



FOREWORD

This issue of *Nomura Journal of Asian Capital Markets* features articles from experts on a wide range of themes involving financial and capital markets in Asia.

Eiichi Sekine, Managing Director in the Beijing Representative Office of Nomura Institute of Capital Markets Research (NICMR), discusses the current status of RMB internationalization. RMB-denominated trade settlements increased sharply in 2022 to a record high, with policy support and deregulation as key factors. Initiatives such as the expansion of RMB-denominated transactions between mainland China and Hong Kong are also promoting the internationalization of the RMB.

Dr. Marjan Muhammad, Senior Research Fellow at INCEIF University, presents Islamic fintech as a means to accelerate financial inclusion in Malaysia. The government and financial authorities have put in place various frameworks to promote fintech and digitalization that are the key enablers for an inclusive financial system. Backed by such initiatives, individuals' and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises' access to financial services through digital channels is improving.

Dr. Woo Jun Jie, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, discusses the digital assets space in Singapore, focusing on regulatory trends. Against a backdrop of negative events surrounding cryptocurrencies, the financial regulator has become more cautious about retail investors' cryptocurrency investments, while aiming to make Singapore a hub for digital assets under an appropriate regulatory approach.

Yohei Kitano, Senior Analyst at NICMR in Singapore, writes about carbon credit trading in Singapore. Singapore, having already established itself as a hub for commodity trading in Asia, is now aiming to be a regional hub for carbon services. In 2021, Climate Impact X was established under public-private cooperation as the new international carbon credit exchange, bringing carbon credit trading in Singapore into greater focus.

This issue of the journal also includes a summary report on the Asian Capital Markets Roundtable held by the Nomura Foundation in February 2023. Financial and capital market experts from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan participated in panel discussions on *The Role of Infrastructure Financing and ESG Activities by Capital Markets to Promote Sustainable Growth*, *The Potential of Fintech and Financial Innovation in Capital Markets for Asian Economies and Society*, and *The Importance of Pension Systems and Asset Management in Preparing for Population Aging in the Region*.