

# The Depository Trust Company

# IMPORTANT

**B#:** 3134-08

**DATE:** March 20, 2008

**TO:** All Participants

**CATEGORY:** Dividends

**FROM:** International Services

**ATTENTION:** Operations, Reorg & Dividend Managers, Partners & Cashiers

**SUBJECT:** TaxRelief - Country: Japan  
Sony Corporation CUSIP: 835699307  
Record Date: 03/28/08 Payable Date: TBA  
EDS Cut-Off: 04/10/08 Documentation Cut-Off: 04/10/08 5PM

The Depository Trust Company has received from JPMorgan Chase Bank/GlobeTax the attached information regarding certain tax refunds on the above captioned dividend.

As directed in the notice, participants that have qualified beneficial holders that expect to benefit from the procedure should secure the required documentation.

Questions regarding this Important Notice may be directed to Mr. Israel Villoda or Maria Lopez of DTC's Dividend Department at (813) 470-1545 respectively.

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**Important Legal Information:** *The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") does not represent or warrant the accuracy, adequacy, timeliness, completeness or fitness for any particular purpose of the information contained in DTC communications, which are based in part on information obtained from third parties and not independently verified by DTC and which are provided as is. The information contained in this Important Notice is not intended to be a substitute for obtaining tax advice from an appropriate professional advisor. In providing this Important Notice, DTC shall not be liable for (1) any loss resulting directly or indirectly from mistakes, errors, omissions, interruptions, delays or defects in such notice, unless caused directly by gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of DTC, and (2) any special, consequential, exemplary, incidental or punitive damages.*

**Sony Corporation**  
**CUSIP#: 835699307**  
**ADR R/D: March 28, 2008**  
**ADR P/D: TBA**

JPMorgan Chase Bank as the sole depository bank for **Sony Corporation (Cusip # 835699307)** American Depositary Receipt (“ADR”) program. **Sony Corporation** has recently announced their cash dividend.

Participants can use the DTC’s Elective Dividend System (EDS) function over the Participant Terminal System (PTS) to certify all or a portion of their position entitled to the applicable withholding tax rate.

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR CERTIFYING OVER EDS IS APRIL 10, 2008.**

The various Japanese withholding tax rates that may be applicable are as follows:

**10% Withholding Rate (unfavorable at 90% payment)** applies to a beneficial owner of the ADRs that is a Japanese individual resident for tax purposes. This rate includes the additional 3% local tax. Information detailed on Appendix C will also be required.

**7% Withholding Rate (favorable at 93% payment)** applies to a beneficial owner of the ADRs that is not a Japanese individual resident for tax purposes and is therefore not subject to the 3% local tax.

**0% Withholding Rate (exempt rate – U.S. pensions)** applies to a beneficial owner of the ADRs that (a) is not engaged in a trade or business in Japan through a permanent establishment situated in Japan, within the meaning of the U.S. double taxation treaty with Japan, (b) is a qualifying “Pension Fund” as defined on Page 11 of the Technical Explanation of the new tax treaty between the U.S. and Japan, published by the U.S. Department of Treasury and (c) is able to certify that more than 50 % of the beneficiaries, members or participants of the eligible pension fund were individual residents of the U.S. or Japan as of the prior taxable period.

Qualifying plans are listed below:

1. qualified plans under section 401(a)
2. individual retirement plans (including those that are a part of a simplified employee pension plan that satisfies 408(k))
3. individual retirement accounts, individual retirement annuities, section 408(p) accounts
4. Roth IRAs under section 408 A
5. section 457 governmental plans
6. section 403(a) qualified annuity plans
7. section 403(b) plans
8. section 401(k) plans qualify as pension funds because a 401(k) plan is a type of 401(a) plan.
9. and any other fund identical or substantially similar to the foregoing schemes that are established pursuant to legislation introduced after the date of signature of the Convention.

