competition among banks to lend to this segment in recent years, have led to a deterioration in the asset quality of our loans to this segment in the past and such factors may lead to a deterioration of asset quality in the future. Any such deterioration would result in increased charge-offs and higher provisioning and reduced interest and fee income from this segment, which would have an adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

***We have exposure to Korean construction and shipbuilding companies, and financial difficulties of these companies may adversely impact us.***

As of December 31, 2012, the total amount of loans provided by us to construction and shipbuilding companies in Korea amounted to 8,570 billion and 2,916 billion, or 3.9% and 1.3% of our total loans, respectively. We also have other exposures to Korean construction and shipbuilding companies, including in the form of guarantees extended for the benefit of such companies and debt and equity securities of such companies held by us. In the case of shipbuilding companies, such exposures include refund guarantees extended by us on behalf of shipbuilding companies to cover their obligation to return a portion of the ship order contract amount to customers in the event of performance delays or defaults under shipbuilding contracts. In the case of construction companies, we also have potential exposures in the form of guarantees provided to us by general contractors with respect to financing extended by us for residential and commercial real estate development projects, as well as commitments to purchase asset-backed securities secured by the assets of companies in the construction industry and other commitments we enter into relating to project financing for such real estate projects which may effectively function as guarantees.

The construction industry in Korea has experienced a downturn in recent years, due to excessive investment in residential property development projects, stagnation of real property prices and reduced demand for residential property, especially in areas outside of Seoul, including as a result of the deterioration of the Korean economy commencing in the second half of 2008. In October 2008, the Korean government implemented a 9 trillion support package for the benefit of the Korean construction industry, including a program to buy unsold housing units and land from construction companies. The shipbuilding industry in Korea has also experienced a severe downturn in recent years due to a significant decrease in ship orders, primarily due to adverse conditions in the global economy and the resulting slowdown in global trade. In response to the deteriorating financial condition and liquidity position of borrowers in the construction and shipbuilding industries, which were disproportionately impacted by adverse economic developments in Korea and globally, the Korean government implemented a program in the first half of 2009 to promote expedited restructuring of such borrowers by their Korean creditor financial institutions, under the supervision of major commercial banks. In accordance with such program, 24 construction companies and five shipbuilding companies became subject to workout in 2009, following review by their creditor financial institutions (including us) and the Korean government. In addition, in June 2010, the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service announced that, following credit risk evaluations conducted by six creditor financial institutions (including us) of companies in Korea with outstanding debt of 50 billion or more, 65 companies were selected by such financial institutions for restructuring in the form of workout, liquidation or court receivership. Of such 65 companies, 16 were construction companies and three were shipbuilding companies. More recently, in July 2012, the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service announced the results of subsequent credit risk evaluations conducted by creditor financial institutions (including us) of companies in Korea, in which 36 companies with outstanding debt of 50 billion or more (17 of which were construction companies and one of which was a shipbuilding company) were selected by such financial institutions for restructuring in the form of workout, liquidation or court receivership. There is no assurance, however, that these measures will be successful in stabilizing the Korean construction and shipbuilding industries.

The allowance for credit losses that we have established against our credit exposures to Korean construction and shipbuilding companies may not be sufficient to cover all future losses arising from these and other exposures. If the credit quality of our exposures to Korean construction and shipbuilding companies declines, we may incur substantial additional bad debt expenses, which could adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition. Furthermore, although a portion of our loans to construction and shipbuilding companies are secured by collateral, such collateral may not be sufficient to cover uncollectible amounts in respect of such loans.

We also have construction-related credit exposures under our project financing loans for real estate development projects in Korea. In light of the general deterioration in the asset quality of real estate project financing loans in Korea in recent years, Korean banks, including Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank, implemented a uniform set of guidelines regarding the evaluation of real estate development projects and

asset quality classification of project financing loans for such projects in September 2010. Under these guidelines, which became effective from the third quarter of 2010, Korean banks are generally required to apply more stringent criteria in evaluating the asset quality of real estate project financing loans. As a result, we may be required to establish additional allowances with respect to our outstanding real estate project financing loans, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***We have exposure to the largest Korean commercial conglomerates, known as “chaebols,” and, as a result, financial difficulties of chaebols may have an adverse impact on us.***

Of our 20 largest corporate exposures (including loans, debt and equity securities, credit-related commitments and other exposures) as of December 31, 2012, five were to companies that were members of the 30 largest *chaebols* in Korea. As of that date, the total amount of our exposures to the 30 largest *chaebols* was 29,592 billion, or 7.6% of our total exposures. If the credit quality of our exposures to *chaebols* declines, we could incur additional bad debt expenses, which would hurt our results of operations and financial condition. See “Item 4B. Business Overview—Assets and Liabilities—Loan Portfolio—Exposure to Chaebols.”

The allowances we have established against these exposures may not be sufficient to cover all future losses arising from these exposures. In addition, in the case of companies that are in or in the future enter into workout, restructuring, reorganization or liquidation proceedings, our recoveries from those companies may be limited. We may, therefore, experience future losses with respect to these exposures.

***A large portion of our exposure is concentrated in a relatively small number of large corporate borrowers, which increases the risk of our corporate credit portfolio.***

As of December 31, 2012, our 20 largest exposures to corporate borrowers totaled 47,345 billion, which represented 12.2% of our total exposures. As of that date, our single largest corporate exposure was to the Bank of Korea, to which we had outstanding credits in the form of debt securities of 8,622 billion and loans in Won of 3,280 billion, representing 3.0% of our total exposures in the aggregate. Aside from exposure to the Korean government and government-related agencies, our next largest exposure was to Hyundai Heavy Industries, to which we had outstanding exposure of 1,992 billion representing 0.5% of our total exposures. Any deterioration in the financial condition of our large corporate borrowers may require us to record substantial additional allowances and may have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

***We have exposure to companies that are currently or may in the future be put in restructuring, and we may suffer losses as a result of additional bad debt expenses required or the adoption of restructuring plans with which we do not agree.***

As of December 31, 2012, our credit exposures to companies that were in workout or corporate restructuring amounted to 3,179 billion or 0.9% of our total credit exposures, of which 1,776 billion or 55.9% was classified as substandard or below and substantially all of which was classified as impaired. As of the same date, our allowance for credit losses on these credit exposures amounted to 708 billion, or 22.3% of these exposures. These allowances may not be sufficient to cover all future losses arising from our credit exposure to these companies. Furthermore, we have other exposure to such companies, in the form of debt and equity securities of such companies held by us (including equity securities we acquired as a result of debt-to-equity conversions). Including such securities, our exposures as of December 31, 2012 to companies in workout or restructuring amounted to 3,340 billion, or 0.9% of our total exposures. Our exposures to such companies may also increase in the future, including as a result of adverse conditions in the Korean economy. In addition, in the case of borrowers that are or become subject to workout, we may be forced to restructure our credits pursuant to restructuring plans approved by other creditor financial institutions of the borrower, or to dispose of our credits to other creditors on unfavorable terms, which may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

***We have exposure to member companies of the Woongjin Group, and financial difficulties of these companies may adversely impact us.***

Several member companies of the Woongjin Group, one of Korea's top-30 *chaebols*, have been experiencing financial difficulties, mainly as a result of the prolonged slowdown in the Korean real estate market since the global financial crisis commencing in the second half of 2008. In September 2012, Woongjin Holdings Co., Ltd., which is the holding company of the Woongjin Group, and its subsidiary Kukdong Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd., or Kukdong E&C, filed for court receivership with the Seoul Central District Court, and the court appointed new management for the two companies to begin an expedited restructuring process supervised by the court. Other member companies of the Woongjin Group may also file for court receivership, undergo out-of-court debt restructuring programs or otherwise default on their debt in the future as a result of financial or operational difficulties or otherwise. As of December 31, 2012, our aggregate credit exposures to the member companies of the Woongjin Group, consisting primarily of loans extended to such companies, amounted to 459 billion, including 165 billion of loans to Woongjin Holdings and Kukdong E&C. In 2012, we charged off 114 billion of loans extended to the member companies of the Woongjin Group (including 44 billion of loans to Kukdong E&C), and as of December 31, 2012, our allowance for credit losses with respect to our credit exposures to the Woongjin Group amounted to 10 billion (of which 1 billion were with respect to credit exposures to Woongjin Holdings and Kukdong E&C). We may set aside additional allowances in 2013 with respect to such exposures, which may have an adverse impact on our results of operations. Furthermore, such allowances may not be sufficient to cover all future losses arising from our exposures to these companies. In the event that the financial condition of these companies deteriorates further in the future, we may be required to record additional allowances for credit losses, as well as charge-offs and valuation or impairment losses, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

**Risks relating to our consumer credit portfolio**

***We may experience increases in delinquencies in our consumer loan and credit card portfolios.***

In recent years, consumer debt has increased rapidly in Korea. Our portfolio of consumer loans amounted to 66,758 billion as of December 31, 2010, 72,914 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 78,785 billion as of December 31, 2012. Our credit card portfolio amounted to 4,357 billion as of December 31, 2010, 4,592 billion as of December 31, 2011 and 4,505 billion as of December 31, 2012. As of December 31, 2012, our consumer loans and credit card receivables represented 35.7% and 2.0% of our total lending, respectively. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Consumer Banking—Lending Activities" and "Item 4B. Business Overview—Credit Cards—Products and Services."

The growth in our consumer loan portfolio in recent years, together with adverse economic conditions in Korea and globally, may lead to increasing delinquencies and a deterioration in asset quality. The amount of our consumer loans classified as substandard or below was 343 billion (or 0.5% of our consumer loan portfolio) as of December 31, 2010, 396 billion (or 0.5% of our consumer loan portfolio) as of December 31, 2011 and 441 billion (or 0.6% of our consumer loan portfolio) as of December 31, 2012. We charged off consumer loans amounting to 190 billion in 2012, as compared to 89 billion in 2011 and 106 billion in 2010, and recorded bad debt expenses in respect of consumer loans of 242 billion in 2012, as compared to 158 billion in 2011 and 130 billion in 2010. Within our consumer loan portfolio, the outstanding balance of general purpose household loans, which, unlike mortgage or home equity loans, are often unsecured and therefore tend to carry a higher credit risk, amounted to 26,645 billion, or 39.9% of our total outstanding consumer loans, as of December 31, 2010, 27,940 billion, or 38.3% of our total outstanding consumer loans, as of December 31, 2011 and 22,785 billion, or 28.9% of our total outstanding consumer loans, as of December 31, 2012.

