2Q (3-month) operating income restored to the same level as a year before Faster profit growth backed by operational strength and evolution of technologies.
Steady improvement in reduction of logistics costs
LOHACO in-house delivery ratio will reach over 35\% at the end of FY5/2019
LOHACO will shift its strategy; the business will enter a stage of profit improvement by moving toward unique-value E-commerce
BtoB sees a clear sign of increasing returns, backed mainly by accelerated execution of web-focused growth strategy and expansion of long-tail goods.

December 14,2018
ASKUL Corporation

## Note:

This material contains the ASKUL Group's current plans and performance outlook. These plans, forecasts, and other forward-looking statements represent ASKUL's plans and forecasts based on information that is currently available. Actual performance may differ from these plans and forecasts due to a variety of conditions and factors that could occur in the future. This material does not represent promises or guarantees regarding the achievement of these plans.
This material has not been audited by certified public accountants or auditing firms.
For the purposes of this material, LOHACO refers to the online mail-order business for general consumers, launched in October 2012 in alliance with Yahoo Japan Corporation.
B-to-B refers to business-to-business transactions.
MRO refers to Maintenance, Repair and Operation, and in this material primarily refers to indirect materials consumed at work sites by companies.

Since the presentation of an overview of consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 31,2016, ASKUL has been reporting its operating performances by dividing its organization into the segments of the E-commerce business, Logistics business, and Other. The E-commerce business deals with sales of OA and PC supplies, stationery, office living supplies, office furniture, foods, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, etc. The logistics business refers to logistics and package transport services that target corporations.

As abbreviations of ASKUL Logi Park, ASKUL Value Center and Open Platform by ASKUL, the acronyms "ALP"""AVC,""OPA" are used, respectively, in this material.

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## Introduction:Overview

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## Introduction:Overview

## Important Points from Second Half of FY5/2019 through FY5/2020

Steady improvement in reduction of logistics costs, backed by the implementation of in-house delivery, advanced automation, and enhancement of OPA

LOHACO will shift to unique-value E-commerce business.
Product differentiation has been enhanced with the revision of free shipping charge. Will restore marginal profit in the second half of FY2019

BtoB: No change in current strategy. Clear sign of increasing returns backed by the execution of web-focused growth strategy and expansion of long-tail goods


## Steady Improvement in Logistics Cost Reduction

(\%)


## LOHACO Will Restore Marginal Profit in the Second Half to Enter a Stage of Profit Improvement

(\%)


## Strategy will shift from focus on commodity products to unique-value E-commerce Change from priority on size to growth with profit improvement



## Diagram of Consolidated Operating Income by Quarter



FY5/2019

## Introduction:Overview

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## 2Q FY5/2019 Consolidated Performance



## Comparison of Consolidated Performance between 1Q and 2Q FY5/2019



Gross profit margin increased,SG\&A expenses ratio improved
> Net sales Up 3.7\%
$>$ Gross profit margin Up 0.7 points Both BtoB and LOHACO businesses improved due mainly to expansion of original product ratio.
$>$ SG\&A expenses ratio Down 0.6 points
$\checkmark$ Decline in logistics and delivery costs ratio
$\checkmark$ Decline in fixed costs ratio due to growing net sales
> Operating income $¥ 1.1$ billion 2 Q income restored to the same level as in the previous fiscal year

## 2Q FY5/2019 Consolidated Performance [By Business]

|  |  | Cumulative <br> results for 2Q <br> FY5/2018 <br>  <br> ¥billion | Cumulative resutls for $2 Q$ FY5/2019 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Fbillion | Yorchange \% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\check{\pi}}{\stackrel{\pi}{\leftrightarrows}} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\approx} \end{aligned}$ | B-to-Bbusiness | 147.8 | 155.5 | +5.2 |
|  | LOHACO | 17.8 | 25.7 | +43.9 |
|  | B-to-Cbusiness (including Charm) | 20.9 | 32.6 | +56.1 |
|  | E-commerce business | 168.7 | 188.2 | +11.5 |
|  | Logistics business and other | 2.9 | 3.2 | +9.5 |
|  | Consolidated total | 171.6 | 191.4 | +11.5 |
|  | B-to-Business | 6.3 | 6.5 | +4.0 |
|  | LOHACO | (3.8) | (4.4) | - |
|  | B-to-C Cusiness (including Charm) | (3.8) | (4.4) | - |
|  | Intermediate total | 2.4 | 2.0 | -15.3 |
|  | Strategic costst | - | (0.8) | - |
|  | E -commerce business | 2.4 | 1.2 | -49.8 |
|  | Logistics business and other | (0.1) | (0.2) | - |
|  | Consolidated total | 2.3 | 1.0 | -55.4 |