**0% Withholding Rate (exempt rate – U.K. pensions)** applies to a beneficial owner of the ADRs that (a) is not engaged in a trade or business in Japan through a permanent establishment situated in Japan, within the meaning of the U.K. double taxation treaty with Japan, (b) is a qualifying “Pension Fund” as defined by Article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the Income Tax Convention between Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, published by the Ministry of Finance Japan and (c) is able to certify that more than 50 % of the beneficiaries, members or participants of the eligible pension fund were individual residents of the U.K. or Japan as of the prior taxable period.

In addition to certifying through EDS, the following documentation needs to be provided to JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax (**FOR THE EXEMPT U.S. / U.K. PENSION PLANS AND JAPANESE INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS ONLY**) no later than **April 10, 2008 at 5:00 PM EST**:

**FOR EXEMPT US PENSIONS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED:**

- 1) **Withholding Certification** listing the beneficial owner information of all U.S. PENSIONS claiming the exempt withholding tax rate. The beneficial owner name and TIN/SSN # on this form must match the 6166 form (see Appendix A).
- 2) **Certification of Residency** - An **original** U.S. IRS Form 6166 dated within **one year** of **May 1, 2008** must be provided for each beneficial owner. Please use Form 8802 in order to obtain a Form 6166 from the IRS.

\* **Form 8802 must contain the following statement in Section #11:**

**“Under penalties of perjury, I am a citizen of the United States and will continue to be for the current year.”**

**Please send Form 8802 and payment of the user fee by mail to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) located at: Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 42530, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19101-5230 Telephone: (215) 516-2000, Fax: (215) 516-1035.**

- 3) **Power of Attorney** - An **original** Power of Attorney (“POA”) completed by the ultimate beneficiary of the income (See Appendix B) is also required. This power of attorney **must** be completed using the template provided and **must** be on the **letterhead of the ultimate beneficial owner** in order to be valid.

**\*\*NOTE:** The name of the beneficial owner on the Power of Attorney **must** exactly match, word for word, the beneficiaries name on their Form 6166. Also, please be sure to include the address of the beneficiary within the POA as shown in Appendix B.

**FOR EXEMPT UK PENSIONS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED:**

- 1) **Withholding Certification** listing the beneficial owner information of all U.K. PENSIONS claiming the exempt withholding tax rate. The beneficial owner name and TIN # on this form must match the Certificate of Residence form (see Appendix E).
  - 2) **Certification of Residency** - An **original** Certificate of Residence dated within **one year** of **May 1, 2008** must be provided for each beneficial owner. Please use Certificate of Residence (see Appendix F).
  - 3) **Power of Attorney** - An **original** Power of Attorney (“POA”) completed by the ultimate beneficiary of the income (See Appendix B) is also required. This power of attorney **must** be completed using the template provided and **must** be on the **letterhead of the ultimate beneficial owner** in order to be valid.
- \*\*NOTE:** The name of the beneficial owner on the Power of Attorney **must** exactly match, word for word, the beneficiaries name on their Certificate of Residency. Also, please be sure to include the address of the beneficiary within the POA as shown in Appendix B.

**FOR JAPANESE INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS SUBJECT TO THE 3% LOCAL TAX THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED:**

- 1) **Withholding Certification** listing the beneficial owner information of all Japanese Individual Residents who are subject to the local 3% tax. **It is required to provide the 7-digit Japanese postal code which indicates the prefecture of the Japanese resident (see Appendix C).**

The Withholding Certification form, Form 6166s, Certificates of Residence, and POAs must be received no later than **April 10, 2008**.

**\*\*\*NOTE: NO DOCUMENTATION NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED FOR SHARES THAT ELECT TO RECEIVE THE FAVORABLE (93%) RATE.**

**Elections for advance tax relief at the Favorable (93%) rate are subject to a tax relief fee of up to \$0.0035 per share. Elections for advanced tax relief at the Exempt (100%) rate are subject to a tax relief fee of up to \$0.0035 per share.**

**For reasons of cost effectiveness, only those U.S. Pensions holders with more than 3,400 ADRs may file for the additional 7% tax reclaim.**

Late filings are subject to a tax relief fee of \$0.005 per ADR with a minimum tax relief fee of \$25.00 and no maximum tax relief fee withheld by the ADR Depository.

