

Comments on “BOJ’s QQE with Yield Curve Control” by Shigeto Nagai and “Macroeconomic Policy Mix in the euro area” by Isabel Vansteenkiste

**Session 2: “Coping with Macroeconomic Vulnerabilities and Spillovers”
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Hiroshi Ugai
Senior Economist
TEL: +81-3-6736-1173
E Mail: hiroshi.ugai@jpmorgan.com
JPMorgan Securities Japan

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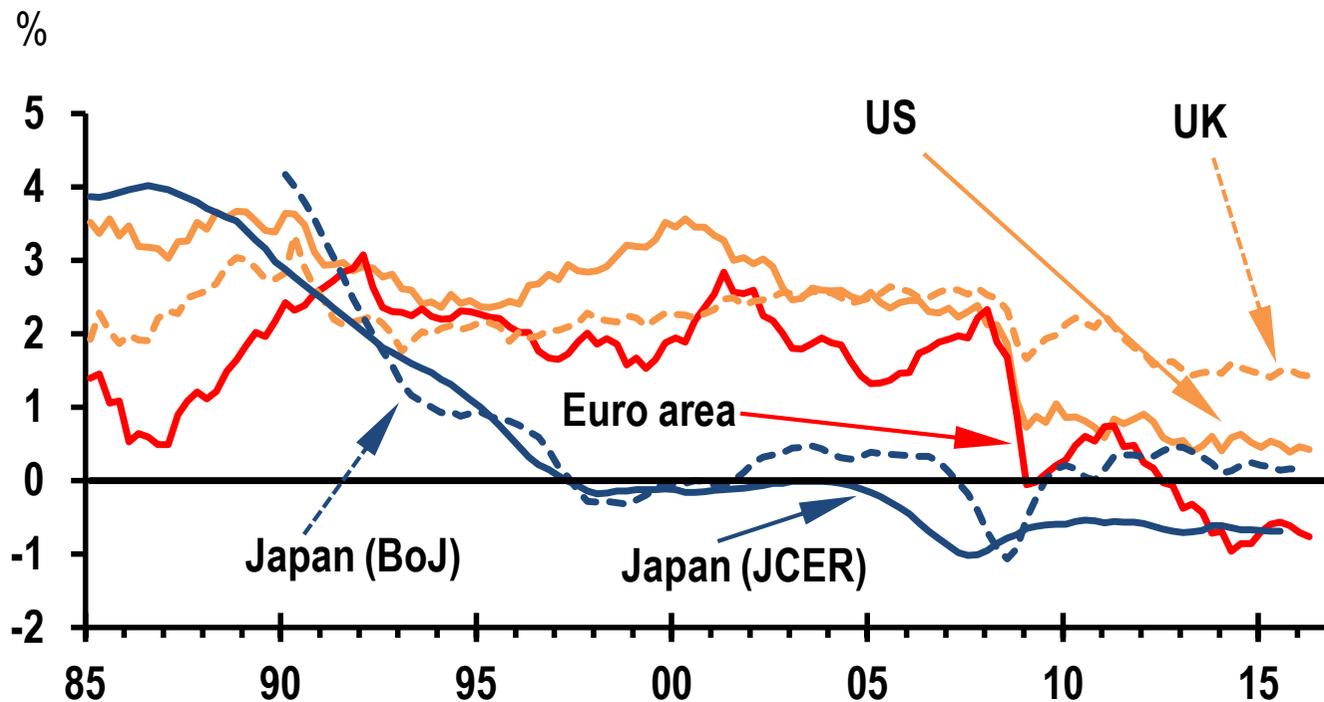
(1) Without shock

(2) Unlikely to exit before another recession risk

1. Progress and challenge of monetary policy in Japan and Euro area (1)

The decline of natural rate of interest into negative territory and existence of ZLB prompted CBs to adopt the QE first and naturally move to NIRP to break ZLB.

Natural rate of interest in DM



Source: Holston, Laubach and Williams (2016), JCER Financial Research Team (2016), BoJ (2016)

1. Progress and challenge of monetary policy in Japan and Euro area (2)

Pursuing price stability single-mindedly by monetary easing would face the challenge of financial system where indirect financing shares a large percentage.