$>$ Net sales
BtoB business growth accelerates, up 5.2\%
BtoC business also benefits from consolidation of Charm, with growth of $56.1 \%$
$>$ Operating income
BtoB Business Up 4.0\%
Fixed costs of AVC Kansai and Hidaka Operations, etc.
(BtoB up $¥ 0.6$ billion, BtoC up $¥ 0.5$ billion)
Deterioration in delivery costs (mainly rising delivery costsImprovement of splitting cargo)
(BtoB up $¥ 0.5$ billion, BtoC up $¥ 0.4$ billion)
Logistics reform costs etc.
down $¥ 0.8$ billion (mainly sales promotion expenses)
$\checkmark$ Expanded use of in-house delivery/advanced logistics automation
$\checkmark$ Strengthen sales promotions (both BtoB, BtoC)
$\checkmark$ Strengthen system platform for E-commerce

* The AVC Hidaka/Kansai fixed costs that were categorized by business in the FY5/2018 income statement, and the temporary deterioration in logistics productivity, have been allocated to operating income for the B-to-B business and LOHACO respectively.

Comparison of Consolidated Performance between 1Q and 2Q FY5/2019 [by Business]

|  |  | 10FF5/2019 <br> Actual Wbilion | 20.FY5/2019 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Actual ${ }^{\text {Pbillion }}$ | Yorchange \% |
| $\frac{\stackrel{u}{0}}{\stackrel{\sim}{\stackrel{0}{0}}}$ | B-to-B business | 76.3 | 79.2 | +3.8 |
|  | LOHACO | 12.5 | 13.1 | +4.3 |
|  | B-to-Cbusiness (including Charm) | 15.9 | 16.6 | +4.6 |
|  | E-commerce business | 92.3 | 95.9 | +3.9 |
|  | Logistics businessand other | 1.6 | 1.5 | -7.5 |
|  | Consolidated total | 93.9 | 97.4 | +3.7 |
|  | B-to-B business | 2.7 | 3.8 | +39.3 |
|  | LOHACO | (23) | 12.1) |  |
|  | B-to-C business (including Charm) | (2,3) | (2.1) |  |
|  | Intermediate total | 0.4 | 1.6 | +309.6 |
|  | Strategic costst | (0.4) | (0.4) |  |
|  | E-commerce business | (0.0) | 1.2 | - |
|  | Logistics business and other | (0.0) | (0.1) |  |
|  | Consolidated total | (0.1) | 0.1 |  |

## $>$ Operating income BtoB Business

Operating income growth, up 39.3\% against the Net Sales growth, up 3.8\%
$\Rightarrow$ Clear sign of increasing returns BtoC Business Improvement in operating income $\Rightarrow$ Will achieve a stage of profit improvement in the second half, thanks to the revision of free shipping charge

## Factors Affecting 2Q FY5/2019 Consolidated Operating Income



FY5/2019 Consolidated Financial Forecasts

|  | FY5/2018 |  | FY5/2019 |  |  | No Changes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Actual } \\ & \text { *ybillion } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { \% of ofet } \\ \text { sales } \\ \text { sas } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|} \text { Plam } \\ \text { Ybillion } \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \begin{array}{c} \% \text { of oft } \\ \text { sales } \\ \text { sos } \end{array} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Yor } \\ \text { change } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Net Sales | 360.4 | 100.0 | 390.0 | 100.0 | +8.2 |  |
| Gross Profit | 85.5 | 23.7 | 92.7 | 23.8 | +8.5 | to Full-Year |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Selling, General and } \\ \text { Administrative Expenses } \end{gathered}$ | 81.3 | 22.6 | 86.7 | 22.2 | +6.7 | Forecasts |
| Operating Income | 4.1 | 1.2 | 6.0 | 1.5 | +43.1 |  |
| Ordinary Income | 3.9 | 1.1 | 5.8 | 1.5 | +47.2 |  |
| Net Income Attributable to Owners of the Parent | 4.6 | 1.3 | 3.5 | 0.9 | -25.4 |  |

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# Accelerate E-commerce Evolution 

 Use Big Data, Al, and Other Leading-Edge Technologies
## Measures taken to reduce delivery costs

$\checkmark$ Optimizing packaging sizes
Short term

## Medium term

Sharing logistics using OPA

## Optimization of Packaging Sizes

## Short term

(i) Review of packaging materials suitable for product volume (numbers, quantity)

(ii) Optimization of packaging based on data


## Optimization of Packaging Sizes

## Short term

Trend of the average value * of cardboard sizes


## Review of packaging materials and others

## Reduction in delivery costs and improvement in delivery efficiency

## BtoC Business Taking Goods in to Major Delivery Companies'Locations

## Short term



## BtoC Business <br> Taking Goods in to Major Delivery Companies'Locations

## Short term

Number of locations where goods are handed over


Launched in Tokyo and Kanagawa prefectures in Sept. Started in the Kansai area in Oct. Implementation has been completed mostly in locations with high effects of cost reduction.