Questions about this advance tax relief process and late filings should be directed to:  
JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax  
by phone at 800-929-5484 or by mail at:

JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax  
90 Broad Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Attn: Jonathan Staake

**APPENDIX A - U.S. ELIGIBLE PENSIONS ONLY**

< Your company letterhead >  
 To: JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax  
 90 Broad Street (16th Floor)  
 New York, New York 10004-2205  
 Phone: 1-800-929-5484 Fax: 1-800-929-9986

**Re: Withholding Certification for Sony Corporation CUSIP# 835699307**

I / We the undersigned (Contact Name) authorized representative of (DTC Participant Name) holding shares at Cede & Co. under DTC# (DTC PTS Number) of Sony Corporation ; CUSIP# 835699307, request that the upcoming cash dividend payable to holders as of March 28, 2008, receive the additional 7% tax reclaim

| Name of Pension Fund/IRA | Complete U.S. Address | Tax ID Number | # ADR Shares | Law of Establishment (ERISA, State Law of <State>, etc.) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
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**\*\*\* IF THERE ARE MORE THAN 7 BENEFICIAL HOLDERS, PLEASE CALL JONATHAN STAAKE AT THE NUMBER ABOVE AND WE WILL SEND YOU A PRE-FORMATTED DISK. PLEASE RETURN THE DISK AND THE HARD COPY WITH THE REQUIRED AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.**

I / We certify that to the best of my knowledge the above beneficial owners are eligible for the preferential rates as stated herein and I declare that I have performed all the necessary due diligence to satisfy myself as to the accuracy of the information submitted to me by these beneficial owners.

JPMorgan Chase Bank is not liable for failure to secure the refund and any funds erroneously received shall be immediately returned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, including any interest, additions to tax or penalties thereon. This is not tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor.

**Incorrect claims and/or elections could result in fines and/or penalties.**

TEL : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name of Signatory

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Position of Signatory

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE AND FAX NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE.

**APPENDIX B – POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**(U.S. Pension Fund's Letterhead)**

Power of Attorney

( Name of Pension Fund/IRA = the Undersigned), with address in (City, State, Country) hereby appoints JPMorgan Chase Bank ("Bank") and/or the Bank's designated standing proxy(ies) as its true and lawful attorney with full Power of Attorney to do all or any of the following acts with respect to the American Depository Receipts representing shares in Sony Corporation ("Securities") that the Bank holds in its safe custody on behalf of the Undersigned through a Participant in the Depository Trust Company .

- i) To sign and file required forms with competent tax authorities in order to secure any tax privileges and benefits such as tax reduction or tax-exemption at source.
- ii) To receive on behalf of the Undersigned tax repayments made by competent tax authorities as a result of lodging reclaim forms.
- iii) To perform any other act as may be necessary to execute the acts mentioned herein.

The Undersigned also authorizes the Bank and/or the Bank's designated standing proxy(ies) to submit this power of attorney or a photocopy of it to competent tax authorities.

(the Name of the Pension Fund/IRA)

<Place and Date>  
Place and Date

<Signature of Officer of Beneficiary>  
Authorized Signature(s)/Title (s)

In addition, the authorized representative:

Confirms that more than 50% of the beneficiaries, members or participants of the eligible pension fund were individual residents of the U.S. or Japan as of the prior taxable period.