- Steepness of the yield curve is needed to retain net interest income
- “Reversal interest rate” at which accommodative monetary policy reverses its effect
- The damage to the financial system would lead to a weakening in the credit intermediation function and / or an excessive risk taking

-- BoJ (2016), “Financial System Report, Oct 2016”

-- Brunnermeier, M. and Y. Koby (2016), “The ‘Reversal Interest Rate’;
An Effective Lower Bound on Monetary Policy”

Negative impact on insurance companies, pension funds, and firms’ pension benefit obligations (defined benefit plan)

- Possible negative impact through a deterioration in people’s sentiment

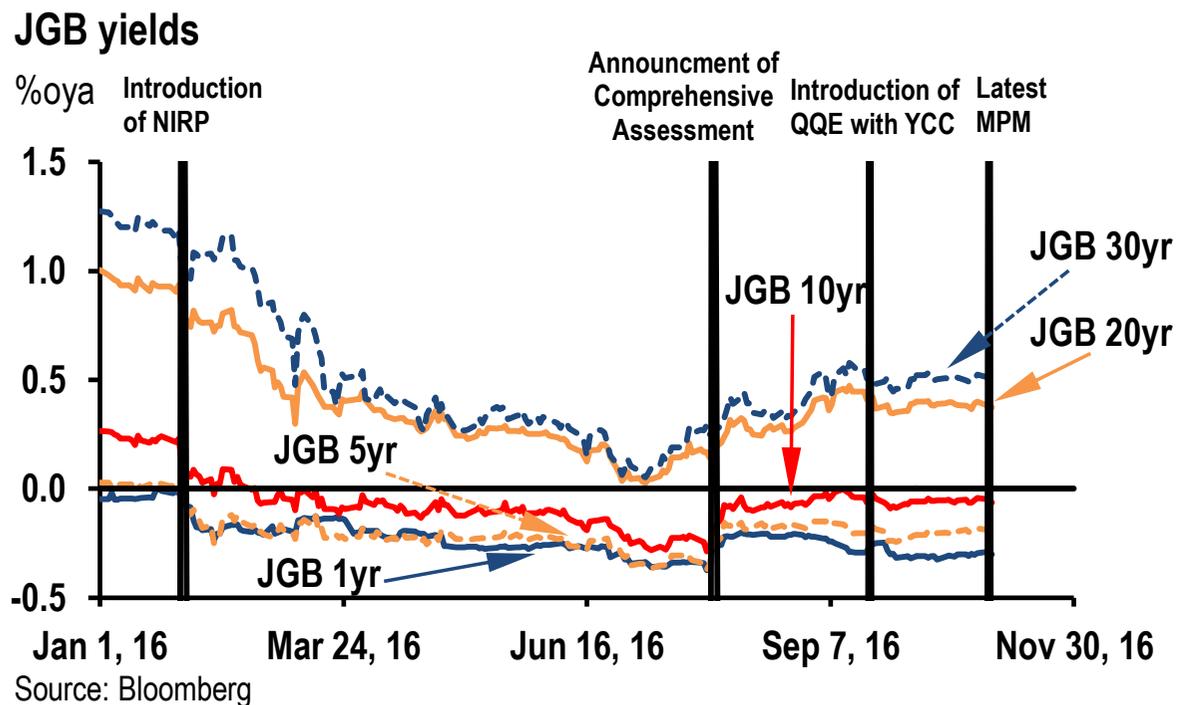
2. BoJ's Device (1) Yield Curve Control

Motivation: Shift from short-term battle to long drawn-out battle by adopting more sustainable framework.

- Possible adverse impact on financial system
- Limits of purchasing JGBs in the market

YCC has brought the market stability in Japan's markets so far.

- US: Expectation for Fed's rate hike
- Euro area: A kind of VaR shock



2. BoJ's Device (2) Inflation-overshooting Commitment

Motivation: Gaining the credibility for attaining inflation target at the earliest possible time

Merits of the commitment

- Recommitment to the target to mitigate the market speculation that BoJ may abandon its fight
- Tolerating higher inflation in the short run
History dependence

Issue (1) Strength of negative impact on financial institutions

The negative impact on banks will be alleviated if banks impose fees on deposits of companies and financial institutions.

- Providing a room for BoJ to conduct further monetary easing
- Strengthening banks' profitability (rise in lending margin, rise in loan-to-deposit ratio)

This change in pass through of rate can change the reversal interest rate level.

Issue (2) Effectiveness of Inflation-overshooting Commitment

Conditions

- Largely adaptive inflation expectations
- Need credibility for the BoJ and dispel of the perception that monetary policy is constrained to strengthen the forward-looking characteristics
- Even the introduction of QQE did not shift inflation expectations formation (Fujiwara, Nakazono, and Ueda (2014), Nakazono (2016), Ugai (2015))
- No rise in inflation expectations via yen depreciation now

Will the inflation expectations become forward-looking?

