

【NEWS RELEASE】

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SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

New Year Message from Shuji Yoshioka, President and CEO

Happy New Year to you all. It is my pleasure to celebrate the start of the New Year with you.

Reflecting on the past year, there were significant "changes" in the environment surrounding capital markets both in Japan and across national borders, such as the strong trend towards a nation of asset management, exemplified by the new NISA, and the robust shift towards corporate management more aligned with capital markets. In other words, from the perspective of various stakeholders, it was a year where the brilliance of our social mission to "Connect the development of sound capital markets to the realization of satisfying and fulfilling lives and society" increased dramatically.

Amidst such circumstances, we dedicated ourselves to thoroughly strengthening our "defense" while advancing "reforms" through challenges to new business models. Nevertheless, the expectations placed upon us are even greater and still expanding. We must always look ahead, never settle for the status quo, and continuously challenge ourselves. I am convinced that the time has come for us to move significantly towards the future we envision.

As professionals in securities, it is our crucial role to stay close to our customers in a rapidly changing environment and continue to provide valuable advice that exceeds their imaginations and expectations in realizing each of their aspirations. Let us strive as one team to become the best partner for all our customers. We look forward to working with you again this year.