## Reduction in

# BtoC Business <br> Development of Medium- and Long-Distance Networks 

Networks
(Among logistics
centers)

Home delivery
(Last one mile)

## Major delivery companies

## Own Group

Own Group

Use networks with local delivery partners gained through BtoB business to reduce reliance on major delivery companies

## BtoC Business <br> Development of Medium- and Long-Distance Networks

## Short term

Formation of in-house Group networks between logistics centers Delivery to customers via routes from AVC Kansai to Nagoya and Fukuoka logistics centers


## Acceleration of Shift to In-house Delivery

Beginning of FY5/2019
End of FY5/2019


Nationwide in-house delivery networks to complete $70 \%$ as of the end of FY5/2019


## Acceleration of in-house delivery

Step up target share to $35 \%$ from $20 \%$ as of the end of FY5/2019

## Acceleration of Shift to In-House Delivery (Happy On Time)

## Target areas expanded to 16 wards in Tokyo, and <br> Happy OnTime

 12 in Osaka

## Medi

Expansion of differentiated delivery service \& Reduction in delivery costs


New uniform of delivery drivers (Tokyo, Osaka)

## Acceleration of shift to in-house delivery (BtoC Business)

## Medium term



## Fukuoka



Already expanded

Expansion scheduled Including areas not covered by Happy On Time

## Expand in-house delivery areas

Achieve over 35\% in FY5/2019, and over 40\% in FY5/2020

## Initiative Ahead of OPA Development

Supply of delivery services by ASKUL LOGIST, the Group's subsidiary to external companies

BtoB only



Raise delivery density by increasing delivery volume to reduce delivery costs

## Initiative Ahead of OPA Development

ASKUL LOGIST: Number of goods delivered to external sellers (Quarterly)

External Sellers



Steady improvement in logistics cost reduction LOHACO will enter a stage to.shifft to Unique Value E-commerce
Btob will speed up execution of web-based growth strategy and expand long-tail products

## Profit growth will be accelerated

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## BtoC

## Targeting consumers



LOHACO

## LOHACO Will Shift to Its Unique Value E-commerce to Enter Stage of Profit Improvement

Expansion of goods focused on commodity items

Priority on size

## Expand unique-value

 itemsShift management resources

Achieve growth with profit improvement


LOHACO Digital Marketing Consortium 2018 was held on
November 19, 2018.
A total of 210 manufacturers, the largest-evē̃, and 548 people participated.

## Speed Up Development of Unique-Value Goods

* Extract from the presentation material



## Maximum use of relationship with makers

Design products exclusive to LOHACO E-commerce


## LOHACO Original Products



LOHACO Water 2 L Released in May 2016


Softpack Tissue
Released in June 2018


LOHACO Water 410ML
Released in July 2018


Pet Sheets
Released in Oct. 2018


LOHACO Rice Yumepirika Released in Sept. 2015


Toilet Rolls Recycle 100
Released in Sept. 2018


LOHACO Rice
Akitakomachi
Released in Dec. 2018


Oral Care
Released in July 2018


Yamagata no Umami Shikkari Gohan (packed rice) Released in Sept. 2018


Lifestyle Towels
Released in April 2018

## LOHACO Will Enter Stage of Profit Improvement

(i) Expansion of unique-value goods
(ii) Increase in fee income
(iii) Revision of free shipping charge

## (i) Expansion of Unique-Value Goods

Step Up Unique-Value Product Lineup (Promote shift to private brands)
LOHACO Original Products


Tissue paper


LOHACO Water ( 410 ml )


Oral Care products

## Expand sales of Original goods*

Examples of newly added items



Chinese medicine (packaged series)

## Improvement in Gross Profit Margin

* Original goods includes those with sales limited to ASKUL (LOHACO)

Step Up Unique-Value Product Lineup
esian products exclusive to E-commerce)
"Fitting Our Lifestyles" LOHACO Exhibition
Trend of Sales Growth * by Quarter


## "Fitting Our Lifestyles" LOHACO 2018 Exhibition October 5-10, 2018

Held at Daikanyama T-SITE GARDEN GALLERY 48 companies participated, 58 products exhibited


Improvement in gross profit margin

* Net sales includes products for which the advance sales period at LOHACO has ended


## Expansion of Outlet Product Lineup and UX Evolution



Value-added products, High unit-price items

NEW!
Launched on December 5 Emphasizing value of goods by showing a special page design, video contents, etc.

