

# Risk management of life insurance companies

*For OLIS-LIAM-MII Life Insurance Seminar 2014*

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Some lessons learnt from the crisis

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Supervision and risk management:  
Comparison with banks/securities

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Risk management and  
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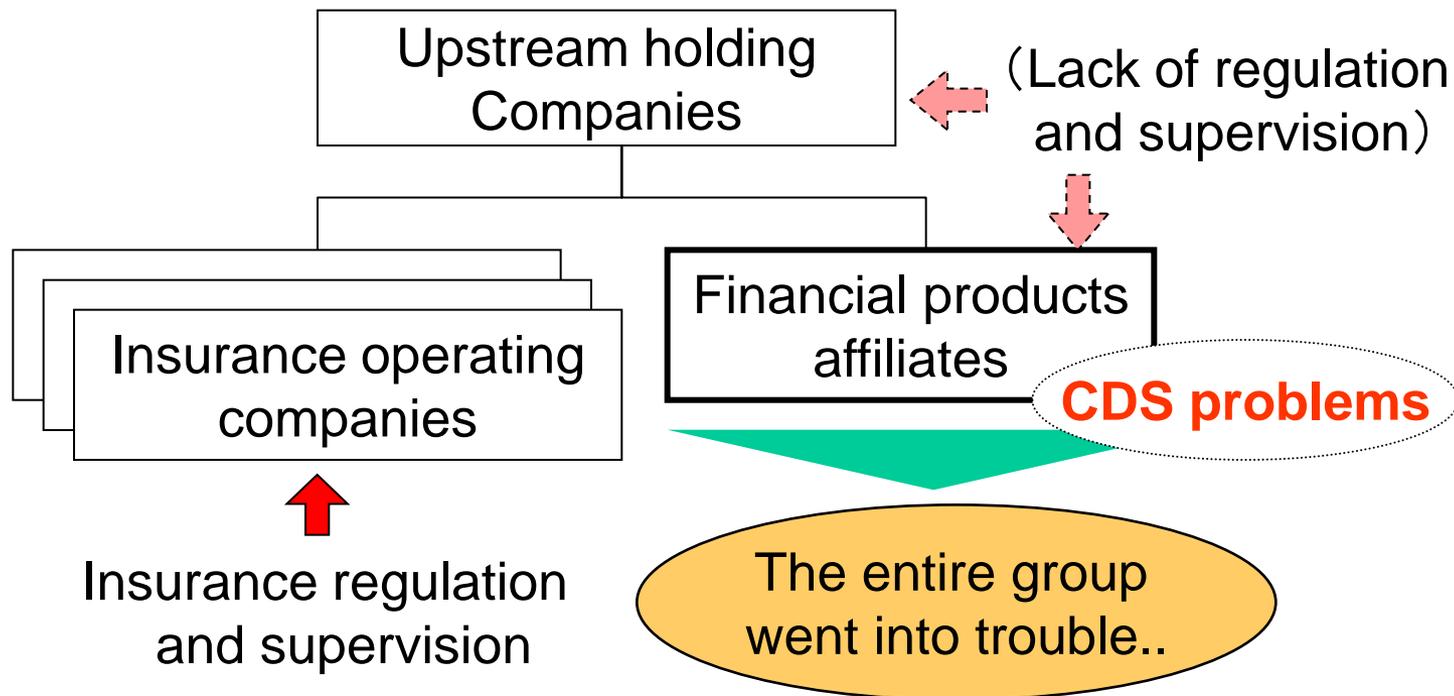
An overview of Risk Management  
in Nippon Life Group

- The financial crisis has shown the need to strengthen risk management and governance.
  - Credit default swaps (CDS), CDOs, structured products, intra-group transactions, etc.
  - Use of credit ratings
  - Liquidity risks
  - Systemic risks