(the Name of the Pension Fund/IRA)

<Place and Date>  
Place and Date

<Signature of Officer of Beneficiary>  
Authorized Signature(s)/Title (s)

**APPENDIX C - JAPANESE INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS ONLY**

< Your company letterhead >

To: JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax  
 90 Broad Street (16th Floor)  
 New York, New York 10004-2205  
 Phone: 1-800-929-5484 Fax: 1-800-929-9986

**PLEASE PROVIDE THIS LISTING ONLY FOR JAPANESE INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS THAT YOU HAVE ELECTED TO RECEIVE THE 90% RATE THROUGH EDS.**

**Re: Withholding Certification for Sony Corporation CUSIP# 835699307 Record Date: March 28, 2008**

| Name of Japanese Individual Resident | Complete Japan Address | # ADR Shares |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                                      |                        |              |
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I / We certify that to the best of my knowledge the above beneficial owners are eligible for the preferential rates as stated herein and I declare that I have performed all the necessary due diligence to satisfy myself as to the accuracy of the information submitted to me by these beneficial owners.

JPMorgan Chase Bank is not liable for failure to secure the refund and any funds erroneously received shall be immediately returned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, including any interest, additions to tax or penalties thereon. This is not tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor.

**Incorrect claims and/or elections could result in fines and/or penalties.**

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Print Name of Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Position of Signatory

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE AND FAX NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE.

**APPENDIX D – POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**(U.K. Pension Fund’s Letterhead)**

Power of Attorney

( Name of Pension Fund/IRA = the Undersigned), with address in (City, State, Country) hereby appoints JPMorgan Chase Bank (“Bank”) and/or the Bank’s designated standing proxy(ies) as its true and lawful attorney with full Power of Attorney to do all or any of the following acts with respect to the American Depository Receipts representing shares in Sony Corporation (“Securities”) that the Bank holds in its safe custody on behalf of the Undersigned through a Participant in the Depository Trust Company .

- i) To sign and file required forms with competent tax authorities in order to secure any tax privileges and benefits such as tax reduction or tax-exemption at source.
- ii) To receive on behalf of the Undersigned tax repayments made by competent tax authorities as a result of lodging reclaim forms.
- iii) To perform any other act as may be necessary to execute the acts mentioned herein.

The Undersigned also authorizes the Bank and/or the Bank’s designated standing proxy(ies) to submit this power of attorney or a photocopy of it to competent tax authorities.

(the Name of the Pension Fund/IRA)

<Place and Date>  
Place and Date

<Signature of Officer of Beneficiary>  
Authorized Signature(s)/Title (s)

In addition, the authorized representative:

Confirms that more than 50% of the beneficiaries, members or participants of the eligible pension fund were individual residents of the U.K. or Japan as of the prior taxable period.

(the Name of the Pension Fund/IRA)

<Place and Date>  
Place and Date

<Signature of Officer of Beneficiary>  
Authorized Signature(s)/Title (s)

**APPENDIX E - U.K. ELIGIBLE PENSIONS ONLY**

< Your company letterhead >

To: JPMorgan Chase Bank / GlobeTax  
 90 Broad Street (16th Floor)  
 New York, New York 10004-2205  
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| Name of Pension Fund/IRA | Complete U.K. Address | Tax ID Number | # ADR Shares |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
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I / We certify that to the best of my knowledge the above beneficial owners are eligible for the preferential rates as stated herein and I declare that I have performed all the necessary due diligence to satisfy myself as to the accuracy of the information submitted to me by these beneficial owners.

JPMorgan Chase Bank is not liable for failure to secure the refund and any funds erroneously received shall be immediately returned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, including any interest, additions to tax or penalties thereon. This is not tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor.

**Incorrect claims and/or elections could result in fines and/or penalties.**

TEL : \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position o

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE AND FAX NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE.

居 住 者 証 明 書  
Certificate of Residence

私は、届出者 \_\_\_\_\_ が、  
日本国と \_\_\_\_\_ との間の  
租税条約第 \_\_\_\_ 条第 \_\_\_\_ 項 \_\_\_\_ に規定する居住者であることを証明します。

I hereby certify that (the applicant:) \_\_\_\_\_  
is a resident under the provisions of the Income Tax Convention between  
Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,  
Article 22, para. 2 (e).

年月日 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

署 名 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

官 印  
Official Stamp

