# The Failures at Sapporo Holdings





Executive Summary	2
Poor Management at Sapporo Holdings	3
Inadequate New Medium-Term Plan	15
Weak Board Oversight and Qualifications	33
Conclusion	48
Appendix 1: Doubts about Real Estate Becoming a Core Business	50
Appendix 2: Growing Risks in Real Estate Investment	63
Disclaimers	66

# Poor Management at Sapporo Holdings

- Sapporo's share price has dramatically underperformed peers since 2006
- Weak share price is due to margins and asset turnover that are far below peers; these failures lead to the worst ROE and ROA in the industry
- Management has neglected the alcoholic beverages business and has instead emphasized the real estate business and complacently relied on the real estate business for profit
- Sapporo has failed to achieve targets set in medium-term plans since 2006
- To improve corporate value, Sapporo needs to reevaluate whether it should keep both the real estate business and the alcoholic beverages business under the same holding company

# Inadequate New Medium-Term Plan

- Real estate is defined as a core business and a growth/investment priority for management, although i) the company has a limited track record and no competitive advantage in real estate investing, ii) there are no synergies between the real estate business and the alcoholic beverages business and iii) previous growth investments have been unsuccessful
- Increasing investment in new real estate projects in the current environment risks destroying corporate value
- The margin targets set for the alcoholic beverages and food and soft drink businesses in the medium-term plan are far below those currently being achieved by peers in those businesses
- The new plan lacks clear milestones and specific action plans; this has led the investment community to doubt the executability of the plan and the achievement of its modest goals
- The plan needs to be reexamined to see if it is the best way to increase corporate value

# Weak Board Oversight and Qualifications

- The outside directors lack critical experience/expertise in consumer product branding/manufacturing, margin improvement, alcoholic beverages
- The latest additional outside director shows that the Board is going in the wrong direction; Mr. Tanehashi has a partial real estate background and given his history with Sapporo's main lender, has potential conflicts of interest and a lack of independence
- The Board has been unresponsive to 3D's requests and recommendations over the last year
- Based on communications with Board members, it is clear that the Board is not providing adequate oversight of Sapporo's strategy or execution of that strategy

Poor Management at Sapporo Holdings



#### Lowest Share Price Returns in Sector Since 2006

Stock price return (2005/12/31-2023/2/28)



#### Comments

- Sapporo Holdings' share price return -3% since 2006, the only negative return in the sector
- 2006 is the year that management first made a commitment to shareholders after Sapporo Holdings became a pure holding company
  - Sapporo Holdings transitioned to a pure holding company structure in 2003
  - Management unveiled it first official mediumterm Management Plan in 2006, with a commitment to shareholders<sup>2</sup>

Source: Bloomberg; materials disclosed by Sapporo Holdings

Note: Covers December 31, 2005 to February 28, 2023; [1] Global average covers AB InBev, Heineken, Carlsberg, China Res. Snow, Molson Coors, Tsingtao, Efes, Yanjing, Constellation Brands, Diageo (Guinness), San Miguel Corporation, CCU, Saigon Beverage, Pearl River, 4 United Brew, Beer Thai (Chang), HiteJinro, Olvi, Royal Unibrew; Data from December 31, 2005, excludes beer breweries with unavailable share prices; [2] Sapporo Group new medium-term management plan (2006-2008)

Stock price return



#### Source: Bloomberg

Note: Covers December 31, 2005, to February 28, 2023; [1] Takes into account 5:1 stock split in July 2016

**ROE Around Lowest Among Global Peers** 

#### **ROA Lowest Among Global Peers**

6



Average ROE over the past 5 years (FY2018-2022)<sup>1</sup>

Source: Bloomberg

# Sapporo Holdings' Low Capital Efficiency Reflects Poor Margins and Low Total Asset Turnover vs. Global Peers



Low Margins in Core Businesses Caused by Various Inefficiencies Due

to Insufficient Selection and Concentration

# Weak Margins in Core Businesses a Drag on Overall Profitability



Source: Supplementary briefing materials for securities filings

Note: [1] Operating margins calculated by allocating to each business, depending on their sales weightings, the sales and operating profits from other segments and adjustments



#### **Operating Margin in Food & Soft Drinks Lowest Among Global Peers**

Sapporo, Kirin, Asahi show food and soft drinks operations, other companies show consolidated figures

Avg. 13.2% (excl. Sapporo Holdings)

0400 Sapporo

140er

Sapporo after allocation

8% 7%

8%

eree UN President

Malou Fees Asali Food

San Mieuel

18XUIL Danone

Source: Securities filings and annual reports of each company

Note: Covers Suntory and 22 companies listed on stock exchanges out of top 40 global beer breweries in terms of production volume (2020); Food and beverage manufacturers and overseas companies that fall under SPEEDA's 'soft drinks manufacturers' with sales of more than 30bn, excluding food-focused companies; see p59 for detailed notes on the food and beverages business; [1] Kirin covers domestic beer spirits and alcoholic beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages and integrated beverages and integrated beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages in Japan, Europe, Oceania, and South East Asia segments in FY22/12. [2]Sapporo covers domestic alcoholic beverages, international, and restaurant segments in 2018/12 and alcoholic beverages segment in 2019/12 onwards. Adjusted figures are calculated proportionally to each segment on a sales basis.