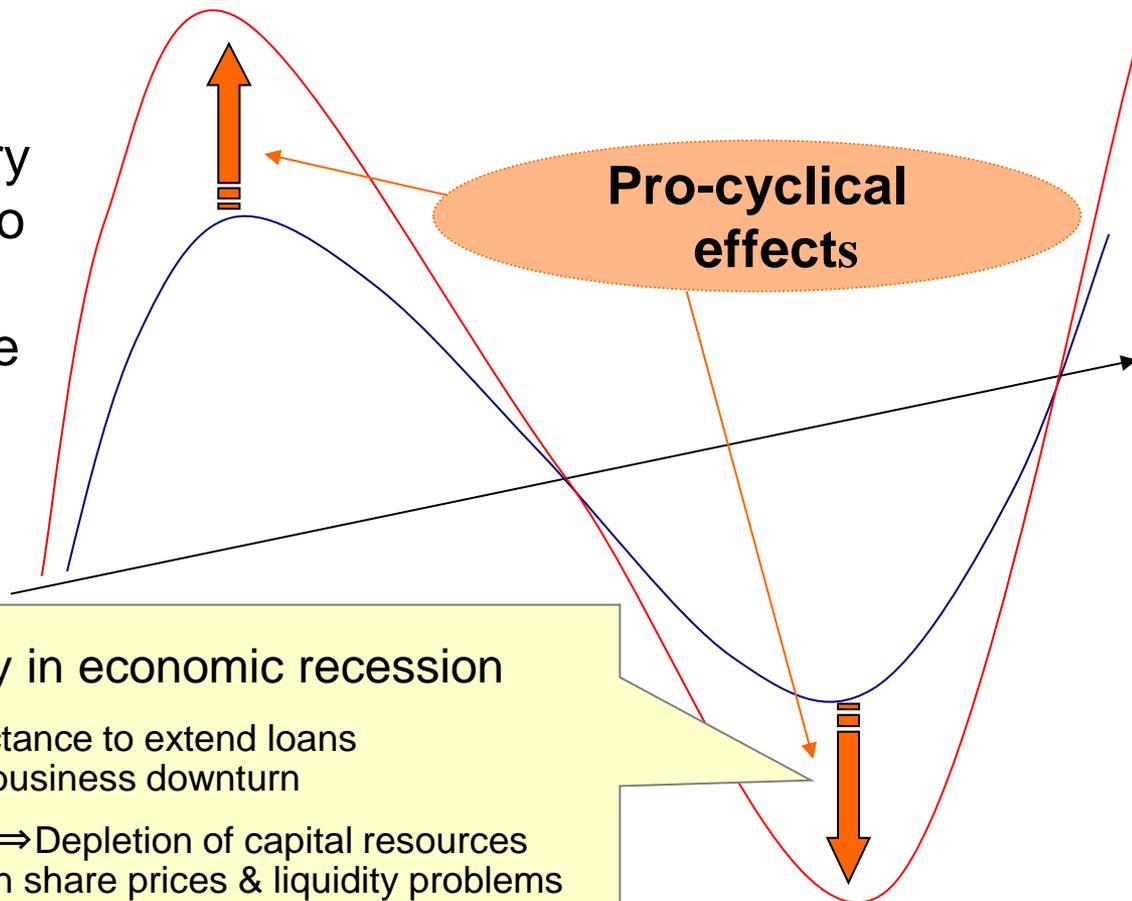
# Lessons learnt : need for global supervision

- The crisis has confirmed the need to regulate and supervise the whole group.
  - Holding companies
  - Non-regulated entities, SPVs, etc.



- The crisis has highlighted the need to address the issue of pro-cyclicality.

- What is pro-cyclicality?:  
an effect that supervisory intervention or marked to market accounting amplify the volatility of the financial cycle



## ■ Examples of pro-cyclicality in economic recession

- Asset Deterioration ⇒ Reluctance to extend loans  
⇒ Credit crunch ⇒ Further business downturn
- Downturn in share markets ⇒ Depletion of capital resources  
⇒ Sales of shares ⇒ Drop in share prices & liquidity problems
- Recognition of unrealised losses in net income or impairment  
⇒ Sales of assets ⇒ Drop in asset prices & liquidity problems

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## General characteristics of banking supervision and risk management