In our credit card segment, outstanding balances overdue by 30 days or more amounted to 103 billion, or 2.4% of our credit card receivables, as of December 31, 2010, 92 billion, or 2.0% of our credit card receivables, as of December 31, 2011 and 87 billion, or 1.9% of our credit card receivables, as of December 31, 2012. In line with industry practice, we have restructured a portion of our delinquent credit card account balances as loans. As of December 31, 2012, these restructured loans amounted to 74 billion, or 1.7% of our credit card balances. Because these restructured loans are not initially recorded as being delinquent, our delinquency ratios do not fully reflect all delinquent amounts relating to our credit card balances. Including all

restructured loans, outstanding balances overdue by 30 days or more accounted for 3.4% of our credit card balances as of December 31, 2012. We charged off credit card balances amounting to 186 billion in 2012, as compared to 142 billion in 2011 and 128 billion in 2010, and recorded bad debt expenses in respect of credit card balances of 152 billion in 2012, as compared to 115 billion in 2011 and 47 billion in 2010. Delinquencies may increase in the future as a result of, among other things, adverse economic conditions in Korea, difficulties experienced by other credit card issuers that adversely affect our customers, additional government regulation or the inability of Korean consumers to manage increased household debt. In addition, as a part of our strategy to enhance our credit card operations and increase its synergies with our other businesses, in April 2013, we effected a horizontal spin-off of the credit card business of Woori Bank. As a result, the former credit card business of Woori Bank is operated by a newly established wholly-owned subsidiary of ours, Woori Card Co., Ltd. However, we may not be able to realize the anticipated benefits of this spin-off due to various factors, including increased expenses arising from the operation of a separate credit card company, unexpected business disruptions, difficulties in reorganizing personnel and administrative functions and potential loss of customers.

A deterioration of the asset quality of our consumer loan and credit card portfolios would require us to record increased bad debt expenses and charge-offs and will adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, our large exposure to consumer debt means that we are exposed to changes in economic conditions affecting Korean consumers. Accordingly, economic difficulties in Korea that hurt those consumers could result in further deterioration in the credit quality of our consumer loan and credit card portfolios. For example, a rise in unemployment or an increase in interest rates in Korea could adversely affect the ability of consumers to make payments and increase the likelihood of potential defaults.

In light of adverse conditions in the Korean economy affecting consumers, in March 2009, the Financial Services Commission requested Korean banks, including Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank, to establish a “pre-workout program,” including a credit counseling and recovery service, for retail borrowers with outstanding short-term debt. The pre-workout program has been in operation since April 2009 and, following successive extensions by the Korean government, is expected to continue indefinitely. Under the pre-workout program, maturity extensions and/or interest reductions are provided for retail borrowers with total loans of less than 500 million who are in arrears on their payments for more than 30 days but less than 90 days. The aggregate amount of consumer credit (including credit card receivables) provided by Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank which became subject to the pre-workout program in 2012 was 44 billion. While we believe that our participation in such pre-workout program has not had a material impact on the overall credit quality of our consumer loan and credit card portfolio or on our results of operations and financial condition to date, our future participation in such government-led initiatives to provide financial support to retail borrowers may lead us to offer credit terms for such borrowers that we would not otherwise offer, in the absence of such initiatives, which may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***A decline in the value of the collateral securing our consumer loans and our inability to realize full collateral value may adversely affect our consumer credit portfolio.***

A substantial portion of our consumer loans is secured by real estate, the values of which have fluctuated significantly in recent years. Although it is our general policy to lend up to 60% of the appraised value of collateral (except in areas of high speculation designated by the government where we generally limit our lending to 40% to 60% of the appraised value of collateral) and to periodically re-appraise our collateral, the downturn in the real estate markets in Korea in recent years has resulted in declines in the value of the collateral securing our mortgage and home equity loans. If collateral values decline further in the future, they may not be sufficient to cover uncollectible amounts in respect of our secured loans. Any future declines in the value of the real estate or other collateral securing our consumer loans, or our inability to obtain additional collateral in the event of such declines, could result in a deterioration in our asset quality and may require us to record additional allowances for credit losses.

In Korea, foreclosure on collateral generally requires a written petition to a court. An application, when made, may be subject to delays and administrative requirements that may decrease the value of such collateral.

## [Table of Contents](#)

We cannot guarantee that we will be able to realize the full value on our collateral as a result of, among other factors, delays in foreclosure proceedings and defects in the perfection of our security interest in collateral. Our failure to recover the expected value of collateral could expose us to potential losses.

### **Risks relating to our financial holding company structure and strategy**

#### ***We may not be successful in taking advantage of our integrated financial holding company structure.***

Our success under a financial holding company structure depends on our ability to take advantage of our large existing base of retail and corporate banking customers and to implement a strategy of developing and cross-selling diverse financial products and services to them. As part of this strategy, we continue to standardize and upgrade the risk management operations of our subsidiaries. We are also continuing our efforts to diversify our product offerings through, among other things, the expansion of our insurance business following the establishment of Woori Aviva Life Insurance in 2008 and increased marketing of insurance products through our bancassurance channels, as well as further expansion of our investment banking and investment trust operations. The implementation of these and other plans that we may pursue to take advantage of our integrated financial holding company structure may require additional investments of capital, infrastructure, human resources and management attention and entails certain risks, including the possibility that:

- we may fail to further integrate and upgrade our diverse systems and operations as needed to maximize synergies among our operating subsidiaries;
- we may lack required capital resources;
- we may fail to attract, develop and retain personnel with necessary expertise;
- we may face competition from other financial holding companies and more specialized financial institutions in particular segments; and
- we may fail to leverage our financial holding company structure to continue realizing operational efficiencies and to cross-sell new products and services.

If we are not successful in implementing our current and future plans, we may incur losses on our investments and our results of operations and financial condition may suffer.

#### ***We may fail to realize the anticipated benefits relating to our reorganization and integration plan and any future mergers or acquisitions that we may pursue.***

Our success under a financial holding company structure depends on our ability to implement our reorganization and integration plan and to realize the anticipated synergies, growth opportunities and cost savings from coordinating and, in certain cases, combining the businesses of our various subsidiaries. As part of this plan, between December 2001 and February 2002 we merged the commercial banking business of Peace Bank of Korea into Woori Bank, converted Peace Bank of Korea into a credit card subsidiary, Woori Credit Card, and transferred the credit card business of Woori Bank to Woori Credit Card. We also transferred the credit card business of Kwangju Bank to Woori Credit Card in March 2003. In light of the deteriorating business performance of Woori Investment Bank and with the objective of restructuring the group platform, we merged Woori Investment Bank with Woori Bank in August 2003. In March 2004, in response to the liquidity problems of Woori Credit Card stemming from the deteriorating asset quality of its credit card portfolio, we merged Woori Credit Card with Woori Bank. Although we currently intend for our commercial banking subsidiaries to continue to operate as separate legal entities within our financial holding company structure and to maintain separate loan origination and other functions, we have standardized our subsidiaries' risk management operations (except with respect to operational risk), including with respect to credit risk management following systems upgrades completed in 2007. In October and December 2004, we also acquired a 27.3% voting interest in LGIS, a leading domestic securities firm. In March 2005, we merged Woori Securities into LGIS and renamed the surviving entity Woori Investment & Securities. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Business—Capital Markets Activities—Securities Brokerage." In May 2005, we purchased a 90.0% direct ownership interest in LG Investment Trust Management, or LGITM, from LGIS. We subsequently merged Woori Investment Trust

## [Table of Contents](#)

Management, our wholly-owned asset management subsidiary, into LGITM and renamed the surviving entity Woori Asset Management, which remains a consolidated subsidiary. In July and September 2005, Woori Asset Management reacquired the remaining 10.0% interest from its minority shareholders. In May 2006, we transferred 30.0% of our interest in Woori Asset Management to Credit Suisse. Following this transfer, we renamed the entity Woori Credit Suisse Asset Management. In October 2009, we reacquired Credit Suisse's 30.0% interest in Woori Credit Suisse Asset Management and renamed the entity Woori Asset Management. Furthermore, we acquired a 51.4% interest in Hanmi Capital in September 2007, which was subsequently renamed Woori Financial, and acquired a 51.0% interest in LG Life Insurance in April 2008, which was subsequently renamed Woori Aviva Life Insurance. Woori Financial became a consolidated subsidiary, while we account for Woori Aviva Life Insurance as part of our investments in jointly controlled entities and associates under IFRS. In addition, in April 2013, we spun off the credit card business of Woori Bank into a newly established wholly-owned subsidiary, Woori Card.

Separately, in April 2012, the Korean government, through the Public Funds Oversight Committee of the Financial Services Commission, announced its latest plan to privatize us through a sale of up to the entire 56.97% equity stake (and a minimum 30% equity stake) held by the Korean government through the Korea Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the KDIC, through a competitive bidding process from April to July 2012. The April 2012 plan was similar to previous privatization plans, including those announced in May 2011. However, following a preliminary bidding process in which no bid was submitted, the Public Funds Oversight Committee announced the suspension of such sale process in August 2012. The implementation of the Korean government's privatization plan may be further delayed or changed depending on a variety of factors, such as domestic and international economic conditions, and there can be no assurance that such privatization plan will be implemented as contemplated or at all.

In addition, we purchased certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of Samhwa Mutual Savings Bank in March 2011 and Solomon Savings Bank in September 2012 through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Woori FG Savings Bank Co., Ltd. In March 2013, we announced a plan to acquire a controlling interest in Kumho Investment Bank by purchasing unsubscribed shares of that entity issuable in a proposed rights offering, subject to the condition that we are able to become the largest shareholder of Kumho Investment Bank with an equity ownership of at least 30% by purchasing such unsubscribed shares. Such rights offering is expected to commence following the completion of a 3.3 to 1 reduction of capital of Kumho Investment Bank, which is currently in progress.