## Core Businesses Were Always Vulnerable If Markets and Competitive Landscape Changed

Trends in Operating Income Margin Excluding Real Estate Business



#### Comments

- From 2006 to 2017, operating margin ranged 1-2%, the lowest margin for the sector globally
- After 2018, began to incur losses amid changes in markets and competitive landscape
  - Yebisu and new genre struggled
  - COVID-19
- More exposed to change than its sector peers, Sapporo Holdings' core businesses' weak profitability began to lose money
  - Sapporo Holdings' operating margin among lower of 192 companies in BICS daily necessities sector
  - Operating margin worsened to lowest level in sector after business environment changed

#### Sapporo Holdings Almost Failed to Achieve Targets for Operating Profits in Core Businesses



#### Comments

- Achieved targets in medium-term plans only twice since 2006, when the company unveiled its first management plan since adopting a holding structure
- Company has not achieved medium-term targets even once over past 10 years
- The following criticisms of factors behind weakness at Japanese companies also apply to Sapporo Holdings, in our opinion.
  - "Despite Japan having a strong capacity to innovate..., it has exhibited continuously low profitability"

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

 "Bold business judgment is not done sufficiently in companies, and companies concentrate their efforts on maintaining present status rather than on making changes. As a result, companies have... not made progress in ...shifting management resources to business segments that are likely to have growth potential and to be profitable" Cabinet Office

Source: Bloomberg; Sapporo Holdings' IR materials; Ministry of Finance's Ito Report and Future Investment Strategy 2017-Reforms to Realize Society 5.0

Note: 2011 targets do not include Pokka acquisition. Results exclude operating profit at Pokka; Figures for FY17-20 before goodwill amortization; [1] Targets not disclosed, so figures assume same trendline between years with disclosed targets; [2] Targets for FY21 and FY22 11 assume business profit targets 2024 target in Group Management Plan; Business profit targets excluding real estate business based on business profit targets disclosed with FY20-21 results; [3] Business profit shown for FY21 and FY22

# Real Estate Hid Weak Profitability of Core Businesses

Real Estate Led to Complacency and Management's Dependence



• Employees have come to acknowledge Sapporo's strengths in real estate rather than the alcoholic beverages business; they believe that management has become complacent due to real estate leasing income

Sapporo Holdings' strengths... (from employee discussion website)

"Yebisu Garden Place and other properties in prime urban locations are generating income. The company's nickname is "Sapporo buildings." "A laid-back approach to work is possible."

"Real estate assets are all that is left."

"Real estate companies in the group reliably generate income."

• The investment community realized that management depends on the stability of real estate.

"The time has passed for management to rebuild the beer business and founding businesses, which have sunk to the lowest margins among the four majors. **Can Sapporo rebuild the beer business and its dependence on real estate?** [omitted] Reliable income from **real estate has led to the company's dependency on this income**. Sapporo needs to reform the beer business with a sense of urgency."

Nikkei (September 24, 2016)

Sapporo Holdings' earnings structure has continued to depend on the real estate business, which generated JPY12.0 billion of the JPY10.8 billion in operating profit in 2018. Its FY19 management plan calls for restructuring, building a foundation and selective concentration of resources. Steel Partners withdrew, but the sweeping reforms to the earnings structure demanded by Steel Partners have not been enacted, even after a change in presidents. Third Point Management demanded that IHI spin off its real estate business. Like IHI, operating companies with large unrealized gains on real estate tend to lack margin discipline in their core businesses.

Masatoshi Kikuchi's "Attack of the Activists: Influence of Investors Demanding Change"

Existence of real estate income allowed management to avoid dealing with weak profitability of core businesses



# The Real Estate Business is the True Cause of Sapporo Holdings' Low Capital Efficiency



To improve Sapporo's corporate value, the company needs to fully reevaluate whether it should have real estate operations.

# Inadequate New Medium-Term Plan



# As before, management still depends on real estate, neglecting to address poor profitability in core businesses

- Real estate newly defined as a core business in new medium-term management plan, but management is unable to provide an adequate rationale
- Redefining real estate as a core business normalizes management's dependence on it, while poor margins in other core businesses left to fester
- Margin target in new management plan roughly half that of peers, entrenching the company's underperformance and dependence on real estate

# Risk of massive losses if real estate investments are increased

- In new management plan, Sapporo Holdings intends to increase investments in real estate to achieve capital gains
- However, Sapporo Holdings has posted substantial losses on past investments in real estate, raising doubts about its capital discipline and competence
- High likelihood of substantial losses again in view of the problems in the company's investment policies outlined in the management plan

# 3 Lack of milestones and concrete action plans cast doubt on achievability of management plan

- New management plan lacks details about how management will execute to achieve targets
- Achievability of medium-term management plan in doubt, given Sapporo Holdings' failure to achieve goals in previous management plans
- Majority of analysts harbor doubts about achievability of targets in new management plan