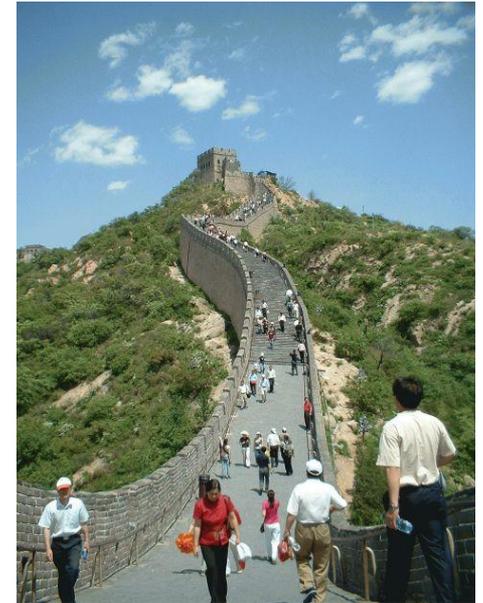
- Emphasis on systemic stability
- Main risk – credit risk
- Importance of asset valuation
  - Loan valuation and provisioning
- Time scale for risk management
  - Shorter than for insurance
- Uniform risk-based capital
  - Basel III
- Consolidated supervision



## General characteristics of insurance supervision and risk management

- Main risk – liabilities risk
- Importance of liabilities valuation
- Time scale of risk management
  - Long term  
(cf. life insurance)
- Ring-fence supervisory approach

**ComFrame**



## General characteristics of securities supervision and risk management

- Enforcement power and market surveillance
  - More than institutional supervision
- Main risk – funding liquidity risk and market risk
- Time scale of risk management
  - Short term
- Importance of disclosure





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- Market risks
- Credit risks
- Underwriting risks
- Liquidity risks
- Operational risks



**Market risks:** The risk to an insurer's financial condition arising from adverse movements in the level or volatility of market prices

**Market risks include:**

- Interest rate risk
- Equity and real estate risks
- Currency risk



*(Source: IAIS)*

## Market Risks (the risks of market value fluctuations)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Asset – Liability matching
- Monitoring of market risk trends and net market exposures
- Immunization strategies

### Regulatory Controls

- Investment regulations (market-sensitive assets)

### Capital Requirement

- Volume by Asset type & risk classification
- Financial impact of the market value reduction

**Credit risks:** The risks of financial loss resulting from default or movement in the credit quality of issuers of securities, debtors, or counterparties and intermediaries, to whom the company has an exposure

## Credit risks include:

- Default risk
- Downgrade risk
- Indirect credit or spread risk
- Concentration risk and correlation risk



*(Source: IAIS)*

## Credit Risks

(the risks of counterparties becoming unable to meet commitments)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Diversification
- Investment policy to limit credit risk exposures
- Credit scoring
- Monitoring and evaluation of creditors and credit risks

### Regulatory Controls

- Investment regulations (credit limit / diversification)
- Supervision, analysis and on-site inspection

### Capital Requirement

- Volume by Asset type & credit risk class
- Formula recognizing the expected value of losses

**Underwriting risks:** The various kinds of risk that are directly or indirectly associated with the technical or actuarial bases of calculation for premiums and technical provisions, as well as excessive growth.

## Underwriting risks include:

- Claims risk
- Pricing risk
- Reserving risk
- Catastrophe risk
- Reinsurance risk



(Source: IAIS)

## Claims Risk

(the risk of future claims in excess of the expected level)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Skills and sound practice
- Reinsurance
- Diversification of insured
- Pooling with other insurers
- Financial modeling

### Regulatory Controls

- Regulations on contracts
- Exclusionary clauses
- Reinsurance regulations
- Valuation of liabilities

### Capital Requirement

- Unexpected claims cost
- Prudent case scenarios

## Pricing Risk

(the risk of inadequate pricing due to errors in judgment)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Sound product pricing and product design

### Regulatory Controls

- Valuation of liabilities that recognizes premium deficiencies
- Pricing regulations to impose appropriate pricing

### Capital Requirement

- Pricing risk should be covered by the value of liabilities.
- Not rely on capital for shortfalls

## Catastrophe Risk

(the risk that rare events result in a abnormal level of claims)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Reinsurance to cover the risk in excess of preset loss
- Securitization
- Geographic diversification
- Financial modeling

### Regulatory Controls

- Regulations and funding mechanism
- Special pool for cat risks
- Requirement of provisions and reinsurance