As part of our strategy, we also intend to continue to seek opportunities to expand our overseas operations, including potentially through acquisitions and investments in the U.S., Europe and Asia. The integration of our subsidiaries' separate businesses and operations, as well as those of any companies we may merge with or acquire in the future, could require a significant amount of time, financial resources and management attention, and may result in increased capital requirements and greater credit and other exposures. Moreover, the integration process could disrupt our operations (including our risk management operations) or information technology systems, reduce employee morale, produce unintended inconsistencies in our standards, controls, procedures or policies, and affect our relationships with customers and our ability to retain key personnel.

The continued implementation of our reorganization and integration plan, as well as any future additional integration plans that we may adopt in connection with our mergers or acquisitions or otherwise, and the realization of the anticipated benefits of our financial holding company structure and any mergers or acquisitions we decide to pursue may be blocked, delayed or reduced as a result of many factors, some of which may be outside our control. These factors include:

- difficulties in integrating the diverse activities and operations of our subsidiaries or any companies we may merge with or acquire, including risk management operations and information technology systems, personnel, policies and procedures;
- difficulties in reorganizing or reducing overlapping personnel, branches, networks and administrative functions;



- restrictions under the Financial Holding Company Act, the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act and other regulations on transactions between our company and, or among, our subsidiaries;
- unexpected business disruptions;
- loss of customers; and
- labor unrest.

Accordingly, we may not be able to realize the anticipated benefits of our current or any future reorganization and integration plan and any future mergers or acquisitions that we pursue or undergo, and our business, results of operations and financial condition may suffer as a result.

***We may not generate sufficient additional fees to achieve our revenue diversification strategy.***

An important element of our overall strategy is increasing our fee income in order to diversify our revenue base, in anticipation of greater competition and declining lending margins. Historically, our primary source of revenues has been net interest income from our banking operations. To date, except for credit card, trust management, bancassurance, brokerage and currency transfer fees (including foreign exchange-related commissions) and fees collected in connection with the operation of our investment funds, we have not generated substantial fee income. We intend to develop new sources of fee income as part of our business strategy, including through our investment banking and asset management businesses. Although we, like many other Korean financial institutions, have begun to charge fees to our customers more regularly, customers may prove unwilling to pay additional fees, even in exchange for more attractive value-added services, and their reluctance to do so would adversely affect the implementation of our strategy to increase our fee income. Furthermore, the fees that we charge to customers are subject to regulation by Korean financial regulatory authorities, which may seek to implement regulations or measures that may have an adverse impact on our ability to achieve this aspect of our strategy.

***We depend on limited forms of funding to fund our operations at the holding company level.***

We are a financial holding company with no significant assets other than the shares of our subsidiaries. Our primary sources of funding and liquidity are dividends from our subsidiaries, direct borrowings and issuances of equity or debt securities at the holding company level. In addition, as a financial holding company, we are required to meet certain minimum financial ratios under Korean law, including with respect to liquidity, leverage and capital adequacy. Our ability to meet our obligations to our direct creditors and employees and our other liquidity needs and regulatory requirements at the holding company level depends on timely and adequate distributions from our subsidiaries and our ability to sell our securities or obtain credit from our lenders.

In the case of dividend distributions, this depends on the financial condition and operating results of our subsidiaries. In the future, our subsidiaries may enter into agreements, such as credit agreements with lenders or indentures relating to high-yield or subordinated debt instruments, that impose restrictions on their ability to make distributions to us, and the terms of future obligations and the operation of Korean law could prevent our subsidiaries from making sufficient distributions to us to allow us to make payments on our outstanding obligations. See “—As a holding company, we depend on receiving dividends from our subsidiaries to pay dividends on our common stock.” Any delay in receipt of or shortfall in payments to us from our subsidiaries could result in our inability to meet our liquidity needs and regulatory requirements, including minimum liquidity and capital adequacy ratios, and may disrupt our operations at the holding company level.

In addition, creditors of our subsidiaries will generally have claims that are prior to any claims of our creditors with respect to their assets. Furthermore, our inability to sell our securities or obtain funds from our lenders on favorable terms, or at all, could also result in our inability to meet our liquidity needs and regulatory requirements and may disrupt our operations at the holding company level.

***As a holding company, we depend on receiving dividends from our subsidiaries to pay dividends on our common stock.***

Since our principal assets at the holding company level are the shares of our subsidiaries, our ability to pay dividends on our common stock largely depends on dividend payments from those subsidiaries. Those dividend payments are subject to the Korean Commercial Code, the Bank Act and regulatory limitations, generally based on capital levels and retained earnings, imposed by the various regulatory agencies with authority over those entities. The ability of our banking subsidiaries to pay dividends is subject to regulatory restrictions to the extent that paying dividends would impair each of their nonconsolidated profitability, financial condition or other cash flow needs. For example:

- under the Korean Commercial Code, dividends may only be paid out of distributable income, an amount which is calculated by subtracting the aggregate amount of a company's paid-in capital and certain mandatory legal reserves as well as certain unrealized profits from its net assets, in each case as of the end of the prior fiscal period;
- under the Bank Act, a bank also must credit at least 10% of its net profit to a legal reserve each time it pays dividends on distributable income until that reserve equals the amount of its total paid-in capital; and
- under the Bank Act and the requirements of the Financial Services Commission, if a bank fails to meet its required capital adequacy ratio or otherwise subject to the management improvement measures imposed by the Financial Services Commission, then the Financial Services Commission may restrict the declaration and payment of dividends by that bank.

Our subsidiaries may not continue to meet the applicable legal and regulatory requirements for the payment of dividends in the future. If they fail to do so, they may stop paying or reduce the amount of the dividends they pay to us, which would have an adverse effect on our ability to pay dividends on our common stock.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may not be able to pay dividends to the extent that such payments would result in a failure to meet any of the applicable financial targets under our respective memoranda of understanding with the KDIC. See "—Other risks relating to our business—Our failure to meet the financial and other business targets set forth in current terms of the memoranda of understanding among us, our subsidiaries and the KDIC may result in substantial harm to us or our subsidiaries."

#### **Risks relating to competition**

***Competition in the Korean financial industry is intense, and we may lose market share and experience declining margins as a result.***

Competition in the Korean financial market has been and is likely to remain intense. Some of the financial institutions that we compete with are larger in terms of asset size and customer base and have greater financial resources or more specialized capabilities than our subsidiaries. In addition, in the area of our core banking operations, most Korean banks have been focusing on retail customers and small- and medium-sized enterprises in recent years, although they have begun to generally increase their exposure to large corporate borrowers, and have been focusing on developing fee income businesses, including bancassurance and investment products, as increasingly important sources of revenue. In the area of credit cards, Korean banks and credit card companies have in the past engaged in aggressive marketing activities and made significant investments, contributing to some extent to lower profitability and asset quality problems previously experienced with respect to credit card receivables. The competition and market saturation resulting from this common focus may make it more difficult for us to secure retail and small- and medium-sized customers with the credit quality and on credit terms necessary to maintain or increase our income and profitability.

In addition, we believe that regulatory reforms and the general modernization of business practices in Korea will lead to increased competition among financial institutions in Korea. We also believe that foreign financial institutions, many of which have greater experience and resources than we do, will seek to compete with us in

providing financial products and services either by themselves or in partnership with existing Korean financial institutions. Furthermore, a number of significant mergers and acquisitions in the industry have taken place in Korea over the past decade, including the acquisition of Koram Bank by an affiliate of Citibank in 2004, the acquisition of Korea First Bank by Standard Chartered Bank in April 2005, Chohung Bank's merger with Shinhan Bank in April 2006 and Hana Financial Group's acquisition of a controlling interest in Korea Exchange Bank in February 2012. We expect that consolidation in the financial industry will continue. Other financial institutions may seek to acquire or merge with other entities, and the financial institutions resulting from this consolidation may, by virtue of their increased size and business scope, provide significantly greater competition for us. Increased competition and continuing consolidation may lead to decreased margins, resulting in a material adverse impact on our future profitability. Accordingly, our results of operations and financial condition may suffer as a result of increasing competition in the Korean financial industry.

***Competition for customer deposits may increase, resulting in a loss of our deposit customers or an increase in our funding costs.***

In recent years, we have faced increasing pricing pressure on deposit products from our competitors. If we do not continue to offer competitive interest rates to our deposit customers, we may lose their business. In addition, even if we are able to match our competitors' pricing, doing so may result in an increase in our funding costs, which may have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

***Other risks relating to our business***

***Difficult conditions in the global financial markets could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.***

The Korean economy is closely tied to, and is affected by developments in, the global economy. While the rate of deterioration of the global economy since the commencement of the global financial crisis in 2008 has slowed, with some signs of stabilization and improvement, the overall prospects for the Korean and global economy in 2013 and beyond remain uncertain. Starting in the second half of 2011, the global financial markets have experienced significant volatility as a result of, among other things, the financial difficulties affecting many governments worldwide, in particular in Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. In addition, recent political and social instability in various countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa, including in Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen, have resulted in volatility and uncertainty in the global energy markets. Any of these or other developments could potentially trigger another financial and economic crisis. Furthermore, in recent months, the Chinese economy has begun to show signs of a potential slowdown, including decreased gross domestic product growth rates in the first and second quarters of 2012 and falling real estate price levels in certain urban areas. In response, the Chinese government has implemented stimulus measures, including a decrease in the benchmark interest rate for deposits and loans as announced by the People's Bank of China in June 2012, but the overall impact of such stimulus measures remains uncertain. Although China's economy began to show signs of recovery in the fourth quarter of 2012, factors such as falling real estate price levels, excess liquidity and China's reliance on investment-driven growth may lead to an economic correction. In light of the high level of interdependence of the global economy, any of the foregoing developments could have a material adverse effect on the Korean economy and financial markets, and in turn on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are also exposed to adverse changes and volatility in global and Korean financial markets as a result of our liabilities and assets denominated in foreign currencies and our holdings of trading and investment securities, including structured products (although we do not currently have material exposures to Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Italy and other countries in Europe which are facing financial difficulties, in the form of sovereign debt or otherwise). Since the second half of 2008, the value of the Won relative to major foreign currencies in general and the U.S. dollar in particular has fluctuated widely. See "Item 3A. Selected Financial Data—Exchange Rates." A depreciation of the Won will increase our cost in Won of servicing our foreign currency-denominated debt, while continued exchange rate volatility may also result in foreign exchange losses for us. Furthermore, as a result of adverse global and Korean economic conditions, there has been significant volatility in securities prices,

including the stock prices of Korean and foreign companies in which we hold an interest. Such volatility has resulted in and may lead to further trading and valuation losses on our trading and investment securities portfolio as well as impairment losses on our investments in jointly controlled entities and associates.

