

# SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd.

## Form ADV Part 2B Brochure Supplement

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JAPAN

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(SPARX Group website)

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This brochure supplement provides information about SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd.'s portfolio managers that supplements the SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd. ("SPARX")'s brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure, please contact [sparxreports@sparxgroup.com](mailto:sparxreports@sparxgroup.com) if you did not receive our brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

## **Education Background and Business Experience**

### **Shuhei Abe**

President and Chief Executive Officer

Year of Birth: 1954

Mr. Shuhei Abe graduated from Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan with a BA in Economics in 1978 and earned his MBA from Babson College in 1980. Mr. Abe graduated Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program (AMP) in 2005. Mr. Abe began his career as an analyst for Nomura Research Institute (Japan). Mr. Abe was transferred to Nomura Securities in 1982, and from 1982 worked in Japanese equity institutional sales at Nomura Securities International (New York). In 1985, he formed Abe Capital Research Inc., and managed Japanese equity investments for U.S. and European investors. He returned to Tokyo, Japan in 1989 and established SPARX Group Co., Ltd. Mr. Abe is also President and CEO of SPARX Group Co., Ltd., which is the publicly traded holding company for the SPARX Group of companies.

### **Masatoshi Fukami**

Representative Director, Internal Control Supervisor

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

Mr. Fukami graduated from Waseda University with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1984 and joined Nomura Securities. He worked in retail marketing at the Himeji branch and Toranomon branch of Nomura. In 1994 he transferred to the Market Planning and Sales Promotion Department, where he was responsible for consulting to branch offices to create a private banking team at Nomura. Mr. Fukami joined SPARX in November 1997.

### **Tadahiro Fujimura**

Director, CIO, Senior Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

A Chartered Financial Analyst

Mr. Tadahiro Fujimura graduated from Tsukuba University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. Mr. Fujimura joined Nikko Investment Trust & Management (currently Nikko Asset Management) in 1986 and was in a Japanese equity fund management department to manage various mutual funds including quantitative, index and value funds. He obtained an MBA at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1995. After returning to Japan he was responsible for managing Nikko's active funds and then became the chief portfolio manager of the small cap investment team. Mr. Fujimura joined SPARX as a fund manager in 1999.

**Yu Shimizu**

Head of Investment & Research Division, Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

Mr. Shimizu graduated from Keio University with a B.A. in law. Prior to joining SPARX in 2005, he worked as an analyst at UFJ Partners Asset Management Co., Ltd. (currently, Mitsubishi UFJ Asset Management Co., Ltd.) and as an analyst at Yasuda Capital Management Co., Ltd. (currently, Yasuda Asset Management Co., Ltd.).

**Ryuichi Tsunemine**

Deputy Head of Investment & Research Division, Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

Mr. Tsunemine graduated from with a B.A. in Commerce from Kansei Gakuin University. Prior to joining SPARX in 2004, Mr. Tsunemine worked for UFJ Asset Management Co., Ltd., starting in April 1998. He was a Japanese equity research analyst and portfolio manager, primarily covering machinery and shipbuilding sectors. He began his career at Sanwa Bank Limited (currently UFJ Holdings) as a corporate loan officer in 1993 before transferring to the Capital Market Department to become a portfolio manager in the small cap investment team for three years.

**Tetsuya Hirano**

Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

Mr. Hirano earned his B.A. in Business Administration from Rikkyo University in 1996, and his MBA from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 2006. Mr. Hirano joined SPARX in July 2006. Prior to joining SPARX, he covered the Telecom/Media, Machinery, and Nonferrous Metal sectors as a member of the Japanese equity investment team at Nikko Asset Management (formerly Nikko Securities Investment Trust Management). His prior position at Nikko was as an international equity trader and as a European equity fund manager.

**Kazunori Inomata**

Fund Manager

Mr. Inomata graduated from Fukushima University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics in 1987. Kazunori started his career in the Retail Marketing Department at Sanyo Securities. Subsequently, he joined Sanyo Investment Research as an analyst covering the materials sector, and then in 1990, he joined the International Equity Sales Department where he was responsible for the medium and small sized stocks. In 1997, Kazunori joined SPARX as one of the original members.

**Masakazu Takeda**

Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

A Chartered Financial Analyst

Mr. Masakazu Takeda graduated from International Christian University in 1996 with a B.A. in Liberal Arts. Prior to the joining to SPARX in 1999, Mr. Takeda joined the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan in 1996, where he started as a corporate loan officer. In 1998, he was transferred to LTCB Warburg (Warburg Dillon Read Japan), a former joint venture with the UBS.

**Takenari Okumura**

Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

Mr. Okumura graduated from Keio University with a B.A. in Business and Commerce, and joined SPARX in 2008. Since then he has built a consistent career as a core member of Japanese Mid- and Small-Cap Strategies team.

**Takuya Haruo**

Fund Manager

Mr. Haruo obtained a B.A. in Politics from Keio University. Mr. Haruo joined SPARX in April 2008. He began his career as a member of the Value Creation Investment Strategy. He also researched small- and mid-cap equities for the Concentrated Investment Strategy and analyzed smart grid-related equities.

**Kota Mizutani**

Fund Manager

A Chartered Member of the Security Analysts Association of Japan

A Chartered Financial Analyst

He obtained an MSc in Economics from the University of Manchester, and a BA in Business and Commerce from Keio University. Mr. Mizutani joined SPARX Asset Management as a senior analyst in April 2016. Prior to joining SPARX, he was an equity portfolio manager at Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation, leveraging quantitative methods and fundamental research.

**Kohei Matsui**

Fund Manager

Mr. Matsui graduated from Waseda University with a B.A. in law and joined Nomura Asset Management in 2012. He was a trader in the financial instrument trading division conducting

foreign exchange, foreign and domestic bond order operations. Mr. Matsui joined SPARX Asset Management in 2015 as an analyst, and became a fund manager in August 2018.

### **Disciplinary Information**

None of SPARX's officers and employees has been the subject of legal or disciplinary action.

### **Other Activities**

None of SPARX's officers and employees is engaged in any outside investment related business or occupation.

### **Additional Compensation**

None of SPARX's officers and employees receives additional compensation in the form of sales awards or prizes for providing referrals or investment advisory services.

### **Supervision**

As the President and Chief Executive Officer and majority shareholder of SPARX Group Co., Ltd., a parent company of SPARX, Shuhei Abe maintains ultimate responsibility for the firm's operations. Compliance issues and operational issues are discussed with Yusuke Inoue, the Head of Legal & Compliance and Masatoshi Fukami as Internal Control Supervisor, as well as the other directors of SPARX.

Yu Shimizu, Ryuichi Tsunemine, Tetsuya Hirano, Kazunori Inomata, Masakazu Takeda, Takenari Okumura, Takuya Haruo, Kota Mizutani and Kohei Matsui are supervised by Tadahiro Fujimura, Director and CIO can be reached at SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd.

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