

**Government Pension Investment Fund Commissioned Research Project** 

# Final Report (Outline): Research Project to Contribute to Preparation of the Next Medium-Term Plan GPIF's Aim (Vision) as Foundation of the Medium-term Plan

March 2020 Mizuho Research Institute



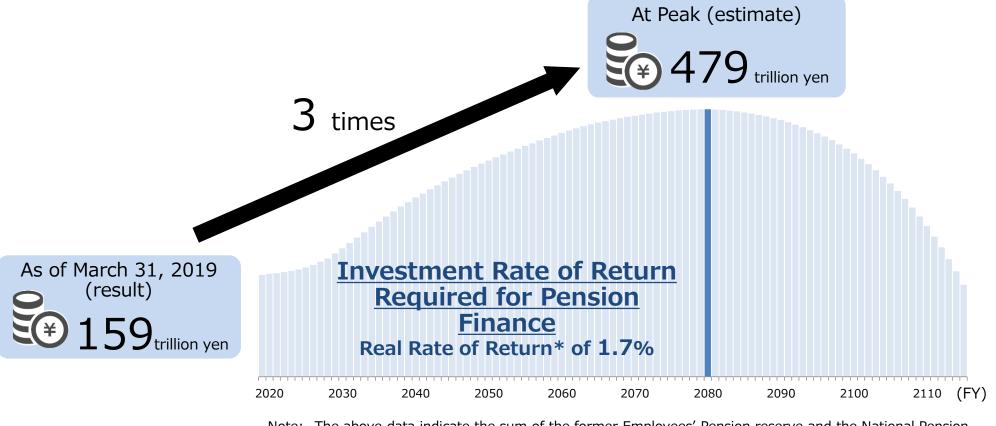
## Key Statements to Be Delivered in the 4th Medium-Term Plan

Megatrends surrounding GPIF	Funding X Invest- ment	<ul> <li>The pension reserve based on the Financial Valuation is expected to continuously grow to 479 trillion yen, about three times the size of the current reserve, over around 60 years.         <ul> <li>Universal Owner and Cross-Generational Investor</li> </ul> </li> <li>Low birth rate and aging population primarily in developed countries → Slow economic growth and low interest rate environments</li> <li>Growing presence of social issues: climate change, depletion of natural resources → Increasing importance of ESG investment, etc. for sustainable growth</li> <li>Technological development → AI, RPA, and more elaborate data management</li> </ul>			
Vision GPIF's aim		As a universal owner and cross-generational investor, GPIF secures stable returns by making diversified investments and realizing a sustainable society through stewardship activities and ESG investment.			
		<ul> <li>Building a framework with a staff plan so as to be qualified as a universal owner and cross-generational investor, and strengthening business models.</li> <li>→ Building a framework with recruitment of personnel so as to be qualified as the world's largest Fund of Funds manager</li> <li>→ Bolstering the business model that utilized outsourcing by using external resources, aiming to achieve operational efficiency: Focus to create the best mix of internal and external resources</li> <li>→ With respect to investment, enhancing alignment particularly with key partners of external asset managers and index providers</li> <li>Securing returns under low interest rate environments → Investment diversification with a variety of investment types such as alternative investment</li> <li>Enabling sustainable society (sustainability) → Stewardship activities, ESG investment</li> <li>Leverage advanced technology → Strengthening of risk management and internal control functions Using cutting-edge technology and reinforcing data management</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Target investment return required for pension finance: In addition to achieving a real rate of return* of 1.7%, GPIF aims to secure an excess rate of return over benchmarks by asset class and compound benchmarks, and improve returns in the entire market through ESG investment.</li> <li>* Net investment yield on the pension reserve less the nominal wage growth rate.</li> </ul>					
Strategy for all management	ocation of	<ul> <li>the vision (aim) and target investment returns</li> <li>Strengthening Asset Management Department (front-office) , and Data Management and Others, and Internal Control Departments (middle-office)</li> </ul>			

## Outlook for Pension Reserve Over the Next 100 Years, Based on the Financial Valuation

Megatrend (Funding)