***Our risk management system may not be effective in mitigating risk and loss.***

We seek to monitor and manage our risk exposure through a group-wide, standardized risk management system, encompassing a multi-tiered risk management governance structure under our Group Risk Management Committee, standardized credit risk management systems for our banking subsidiaries based on Woori Bank's centralized credit risk management system called the CREPIA system, reporting and monitoring systems, early warning systems and other risk management infrastructure, using a variety of risk management strategies and techniques. See "Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk." However, such risk management strategies and techniques employed by us and the judgments that accompany their application cannot anticipate the economic and financial outcome in all market environments, and many of the our risk management strategies and techniques have a basis in historic market behavior that may limit the effectiveness of such strategies and techniques in times of significant market stress or other unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, our risk management strategies may not be effective in a difficult or less liquid market environment, as other market participants may be attempting to use the same or similar strategies as us to deal with such market conditions. In such circumstances, it may be difficult for us to reduce our risk positions due to the activity of such other market participants.

***Our failure to meet the financial and other business targets set forth in current terms of the memoranda of understanding among us, our subsidiaries and the KDIC may result in substantial harm to us or our subsidiaries.***

Under the current terms of the memoranda of understanding entered into among us, Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank, Kwangju Bank and the KDIC, we and our subsidiaries are required to meet certain financial and business targets on a semi-annual and/or quarterly basis until the end of 2013. See "Item 4A. History and Development of the Company—History—Relationship with the Korean Government." As a result of deteriorating economic and financial market conditions in Korea and globally, both we and our subsidiaries have failed to meet certain of our respective targets in recent years. For example, in February and October 2010 and February 2011, the KDIC imposed institutional warnings on Woori Bank in connection with its failure to meet its financial targets with respect to operating income per employee as of September 30, 2009 and return on assets and non-performing loan ratio as of June 30 and September 30, 2010, respectively. In October 2010, the KDIC imposed an institutional warning on Kyongnam Bank, as well as reprimands and warnings on 10 current and former executive officers of Kyongnam Bank, in connection with certain fraudulent transactions undertaken on behalf of Kyongnam Bank by certain employees and their potential impact on Kyongnam Bank. See "Item 8A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Legal Proceedings—Kyongnam Bank." In April 2011, the KDIC imposed another institutional warning on us and Woori Bank, as well as a warning on the former chief executive officer of Woori Bank, in connection with our and Woori Bank's failure to meet the financial targets with respect to our non-performing loan ratio and Woori Bank's return on assets as of December 31, 2010. In April 2013, the KDIC elected not to impose any penalties on us, Kwangju Bank or Kyongnam Bank regarding a failure to meet the financial targets for expense-to-revenue ratios, in the case of us and Kwangju Bank, and a failure to meet its financial target for return on assets, in the case of Kyongnam Bank, in each case as of December 31, 2012, in light of the strength of the overall performance by us, Kwangju Bank and Kyongnam Bank with respect to the other financial targets. We, Woori Bank, Kyongnam Bank and Kwangju Bank entered into a new business normalization plan with new restructuring measures and financial targets with the KDIC in April 2013.

If we or our subsidiaries fail to satisfy our obligations under the current or any new memoranda of understanding in the future, the Korean government, through the KDIC, may impose penalties on us or our subsidiaries. These penalties could include the replacement of our senior management, sale of our assets, restructuring of our organization, restrictions on our business, including a suspension or transfer of our business,

and elimination or reduction of existing equity. Accordingly, our failure to meet the obligations in the memoranda of understanding may result in harm to our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We have provided certain assets as collateral in connection with our secured borrowings and could be required to make payments and realize losses in the future relating to those assets.***

We have provided certain assets as collateral for our secured borrowings in recent years. These secured borrowings often take the form of asset securitization transactions, where we nominally sell our assets to a securitization vehicle that issues securities backed by those assets, although the assets remain on our statements of financial position. These secured borrowings are intended to be fully repaid through recoveries on collateral. Some of these nominal asset sales were with recourse, which means that if delinquencies arise with respect to such assets, we will be required to either repay a proportionate amount of the related secured borrowing (by reversing the nominal sale and repurchasing such assets) or compensate the securitization vehicle for any net shortfalls in its recoveries on such assets. As of December 31, 2012, the aggregate amount of assets we had provided as collateral for our secured borrowings was 18,452 billion. As of that date, we had established allowances of 26 billion in respect of possible losses on those assets. If we are required to make payments on such assets, or to repay our secured borrowings on those assets and are unable to make sufficient recoveries on them, we may realize further losses on these assets to the extent those payments or recovery shortfalls exceed our allowances.

***An increase in interest rates would decrease the value of our debt securities portfolio and raise our funding costs while reducing loan demand and the repayment ability of our borrowers, which could adversely affect us.***

Interest rates in Korea have been subject to significant fluctuations in recent years. In late 2008 and early 2009, the Bank of Korea reduced its policy rate by a total of 325 basis points to support Korea's economy amid the global financial crisis, and left the key interest rate unchanged at 2.00% throughout 2009. In an effort to stem inflation amid improved growth prospects, the Bank of Korea increased its policy rate to 2.25% in July 2010, 2.50% in November 2010, 2.75% in January 2011, 3.00% in March 2011 and 3.25% in June 2011. The Bank of Korea reduced its policy rate to 3.00% in July 2012 and further reduced such rate to 2.75% in October 2012 to support Korea's economy in light of the recent slowdown in Korea's growth and uncertain global economic prospects. All else being equal, an increase in interest rates leads to a decline in the value of our portfolio of debt securities, which generally pay interest based on a fixed rate. A sustained increase in interest rates will also raise our funding costs, while reducing loan demand, especially among consumers. Rising interest rates may therefore require us to re-balance our asset portfolio and our liabilities in order to minimize the risk of potential mismatches and maintain our profitability. See "Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk." In addition, rising interest rate levels may adversely affect the Korean economy and the financial condition of our corporate and consumer borrowers, including holders of our credit cards, which in turn may lead to a deterioration in our credit portfolio. In particular, since most of our consumer and corporate loans bear interest at rates that adjust periodically based on prevailing market rates, a sustained increase in interest rate levels will increase the interest costs of our consumer and corporate borrowers and will adversely affect their ability to make payments on their outstanding loans.

***Our funding is highly dependent on short-term deposits, which dependence may adversely affect our operations.***

Our banking subsidiaries meet a significant amount of their funding requirements through short-term funding sources, which consist primarily of customer deposits. As of December 31, 2012, approximately 96.4% of these deposits had maturities of one year or less or were payable on demand. In the past, a substantial proportion of these customer deposits have been rolled over upon maturity. We cannot guarantee, however, that depositors will continue to roll over their deposits in the future. In the event that a substantial number of these short-term deposit customers withdraw their funds or fail to roll over their deposits as higher-yielding investment opportunities emerge, our liquidity position could be adversely affected. Our banking subsidiaries may also be required to seek more expensive sources of short-term and long-term funding to finance their operations. See "Item 5B. Liquidity and Capital Resources—Financial Condition—Liquidity."

***Labor union unrest may disrupt our operations and hinder our ability to continue to reorganize and integrate our operations.***

Most financial institutions in Korea, including our subsidiaries, have experienced periods of labor unrest. As part of our reorganization and integration plan, we have transferred or merged some of the businesses operations of our subsidiaries into one or more entities and implemented other forms of corporate and operational restructuring. We may decide to implement other organizational or operational changes, as well as acquisitions or dispositions, in the future. Such efforts have in the past been met with significant opposition from labor unions in Korea. Actual or threatened labor disputes may in the future disrupt the reorganization and integration process and our business operations, which in turn may hurt our financial condition and results of operations.

***The secondary market for corporate bonds in Korea is not fully developed, and, as a result, we may not be able to realize the full “marked-to-market” value of debt securities we hold when we sell any of those securities.***

As of December 31, 2012, our banking subsidiaries held debt securities issued by Korean companies and financial institutions (other than those issued by government-owned or-controlled enterprises or financial institutions, which include the KDIC, the Korea Electric Power Corporation, the Bank of Korea, the Korea Development Bank and the Industrial Bank of Korea, among others) with a total book value of 9,326 billion in our trading and investment securities portfolio. The market value of these securities could decline significantly due to various factors, including future increases in interest rates or a deterioration in the financial and economic condition of any particular issuer or of Korea in general. Any of these factors individually or a combination of these factors would require us to write down the fair value of these debt securities, resulting in impairment losses. Because the secondary market for corporate bonds in Korea is not fully developed, the market value of many of these securities as reflected on our consolidated statements of financial position is determined by references to suggested prices posted by Korean rating agencies, which measure prices based on observable market data. These valuations, however, may differ significantly from the actual value that we could realize in the event we elect to sell these securities. As a result, we may not be able to realize the full “marked-to-market” value at the time of any such sale of these securities and thus may incur additional losses.