- Market participants interpret the BoJ as shifting to long drawn-out battle of attaining inflation target, thereby not paying much attention to this commitment before 2% inflation comes in sight

Issue (3) Market communication

Adoption of a variety of communication tools by BoJ to enhance the transparency so far

Big change since July

- Thorough explanations about monetary policy stance since July, though a leap from the announcement of the Comprehensive Assessment at July MPM to the adoption of the New Framework at September MPM
- It works since September MPM

Difficulty remains

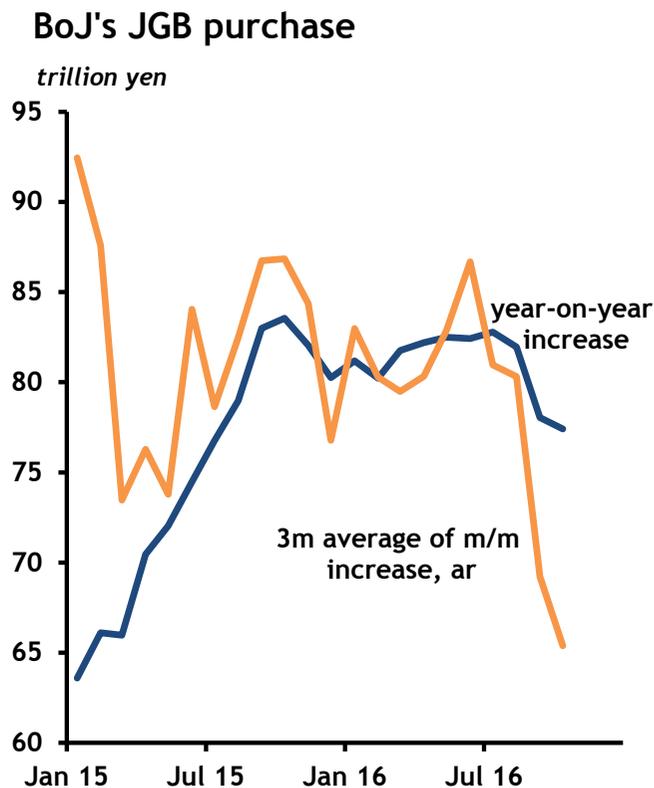
- Prerequisite for a forward guidance to work
 - Dispelling markets' concern for another surprise
 - Realistic inflation outlook

Issue (4) Role of monetary base under YCC

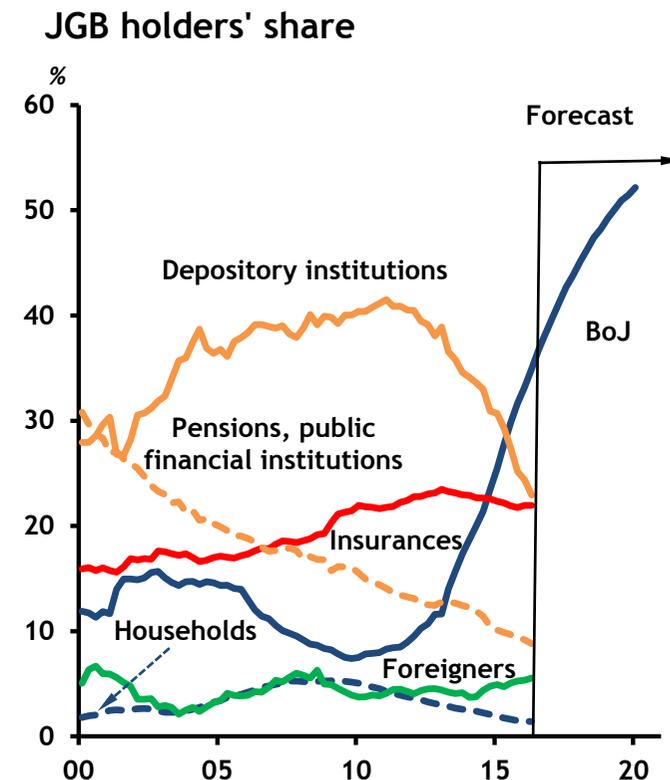
QQE with YCC is interpreted to be as essentially a yield curve control.

- Asymmetric response to the divergence of 10yr JGB yield from 0% target?
 - If large downward shift of 10yr yield is offset by BoJ cutting massively the JGB purchase, markets may interpret this as monetary tightening without knowing BoJ's views on MB
 - If this shift is left by BoJ maintaining massive JGB purchase, this may mean further easing

- How to sustain this scheme until exit?
 - JGB purchases by BoJ: Stealth tapering without tantrum? Even tapering 10 trillion yen every year, BoJ will reach 50% share of JGBs within FY2018.



