

## SuMi TRUST Bank President's Message



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Limited

Two years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic spread to all corners of the globe. I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to those afflicted by COVID-19, as well as their families, and my deepest gratitude to the healthcare professionals and others still fighting the pandemic.

In the past year we turned our attention to stopping the spread of infections and firmly adopted ways of doing business that eliminated restrictions of time and place. During that time we were amazed at the sheer power of digital technology that enabled us to forge ahead with new working styles and patterns of behavior. In addition, a movement that aspires towards stable prosperity in society clearly emerged with governments and corporations setting themselves lofty targets for tackling climate change and other universal social issues.

This trend represents a major opportunity to us, especially because the idea of “balanced creation of both social and economic value” is at the very core of our management approach. A society with net-zero carbon emissions—one of the most important challenges in the future world—requires immeasurable money but the public sector alone does not have the resources to cover such costs. That is why the injection of private capital is required and there is currently an international movement that aims to entrust financial institutions with the responsibility of covering such costs for the entire industrial sector. It should also be noted that the cumulative decarbonization efforts of individual companies have their limits. It is vital that funds are directed to certain areas in view of the entire value chain where the biggest impact can be realized and continuously monitored. This is the very essence of “impact finance”—an initiative currently in the global spotlight. In this field we have not only expanded the breadth of operations with loans, equity investments, real asset investments, and venture capital, but we have employed experts with doctorate or master's degrees in such fields as hydrogen and battery technology, chemicals, and electric power to develop a business model unsurpassed by any of our rivals by combining scientific knowledge with impact analysis.

Going forward, we will assume the mantle of creating positive impacts and make substantial contributions towards decarbonization whilst also building a virtuous circulation of funds, assets, and capital by connecting the demand for capital in the business community with global ESG money.

In April 2020 the SuMi TRUST Group's “Purpose” was defined. On the occasion of my appointment as president of SuMi TRUST Bank, I took the opportunity to hold discussions with some 12,000 employees by way of 26 online meetings in total with the objective of personally communicating my expectations and intentions regarding this “Purpose.”

When commencing those sessions, my initial expectation was to envisage and execute together with employees an ideal future vision the Bank ought to create, but the frank opinions of everyone also yielded up many other issues, not just ideals, particularly concerning the near term. In this sense, these meetings turned out to be extremely worthwhile.

I am sure that teamwork wins the day. By sharing the “Purpose” with our diverse workforce, I believe we can come up with solutions together. Being responsible for the future and ensuring that our generation deals with challenges now rather than burdening future generations is how we will resolutely and squarely tackle financial and social challenges up ahead.