***We and our commercial banking subsidiaries may be required to raise additional capital if our capital adequacy ratio deteriorates or the applicable capital requirements change in the future, but we may not be able to do so on favorable terms or at all.***

Under the capital adequacy requirements of the Financial Services Commission, we, as a bank holding company, are required to maintain a minimum consolidated capital adequacy ratio, which is the ratio of equity capital as a percentage of risk-weighted assets on a consolidated basis, of 8.0%. See “Item 4B. Business Overview—Supervision and Regulation—Principal Regulations Applicable to Financial Holding Companies—Capital Adequacy” and “Item 5B. Liquidity and Capital Resources—Financial Condition—Capital Adequacy.” In addition, each of our commercial banking subsidiaries is required to maintain a minimum combined Tier I and Tier II capital adequacy ratio of 8.0%, on a consolidated basis. In both cases, Tier II capital is included in calculating the combined Tier I and Tier II capital adequacy ratio up to 100% of Tier I capital. In addition, the current terms of the memoranda of understanding among us, our subsidiaries and the KDIC require us and our subsidiaries to meet specified capital adequacy ratio requirements. See “Item 4A. History and Development of the Company—History—Relationship with the Korean Government.” As of December 31, 2012, our capital ratio and the capital adequacy ratios of our subsidiaries exceeded the minimum levels required by both the Financial Services Commission and these memoranda. However, our capital base and capital adequacy ratio or those of our subsidiaries may deteriorate in the future if our or their results of operations or financial condition deteriorates for any reason, or if we or they are not able to deploy their funding into suitably low-risk assets. To the extent that our subsidiaries fail to maintain their capital adequacy ratios in the future, Korean regulatory authorities may impose penalties on them ranging from a warning to suspension or revocation of their licenses.

In December 2009, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision introduced a new set of measures to supplement the prior Basel Capital Accord, referred to as Basel II, which include, among others, a requirement for higher minimum capital, introduction of a leverage ratio as a supplementary measure to the capital adequacy

ratio and flexible capital requirements for different phases of the economic cycle. Additional details regarding such new measures, including an additional capital conservation buffer and countercyclical capital buffer, liquidity coverage ratio and other supplemental measures, were announced by the Group of Governors and Heads of Supervision of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in September 2010. After further impact assessment and observation periods, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision will begin phasing in the new set of measures, referred to as Basel III, starting from 2013. In September 2012, the Financial Services Commission announced its plans to implement a new set of regulations that will, among other things, require Korean banks to comply with stricter minimum capital ratio requirements beginning in 2013 and additional minimum capital conservation buffer requirements starting in 2016. Under the proposed regulations, Korean banks will be required to maintain a minimum ratio of Tier I common capital (which principally includes equity capital, capital surplus and retained earnings less reserve for credit losses) to risk-weighted assets of 3.5% and Tier I capital to risk-weighted assets of 4.5% in 2013, which minimum ratios are to increase to 4.0% and 5.5%, respectively, in 2014 and 4.5% and 6.0%, respectively, in 2015. Such requirements would be in addition to the existing requirement for a minimum ratio of Tier I and Tier II capital (less any capital deductions) to risk-weighted assets of 8.0%, which will remain unchanged. The proposed regulations also contemplate an additional capital conservation buffer of 0.625% starting in 2016, with such buffer to increase to 2.5% by 2019. However, in December 2012, the Financial Services Commission announced that the implementation of the proposed Basel III-related requirements in Korea will be delayed indefinitely pending the implementation of Basel III in the European Union, the United States and other countries. Accordingly, the timing and scope of implementation in Korea of the Basel III measures described above, as well as other Basel III measures such as introduction of a countercyclical buffer, leverage ratio and liquidity coverage ratio, remain uncertain. The implementation of Basel III in Korea may have a significant effect on the capital requirements of Korean financial institutions, including us. See "Item 5B. Liquidity and Capital Resources—Financial Condition—Capital Adequacy."

We may be required to obtain additional capital in the future in order to remain in compliance with more stringent capital adequacy and other regulatory requirements and, as the financial holding company for our subsidiaries, we may be required to raise additional capital to contribute to our subsidiaries. However, we or our subsidiaries may not be able to obtain additional capital on favorable terms, or at all. The ability of our company and our subsidiaries to obtain additional capital at any time may be constrained to the extent that banks or other financial institutions in Korea or from other countries are seeking to raise capital at the same time. Depending on whether we or our subsidiaries are obtaining any necessary additional capital, and the terms and amount of any additional capital obtained, holders of our common stock or American depositary shares, or ADSs, may experience a dilution of their interest, or we may experience a dilution of our interest in our subsidiaries.

***We engage in limited activities relating to Iran and may become subject to sanctions under relevant laws and regulations of the United States and other jurisdictions as a result of such activities, which may adversely affect our business and reputation.***

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, administers and enforces certain laws and regulations (which we refer to as OFAC sanctions) that impose restrictions upon U.S. persons with respect to activities or transactions with certain countries, governments, entities and individuals that are the subject of OFAC sanctions, including Iran. Even though non-U.S. persons generally are not directly bound by OFAC sanctions, in recent years OFAC has asserted that such non-U.S. persons can be held liable on various legal theories if they cause violations by U.S. persons by engaging in transactions completed in part in the United States (such as, for example, wiring an international payment that clears through a bank branch in New York). The European Union, also enforces certain laws and regulations that impose restrictions upon nationals and entities of, and business conducted in, member states with respect to activities or transactions with certain countries, governments, entities and individuals that are the subject of such laws and regulations, including Iran. The United Nations Security Council and other governmental entities also impose similar sanctions.

In addition to the OFAC sanctions described above, the United States maintains programs under, among others, the Iran Sanctions Act, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, or CISADA, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, or the NDAA, the Iran Threat

## [Table of Contents](#)

Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, or ITRA, various Executive Orders, and the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012, or IFCPA, (which we refer to collectively as the indirect U.S. sanctions), that provide authority for the imposition of U.S. sanctions on foreign parties that provide services (including banking services and financing) in support of certain Iranian activities in the energy, shipping and military sectors, among others. A range of sanctions may be imposed on companies that engage in sanctionable activities, including among other things the blocking of any property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which the sanctioned company has an interest, which could include a prohibition on transactions or dealings involving securities of the sanctioned company pursuant to CISADA. The indirect U.S. sanctions also target foreign financial institutions that, among other things: (i) facilitate significant transactions with, or provide significant financial services to, U.S.-sanctioned Iranian persons designated in connection with terrorism or weapons of mass destruction, or linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps; (ii) facilitate the activities of a person subject to United Nations sanctions against Iran (or any person acting on behalf of, or owned or controlled by, such a person); (iii) knowingly facilitate transactions connected to Iranian terrorism or weapons of mass destruction activities; or (iv) knowingly conduct or facilitate significant financial transactions for the purchase of petrochemical products from Iran. Financial institutions engaging in targeted activity could be sanctioned by termination or restriction of their ability to maintain correspondent accounts in the United States, or "correspondent account transactions." The imposition of sanctions against foreign financial institutions pursuant to the indirect U.S. sanctions is not automatic, requiring further action by the U.S. administration.

The indirect U.S. sanctions were extended under the NDAA (as amended by the ITRA) to cover foreign financial institutions (whether or not owned or controlled by a foreign government) that conduct or facilitate significant transactions with the Bank Markazi Jomhuri Islami, also referred to as the Central Bank of Iran or CBI, and certain other Iranian financial institutions designated on OFAC's list of specially designated nationals, or facilitate significant transactions for the purchase of Iranian petroleum and petroleum products. Additionally, under the ITRA and subsequent OFAC regulations, foreign financial institutions that conduct or facilitate significant financial transactions involving the National Iranian Oil Company or the National Iranian Tanker Company could be subject to the above-described U.S. correspondent account sanctions or CISADA sanctions. However, an important series of exceptions applies to transactions for the purchase of goods and services produced in or substantially transformed in Iran, including Iranian petroleum or petroleum products, and certain exports of goods and services of the importing country, in each case subject to a number of conditions. First, the country with primary jurisdiction over the financial institution involved in the transaction, or the "home country," must have received a periodic determination from the U.S. President that it has significantly reduced its purchases of Iranian crude oil. Second, the exempt transactions are limited to bilateral trade between the home country and Iran, involving only the sale of goods and services produced in or substantially transformed in the home country and Iranian- origin goods and services. No payment may be provided to the Iranian parties or transferred outside the home country; instead, any funds attributable to purchases of Iranian origin goods and services (including petroleum products) must be deposited in restricted accounts at the home country financial institution. The funds in these accounts can be used only (a) for purchases by Iran of goods or services originating in the home country that are exported or sold directly to Iran, or for certain purchases of food and medical goods subject to a humanitarian exemption, or (b) for transfer to a restricted account at the same home country financial institution for later use for the same permitted purposes. Any payments from the restricted account must be made to an account in the home country of a person or entity exporting goods or services to Iran that is a citizen of, or organized under the laws of, the home country and is not owned or controlled by the government of Iran. The Iranian entities involved cannot withdraw funds directly from the restricted accounts or transfer them to accounts in a third country.

On June 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of State announced that Korea was one of several countries that has significantly reduced the volume of crude oil imports from Iran. On December 7, 2012, Korea was included again in the list of such countries, and Korean financial institutions will be eligible for the exception from the potential U.S. sanctions under the NDAA (subject to the conditions above) until June 5, 2013. Future renewals of the exception based on the significant reduction determination will depend on further reduction in Korean oil purchases from Iran and cannot be assured.



Under the IFCPA, further sanctions and restrictions on the significant reduction exception will apply. A foreign financial institution could be subject to the above-described U.S. correspondent account sanctions or CISADA sanctions if it knowingly conducts or facilitates, on or after July 1, 2013, any significant financial transaction for the sale, supply or transfer to or from Iran of goods or services used in connection with the energy, shipping and shipbuilding sectors of Iran, or on behalf of any Iranian person on OFAC's list of specially designated nationals. The significant reduction exception will apply to purchases of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran and related exports of home country goods to Iran under the terms above, but an additional condition that the goods exported to Iran may not violate or be sanctionable under any U.S. law will apply. For example, the sale of goods destined for the energy sector would not be eligible for the significant reduction exception to U.S. indirect sanctions even if all other conditions are met. Additionally, under the IFCPA, transactions for the sale, supply or transfer to or from Iran of natural gas would be required to comply with conditions paralleling the significant reduction exemption in order to avoid the risk of U.S. sanctions. Iran has also been designated as a "jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern" under Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act, potentially subjecting banks dealing with Iranian financial institutions to increased regulatory scrutiny.