Source: BoJ, J.P. Morgan



Source: BoJ, J.P. Morgan

Issue (5) Controllability of the yield when 2% target and the exit come in sight

When the 2% target and / or exit come in sight, 10yr yield will rise.

- Credibility of BoJ needed to avoid the volatile 10yr yield
- Paying attention to secure the financial system stability
- Room for the political intervention

3. Consequence: What's next policy in Japan and Euro area?

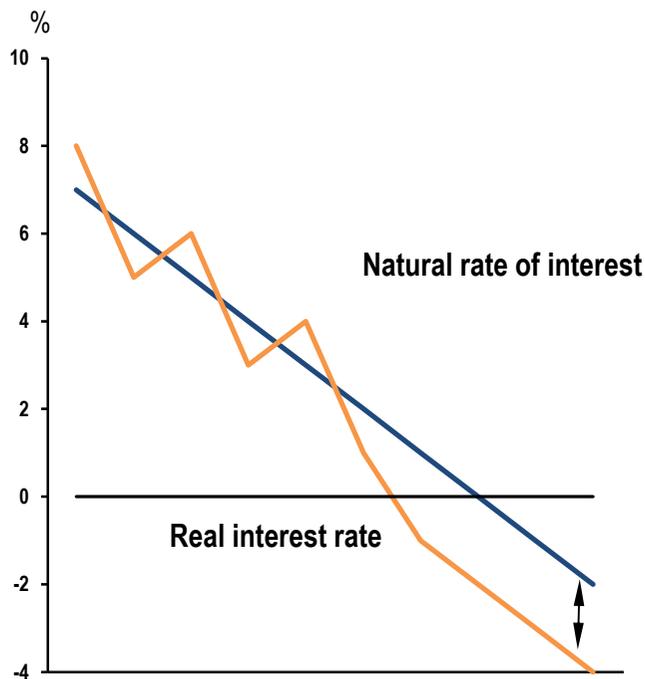
(1) Without shock

Structural reform to raise the natural rate of interest

- Japan: Labor reform (“job-style” employment system & labor mobility)
- Euro area: Labor reform, product market deregulation in some countries

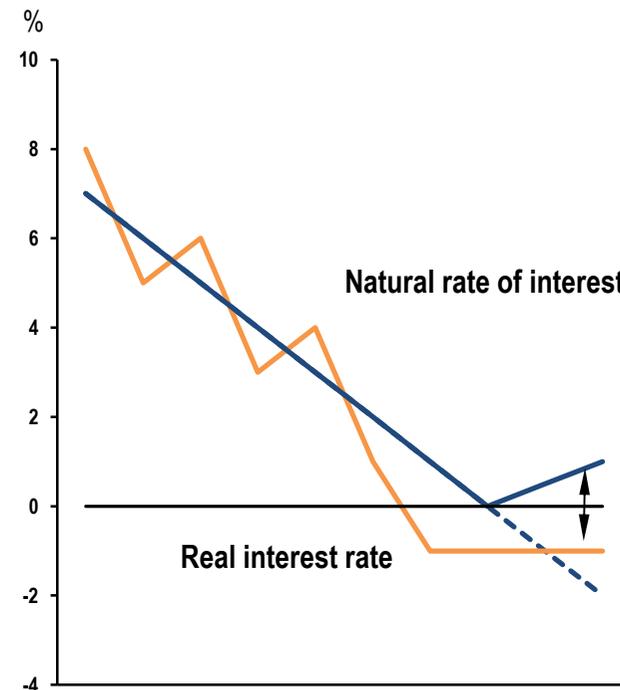
In the Euro area, use more of fiscal space to help lift the burden from ECB and help the region return to macroeconomic balance more quickly?

Aggressive monetary policy



Source: J.P. Morgan

Structural reform



Source: J.P. Morgan

3. Consequence: What's next policy in Japan and Euro area?

(2) Unlikely to exit before another recession risk

Long time to attain the inflation target
(weak inflation expectations, weak wage sensitivity to labor conditions)

Uncertainty about the sustainability of US expansion. Thus probability of global recession will rise before the unconventional monetary policy exits in Japan and Euro area.

What policy options left?

