

MONEX GROUP

Announcement of Subsidiary's Release

TOKYO, June 25, 2021 – Japan Catalyst, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Monex Group, Inc., issued the following press release today.

Attachment: Japan Catalyst, Inc. press release

Giving Back to the Community Achieving a Sustainable Society
Aiming to Strengthen the Investment Ecosystem

Contact: Akiko Kato
Corporate Communications Office
Monex Group, Inc.
+81-3-4323-8698

Yuki Nakano, Minaka Aihara
Investor Relations, Financial Control Dept.
Monex Group, Inc.
+81-3-4323-8698

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Japan Catalyst, Inc.

Giving Back to the Community Achieving a Sustainable Society Aiming to Strengthen the Investment Ecosystem

TOKYO, June 25, 2021 – Japan Catalyst, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "JCI") which sub-advises to the Mother Fund of Monex Activist Fund, nicknamed “The Future of Japan”, has decided to announce that JCI will be allocating a portion of its profits to the community for achieving a sustainable society and to promote initiatives to strengthen the investment ecosystem.

JCI’s vision is “To be the catalyst for Japanese companies that are facing a period of transformation,” and through the improvement of corporate governance in Japan, we are engaging companies to achieve both sustainable earnings power and to institute the formation of a sustainable society. Post-war, Japan achieved a recovery and development model that was called a miracle and applauded by the world, and the successful experience was strongly imprinted on the minds of management from previous generations. On the other hand, the current business environment is changing at an ever-faster pace, and the glorious success stories of the past are now weighing down the changes of Japanese companies. Some managers are aware of the need for corporate change, and some companies are actually starting to make changes, but the speed of change is still not rapid enough. Our goal is to assist Japanese companies, which are facing a period of transformation, improve their corporate value by encouraging them to change, thereby realizing investment returns and revitalizing the capital markets.

Monex Activist Fund, a publicly offered investment trust for which we provide investment advice, is an innovative activist fund designed to create the future of Japan together with individual investors. June 25, 2021 marks the first anniversary of the fund's launch. Through our unique approach of engagement with Japanese companies for transformation, the performance of the fund has generated +15.8% since the beginning of the year. (NAV as of June 24, 2021: 12,854yen) It also has a strong alignment to the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations' international goals for a sustainable and better world, and aims to contribute to economic development, environmental and social sustainability.



In order to achieve a sustainable society in the future, we believe that it will be necessary to strengthen the ecosystem, and we will engage in the following activities for giving back to the community, mainly from the perspective of finance and investment.

◆Contributing to Society through a "New Investment Experience" that Goes beyond the Framework of Financial Products

Monex Activist Fund aims to provide a "new investment experience" beyond the traditional framework financial products through PR, educational activities, and community building in order to promote awareness and literacy of individual investors towards finance and investments. We will work to raise awareness of the Monex Activist Fund to pursue both societal sustainability and financial return while collaborating along with our investors as we aim to create the future of Japan.

◆Giving Back to the Community on Corporate Governance

Corporate governance is achieved through an appropriate supervision of management by directors appointed by the shareholders, who are the owners of the company. Since outside directors represent all shareholders, including minority shareholders, they are expected to increase their ratio on the board of directors and improve their quality in terms of competence and diversity. We aim to provide support in terms of both quantity and quality attributed through our endorsement of initiatives that contribute to the promotion of such initiatives and educational activities.

◆Support for Industry Associations

One of the current issues is that Japan's presence in the international community is low due to a lack of opportunities for cooperation and collaboration within the industry, including the investment chain, and also due to a delay in the advancement of the industry as a whole. Through its support for industry organizations, we will contribute to expanding interest in asset management and the attractiveness of the domestic financial and capital markets.

◆Support for Research Activities

There are various stakeholders in the investment ecosystem, and we believe that academia can greatly contribute to the formation of a sustainable society, the soundness of capital markets, and the attractiveness of asset management. Given that there is limited academic research on the impact of shareholder activism and insufficient measurement of the effects of Corporate Governance Code, etc. Therefore, we would like to deepen our collaboration with the academic world through exchanges of opinions and research support.

We will continue to provide updates on the progress of these activities as appropriate, so please feel free to access our website or the SNS of Monex Activist Fund.

- Japan Catalyst, Inc. Official Website : <https://www.japancatalyst.com/index-en.html>
- Monex Activist Fund Official Twitter : https://twitter.com/MAF_PR

This material is an English translation of a Japanese announcement made on the date above. Although the Company intended to faithfully translate the Japanese document into English, the accuracy and correctness of this English translation is not guaranteed and thus you are encouraged to refer to the original Japanese document.