#### Real Estate Was Not a Core Business at Sapporo Holdings

"SPEED 150" Long-term management vision unveiled on November 2, 2016

長期経営ビジョン

長期経営ビジョン『SPEED150』

グループのコア事業を『酒』『食』『飲』の3分野と位置づけ、<mark>不動産事業とともにグループ保有のブランドを育成・強化していきます。</mark>

Sapporo Holdings' long-term management vision announced in 2016 defined alcoholic beverages, foods and soft drinks as core businesses, not real estate

#### However, New Management Plan Defines Real Estate as a Core Business



New management plan designates real estate as a core business in which Sapporo will invest to achieve capital gains

# 1 Sapporo Holdings Needs to Explain Rationale for Having Real Estate as a Core Business

🗲 経済産業省 事業再編実務指領 ~事業ポートフォリオと組織の変革に向けて~ (事業再編ガイドライン) 2010改訂版 CRE 戦略実践のための ガイドライン Corporate Real Estat 合理的な CRE 戦略の推進に関する研究会 (CRE 研究会

"The board of directors of companies with multiple businesses are required to discuss and explain to investors about whether those businesses have organized its operations under a single business model and whether the benefits, such as the creation of business synergies, outweigh the costs incurred by having multiple businesses, such as increased management complexity and associated administrative costs, and slower management focus."

"In the context of basic policies for business portfolios, companies should explain the grounds for their decisions, in addition to the details of their decisions and conclusions. This includes the cases where companies decide to maintain their recently decided basic policies as a result of reviewing them."

"Companies should clarify and explain to investors their logical reasons for having multiple businesses, from the perspective of whether their business models and management strategies align, based on the mechanisms for generating business synergies and their value creation stories."

"Corporate real estate (CRE) strategy is a new concept based on the idea that corporate real estate, a limited management resource for a company, should be maximized for the business, in order to keep up with rapid changes in the business environments for real estate and companies."

"Changing the awareness of management is the biggest factor to success in CRE strategy. **CRE strategy is not a financial technique or near-sighted idea for pursuing short-term gains on real estate or relying on real estate for income**. CRE strategy should be introduced for the sustained development of a company, in order to help build competitive advantages over the longer term."

"An effective option is to earn revenue by moving real estate off the balance sheet and using that revenue to boost earnings in core businesses by concentrating management resources in core businesses. In recent years, an increasing number of companies have moved real estate off balance sheets and concentrated more resources in their core businesses."

## **Explanation in New Management Plan Lacks Specifics**

"To explain again why real estate is a core business, our definition of 'core' is **a business** that contributes to earnings and corporate value, [omitted] and since Sapporo is a brand company, it is also **a business that contributes to brand value**. It is on this basis that **we** position real estate as a core business."

Director Shofu at 2022 results briefing

#### Medium-term management plan (2023-2026) announced on Nov 9, 2022



# Analysts Asking for Quantitative Explanation Left in the Dark

#### Question from analyst

"Synergies between the real estate and domestic alcoholic beverages businesses are a major point of interest. Speaking frankly, [omitted] today's disclosures are mostly qualitative expressions, and I would like to see more numbers. [omitted] I would appreciate it if you could give an explanation as to why Sapporo Holdings must own land, management's reasoning for this, and more details about synergies."

Analyst from Nomura Securities at 2022 results briefing

#### Management's reply

 Management could not answer this question, raising concerns about whether the company has a quantifiable justification.

"I think one big portion of this is how synergies contribute as a core business. Fixating over numbers from synergies between alcoholic beverages and real estate might risk losing sight of the big picture, but we will consider disclosing more data in the future. For the time being, we explained our view of the big picture."

#### Director Shofu at 2022 results briefing

"Being a local company that owns land is an essential part of our brand story, in my opinion. I think this is a very important point from the perspective of a beer brewery. It is difficult to express this value as a number [omitted], but without land, our brand story would be harder to convey. This is how I understand it."

Operating Officer Nose at 2022 results briefing





Source: Securities filings, annual reports

# 1 As before, management still depends on real estate, neglecting to address poor profitability in core businesses

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# Lack of milestones and concrete action plans cast doubt on achievability of management plan

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#### Announced New Real Estate Investment Program

Medium-Term Management Plan (2023~2026) announced on November 9, 2022



Equity investments are (partial) investments in SPC interests created to acquire properties. Value-added real estate investment business entails 100% acquisition of real estate with intention of selling after increasing its value to achieve capital gains

## Plans to Increase Investment in Real Estate Dramatically Over Next 3 Years

#### Results briefing materials announced on February 15, 2023





# Source: Securities filings; supplementary materials for securities filings; results briefing materials Note: [1] Operating profit in Vietnam business are directly reported figures between 2010 and 2016.

