

Mizuho Gulf Capital Partners Ltd

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The Gulf Japan Food Fund Acquires a Majority Stake in Leading Organic Foods Player

The Gulf Japan Food Fund (“**GJFF**”), an international private equity fund focused on the Food & Beverage industry and backed by prominent Japanese institutions including Mizuho Bank and The Norinchukin Bank of Japan as well as sovereign investors in the GCC, has acquired a majority stake in Organic Foods and Café, the leading organic foods platform in the Middle East.

Founded in 2004 and headquartered in the UAE, Organic Foods and Café (“**OFC**”) is a family run company providing organic products to consumers and business partners via multiple channels. The OFC Retail business unit sells organic and biodynamic foods and consumer products including; fresh produce, packaged goods, frozen foods, meat, dairy products, beverages, breads, supplements and household cleaning supplies through a chain of conveniently located supermarkets, and online through its mobile App and ecommerce webstore (<https://organicfoodsandcafe.com/shop/>).

The Rapid Distribution business unit supplies the premium organic brand **Organic Larder**, sourced from family-owned farms and businesses, to hypermarkets, supermarkets, convenience stores as well as e-commerce retailers in over 10 countries. The Organic Larder range consists of more than 600 SKUs.

Over the past 16 years, the company has grown to become the leading provider of organic food in the Middle East. Secular and meaningful change in consumer behavior where a healthier lifestyle is embraced and a growing interest in how and where food is grown and handled, has propelled organic food to become one of the fastest growing segments in the global Food & Beverage industry.

This investment represents the 8th transaction by GJFF, a USD 390 million private equity fund established in 2016 to invest in the food industry in the Middle East, Japan and a number of other geographies. GJFF leverages a global network of strategic partners, food industry platforms and business relationships to add value to its investments. GJFF is managed by Mizuho Gulf Capital Partners Limited.

Organic Foods and Café was advised by **deNovo Corporate Advisors** and **PwC Legal**. GJFF was advised by **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**.

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