



Shigeharu Suzuki

Chairman and CEO

Japan Securities Dealers Association

January 7, 2021

Statement from the Chairman

***Regarding the Issuance of a Declaration of State of Emergency
over the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Today, in light of the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Japanese government has issued a declaration of a state of emergency.

Given this circumstance, in order to combat the spread of COVID-19, the securities industry will endeavor to continue to conduct necessary business operations and functions while limiting the employees who come to the office to those deemed absolutely necessary, as well as fully utilizing tools for remote access to work streams including the internet and call centers. Additionally, for the continuation of counter services and other operations conducted face-to-face, we will endeavor to ensure that countermeasures against infection are properly put in place, such as introducing reservation systems, and implement measures that reflect the requests of customers.

Meanwhile, by sustaining business continuity through the adoption of the aforementioned changes to business operations, our industry will endeavor to maintain the continuous and stable functioning of the securities market, which constitutes a critical piece of infrastructure for Japan.

Since the spring of 2020, the Japanese securities industry has been reviewing industry operations that are document-based, involve signatures/seals, or conducted face-to-face, with a view to facilitating the transition to paperless and the digitalization of procedures. Moreover, under the ruling coalition's outline of the tax reform proposals for FY2021, taxation procedures will be further digitalized.



In spite of the changes in business operations, the Japanese securities industry will endeavor to thoroughly ensure that the transactions of investors will be executed smoothly as before. Furthermore, our industry will continue to take appropriate measures to support critical activities such as corporate fundraising and market transactions. Although there may be inconveniences for the customers of securities firms, we would greatly appreciate their kind understanding in light of the current circumstance and our industry's ongoing effort.