## A: Insufficient Experience

 Sapporo Holdings' past real estate investments were redevelopments of factory sites; the company has very little experience in de novo investments

#### History of key property development



Yebisu Garden Place

 Redevelopment of Yebisu factory that closed in 1988



#### Sapporo Factory

 Redevelopment of site of No. 1 brewery of Sapporo factory after deciding to move it in 1985

#### <u>Ginza Place</u>

 Redevelopment of land that was Ginza Lion beer hall (redevelopment of Sapporo Ginza Building)

# **B: Growing Market Risk**

- Rise in real estate prices to date owes to sharp decline in yield expectations due to inflow of capital into real estate market amid low interest rates
- Amid increasing inflation around the world, however, central banks have moved to hike interest rates, and interest rates on Japanese government bonds have reacted, albeit moderately
- If interest rates increase further, expected yields on real estate investments will probably also increase and depress real estate prices

\*See Appendix 2 for details

# C: No Capital Gains on Key Properties

 Yebisu Garden Place and other major properties, which probably have significant unrealized gains, are exempt from securitization

#### Medium-Term Management Plan (2023~2026)



\*Private placement funds and private placement REIT will cover properties other than YPG and other core properties



Name	Inside/ Outside	Title	Career	Expertise in Real Estate
Masaki Oga	Inside	President and Representative Director	Mainly involved in marketing after joining Sapporo Holdings	×
Yoshitada Matsude	Inside	Managing Director	Mainly involved in accounting after joining Sapporo Holdings	×
Masashi Sato	Inside	Director	Mainly involved in supply chains after joining Sapporo Holdings	×
Rieko Shofu	Inside	Director	Mainly involved in business strategy after joining Sapporo Holdings from Hakuhodo	×
Toshio Mizokami	Inside	Director, Statutory Audit & Supervisory Committee Member	Mainly involved in accounting and business management after joining Sapporo Holdings	×
Mackenzie Clugston	Outside	Director	Built career as ambassador of Canada	×
Tetsuya Shoji	Outside	Director	Built career in telecommunications industry (NTT Communications)	×
Toshihiro Uchiyama	Outside	Director	Built career in precision machinery industry (NSK)	×
Shuji Fukuda	Outside	Director, Audit & Supervisory Committee Member	Built career at a cement maker (Taiheiyo Cement)	×
Kohtaro Yamamoto	Outside	Director, Audit & Supervisory Committee Member	Built career as an attorney	×

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#### Action Plans in New Management Plan

Domestic Alcoholic Beverages	アクション プラン	<ul> <li>✓商品カテゴリの再編         <ul> <li>・高単価・高利益商品の強化による収益向上</li> <li>・発泡酒・新ジャンル類、国産デイリーワインは縮小</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓コスト削減、コスト組み替え         <ul> <li>・RTD製造拠点の拡充(仙台工場)によるコスト削減及び フレキシブルな生産体制の構築</li> <li>・販売費の見直し及び販売データに基づいた戦略的リソース 配分の推進(ブランド・チャネル・エリア)</li> <li>・人員体制や拠点の見直しを含めた固定費、変動費の継続 的削減</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Overseas Alcoholic Beverages	アクション プラン	✓ Stone社とのシナジー早期実現 ・Stone社の拠点を活用したSPB生産物流体制確立 ・効果的なマーケティング・販売体制の構築
Domestic Food & Soft Drinks	アクション プラン	<ul> <li>・不採算事業、ノンコア事業の売却・撤退</li> <li>・事業提携による構造的な課題の解決</li> <li>・自販機事業の更なる構造改革</li> <li>・飲料、スープなどのSKU大幅削減</li> <li>・複数生産拠点の再編</li> <li>・レモン事業へのリソースシフトによる成長戦略促進</li> </ul>
Overseas Food & Soft Drinks	アクション プラン	<ul> <li>✓シンガポール</li> <li>・ヘルス&amp;ウェルネス系を軸とした新価値提案による需要喚起</li> <li>✓マレーシア</li> <li>・ブランド認知とディストリビューション拡大</li> <li>✓中東など</li> <li>・輸出拡大に向け、マーケティング拠点新設</li> <li>✓基盤</li> <li>・Pokka Logistics Hub (シンガポール) *2</li> <li>新設による物流・オフィス・R&amp;D機能の集約</li> </ul>

- Only very abstract action plans disclosed; investors unable to qualitatively discern progress toward targets
- Lack of concrete milestones on way to final targets make it impossible for shareholders to assess progress on a quarterly basis and see degree of achievement of targets

"Although sharing KPIs with respect to the creation of overall corporate value, such as ROE (Return on Equity) and ROIC (Return on Invested Capital), is beneficial, those KPIs alone are not sufficient to convince investors to invest in a company, because it is difficult to grasp the linkage between specific actions companies intend to take and those KPIs. Therefore, companies should formulate forward management plans in line with their own long-term strategies [omitted] and set company-specific quantitative/qualitative KPIs in order to monitor the progress of the plans"

Guidance for Collaborative Value Creation 4.2

"Only when a company begins to explain specific measures implemented on-site can investors begin to understand how far initiatives have really progressed inside a company. [omitted] For example, when a company with 3% ROE over the past 15 years states an aim to increase it to 10% within three years, this can leave a positive impression, but it also raises the question of how the company can achieve this target when it has not done so once over the past 15 years. While a full explanation of the measures is not necessary, saying something like this worksite or that worksite has room for improvement, as one of several representative examples, would convey to investors that management is serious about reaching these achievable targets. A Practical Introduction to Corporate Governance Code 3rd Edition (comment by Sampei)