### Capital Requirement

- Catastrophe risk factors
- Not merely rely on capital

**Liquidity risks:** The risks that an insurer, though solvent, has insufficient liquid assets to meet its obligations when they fall due

- Liquidity profile of an insurer is a function of both its assets and liabilities

**Liquidity risks include:**

- Matching risk
- Liquidation value risk
- Affiliated investment risk
- Capital funding risk



*(Source: IAIS)*

## Liquidity Risks

(the risk that cash payment demand exceed cash resource)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Investment policy with action target for liquidity
- Monitoring and managing claims in relation to the cash
- Contingency plans

### Regulatory Controls

- Investment regulations
- Regulations and supervision over contract term and policy wording

### Capital Requirement

- Capital is not an effective technique for this risk

**Operational risks:** The risks arising from failure of systems, internal procedures and controls leading to financial loss

- *direct or indirect loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events*

**Operational risks include:**

- Custody risk
- Technology risk
- Management risk
- Business disruption risk
- Fraud



(Source: IAIS)

## Operational Risks

(the risk arising from failure of systems, people, management, and from external events)

### Mitigation Techniques

- Corporate governance and policies; investments, claims, contingencies, technology, marketing, underwriting, disclosure, complaints, back-up facilities, code of conduct
- Sound internal control
- Business recovery strategy
- Sound internal standards for training and I.T.

### Regulatory Controls

- Supervisory process and on-site inspection

### Capital Requirement

- Size and nature of risk



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# ERM Framework (case of Nippon Life)

- Risk Management Committee, a consultative body to Managing Directors' Meeting, is responsible for Risk management of each risk category.
- Reporting system is structured between Management and underlying committees, related departments and offices.
- We take an integrated risk management approach to the risks enterprise-wide

