

Japanese report: 20 Oct 2021

# What New Assets Are Needed for Corporate Growth?

Human resources that generate data and brands, etc. and organizational systems that leverage them

> Economic Research Dept. Mikio Mizobata

# Summary

- The importance of S (society) in corporate ESG investment has rapidly increased in response to the movement by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to mandate information disclosure on human capital to listed companies. One of the reasons behind this is change in global macroeconomic structure. This is related to the fact that the determinants of economic growth have shifted from the accumulation of tangible assets (physical capital) through conventional capital investment to the accumulation of intangible assets such as R&D, intellectual property, data, and brands, and this has greatly affected profitability. In the case of Japan, there is also the impact of the labor shortage due to the super-low birth rate and aging society.
- Intangible assets are a source of future innovation, but the key point is that they will not be successfully linked to productivity and corporate value without human capital that is the cornerstone of intangible assets and the organizational structure that supports them. Indeed, there is growing empirical research that the accumulation of human capital and the institutions that support them lead to improves in productivity and corporate value, and strategic human capital policies are urgent for companies.
- In order to leverage intangible assets, it will be necessary for individual enterprises to verify the extent to which accumulation of human capital is helping them to improve productivity and profitability. It is also necessary to improve the environment essential for data analysis and verify the effects of human resource policies based on evidence, in order to focus management resources on situations in which human judgment cannot be replaced by AI.

Attention This report is a summary translation. The official document is only in Japanese.

## **IMPORTANT**

This document is not intended as a solicitation for investment. Content herein is based on reliable information available at the time the document was prepared and may be amended or otherwise changed in the future without notice. We make no representations as to accuracy or completeness. Daiwa Securities Group is the parent of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd. and Daiwa Securities Co.Ltd. Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd. retains all rights related to the content of this document, which may not be redistributed or otherwise transmitted without prior consent.

### **United Kingdom**

This document was produced by Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd., and is distributed by Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited which is regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") and is a member of the London Stock Exchange and Eurex.

Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited may, from time to time, to the extent permitted by applicable UK law and other applicable law or regulation, participate or invest in other financing transactions with the issuers of the Securities referred to herein (the "Securities"), perform services for or solicit business from such issuers, and/or have a position or effect transactions in the Securities or options therefore and/or may have acted as an underwriter during the past three years for the issuer of such Securities. In addition, employees of Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited may have positions and may serve as directors of such issuers. Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited may, to the extent permitted by applicable UK law and other applicable law or regulation, effect transactions in the Securities before this document is published to recipients.

This document is intended for investors who are not Retail Clients within the meaning of the Rules of FCA and should not, therefore, be distributed to Retail Clients in the United Kingdom. This document is not to be used or considered as an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy any Securities. Information and opinions contained herein have been compiled or arrived at from sources believed to be reliable, but neither Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited and/or its affiliates accepts liability for any loss arising from the use hereof or makes any representation as to their accuracy or completeness. Any information to which no source has been attributed should be taken as an estimate by Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd. This document is not be relied upon as such or used in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment. Should you enter into investment business with any Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited affiliate outside the United Kingdom, we are obliged to advise that the protection afforded by the United Kingdom regulatory system may not apply; in particular, the benefits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme may not be available. Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Limited has in place organisational arrangements for the prevention and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Our conflict management policy is available at https://daiwa3.bluematrix.com/sellside/Disclosures.action.

### Germany

This document is distributed in Germany by Daiwa Capital Markets Deutschland GmbH, which is regulated by BaFin (Bundesanstalt fuer Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht) for the conduct of business in Germany.

### North America

This document was prepared by Daiwa Institute of Research ("DIR"), a Japanese company. It may not be accurate or complete and should not be relied upon as such. It reflects the preparer's views at the time of its preparation, but it is provided with a time delay and does not reflect events occurring after its preparation. The preparer has no obligation to update this document or to continue to prepare research on this subject. This document is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of any offer to buy securities. Unless this report says otherwise, any recommendation it makes is risky and appropriate only for sophisticated speculative investors able to incur significant losses. Readers should consult their financial advisors to determine whether any such recommendation is consistent with their own investment objectives, financial situation, and needs.

This document does not recommend to U.S. recipients the use of Daiwa Capital Markets America Inc. or its non-U.S. affiliates to effect trades in any security and is not supplied with any understanding that U.S. recipients will direct commission business to such entities. Unless applicable law permits otherwise, non-U.S. customers wishing to effect a transaction in any securities referenced in this document should contact a Daiwa entity in their local jurisdiction. U.S. customers wishing to obtain further information or effect transactions in any securities mentioned in this document should contact Daiwa Capital Markets America Inc. ("DCMA"), Financial Square, 32 Old Slip, New York, New York 10005 (telephone 212-612-7000).

### **Explanatory Document of Unregistered Credit Ratings**

This report may use credit ratings assigned by rating agencies that are not registered with Japan's Financial Services Agency pursuant to Article 66, Paragraph 27 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. Please review the relevant disclaimer regarding credit ratings issued by such agencies at: <a href="https://lzone.daiwa.co.jp/l-zone/disclaimer/creditratings.pdf">https://lzone.daiwa.co.jp/l-zone/disclaimer/creditratings.pdf</a>