#### Sapporo Holdings' Action Plan for Domestic Alcoholic Beverages



#### Examples of Lack of Specifics

- a) "Focus on high-margin beer business", but unclear exactly what is the focus
- "Aims to improve ASP<sup>1</sup> by strengthening high-value-added products," but **unclear on** specifics of how it will strengthen high-value-added products
- **C** Discloses 2026 targets for beer sales ratio and ASP, but no milestones before 2026
- d "Revitalize markets and create new waves in RTD<sup>2</sup> market," but **unclear what it will do** when
- "Concentrate reasonable investments," but **unclear where resources will be concentrated**

## Sapporo Holdings' Action Plan for Domestic Food & Soft Drinks



#### Examples of Lack of Specifics

- "Take actions in line with medium-term management plan and conduct sweeping restructuring," but **no disclosure of specifics in measures or milestones**
- "Solve structural issues through business tie-ups", but **does not describe structural issues or how they will be fixed**
- "Large cuts in SKUs for beverages and soups," but **unclear to what degree**

"Advance growth strategy by shifting resources to lemon business," but **unclear what this specifically means** 

<sup>3</sup>Sapporo Holdings Has Not Achieved Most of its Previous Management Plans; This Raises Doubts about the Achievability of Current Medium-term Plan (1/2)



Source: Bloomberg; Sapporo Holdings' IR materials

Note: See page 13 for detailed notes; [1] Years for which Targeted values are not disclosed are assumed to be linear between the disclosed years, or calculated on the basis of the indicated target growth rate, etc.



Source: Materials disclosed by each company; Sapporo Holdings' IR materials; Lit search

Note: [1] Calculated based on shipment volumes disclosed by each company, Asahi shows data through 2019 because it stopped disclosing volume in 2019

#### Comments and Questions by Analysts about Achievability of New Medium-Term Management Plan's Targets

"The financial targets in the medium-term management plan look challenging and are difficult to assess at this juncture (the company has often failed to achieve targets in its management plans). However, Sapporo Holdings claims to have set highly achievable targets, with the aim of transforming its business structure through restructuring, measures to strengthen earnings and a growth strategy, to address the persistent problem of weak earnings."

Nomura Securities analyst report November 9, 2022

"[omitted] To be point blank, I question whether these investments will truly improve capital efficiency. [omitted] I doubt whether the targets in the management plan can really be achieved this time. Does Sapporo Holdings expect these investments to quickly turn a profit?"

Okasan Securities analyst comment at new medium-term management plan unveiling

"While remembering that Sapporo Holdings has mostly failed to achieve targets in its previous management plans, [omitted] the current plan's targets look ambitious in quantitative terms. [omitted] What has changed to increase the likelihood of achieving these targets? Can you provide a general explanation of what has changed on an individual business level?"

Okasan Securities analyst comment at new medium-term management plan unveiling

"On Slide 24, where it discusses the monitoring system for achieving the medium-term plan, it seems that minor changes were made to the organizational structure. I understand that the likelihood of achieving the targets in the medium-term plan are higher now, despite often missing them in the past. How has this likelihood increased as a result of changes from the past? What are the key changes in the organizational structure? This is the first part of my question."

Okasan Securities analyst comment at 2022 results briefing

"These structural reforms, [omitted] **I wonder if they can really be done** this time, because under the previous management plan, reforms to the vending machine business seem to have been smaller than we had anticipated. **Can you provide some more details about this action plan?**" JPMorgan analyst comment at new medium-term management plan unveiling

*"Sapporo Holdings has failed to achieve its targets in previous mediumterm plans.* Although it has drawn up a good-looking business strategy with a strong awareness of stakeholders, the key is whether this strategy can be executed. We will focus on whether organizational changes have truly increased the company's ability to execute."

SMBC Nikko Securities analyst report November 9, 2022

# Weak Board Oversight and Qualifications



33

# Weak Board Oversight Raises Questions about Board's Qualifications

#### The Board lacks the critical expertise/experience to address Sapporo's underperformance

- No knowledge of the liquor industry
- No experience in improving margins in consumer-oriented manufacturing
- No experience in branded consumer goods

#### 2 Appointment of new director underscores lack of awareness of problems facing core businesses

- Board missed the opportunity to add a director who has experience in alcoholic beverages and/or consumer products
- New director has some experience in real estate, highlighting the shift of focus away from original core businesses

#### Newly appointed director may have conflicts of interest and lack independence

- Mr. Tanehashi has longstanding connections to Mizuho bank, Sapporo's main lender. This raises questions about his independence and possible conflicts of interest
- Tokyo Tatemono, where Mr. Tanehashi is Chairman, has cross-shareholdings with Sapporo

3D's interactions with the Board over the last year indicate that the directors are not providing appropriate oversight of management

- Directors have displayed a disinterest in hearing the opinions of shareholders
- Outside directors are failing to oversee the evaluation of business plans and voice the opinion of shareholders
- Despite numerous requests, the Board refused to seek shareholder input before creating and publishing the new medium-term plan



Note: [1] Covers Suntory and 22 companies listed on stock exchanges out of top 40 global beer breweries in terms of production volume (2020) Source: Securities filings and annual reports of each company; IR materials of each company; POS data; Lit search
Past Outside Directors Mostly Lacked Expertise Needed to Solve Issues in Alcoholic Beverages Business, and the Board of Directors Lacked Adequate Expertise in This Area

