

Message from Group CAE

Message From **Chief Audit Executive**

The business environment surrounding SMBC Group, globally, is becoming increasingly complex and uncertain, against the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions and rapid technological innovation such as AI. In addition, SMBC Group is advancing the development of new business models, such as the promotion of Olive and Trunk and the strengthening of global CIB and S&T, as well as expanding business across the Group and regions across the globe. The new Medium-Term Management Plan positions the execution of these growth strategies and the establishment of a management foundation befitting a global top-tier financial group to support them, as one of the key management issues.

Under these circumstances, the role required by the Internal Audit Unit entails continuous review and further enhancement. Based on the mission of “contributing to the sustainable improvement of SMBC Group’s corporate value through high-quality audit activities,” the Internal Audit Unit aims to be a “Trusted Advisor,” providing objective assurance* and forward-looking insights and advice from a position independent from management and other

departments. Towards that end, the Internal Audit Unit will deepen dialogue and information sharing with auditees, and utilize AI and data analysis to accurately detect signs of changing risks, providing audit activities that offer forward-looking insights for management and operational departments to take their next steps. We will also actively work to secure and develop diverse talent base with a high degree of expertise, and sharing best practices across the Group globally to improve audit quality.

By steadily accumulating these efforts, as Group CAE, I will devote my utmost efforts so that the Internal Audit Unit becomes a truly trusted partner for stakeholders, contributing to a management foundation in line with global standards and the sustainable improvement of corporate value.

* Objective assessment of the operations and processes of auditee departments from an independent standpoint



Haruyuki Yoshikawa

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Group CAE