- The pension reserve over the next 100 years, based on the Financial Valuation conducted in 2019, is projected to approximately triple from 159 trillion yen as of March 31, 2019 to 479 trillion yen at the peak with a continued increase over a 60-year period.
  - $\rightarrow$  Universal Owner(an investor with a very large fund size and a widely diversified portfolio)and
    - Cross-Generational Investor(responsible for supporting pension finance with an investment horizon of as long as 100 years)

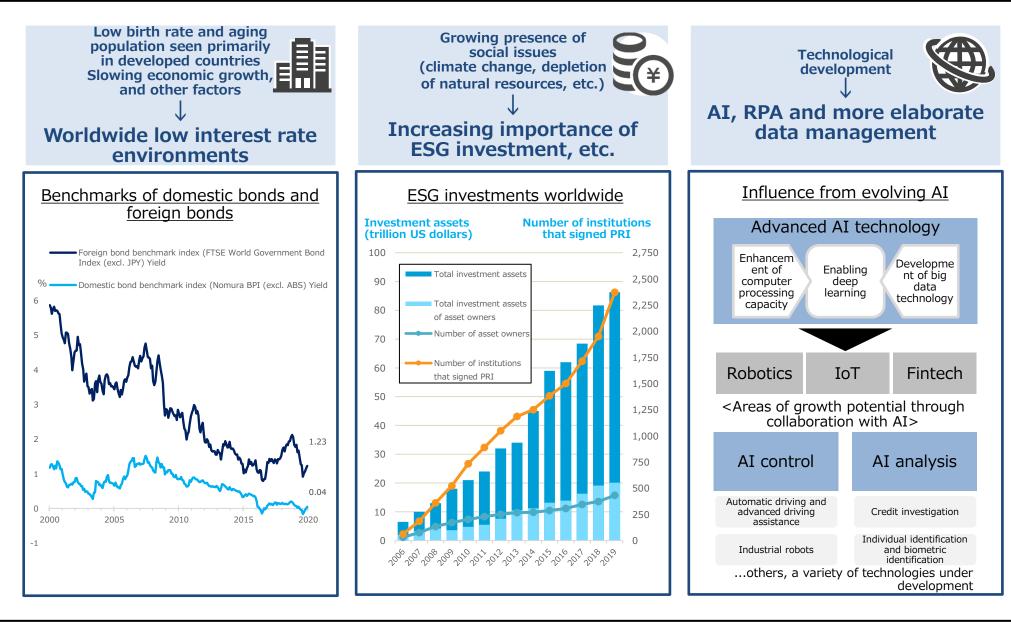


Note: The above data indicate the sum of the former Employees' Pension reserve and the National Pension reserve. (Scenario III of the Financial Valuation in 2019)

\* Net investment yield on the pension reserve less the nominal wage growth rate.

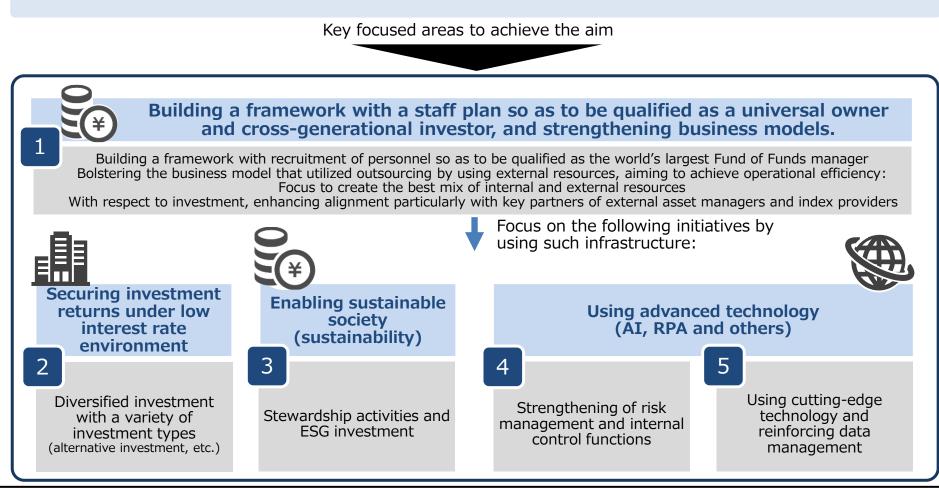
## Low Interest Rate Environments, Increasing Importance of ESG Investment, etc., and Use of Technology