Korea has also adopted a sanctions program targeting Iran in accordance with the series of relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. In particular, in September 2010, the Korean government announced broad sanctions implementation guidelines covering financial, trade, transportation and energy-related activities with Iran, which also included a proposal to facilitate legitimate trade between Korea and Iran through Won-denominated settlement accounts to be opened by CBI at certain Korean banks for such purpose. In December 2011, the Korean government announced expanded sanctions against Iran, including the addition of 99 entities and six individuals that are related to Iran's nuclear program to the Korean government's sanctioned party list with respect to Iran.

In 2012, we and our affiliates engaged in the following activities relating to Iran:

- Woori Bank operates certain accounts for CBI, which were opened by CBI pursuant to a service agreement entered into by Woori Bank and CBI in September 2010 to facilitate trade between Korea and Iran. The accounts opened by CBI consist of Won-denominated accounts that are used for the settlement of exports of goods produced or substantially transformed in Korea to Iran by Korean exporters and Won, U.S. dollar, euro and Japanese Yen-denominated accounts (of which only the Won accounts are currently in use) that are used for the settlement of imports of oil and natural gas from Iran by Korean importers. By the terms of the service agreement (as amended) between Woori Bank and CBI, settlement of export and import transaction payments due from Iranian entities to Korean exporters or from Korean importers to Iranian entities through such accounts opened by CBI are effected by crediting or debiting the relevant amount to or from the applicable accounts while a corresponding payment of funds is made to or from an Iranian bank by CBI. Any funds deposited for the account of Iranian entities as a result of Korean imports of oil and gas may only be used by transferring them to the Won-denominated account and then making payment to accounts of Korean persons and entities opened at financial institutions in Korea in respect of Korean-origin exports to Iran. No transfers of funds may be made from these accounts to Iran, to Iranian accounts in any third country, or for any other use. Furthermore, the applicable laws and regulations and banking guidelines of Korea require that trade transactions between Korean and Iranian parties be subject to prior certification and clearance by relevant Korean governmental authorities (or organizations designated thereby) to ensure compliance with Korean economic sanctions and export controls against Iran, and the settlement of payments through the accounts opened by CBI at Woori Bank are not permitted without such prior certification and clearance. In 2012, total fee revenue from maintaining the CBI accounts amounted to approximately Won 55 million (which represented less than 0.001% of our total revenue). As there were no expenses direct applicable to such activities under our internal management accounts, we estimate that our net income before tax from maintaining the CBI accounts also amounted to approximately Won 55 million (which represented less than 0.01% of our total net income before tax). Woori Bank intends to continue

maintaining the accounts opened by CBI within the current scope of services, to the extent such activity is permitted under, or otherwise exempted from, the indirect U.S. sanctions or other applicable sanctions.

- Woori Bank also provides limited export-import financing services to Korean exporters and importers in connection with their trade transactions with Iran that are permitted under the relevant Korean sanctions and not subject to the indirect U.S. sanctions, primarily by discounting, advising on or issuing letters of credit, and to a lesser extent, issuing performance bonds on behalf of Korean contractors with respect to Iranian construction projects permitted under the relevant Korean sanctions and not subject to the indirect U.S. sanctions. All such transactions are settled through the accounts opened by CBI at Woori Bank as described above. In 2012, our total fee revenue from such export-import financing services amounted to approximately Won 21 billion (which represented approximately 0.12% of our total revenue), while our net income before tax from such activities (net of expenses directly applicable to such activities based on our internal management accounts) amounted to approximately Won 8 billion (which represented approximately 0.3% of our total net income before tax). Woori Bank intends to continue providing the export-import financing services with its current scope, to the extent such activity is permitted under, or otherwise exempted from, the indirect U.S. sanctions or other applicable sanctions.
- Woori Bank also maintains a limited number of deposit accounts in Korea for a certain Iranian financial institution which is currently on the list of specially designated nationals maintained by OFAC (with an “ISFR” designation). Under Korean customer protection requirements, we are unable to provide specific information identifying this Iranian financial institution or the volume of their deposits, which constitute less than 0.05% of the Woori Bank’s total deposit base. These accounts were opened at Woori Bank before such Iranian financial institution was added to OFAC’s list of specially designated nationals, and under Korean law, these financial institutions are generally unable to repatriate the amounts in these accounts from Korea without specific authorization of the Korean authorities. As a Korean bank is generally prohibited under Korean law from unilaterally terminating a deposit account without the consent of the depositor, Woori Bank does not currently have plans to terminate these deposit accounts. In 2012, total fee revenue from maintaining such deposit accounts amounted to approximately 1 million (which represented less than 0.00001% of our total revenue). As there were no expenses direct applicable to such activities under our internal management accounts, we estimate that our net income before tax from maintaining the CBI accounts also amounted to approximately 1 million (which represented less than 0.0001% of our total net income before tax).

We believe that our activities relating to Iran are not sanctionable under the applicable U.S. sanctions law and OFAC regulation, and, assuming the President of the United States does renew the appropriate determinations that Korea has significantly reduced its purchases of Iranian crude oil, would not be sanctionable under applicable U.S. sanctions law and OFAC regulation. However, there can be no assurances that the President of the United States will make such a determination, and even if the determination is renewed there is no guarantee that our activities relating to Iran will not be found to violate OFAC sanctions or involve sanctionable activity under the indirect U.S. sanctions, or that any other government will not determine that our activities violate applicable sanctions of other countries. Moreover, sanctions against Iran are evolving rapidly, generally in the direction of becoming more restrictive, and future changes in law could also adversely affect us.

Our business and reputation could be adversely affected if the U.S. government were to determine that our activities relating to Iran violate OFAC sanctions or involve sanctionable activity under the indirect U.S. sanctions and we are unable to resolve the U.S. government’s concerns (for example, through closing the accounts opened by CBI at Woori Bank), or if any other government were to determine that our activities relating to Iran violate applicable sanctions of other countries. Any prohibition or conditions placed on our use of U.S. correspondent accounts could effectively eliminate our access to the U.S. financial system, including U.S. dollar clearing transactions, which would adversely affect our business, and any other sanctions imposed could also adversely affect our business. If the U.S. government were to challenge the compatibility of our activities relating to Iran with the OFAC sanctions or the indirect U.S. sanctions, while no assurances can be given that any such

## [Table of Contents](#)

measures would be successful, we intend to take all necessary measures to the extent possible to ensure that prohibitions or conditions are not placed on our use of U.S. correspondent accounts, including closing the accounts opened by CBI at Woori Bank, if required.

Investors may also be adversely affected if we are sanctioned pursuant to the indirect U.S. sanctions or OFAC sanctions (or otherwise), resulting in their investment in our securities being restricted. If we are sanctioned under the indirect U.S. sanctions relating to transactions with Iran's energy, shipping and military sectors, such sanctions could include, among other things, the blocking of any property in which we have an interest, which would effectively prohibit all U.S. persons from receiving any payments from us, including payments on our securities and from selling our securities.

Furthermore, some of our U.S. investors may be required to divest their investments in us under the laws of certain U.S. states or under internal investment policies relating to companies doing business with Iran or may decide for reputational reasons to divest such investments, and some U.S. institutional investors may forego the purchase of our securities. We are aware of initiatives by U.S. governmental entities and U.S. institutional investors, such as pension funds, to adopt or consider adopting laws, regulations, or policies prohibiting transactions with or investment in, or requiring divestment from, entities doing business with countries identified as state sponsors of terrorism. There can be no assurance that the foregoing will not occur or that such occurrence will not have a material adverse effect on the value of our common stock and ADSS.

### ***Our Internet banking services are subject to security concerns relating to the commercial use of the Internet.***

We provide Internet banking services to our retail and corporate customers, which require sensitive customer information, including passwords and account information, to be transferred over a secure connection on the Internet. However, connections on the Internet, although secure, are not free from security breaches. We may experience security breaches in connection with our Internet banking service in the future, which may result in liability to our customers and third parties and materially and adversely affect our business.

### ***We may experience disruptions, delays and other difficulties from our information technology systems.***

We rely on our information technology systems for our daily operations including billing, effecting online and offline banking transactions and record keeping. We may experience disruptions, delays or other difficulties from our information technology systems, which may have an adverse effect on our business and adversely impact our customers' confidence in us.

### ***We are generally subject to Korean corporate governance and disclosure standards, which differ in significant respects from those in other countries.***

Companies in Korea, including us, are subject to corporate governance standards applicable to Korean public companies which differ in many respects from standards applicable in other countries, including the United States. As a reporting company registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and listed on the New York Stock Exchange, we are subject to certain corporate governance standards as mandated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. However, foreign private issuers, including us, are exempt from certain corporate governance requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act or under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. There may also be less publicly available information about Korean companies, such as us, than is regularly made available by public or non-public companies in other countries. Such differences in corporate governance standards and less public information could result in less than satisfactory corporate governance practices or disclosure to investors in certain countries.

### ***Risks relating to government control***

#### ***The KDIC, which is our controlling stockholder, is controlled by the Korean government and could cause us to take actions or pursue policy objectives that may be against your interests.***

The Korean government, through the KDIC, currently owns 56.97% of our outstanding common stock. So long as the Korean government remains our controlling stockholder, it will have the ability to cause us to take

actions or pursue policy objectives that may conflict with the interests of our other stockholders. For example, in order to further its public policy goals, the Korean government could request that we participate with respect to a takeover of a troubled financial institution or encourage us to provide financial support to particular entities or sectors. Such actions or others that are not consistent with maximizing our profits or the value of our common stock may have an adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition and may cause the price of our common stock and ADSs to decline.

In addition, pursuant to the terms of our memorandum of understanding with the KDIC, we are required to take any necessary actions (including share buybacks and payment of dividends) to return to the KDIC the funds it injected into us and our subsidiaries, so long as those actions do not cause a material adverse effect on the normalization of our business operations as contemplated by the memorandum of understanding. Any actions that we take as a result of this requirement may favor the KDIC over our other stockholders and may therefore be against your interests.