## Boost Net Sales

## Improvement in gross

 profit margin\&
Increase in sales price per unit/per box

## (ii) Increase in Fee Income

## Expand marketplace

## LOHACO marketplace total value distributed <br> (Yen) <br>  <br> Total value distributed has grown dramatically <br> Growth in fee income

## Growth in advertising fee income



## Implementation of advertisement with strong sales effects by using big data

## Growth

in fee income

## (iii) Revision of free shipping charge

## Revision of free shipping charge

[Current]
No basic delivery fees for a purchase order of $¥ 1,900$ or above (incl. tax)

Basic delivery fees
$¥ 350$ (incl. tax)


Minimize adverse impacts on sales growth
[Starting from 6 p.m., Jan. 10] No basic delivery fees for a purchase order of goods of $¥ 3,240$ or above (incl. tax)

Basic delivery fees ¥216 (incl. tax)

We will achieve marginal profit in the second half.

## LOHACO has overcome issues to move toward profit improvement.


(i) Expansion of unique-value goods
(ii) Increase in fee income

## Improvement in gross profit margin

(i) Expansion of unique-value goods
(iii) Revision of free shipping charge

Increase in sales price per unit/per box to reduce delivery cost ratio to sales

LOHACO: Number of New Customers (By Quarter)

## (Persons)



## Favorable sales promotion effects to boost the number of new customers.



BtoC total value
(*billion)

## 700

| 2Q FY5/2018 Actual |
| :---: |
| Total distribution |
| $\neq 33.3$ billion |
| YoY Change |
| UP 58.0\% |



## Achieve new growth toward execution of unique-value E-commerce

## LOHACO will change its strategy.

 The business will enter a stage of profit improvement by shifting to unique value Ecommerce.Introduction:Overview
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# For Offices Involved in BtoB Business 



## Rock-solid growth continues

## Conceptual drawing of BtoB strategy



## Expansion of non-stock items

Number of items

> Maximize opportunities on both axes to win customers and ensure purchases

## BtoB Business Sees a Clear Sign of Increasing Returns

(i) Further increase in the ratio of original goods
(ii) Increase in the number of customers and boost in net sales backed by significant growth of long-tail items
(iii) Increase in net sales backed by continued website evolution

## (i) Further increase in the ratio of original goods

## Expansion of original goods

 accour ting for

Number of companies using regular delivery service for copying paper


## Regular delivery service



## Service evolution of head

 products
## Strengthening of customer base

(ii) Increase in the number of customers and boost in net sales backed by significant growth of long-tail products


BtoB sales as a percentage of net sales


## Sales of non-stock items

## Actual in Second Half of

 FY5/2019 (YoY change) $127 \%$Collaboration with Suppliers on Inventory Information
Website page


## Differentiated service of long－ tail goods

System－based automatic coordination on inventory information
$\rightarrow$ Expansion of available goods with high demand fluctuation and frequent renewal／termination
$\rightarrow \quad$ Shortening a delivery period for goods in stable supply

## Future

## Expansion of collaborating suppliers

## Growth in net sales

(iii) Increase in net sales backed by continued website evolution

BtoB Business ASKUL Website Sales via internet advertisements

## By strengthening Internet advertising

## Increase number of customers and expand purchase goods territories

## Contributing to sales growth

September: Function to display goods with similar screen images (PC site)


October: Function to search goods by using screen images of goods and catalogues
(Smartphone site)


## Search ability advanced further by using image recognition technology and Al <br> Further acceleration in execution of webfocused growth strategy

December: Function to display comparison of product specifications like a cataloque (PC site)
momeretur


BtoB will accelerate execution of website growth strategy. The business sees a clear sign of increasing returns mainly attributed to expansion of long-tail products.

## Appendix

2Q FY5/2019 net sales by item


## Factors Affecting 2Q FY5/2019 Consolidated Net Sales



[^0]
## Steady Growth in SOLOEL ARENA



Cumulative results for 2 Q FY5/2019 achieved a $9.8 \%$ year-on-year increase, driving growth of BtoB business.

