

【NEWS RELEASE】

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SMBG Nikko Securities Inc.

New Year Message from Shuji Yoshioka, President and CEO

Happy New Year. I am delighted to celebrate the New Year with all of you.

Last year, while the global world experienced increased uncertainty, mainly due to U.S. trade policies and geopolitical situations, the acceleration of industrial and social transformation driven by technological advancements such as AI and semiconductors supported the growth of the economy. In Japan, partly due to heightened expectations for the Takaichi administration, the Nikkei Stock Average reached a record high.

For our part, we will further advance our steps toward growth this year, under a new medium-term management plan, with a focus on realizing our future vision. However, we do not take it as a mere dream but rather a concrete goal that will steadily be achieved. To that end, I am determined to directly confront the required evolution for structural changes that will likely occur in the future, to objectively assess what is necessary for myself and our company with a strong will, and to consistently translate these insights into goals and take continuous action.

I hope that each of you will also set your own goals for the future and, in pursuit of them, continue to reflect them every day and accumulate actions. This will become the driving force towards the fulfillment of our vision. I look forward to working with you all again this year.