#### **Risks relating to government regulation and policy**

***The Korean government may promote lending and financial support by the Korean financial industry to certain types of borrowers as a matter of policy, which financial institutions, including us, may decide to follow.***

Through its policy guidelines and recommendations, the Korean government has promoted and, as a matter of policy, may continue to attempt to promote lending by the Korean financial industry to particular types of borrowers. For example, the Korean government has in the past announced policy guidelines requesting financial institutions to participate in remedial programs for troubled corporate borrowers, as well as policies aimed at promoting certain sectors of the economy, including measures such as making low interest funding available to financial institutions that lend to these sectors. The government has in this manner encouraged mortgage lending to low-income individuals and lending to small- and medium-sized enterprises. We expect that all loans or credits made pursuant to these government policies will be reviewed in accordance with our credit approval procedures. However, these or any future government policies may influence us to lend to certain sectors or in a manner in which we otherwise would not in the absence of that policy.

In the past, the Korean government has also announced policies under which financial institutions in Korea are encouraged to provide financial support to particular sectors. For example, in light of the deteriorating financial condition and liquidity position of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Korea as a result of the global financial crisis commencing in the second half of 2008 and adverse conditions in the Korean economy affecting consumers, the Korean government introduced measures intended to encourage Korean banks to provide financial support to small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers. See “—Risks relating to our corporate credit portfolio—The largest portion of our exposure is to small- and medium-sized enterprises, and financial difficulties experienced by companies in this segment may result in a deterioration of our asset quality and have an adverse impact on us.”

The Korean government may in the future request financial institutions in Korea, including us, to make investments in or provide other forms of financial support to particular sectors of the Korean economy as a matter of policy, which financial institutions, including us, may decide to accept. We may incur costs or losses as a result of providing such financial support.

***The Financial Services Commission may impose burdensome measures on us if it deems us or one of our subsidiaries to be financially unsound.***

If the Financial Services Commission deems our financial condition or the financial condition of our subsidiaries to be unsound, or if we or our subsidiaries fail to meet applicable regulatory standards, such as minimum capital adequacy and liquidity ratios, the Financial Services Commission may order or recommend, among other things:

- capital increases or reductions;
- stock cancellations or consolidations;

- transfers of business;
- sales of assets;
- closures of branch offices;
- mergers with other financial institutions; and
- suspensions of a part or all of our business operations.

If any of these measures are imposed on us by the Financial Services Commission, they could hurt our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, if the Financial Services Commission orders us to partially or completely reduce our capital, you may lose part or all of your investment.

#### **Risks relating to Korea**

##### ***Unfavorable financial and economic developments in Korea may have an adverse effect on us.***

We are incorporated in Korea, and substantially all of our operations are located in Korea. As a result, we are subject to political, economic, legal and regulatory risks specific to Korea. The economic indicators in Korea in recent years have shown mixed signs of growth and uncertainty, and future growth of the economy is subject to many factors beyond our control.

In recent years, adverse conditions and volatility in the worldwide financial markets, fluctuations in oil and commodity prices and the general weakness of the U.S. and global economy have contributed to the uncertainty of global economic prospects in general and have adversely affected, and may continue to adversely affect, the Korean economy. See “Other risks relating to our business—Difficult conditions in the global financial markets could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.” Since the second half of 2008, the value of the Won relative to major foreign currencies in general and the U.S. dollar in particular has fluctuated widely. See “Item 3A. Selected Financial Data—Exchange Rates.” Furthermore, as a result of adverse global and Korean economic conditions, there has been significant volatility in the stock prices of Korean companies in recent years, particularly in light of the financial difficulties affecting many governments worldwide, including Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Future declines in the Korea Composite Stock Price Index, known as the KOSPI, and large amounts of sales of Korean securities by foreign investors and subsequent repatriation of the proceeds of such sales may adversely affect the value of the Won, the foreign currency reserves held by financial institutions in Korea, and the ability of Korean companies to raise capital. Any future deterioration of the Korean or global economy could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Developments that could hurt Korea’s economy in the future include:

- difficulties in the financial sector in Europe and elsewhere and increased sovereign default risks in select countries and the resulting adverse effects on the global financial markets;
- adverse changes or volatility in foreign currency reserve levels, commodity prices (including oil prices), exchange rates (including fluctuation of the U.S. dollar, the euro or the Japanese yen exchange rates or revaluation of the Chinese renminbi), interest rates, inflation rates or stock markets;
- continuing adverse conditions in the economies of countries and regions that are important export markets for Korea, such as the United States, Europe, Japan and China, or in emerging market economies in Asia or elsewhere;
- further decreases in the market prices of Korean real estate;
- increasing delinquencies and credit defaults by consumer or small-and medium-sized enterprise borrowers;
- declines in consumer confidence and a slowdown in consumer spending;
- increasing levels of household debt;
- difficulties in the financial sector in Korea, including the savings bank sector;

- the continued emergence of the Chinese economy, to the extent its benefits (such as increased exports to China) are outweighed by its costs (such as competition in export markets or for foreign investment and the relocation of the manufacturing base from Korea to China);
- social and labor unrest;
- a decrease in tax revenues and a substantial increase in the Korean government's expenditures for fiscal stimulus measures, unemployment compensation and other economic and social programs that, together, would lead to an increased government budget deficit;
- financial problems or lack of progress in the restructuring of *chaebols*, other large troubled companies, their suppliers or the financial sector;
- loss of investor confidence arising from corporate accounting irregularities and corporate governance issues concerning certain *chaebols*;
- increases in social expenditures to support an aging population in Korea or decreases in economic productivity due to the declining population size in Korea;
- the economic impact of any pending or future free trade agreements;
- geo-political uncertainty and risk of further attacks by terrorist groups around the world;
- natural disasters that have a significant adverse economic or other impact on Korea or its major trading partners;
- the occurrence of severe health epidemics in Korea or other parts of the world;
- deterioration in economic or diplomatic relations between Korea and its trading partners or allies, including deterioration resulting from territorial or trade disputes or disagreements in foreign policy;
- political uncertainty or increasing strife among or within political parties in Korea;
- hostilities or political or social tensions involving oil producing countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa and any material disruption in the global supply of oil or increase in the price of oil;
- an increase in the level of tensions or an outbreak of hostilities between North Korea and Korea or the United States; and
- changes in financial regulations in Korea.

***Escalations in tensions with North Korea could have an adverse effect on us and the market price of our ADSs.***

Relations between Korea and North Korea have been tense throughout Korea's modern history. The level of tension between the two Koreas has fluctuated and may increase abruptly as a result of current and future events. In particular, since the death of Kim Jong-il in December 2011, there has been increased uncertainty with respect to the future of North Korea's political leadership and concern regarding its implications for political and economic stability in the region. Although Kim Jong-il's third son, Kim Jong-eun, has assumed power as his father's designated successor, the long-term outcome of such leadership transition remains uncertain.

In addition, there have been heightened security concerns in recent years stemming from North Korea's nuclear weapon and long-range missile programs as well as its hostile military actions against Korea. Some of the significant incidents in recent years include the following:

- In March 2013, North Korea stated that it had entered into "a state of war" with Korea, declaring the 1953 armistice invalid, and set its artillery units at a heightened level of readiness for deployment, to protest against the joint military drills performed by Korea and United States and additional international sanctions imposed on North Korea for its missile and nuclear tests;
- North Korea renounced its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in January 2003 and conducted three rounds of nuclear tests from October 2006 to February 2013, which increased tensions

in the region and elicited strong objections worldwide. In response, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed resolutions that condemned North Korea for the nuclear tests and expanded sanctions against North Korea, most recently in March 2013.

- In December 2012, North Korea launched a satellite into orbit using a long-range rocket, despite concerns in the international community that such a launch would be in violation of the agreement with the United States as well as United Nations Security Council resolutions that prohibit North Korea from conducting launches that use ballistic missile technology.
- In March 2010, a Korean naval vessel was destroyed by an underwater explosion, killing many of the crewmen on board. In November 2010, North Korea fired more than one hundred artillery shells that hit Korea's Yeonpyeong Island near the Northern Limit Line, causing casualties and significant property damage. The Korean government condemned North Korea for the attacks and vowed stern retaliation should there be further provocation.

North Korea's economy also faces severe challenges. For example, in November 2009, the North Korean government redenominated its currency at a ratio of 100 to 1 as part of a currency reform undertaken in an attempt to control inflation and reduce income gaps. In tandem with the currency redenomination, the North Korean government banned the use or possession of foreign currency by its residents and closed down privately run markets, which led to severe inflation and food shortages. Such developments may further aggravate social and political tensions within North Korea.

There can be no assurance that the level of tension on the Korean peninsula will not escalate in the future. Any further increase in tensions, which may occur, for example, if North Korea experiences a leadership crisis, high-level contacts between Korea and North Korea break down or military hostilities occur, could have a material adverse effect on the Korean economy and on our business, financial condition and results of operations and the market value of our common stock and ADSs.

***Labor unrest in Korea may adversely affect our operations.***

Economic difficulties in Korea or increases in corporate reorganizations and bankruptcies could result in layoffs and higher unemployment. Such developments could lead to social unrest and substantially increase government expenditures for unemployment compensation and other costs for social programs. According to statistics from the Korea National Statistical Office, the unemployment rate was 3.7% in 2010, decreased to 3.4% in 2011 and further decreased to 3.2% in 2012. Future increases in unemployment and any resulting labor unrest in the future could adversely affect our operations, as well as the operations of many of our customers and their ability to repay their loans, and could adversely affect the financial condition of Korean companies in general, depressing the price of their securities. These developments would likely have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

**Risks relating to our common stock and ADSs**

***The market price of our common stock and ADSs could be adversely affected by the ability of the KDIC to sell or otherwise dispose of large blocks of our common stock.***

The KDIC currently owns 459,198,609 shares, or 56.97%, of our outstanding common stock. In the future, the KDIC may choose to sell large blocks of our common stock publicly or privately to a strategic or financial investor, including for the purpose of recovering the public funds it injected into our subsidiaries to recapitalize them. For example, in September 2004, the KDIC sold approximately 45 million shares of our common stock, which constituted 5.7% of our outstanding common stock, and in June 2007, the KDIC disposed of approximately 40 million shares of our common stock, which constituted 5.0% of our outstanding common stock. In addition, in November 2009, the KDIC sold approximately 56 million shares of our common stock, which constituted 7.0% of our outstanding common stock. Most recently, in April 2010, the KDIC disposed of approximately 73 million shares of our common stock, which constituted 9.0% of our outstanding common stock.