Inflation forecasts (core CPI)

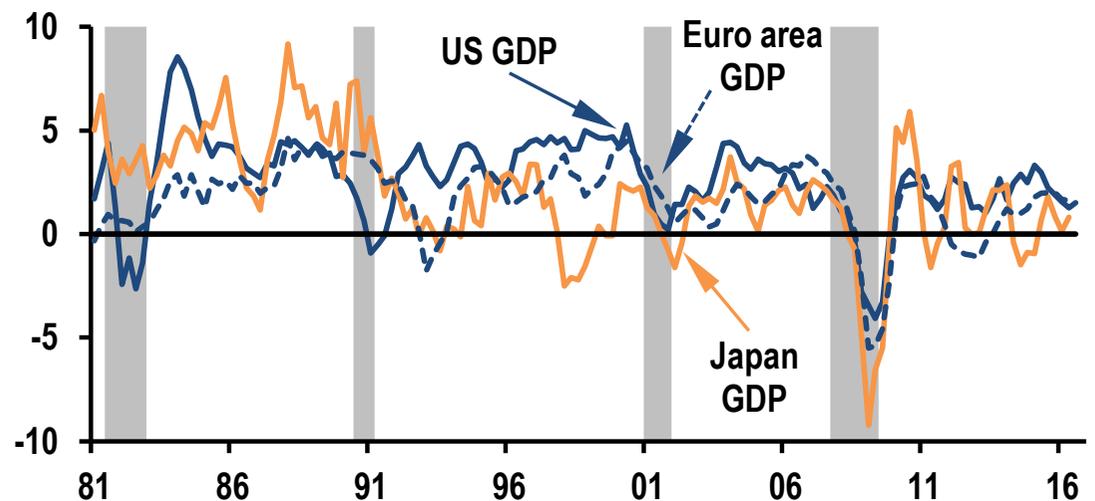
%oya	BoJ	(J.P. Morgan)
FY2016	-0.1	-0.3
FY2017	1.5	0.7
FY2018	1.7	1.1

%oya	ECB	(J.P. Morgan)
CY2016	0.9	0.9
CY2017	1.2	1.0
CY2018	1.5	1.2

Source: BoJ, ECB, J.P. Morgan

US, Japan and Euro area business cycles

%oya, shaded area shows US recessions



Source: BEA, Cabinet Office, Eurostat, ECB, J.P. Morgan

3. Consequence: What's next policy in Japan and Euro area?

(2) Unlikely to exit before another recession risk <contd>

The risk of a US recession within three years at about 2/3

Probabilities of US recession from medium-term indicators

Indicator	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years
Historical average unconditional probability	18%	34%	48%	59%
Unemployment rate	31%	52%	69%	80%
Unemployment gap	24%	40%	56%	71%
Compensation growth	28%	48%	64%	75%
Prime-age male labor force participation	35%	55%	71%	81%
Margin difference from cycle peak	45%	65%	79%	88%
Durables and structures share of GDP	21%	35%	49%	61%
Composite probability from medium-term indicators	35%	55%	70%	81%
Composite from near and medium-term indicators	30%	51%	66%	78%

Source: J.P. Morgan. "Historical average unconditional probability" is the historical average probability of a recession starting within a given horizon when beginning in an expansion, unconditional on any data. All other probabilities are based on regression models. Indicators are transformed as follows: compensation growth is difference from 10-year average, prime-age male participation is the difference over three years in the 12-month average, durables and structures share is difference from 10-year average. "Composite probability from medium-term indicators" is the probability from a model based on the first principal component of the indicators in the table. "Composite from near and medium-term indicators" is the probability from a model including the first principal component of our near-term indicators and the first component of the medium-term indicators.

3. Consequence: What's next policy in Japan and Euro area?

(2) Unlikely to exit before another recession risk <contd>

Comprehensive approach? **Structural reform takes time to take effect.*

- Fiscal spending amid credible medium-term consolidation plan?
- Deeper NIRP?
(*In case of Japan*)
 - -50bp is possible under the current framework. The degree depends on to what extent banks can impose fees on deposits of companies and financial institutions.
 - More than -100bp? Prerequisites are imposing fees or negative rates on all deposits, and decreasing the threshold rate of cash storage (next page).

	Monetary policy	Fiscal policy	Structural reform
Policy tools	Deeper NIRP, etc.	Fiscal spending	Labor reform, etc.
Time lag before it becomes effective	Short term	Short term	Long term
Effect	Decline in real interest rates far below natural rate of interest	Rise in natural rate of interest	Rise in natural rate of interest
Caveats	Negative impact on FIs Negative rate threshold (cost of saving cash)	Large government debts	Possible adverse impacts in the short term

Source: J.P. Morgan

Appendix: How can paper currency be depreciated to decrease (or eliminate) the negative threshold rate in future?

Mechanisms for avoiding cash storage

Mechanisms	Prerequisite
A) Replacing large paper currency to electronic money	Development of Fintech
B) Depreciating paper currency by CB adopting time-varying deposit fee for paper currency	Change in CB's policy framework
C) Tax currency and stamp it	Change in tax system

Source: Kimball (2015, 2016), Buiter (2010), J.P. Morgan

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