Board of Directors

Managing Directors' Meetings

Risk Management Committee

Investment Risk Management Subcommittee

Administration Risk Management Subcommittee

Computer System Risk Management Subcommittee

Insurance underwriting risk

Liquidity risk

Investment risk

- Market risk
- Real estate risk
- Credit Risk

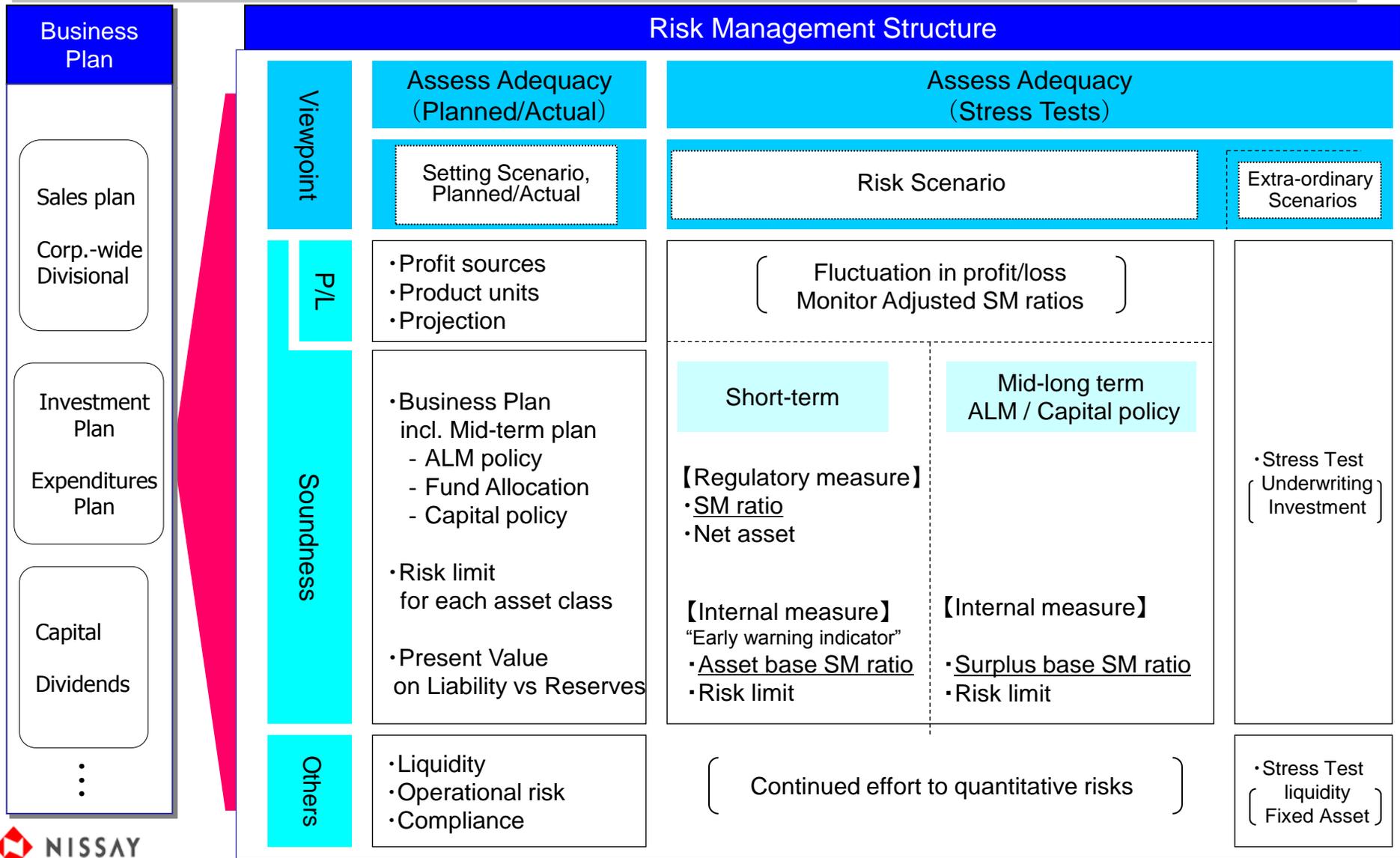
Administration risk

Computer system risk

Enterprise Risk Management

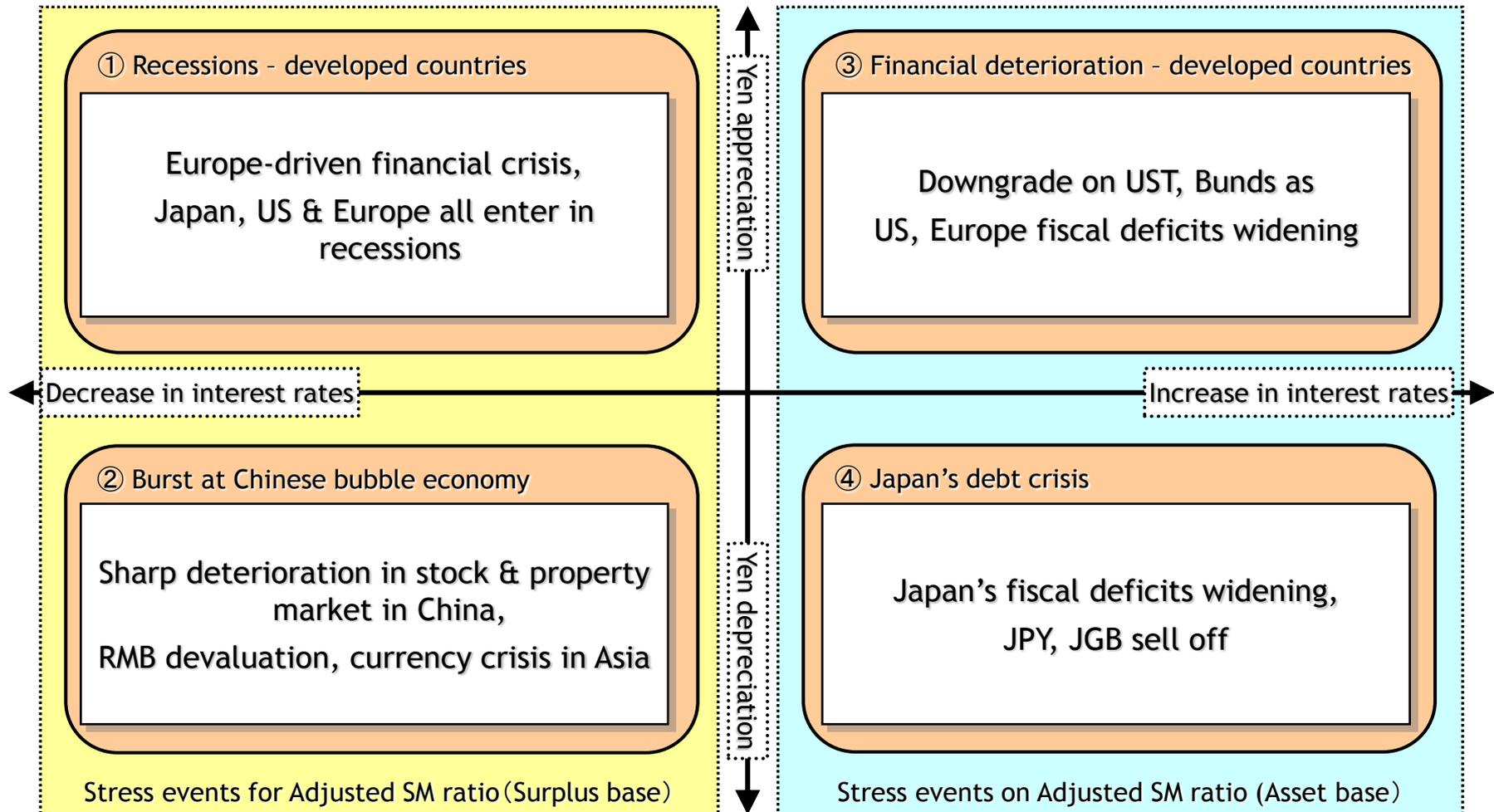
# ERM Structure (case of Nippon Life)

■ We review, monitor and assess our business plan's adequacy by checking its result vs. projection, Solvency Margin (SM) ratios with stress tests and the extra-ordinary scenarios.



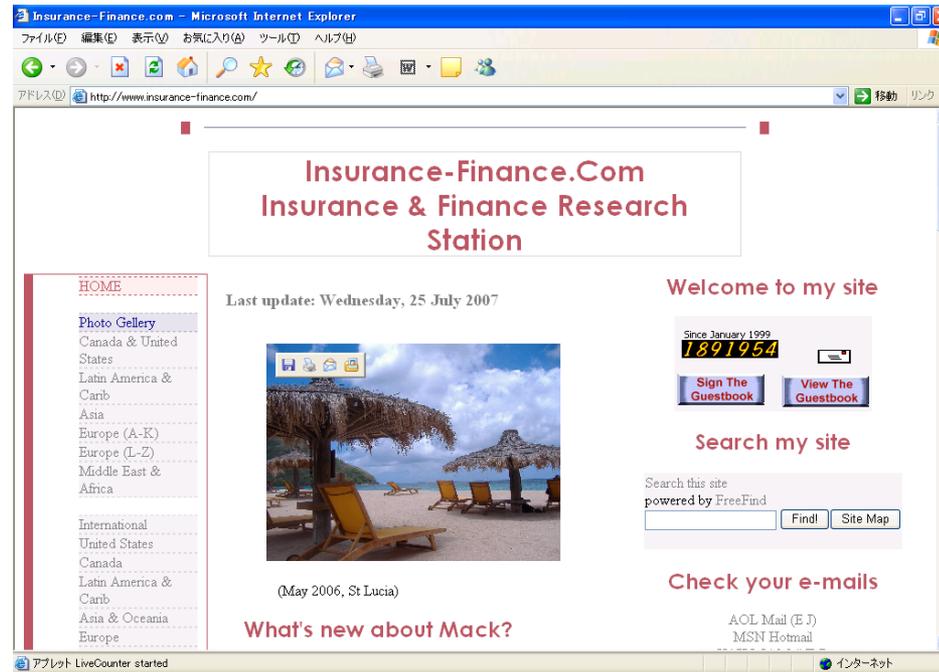
# Stress Test – Risk Scenarios (case of Nippon Life)

- Although they are unlikely events occur within a year, below are the events which impact our portfolio with interest rates/currency fluctuation. Stock market slumps in all scenarios.



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*Any questions? email to [m-okubo@nliinter.com](mailto:m-okubo@nliinter.com)  
or visit [www.insurance-finance.com](http://www.insurance-finance.com) or [mackglobe.com](http://mackglobe.com)*