In April 2012, the Korean government, through the Public Funds Oversight Committee of the Financial Services Commission, announced its latest plan to privatize us through a sale of up to the entire 56.97% equity stake (and a minimum 30% equity stake) held by the Korean government through the KDIC through a competitive bidding process from April to July 2012. The April 2012 plan was similar to previous privatization plans, including those announced in May 2011. However, following a preliminary bidding process in which no bid was submitted, the Public Funds Oversight Committee announced the suspension of such sale process in August 2012. The implementation of the Korean government's privatization plan may be further delayed or changed depending on market conditions and other factors. Furthermore, if such plan proceeds, our privatization may result in our merger with, or integration into, another financial institution. We do not know when, how or what percentage of our shares owned by the KDIC will be disposed of, or to whom such shares will be sold, or when, how and with whom we may be merged or integrated. As a result, we cannot predict the impact of any such transactions on us or our stock prices. Any future sales of our common stock or ADSs in the public market or otherwise by the KDIC, or any future merger or integration between us and another financial institution, or the possibility that such transactions may occur, could adversely affect the prevailing market prices of our common stock and ADSs.

***Ownership of our common stock is restricted under Korean law.***

Under the Financial Holding Company Act, a single stockholder, together with its affiliates, is generally prohibited from owning more than 10.0% of the outstanding shares of voting stock of a bank holding company such as us that controls nationwide banks, with the exception of certain stockholders that are non-financial business group companies, whose applicable limit is 9.0%. The Korean government and the KDIC are exempt from this limit, and investors may also exceed the 10.0% limit upon approval by the Financial Services Commission. To the extent that the total number of shares of our common stock (including those represented by ADSs) that you and your affiliates own together exceeds the applicable limits, you will not be entitled to exercise the voting rights for the excess shares, and the Financial Services Commission may order you to dispose of the excess shares within a period of up to six months. Non-financial business group companies are required to obtain approval from the Financial Services Commission in order to (i) become the largest shareholder of a bank holding company or (ii) acquire 4% or more of the issued and outstanding shares of voting stock of a bank holding company and participate in the management of such company in the manner prescribed in the Enforcement Decree of the Financial Holding Company Act. If non-financial business group companies hold voting stock of a bank holding company in excess of the foregoing limits as a result of unavoidable circumstances, such as sales by other stockholders' of their shareholding, such non-financial business group companies are required to obtain approval from the Financial Services Commission to hold the portion of shares that exceeds the limit, dispose of such portion or take measures so that they no longer fall under the definition of "non-financial business group companies" under the Financial Holding Company Act. Non-compliance with such requirement will prohibit non-financial business group companies from exercising their voting rights of the shares that exceed the limit and prompt the issuance of an order by the Financial Services Commission directing such non-financial business group companies to dispose of their shares that exceed the limit. Failure to comply with such an order would result in an administrative fine of up to 0.03% of the book value of such shares per day until the date of disposal. See "Item 4B. Business Overview-Supervision and Regulation-Principal Regulations Applicable to Financial Holding Companies-Restrictions on Ownership of a Financial Holding Company."

***You will not be able to exercise dissent and appraisal rights unless you have withdrawn the underlying shares of our common stock and become our direct stockholder.***

In some limited circumstances, including the transfer of the whole or any significant part of our business and the merger or consolidation of us with another company, dissenting stockholders have the right to require us to purchase their shares under Korean law. However, if you hold our ADSs, you will not be able to exercise such dissent and appraisal rights if the depositary refuses to do so on your behalf. Our deposit agreement does not require the depositary to take any action in respect of exercising dissent and appraisal rights. In such a situation, holders of our ADSs must withdraw the underlying common stock from the ADS facility (and incur charges



relating to that withdrawal) and become our direct stockholder prior to the record date of the stockholders' meeting at which the relevant transaction is to be approved, in order to exercise dissent and appraisal rights.

***You may be limited in your ability to deposit or withdraw common stock.***

Under the terms of our deposit agreement, holders of common stock may deposit such stock with the depositary's custodian in Korea and obtain ADSs, and holders of ADSs may surrender ADSs to the depositary and receive common stock. However, to the extent that a deposit of common stock exceeds any limit that we may specify from time to time, that common stock will not be accepted for deposit unless our consent with respect to such deposit has been obtained. We currently have not set any such limit; however, we have the right to do so at any time. Under the terms of the deposit agreement, no consent would be required if the shares of common stock were to be obtained through a dividend, free distribution, rights offering or reclassification of such stock. We have consented, under the terms of the deposit agreement, to any deposit unless the deposit would be prohibited by applicable laws or violate our articles of incorporation. If we choose to impose a limit on deposits in the future, however, we might not consent to the deposit of any additional common stock. In that circumstance, if you surrender ADSs and withdraw common stock, you may not be able to deposit the stock again to obtain ADSs. See "Item 9C. Markets—Restrictions Applicable to Shares."

***You will not have preemptive rights in some circumstances.***

The Korean Commercial Code of 1962, as amended, and our articles of incorporation require us, with some exceptions, to offer stockholders the right to subscribe for new shares of our common stock in proportion to their existing shareholding ratio whenever new shares are issued. If we offer any rights to subscribe for additional shares of our common stock or any rights of any other nature, the depositary, after consultation with us, may make the rights available to holders of our ADSs or use commercially feasible efforts to dispose of the rights on behalf of such holders, in a riskless principal capacity, and make the net proceeds available to such holders. The depositary will make rights available to holders of our ADSs only if:

- we have requested in a timely manner that those rights be made available to such holders;
- the depositary has received the documents that are required to be delivered under the terms of the deposit agreement, which may include confirmation that a registration statement filed by us under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, is in effect with respect to those shares or that the offering and sale of those shares is exempt from or is not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act; and
- the depositary determines, after consulting with us, that the distribution of rights is lawful and commercially feasible.

Holders of our common stock located in the United States may not exercise any rights they receive absent registration or an exemption from the registration requirements under the Securities Act.

We are under no obligation to file any registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement to be declared effective. Moreover, we may not be able to establish an exemption from registration under the Securities Act. Accordingly, you may be unable to participate in our rights offerings and may experience dilution in your holdings. If a registration statement is required for you to exercise preemptive rights but is not filed by us or is not declared effective, you will not be able to exercise your preemptive rights for additional ADSs and you will suffer dilution of your equity interest in us. If the depositary is unable to sell rights that are not exercised or not distributed or if the sale is not lawful or feasible, it will allow the rights to lapse, in which case you will receive no value for these rights.

***Your dividend payments and the amount you may realize upon a sale of your ADSs will be affected by fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the won.***

Our common stock is listed on the KRX KOSPI Market and quoted and traded in Won. Cash dividends, if any, in respect of the shares represented by the ADSs will be paid to the depositary in Won and then converted by the depositary into U.S. dollars, subject to certain conditions. Accordingly, fluctuations in the exchange rate

between the Won and the U.S. dollar will affect, among other things, the amounts you will receive from the depositary in respect of dividends, the U.S. dollar value of the proceeds that you would receive upon sale in Korea of the shares of our common stock obtained upon surrender of ADSs and the secondary market price of ADSs. Such fluctuations will also affect the U.S. dollar value of dividends and sales proceeds received by holders of our common stock.

***The market value of your investment may fluctuate due to the volatility of, and government intervention in, the Korean securities market.***

Our common stock is listed on the KRX KOSPI Market, which has a smaller market capitalization and is more volatile than the securities markets in the United States and many European countries. The market value of ADSs may fluctuate in response to the fluctuation of the trading price of shares of our common stock on the KRX KOSPI Market. The KRX KOSPI Market has experienced substantial fluctuations in the prices and volumes of sales of listed securities and the KRX KOSPI Market has prescribed a fixed range in which share prices are permitted to move on a daily basis. The KOSPI declined from 1,897.1 on December 31, 2007 to 938.8 on October 24, 2008. The KOSPI was 1,926.31 on April 22, 2013. There is no guarantee that the stock prices of Korean companies will not decline again in the future. Like other securities markets, including those in developed markets, the Korean securities market has experienced problems including market manipulation, insider trading and settlement failures. The recurrence of these or similar problems could have a material adverse effect on the market price and liquidity of the securities of Korean companies, including our common stock and ADSs, in both the domestic and the international markets.

The Korean government has the potential ability to exert substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector business community, and in the past has exerted that influence from time to time. For example, the Korean government has induced mergers to reduce what it considers excess capacity in a particular industry and has also induced private companies to publicly offer their securities. Similar actions in the future could have the effect of depressing or boosting the Korean securities market, whether or not intended to do so. Accordingly, actions by the government, or the perception that such actions are taking place, may take place or has ceased, may cause sudden movements in the market prices of the securities of Korean companies in the future, which may affect the market price and liquidity of our common stock and ADSs.

***If the Korean government deems that emergency circumstances are likely to occur, it may restrict you and the depositary from converting and remitting dividends and other amounts in U.S. dollars.***

If the Korean government deems that certain emergency circumstances, including, but not limited to, severe and sudden changes in domestic or overseas economic circumstances, extreme difficulty in stabilizing the balance of payments or implementing currency, exchange rate and other macroeconomic policies, have occurred or are likely to occur, it may impose certain restrictions provided for under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law, including the suspension of payments or requiring prior approval from governmental authorities for any transaction. See "Item 10D. Exchange Controls-General."

**Other Risks**

***You may not be able to enforce a judgment of a foreign court against us.***

We are a corporation with limited liability organized under the laws of Korea. Substantially all of our directors and officers and other persons named in this annual report reside in Korea, and all or a significant portion of the assets of our directors and officers and other persons named in this annual report and substantially all of our assets are located in Korea. As a result, it may not be possible for you to effect service of process within the United States, or to enforce against them or us in the United States judgments obtained in United States courts based on the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States. There is doubt as to the enforceability in Korea, either in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of United States courts, of civil liabilities predicated on the United States federal securities laws.