Outside Directors Since 2006			No experience in alcoholic beverages field	No experience in consumer- oriented manufacturing	No experience at consumer goods companies	
Name	Date of Departure	Career Background	Industry Knowledge (Alcoholic Beverages)	Margin Improvement (Manufacturing for Individual Consumers)	Branding (Consumer Goods)	
Tetsuo Seki	FY09	Steelmaking sector (Nippon Steel)	×	×	×	
Hiroaki Etoh	FY12	Financial sector (Mizuho)	×	×	×	
Nobuo Katsumata	FY12	General trading company (Marubeni)	×	×	×	
Hiroshi Tanaka	FY15	Chemicals sector (Kureha)	×	×	×	
Teruhiko Ikeda	FY18	Financial sector (Mizuho)	×	×	×	
Shigehiko Hattori	FY19	Machinery maker (Shimadzu)	×	×	×	
Shizuka Usawa	FY21	Machinery maker (Nisshinbo)	> ×	×	×	
Kazuo Sugie	FY22	Chemicals maker (DIC)	×	×	×	
Mackenzie Clugston	Current	Ambassador for Canada	×	×	×	
Shuji Fukuda	Current	Cement maker (Taiheiyo Cement)	×	×	×	
Tetsuya Shoji	Current	Telecommunications sector (NTT Communications)	×	×	×	
Toshihiro Uchiyama	Current	Precision machinery sector (NSK)	×	×	×	
Kohtaro Yamamoto	Current	Attorney	×	×	×	

#### The Board lacks the critical expertise/experience to address Sapporo's underperformance

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- No experience in improving margins in consumer-oriented manufacturing
- No experience in branded consumer goods

#### Appointment of new director underscores lack of awareness of problems facing core businesses

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#### Sapporo Holdings Nominated Real Estate Candidate for New Outside Director

Prioritized Expertise in Real Estate Business

Summary of candidate for new outside director

190	1	(gill at a b a b a b a b a b a b a b a b a b
		社外取締役候補者の選任理由及び期待される役割の概要 種橋牧夫氏は、企業経営者としての豊富な経験、実績を有し、不動産事業・財務・コンプライアンスに関する高い見識を有し ております。「中期経営計画(2023~26)」の達成に向け、特に重点課題である不動産事業での収益構造多層化・資産効率 向上において、金融、不動産での豊富な経営経験に基づき、客観的・専門的な視点から的確な提言・助言をいただけるものと 期待しております。持続的な企業価値の向上を目指す当社グループの経営を監督する適切な人材と判断し、社外取締役候補者 としております。
取締役在任年数 (本総会終結時)	_	<ul> <li>★ 略歴、地位及び担当</li> <li>1979年4月 株式会社富士銀行入行</li> <li>2015年10月 同社 専務執行役員 アセットサービス事業</li> <li>2011年6月 株式会社みずほ銀行 副頭取執行役員 支店部担当</li> <li>本部長 兼 海外事業本部長</li> </ul>
所有する 当社株式の数	0株	2011年6月         同行         代表取締役副頭取執行役員         支店部担当         2016年3月         同社         取締役専務執行役員         アセットサービ           2012年4月         同行         代表取締役副頭取執行役員         営業店業         ス事業本部長         ス事業本部長           務部門長         2017年1月         同社         代表取締役会長執行役員
取締役会 出席回数	_	2013年3月     東京建物不動産販売株式会社     代表取締役社     東京建物不動産販売株式会社     取締役会長       長執行役員     2019年3月     同社 代表取締役会長(現在に至る)       2015年7月     東京建物株式会社     専務執行役員     アセット       サービス事業本部長     1012年1月     東京建物不動産販売株式会社     取締役(現在に至る)

"Mr. Makio Tanehashi has a wealth of experience and a rich track record as a corporate manager as well as extensive insight for real estate business, finance and compliance. For the achievement of the Medium-Term Management Plan (2023 to 2026), Mr. Tanehashi is expected to offer pertinent opinions and advice regarding the important issues of creation of multilayered structure to gain profit and improvement of asset efficiency in the real estate business based on his abundant management experience in finance and real estate, and from his objective and professional standpoint. (omitted)"

Sapporo Holdings' Notice of Convocation of 99th AGM

Nomination of New Director Shows Lack of Awareness of Problems Facing Core Businesses

### Weak Board Oversight Raises Questions about Board's Qualifications

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## <sup>3</sup> Newly Appointed Outside Director Tanehashi's Deep Relationship with Sapporo Holdings' Main Bank Mizuho Bank (1/2)