## 2Q FY5/2019 1Q Consolidated Gross profit,SG\&A expenses

## Gross profit: $¥ 45.2$ billion YoY change: $+\neq 4.5$ billion

Gross profit margin: $23.6 \%$, Yoy change:-0.1 p.p.
> Factors leading to unfavorable foreign exchange positions were absorbed, and solid performance continued

## Growth profit margin by quarter

1Q:23.3\%, 2Q:24.0\%

## SG\&A expenses: $¥ 44.2$ billion YoY change: $+¥ 5.8$ billion

Ratio of SG\&A expense to net sales: $23.1 \%$ Yoy change:+0.7 p.p.
Breakdown of major YoY change factors in SG\&A expenses

- Delivery costs (including the increase resulting from higher revenues)
- Personnel costs (mainly due to AVC Kansai operation and conversion of Charm as a consolidated subsidiary)
- Depreciation and amortization of software (mainly due to AVC Kansai operation)
- Ground rent (mainly due to AVC Kansai operation)
- Outsourcing costs
$+¥ 2.7$ billion
$+¥ 1.1$ billion
$+\neq 0.7$ billion
$+\neq 0.5$ billion
$+\neq 0.2$ billion

1Q FY5/2019 Consolidated Capital Expenditures
Capital expenditures $¥ 3.4$ billion (Annual plan: $¥ 11.2$ billion)
AVC Kansai logistics equipment, etc. Data base for new products, etc.
(Ref.) Depreciation and amortization of software:
$¥ 0.5$ billion $¥ 0.5$ billion
¥2.7 billion
(Annual plan: $¥ 6.1$ billion)
Investment details
( $¥$ million)

| Item | $2 Q$ FY5/2018 | $2 Q$ FY5/2019 |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  | Amount | YoY Change |
| [Capital expenditures] | 10,952 | 3,416 | $-68.8 \%$ |
| Property, plant and equipment | 9,470 | 1,722 | $-81.8 \%$ |
| Intangible assets | 1,481 | 1,693 | $+14.3 \%$ |


| Construction in progress (Note 2) | 5,342 | 854 | $-84.0 \%$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Software in progress (Note 2) | 950 | 2,440 | $+156.7 \%$ |

(Note 1) Capital expenditure is stated on an accrual basis.
(Note 2) Construction in progress and software in progress above present balances at the end of the quarter under review, and partially include consumption and other taxes.

## 2Q FY5/2019 Share of Orders Placed on the Internet of Net Sales and Original Goods

Share of orders placed on the Internet of net sales

|  | 2 F FY5/2018 | 2Q FY5/2019 | YoY Change |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Orders via the Internet | $80.6 \%$ | $83.4 \%$ | +2.8 p.p. |
| Other | $19.4 \%$ | $16.6 \%$ | -2.8 p.p. |

(Note 1) Percentages are based on orders placed.

## ASKUL original products

(Items)

|  | November of <br> FY5/2018 | November of <br> FY5/2019 | Yo Y Change |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Number of original goods | 8,173 | 8,935 | +762 |
| Share of non-consolidated net sales <br> (of which, share of B-to-B business) | $29.3 \%$ <br> $(35.6 \%)$ | $29.0 \%$ <br> $(36.5 \%)$ | -0.4 p.p. <br> $(+1.0$ p.p.) |

Note 1: Each figure includes the products listed in Health \& Nursing Care Catalogs and Medical Pro Catalogs.
Note 2: The number of original goods includes those with sales limited to Askul. Also, the calculation includes not only those items sold via catalogs but also items sold only via the Internet.
Note 3: The calculation of original goods as a percentage of net sales includes original copy paper.
Note 4: from 4Q FY5/2018 onward, the calculation of BtoB original goods as a percentage of net sales uses BtoB business inventory sales as the denominator.
"ASKUL Environment Forum 2018" was held on October 12,2018. Participated by corporate customers, manufacturers, and others, making for a total attendance of 177 companies and 311 people.

## Advancing the initiative to make use of collaboration among corporations to realize the goal of zero $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ emissions in 2030

First Forum 2016
"Seeking
collaboration
among
corporations"

Second Forum 2017
"Developing collaboration among corporations"

Logistics platform that ASKUL aims to achieve
Initiative to reduce $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ emissions in the entire supply chain ranging from procurement of raw materials to delivery to customers


Eco Platform
(Most efficient and environmental-friendly platform)



[^0]:    * MRO/Medical businesses do not include LOHACO portion.

