

【NEWS RELEASE】

January 4, 2022

SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

New Year Message from CEO Yuichiro Kondo

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

I like to think of 2021 as a year that brought us closer together to address the big issues. People were forced to hunker down during the lockdowns at home and abroad, but this did not stop them from helping others or getting vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible. After a year of suspense, athletes from around the world were able to compete in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, overcoming all obstacles to achieve their goals and give us hope in the process.

At SMBC Nikko, we continued to pursue the strategic objectives in the second year of our medium-term plan under the banner of sustainable growth through innovation. Our mission as a securities firm is to enrich lives and communities through fair access to capital markets, a purpose to which we aspire through financial service excellence and honest engagement with the client in the spirit of co-prosperity. Our mission this coming year is the same—to execute faithfully our duty as a gatekeeper for the market to advance the client agenda with trust and confidence. We will roll up our shirt sleeves and ramp up the rate of innovation to make a real difference for our clients and the communities we serve.

2022 is the Year of the Tiger, a year of big changes in the market according to the old adage that a tiger can run a thousand leagues. The even older proverb says that a tiger, to protect the cubs, will run a thousand leagues and back again. While often used as a metaphor for change, the phrase also signifies power and strength, much like the tiger from whence it derives. I see the same eye of the tiger in the employees at SMBC Nikko and know that we are ready to run a thousand leagues for our clients in 2022. I wish you all the best and continued success in the year to come.

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