#### Mr. Tanehashi Worked at Mizuho Bank for Over 30 Years, Including as Deputy President



#### Mr. Tanehashi Also Presently Serves as Representative Director & Chairman of Tokyo Tatemono

Mar 2013	Representative Director, President & CEO of Tokyo Tatemono Real Estate	Loan balance (December 2022)	M JPY 100,000 80,000 60,000	93,806	70,999	67,469
Oct 2015	— Senior Executive Managing Officer, Division Director of Real Estate Solution Service Division, and Division Director of International Business Division of Tokyo Tatemono		40,000 20,000 0	, <sup>th</sup> 0	SWEC	
Mar 2016	Senior Executive Managing Officer, Director and Division Director of Real Estate Solution Service Division, and Division Director of International Business Division of Tokyo Tatemono			N.L.S	en.	MITSUPISITI
Jan 2017	— Representative Director, Chairman & Executive Officer of Tokyo Tatemono	Composition of Board of Directors			l from Mizuho Bank na and Nakano)	
Feb 2019	<b>Representative Director, Chairman of the Board</b> of Tokyo Tatemono (present)			Canehashi and T s an outside dire	ajima are inside direc ectors	ctors; Messrs

#### Tokyo Tatemono's Main Bank is Also Mizuho Bank

67,469

Mitsubishi

#### Sapporo Holdings' Specific Investment Securities (FY21 Securities Filing)

Company name	Current fiscal year # of shares Balance Sheet amount (million)	Previous fiscal year # of shares Balance Sheet amount (million)	Purpose of holding, quantitative effect of holding and reasons for increase in shares	Whether or not holding Sapporo share
丸大食品㈱	180,000	180, 000 305	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有
ダイダン㈱	106, 500 245	181, 500 540	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有
Tokyo Tatemono Co., Ltd.	115, 878 195	115, 878 164	To maintain and strengthen business relationships and to build and promote cooperative business relationships	Yes
㈱北洋銀行	683, 000 171	683, 000 149	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有
日本山村硝子㈱	188, 800 147	188, 800 162	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有
信金中央金庫	592 144	592 141	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有
鹿島建設㈱	105, 000	105, 000 145	取引関係の維持・強化並びに営業協力関 係の構築・推進のため	有

#### Tokyo Tatemono's Specific Investment Securities (FY22 Securities Filing)

	Current FY	Previous FY		Whether or not	
Company name	# of shares	# of shares	Purpose of holding, quantitative effect of holding and reasons for	holding Tokyo	
1 7	Balance Sheet amount (million)	Balance Sheet amount (million)	increase in shares	Tatemon o share	
<b></b>	72,187	72,187	当社グループ全体の事業に係る良好な関	有	
日油(株)	419	377	係を維持・強化して企業価値向上に資す るため。		
	80,000	80,000	ビル事業における建設・設備取引等を維	有	
アズビル株	419	451	持・強化して企業価値向上に資するた め。		
	100,000	100,000	当社グループ全体の事業に係る良好な関	有	
(株)ニッピ	370	382	係を維持・強化して企業価値向上に資す るため。		
	375,000	375,000	アセットサービス事業における建設・設	100	
日本信号株	343	352	備取引等を維持・強化して企業価値向上 に資するため。		
	363,000	363,000	ビル事業における建設・設備取引等を維	有	
松井建設株	280	269	持・強化して企業価値向上に資するた め。		
44.546.570.60	50,000	50,000	住宅事業における建設・設備取引等を維	有	
株淺沼組	275	199	持・強化して企業価値向上に資するた め。		
	74,200	472,967	アセットサービス事業における不動産取	444	
西松建設株	270	999	引等を維持・強化して企業価値向上に資 するため。	無	
Sapporo Holdings	111,980	111,980	Tokyo Tatemono's group companies are tenants of buildings owned by Sapporo group company, To maintain and	Yes	
Ltd.	244	222	strengthen real estate transactions business to enhance corporate value.	162	

<sup>3</sup>Potential Risk of Conflicts of Interest with Minority Shareholders by Outside Director with Ties to Main Bank and Other Company with Cross-Shareholdings

#### Risk of Conflicts of Interest Between Ordinary Shareholders and Main Bank

 Risk of conflicts of interest arising from different risk tolerances of banks and ordinary shareholders

*"Banks tend to require that companies have business structures able to steadily generate annual profits. This is likely to misalign with the interests of ordinary shareholders."* 

Investor Forum: Opinions on cross-shareholdings

"As creditors, holders of corporate bonds or other forms of debt, have an intrinsic preference for financial prudence and a company's ability to not only repay its credit obligations on a timely basis, but also to maintain a stable and predictable credit risk profile. ...hence the creditor's tendency for risk aversion. ... Shareholders, on the other hand, have a focus on upside capital appreciation and total shareholder return, and tend to have a greater risk appetite for companies to generate desired returns on equity."

Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance

"In the agency relationship between creditors and shareholders, the asset substitution problem can be a concern. While shareholders are entitled to residual claims on profits only after debt repayment, they are protected by limited liability, which ensures that they cannot lose more than their investment. As a result, shareholders have an incentive to select relatively risky projects with greater volatility in returns, rather than projects with high repayment likelihoods that creditors desire (i.e., risk-shifting or asset substitution). Due to inefficiencies arising from the use of debt, this is referred to as the agency cost of debt."

Mizuho Securities' website

#### Risk of Conflicts of Interest Between Ordinary Shareholders and Owner of Cross-Shareholdings

 Risk of conflicts of interest with ordinary shareholders if owner of crossshareholdings hampers activities to pursue value at a company

"In economics, investors are concerned about the problem of corporate crossshareholding, which can hinder the pursuit of value by companies. For example, crossshareholding has been undertaken for the purpose of strengthening relationships between companies, as a way of keeping order in an industry. The identification of partners and shareholdings represent the power relationships between companies, and reduces the likelihood of pursuing the best opportunities for business transactions on an individual company basis."

