

Chairman & President Statement

April 15th, 2020

The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Masahiko Tezuka
Chairman and President

Regarding the statement issued by “Networking Group on Corporate Year-End Closing of Accounts and Auditing in response to the Increasing Impact of Covid-19”

Today, the joint statement titled [“Corporate Year-End Closing of Accounts, Auditing and Shareholders meeting in response to the Increasing Impact of Covid-19”](#) was released from “Networking Group on Corporate Year-End Closing of Accounts and Auditing in response to the Increasing Impact of Covid-19” (hereinafter referred to as “Networking Group”), where JICPA participated as a member. Currently vast majority of Japanese companies are in the middle of annual closing of accounts and audit for fiscal year ended March 2020 and this statement is aimed to encourage each company and audit firm to take flexible and adequate actions in completing their closing and audit, including possible case on different schedule from usual situation, given increasing possibility of significant but exogenous delay in their processes due to further spread of Covid-19.

Since JICPA believes it imperative for every individual, company, etc. to behave adequately pursuant to the requests from the government and local authorities in order to avoid further spread of Covid-19 and protect people’s lives, it has announced “Statement with regard to the declaration of a state of emergency” on April 7th requesting each member and associate member to take actions compliant to the requests from the government and relevant authorities. After the announcement, on April 13th, the Financial Services Agency asked us to notify each JICPA member and associate member on the request to reduce working at the office ratio by 70% from the government.

In that context as mentioned above, JICPA would reiterate to ask each JICPA member and associate member to comply with the request from the government and local authorities under declaration of state of emergency. JICPA also requires each to respect the intent of the statement from Networking Group to take adequate actions through collaboration with companies in order to avoid the situation where the purpose of related laws and regulations could be disregarded, while taking people’s health and safety the top priority for those who are involved with annual closing and audit.