Megatrend (Investment)



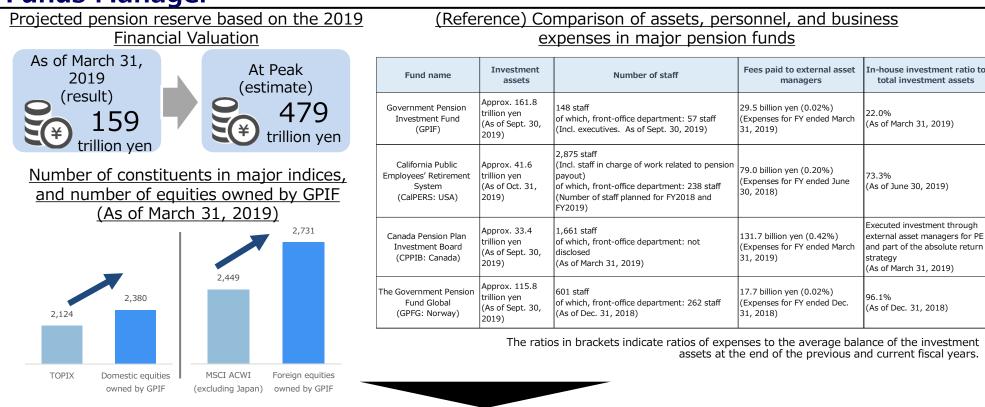


As a universal owner and cross-generational investor, GPIF secures stable returns by making diversified investments and realizing a sustainable society through stewardship activities and ESG investment.



## Framework to Be Qualified as the World's Largest Fund of Funds Manager





#### Building a framework with recruitment of personnel so as to be qualified as the world's largest Fund of Funds manager

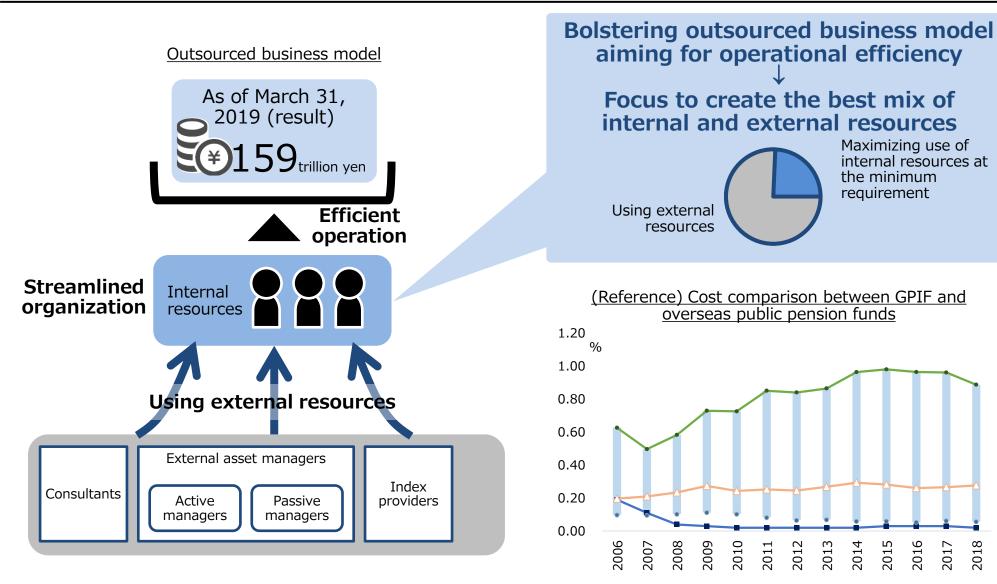


## **Strengthening Outsourced Business Model**



Vision Aim

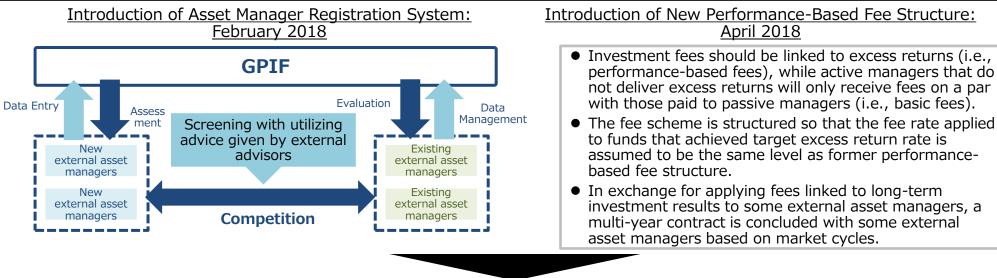
Minimum



## Strengthening Alignment with External Asset Managers and Index Providers



1



Strengthening alignment with external asset managers and index providers serving as important partners



## Diversified Investment with a Variety of Investment Types

- Given low interest rate environments worldwide, GPIF aims to maintain and improve the profitability of portfolios by strengthening globally diversified investment and alternative investment.
- GPIF promotes building an appropriate framework and system to bolster globally diversified investment and alternative investment.

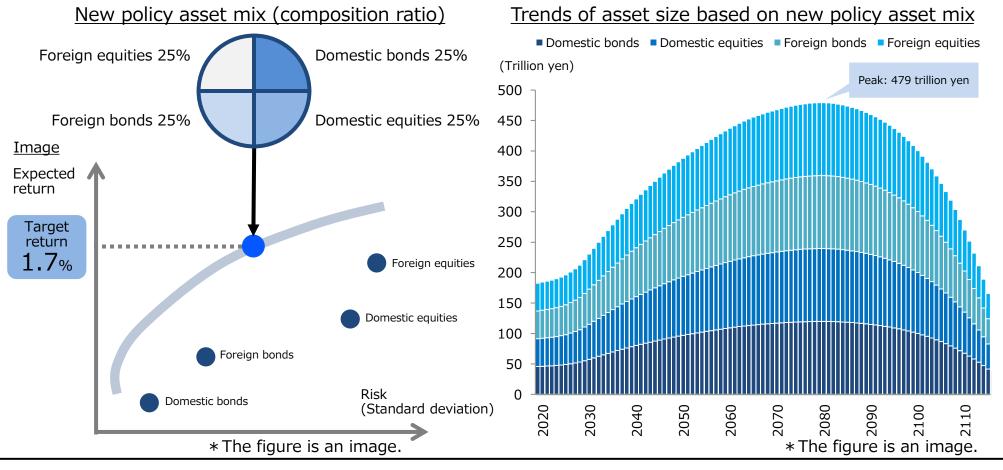
## Investment Rate of Return Required for Pension Finance: Real Rate of Return\* of 1.7%

\* Net investment yield on the pension reserve less the nominal wage growth rate.

2

Vision

Aim



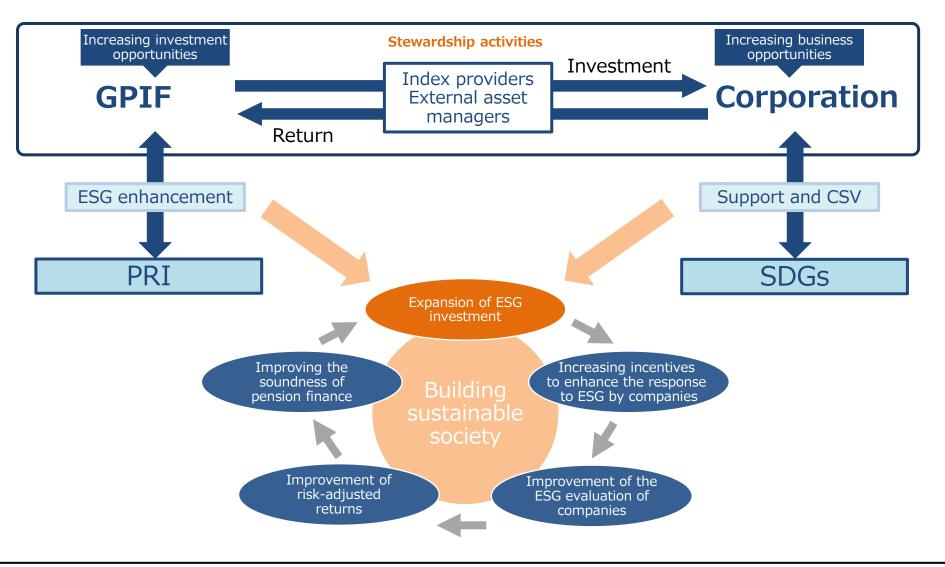
## **Stewardship Activities and ESG Investment**

■ Aiming to enable a sustainable society (sustainability), GPIF pursues long-term and sustainable value creation in the financial market by promoting stewardship activities and ESG investment.

Vision

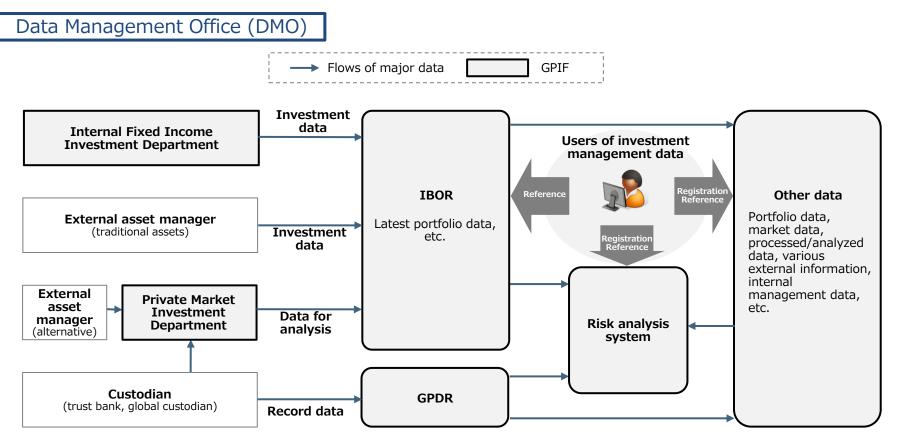
Aim

3



4 5

- GPIF promotes strengthening of risk management and internal control functions across the entity, with the aim of achieving more elaborate and diversified investment and secure human resources for that purpose
  - ✓ Improving legal functions, reinforcing internal system of checks and balances, enabling more elaborate risk management, etc.
- Enhancing usage of cutting-edge technology and stricter data management
  - Installation of Data Management Office (DMO) and proactive use of information technology



### Achieving Excess Returns and Improving the Entire Market Returns through ESG Investment

#### Achieving excess returns (a)

- ✓ GPIF primarily takes a passive investment approach, but out of a total of 160 trillion yen as its operational assets, it allocates approximately 20% to active investment to gain excess returns.
- ✓ With the assumption that an efficient capital market would help produce successful results in passive investment, GPIF recognizes that active investment is essential to bring about market efficiency.
- ✓ GPIF introduced a new performance-based fee structure to encourage external asset managers to achieve excess returns.

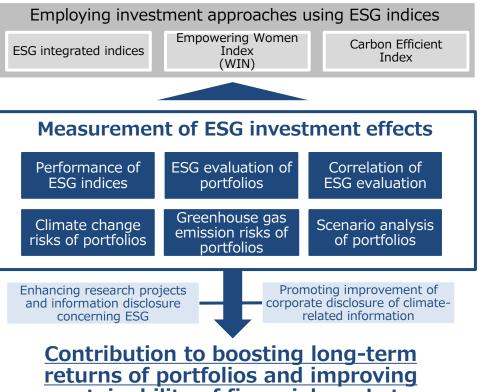
#### Periodic verification of effects of ESG investment

- ✓ Given that ESG investment aims to achieve long-term returns, periodically verifying the effects of ESG investment to ensure the appropriate direction for initiatives and obtaining understanding from the public are important.
- ✓ GPIF works on initiatives, such as releasing a wide range of information on multidimensional measurement of the effects of ESG investment and the result, and promoting information disclosure of corporations, and thus contributes to improving long-term returns of investment portfolios and sustainability of the financial market.

#### Rate of excess return from FY2014 to FY2018 (annualized rate) Conceptual image of measuring the effects of ESG investment

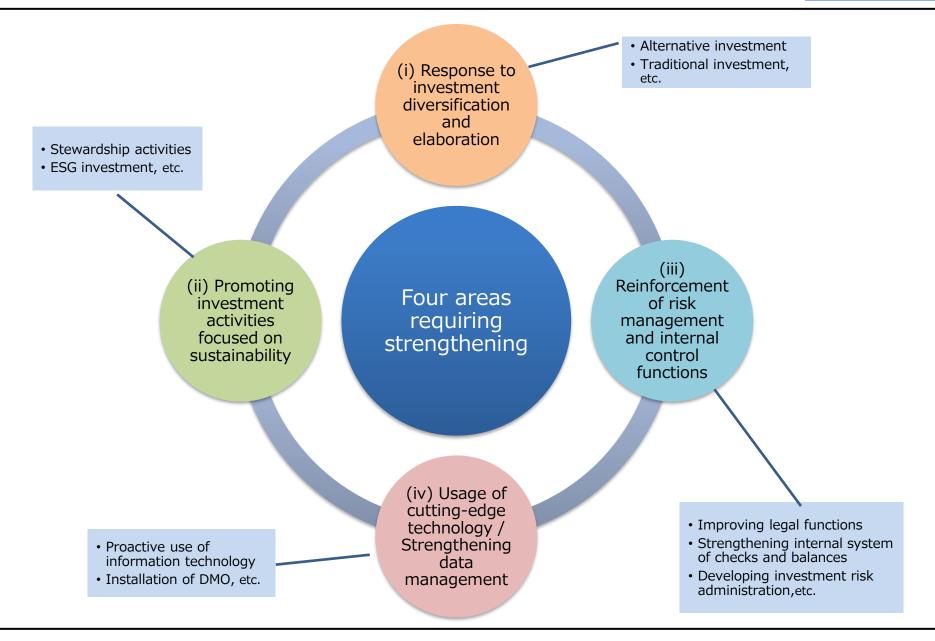
		Time- weighted rate of return	Benchmark rate of return	Excess rate of return
Investment in domestic	Passive investment	1.61%	1.60%	+0.01%
bonds	Active investment	1.75%	1.92%	-0.17%
Domestic	Passive investment	7.92%	8.02%	-0.10%
equities	Active investment	8.55%	8.02%	+0.53%
Foreign	Passive investment	2.00%	1.98%	+0.02%
bonds	Active investment	3.17%	2.20%	+0.96%
Foreign	Passive investment	8.47%	8.47%	-0.00%
equities	Active investment	8.94%	8.69%	+0.25%

#### Implementation of initiatives to achieve excess returns for the entire assets as well as for each asset class



sustainability of financial markets

# **Areas Requiring Strengthening**



## **Major PDCA Cycles of Business Activities**

### Plan

- Resolution of the Medium-Term Plan (including the budget) at the Board of Governors
- Resolution of the Annual Plan (including the budget) at the Board of Governors

## Action

• The Executive Office incorporates various opinions received from the Board of Governors into the Medium-Term Plan and Annual Plan in the following fiscal term.

#### Do

- The Executive Office implements the budget.
- Regarding procurement items which account for the majority of the budget for business activities, the Procurement Committee with all Audit Committee members participating as observers examines estimates in light of appropriate and fair competitiveness.

## Check

- The Board of Governors resolves the fiscal report with awareness of the reason for any discrepancy between the actual result and budget.
- The Board of Governors resolves the Review of Operations which evaluates the achievement of operating performance.
- Regarding commissioned research projects, the Research Project Committee of Executive Office is in charge of the PDCA cycle and provides a report to the Board of Governors.

This report describes the result of the research on the Research Project to Contribute to Preparation of the Next Medium-Term Plan, which Mizuho Research Institute Ltd. was entrusted to examine by the Government Pension Investment Fund. Government Pension Investment Fund reserves the rights to this report.