

【NEWS RELEASE】

January 4, 2024
SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

New Year Message from CEO Yuichiro Kondo

Happy New Year to you all. The new year begins on a somber note after the major earthquake on the Noto Peninsula and our thoughts are with those affected by the quake. SMBC Nikko will do whatever it can to support the region in its time of need.

I expect another year of big changes this year. There are several major political events on the horizon—the term of the current LDP president ends in September, while Taiwan, Russia, and the US will hold presidential elections in January, March, and November. The economy is also at a crossroads. Japan's long battle with deflation is near an end with the Fed mulling rate cuts, and the drive to mobilize capital should gain speed as NISAs are granted permanent tax exemptions from 2024. Social change is another factor—the SMBC Group is committed to the "Creation of Social Value" and sustainability will redefine how and why we do business.

This is what makes "Embracing Change" one of the most important Good Actions in our Code. The securities industry is particularly sensitive to change and "Embracing Change" is meant to remind us that change is an opportunity for both business and personal development. The pursuit of change, even in small increments, enhances our ability to respond to change in the future.

Change, however, takes energy. It requires awareness, initiative, collaboration, and enthusiasm. Change also takes endurance, which is why we must work as a team. Being open to change, sharing ideas, and collaborating with one another is how we turn changes this year into growth opportunities.

As the new year begins, I encourage you to swing for the bleachers, embrace new opportunities, be enthusiastic, and work together to keep the changes coming and make SMBC Nikko a great company that our customers can rely on.