"Setting aside the theoretical benefits, which are difficult to evaluate, **it is important** to understand that actual cross-shareholdings pose a conflict of interest with ordinary shareholders."

*"If a company is receiving special benefits by owning shares of its partners, then the 'partner' might be providing excessive benefits to the 'owner'."* 

"For the description of an independent outside director, **it can be contradictory to say** that there are insignificant business transactions with the company to which the director belongs, while also explaining a company's cross-shareholdings as important to maintain that business relationship."

Investor Forum: Opinions on cross-shareholdings

### Weak Board Oversight Raises Questions about Board's Qualifications

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*"An outside director is* expected to play an important role in the oversight functions of the Board of Directors. They are **expected to independently and objectively** *supervise the company's management from the perspective of representing the common interests of all shareholders, including minority shareholders, and to fulfill the role of monitoring* conflicts of interest between management or controlling shareholders and minority shareholders."

"The fundamental role of an outside director is to supervise management from the perspective of ensuring sustainable growth and improving medium- to long-term corporate value, as a commitment to shareholders."

*"Regarding vital matters such as deciding medium-term management plans, it is important for outside directors to proactively request repeated discussion from the conceptual stage and throughout the intermediate stages where the executive side has not yet finalized the plan."* 

<sup>4</sup> 3D Asked Sapporo Holdings to Seek Out the Opinions of Minority Shareholders and Have Outside Directors Be More Proactive in Supervising Management Plans Due to Their Lack of Participation in the Past

#### April

3D shared that the core alcoholic beverages business was being viewed negatively. 3D asked for clarification of policy on investing in core businesses to improve corporate value, and that more emphasis be placed on improving business efficiency and ROE.

#### August

Sapporo Holdings refused to have outside directors lead the reevaluation of management policies, **so 3D asked again for outside directors to take a leading role.** 

#### November

In an open letter, 3D asked outside directors to hear the opinions of minority shareholders and reflect them in the new management plan.

#### January

3D asked Sapporo Holdings to disclose action plans and milestones for achieving the targets in the new management plan in order ensure transparency in the process. 3D also asked it to disclose the number of times that outside directors directly discussed the new management plan with shareholders.

2023

#### June

3D met with President Oga and came to better understand incentives and current management policy.

#### July

3D explained to outside directors the reasons why Sapporo Holdings is not regarded highly by the market. With the aim of improving corporate value, **3D asked for outside directors to lead the evaluation of management plans** without internal constraints

# 2022

#### September & October

3D presented a detailed plan for improving corporate value to Sapporo Holdings' Board of Directors and its outside directors. **3D asked for outside directors to lead the evaluation of the new medium-term management plan without internal constraints**, and incorporate ideas from 3D's plan for improving corporate value.

#### December

3D explained problems to outside directors that the new medium-term management plan has problems, namely its definition of real estate as a core business with no clear justification. Measures to improve margins also do not look that realistic. 3D asked for a reevaluation of these problems the new management plan, and of the differences with 3D's own measures to improve corporate value

• April 3D shared that the core alcoholid beverages business was being vie negatively. 3D asked for clarifica policy on investing in core busin improve corporate value, and the emphasis be placed on improvin business efficiency and ROE.	wed tion of esses to at more	No reply from Sapporo F August Sapporo Holdings refused to H outside directors lead the reev management policies, so 3D a for outside directors to take a	nave valuation of <b>sked again</b>	Sapporo Holdings unveiled n only seeking direct input fr (not 3D November In an open letter, 3D asked outsid opinions of minority shareholders new management plan.	om one shareholder (Answer)	• January 3D asked Sapporo Holdings to disclose action plans and milestones for achieving the targets in the new management plan in order ensure transparency in the process. 3D also asked it to disclose the number of times that outside directors directly discussed the new management plan
		role.	22			with shareholders.
June	July		Septembe	r & October	December	
3D met with President Oga and came to better understand incentives and current management policy.	reasons w regarded 1 With the value, <b>3D</b> lead the e plans with Sapporo Ho	ained to outside directors the why Sapporo Holdings is not d highly by the market. e aim of improving corporate <b>D asked for outside directors to</b> evaluation of management ithout internal constraints <b>Voldings refused to reevaluate</b>		atted a detailed plan for improving value to Sapporo Holdings' Board ors and its outside directors. for outside directors to lead the a of the new medium-term ent plan without internal as, and incorporate ideas from 3D's mproving corporate value.	3D explained problems to o that the new medium-term has problems, namely its do estate as a core business wi justification. Measures to in also do not look that realist 3D asked for a reevaluation the new management plan differences with 3D's own improve corporate value.	n management plan efinition of real th no clear mprove margins tic. n of these problems , and of the
Questional	ole wheth	ner outside directors a	re able t	o provide proper oversig	ht functions for bus	iness execution

Conclusion



### Conclusion

#### Poor Management at Sapporo Holdings

- Sapporo's share price has dramatically underperformed peers since 2006
- