

Japan's NPL Problem; Clear and Present Danger



Yasuhisa Shiozaki Member, House of Representatives

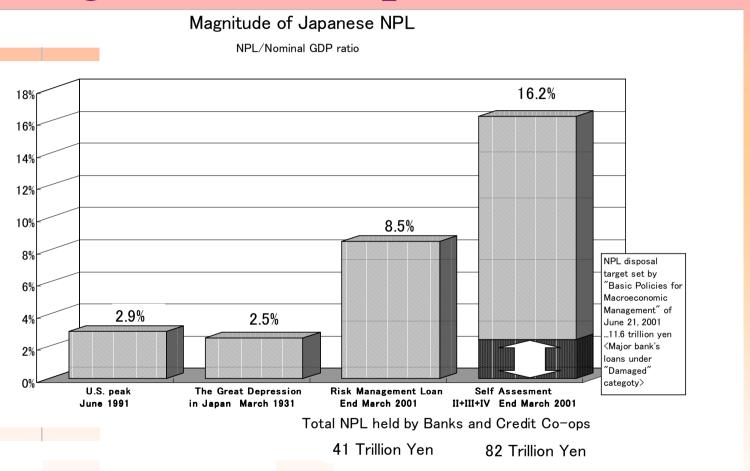
Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry September 25, 2001



Seven Reform Programs

- Seven Proposals by the Economic and Fiscal Advisory Council of the Prime Minister's Office:
 - 1) privatization and deregulation, 2) challenger support, 3) social security enhancement, 4) knowledge-based assets doubling, 5) better living, 6) local governments independence and vitalization, 7) fiscal reform
- Further Considerations and Improvements
 - 1) Reform Priority
 - 2) Timing and Sequencing
 - 3) Reform "Engine"

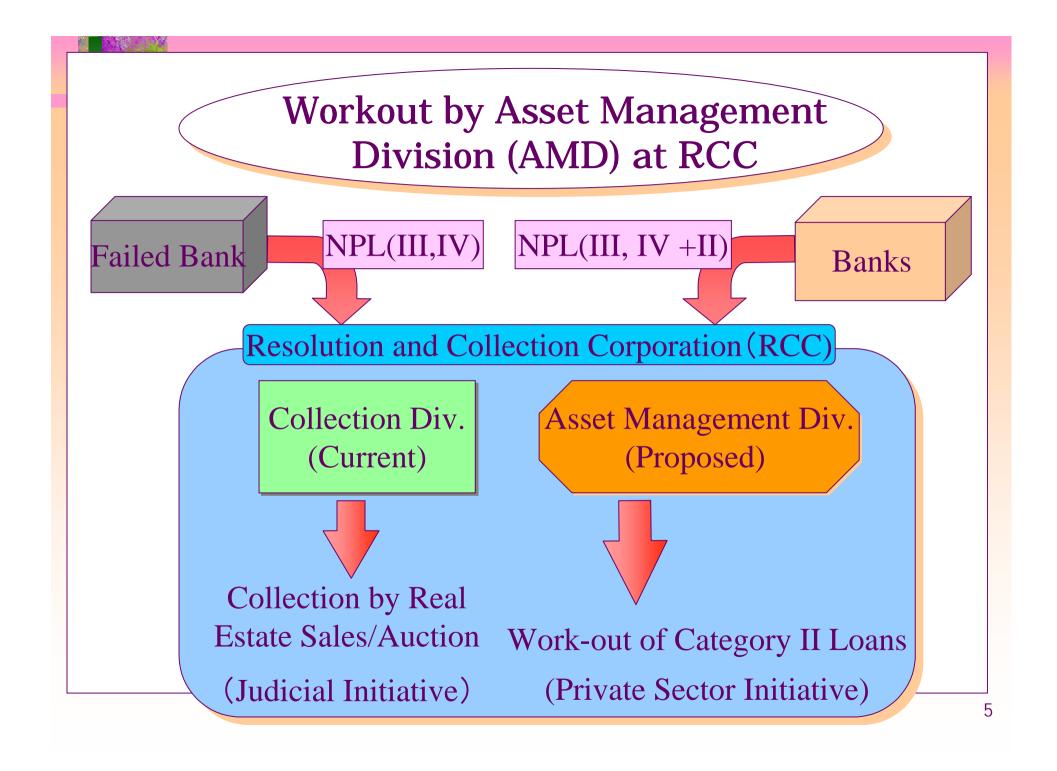
Magnitude of Japanese NPL





Missing Link I: Insufficient NPL Disposal

- NPL: 16% of GDP, but No action taken so far
- Key: Workout of Category II(Sub-standard) Loans
- How?
 - 1) Create Asset Management Division under the RCC
 - 2) Capital Injection (Public & Private)
 - 3) More Nationalization
- Ultimate Driving Forces of NPL Resolution: FSA (+METI & MLIT)
- "Mandatory Transfer "of NPL may be required from Banks to RCC/AMD





Missing Link II: Reform Priority & Sequencing

- First: NPL Disposal +Workout (2-3years)
- Second: Fiscal Consolidation (?)
 Priority must be established within the Cabinet

Risks:
 Hashimoto risk (spending cut)
 Obuchi risk (too much spending)



10 Year Plan for Economic Recovery (Shiozaki Plan)

- Y01-02: NPL Disposal, Deregulation, and Anti-deflationary policy + Safety-net, financed by Privatization, Sale of Government-owned Assets and Securitization
- Y03-05: Continuing Capital & Real Estate
 Market Reform, plus Fiscal Spending Cut toward
 Primary Balance (-1.3% /year)
- Y06-10: Comprehensive Tax + Social Security Reform toward Debt Reduction



Missing Link III: Capital Market

- Creation of strong "Japanese SEC"
- 0% for Individual Capital Gains Tax
- Inclusion of Capital Loss into Ordinary Income
- Mutual Fund Reform

Deposits vs. Capital Market

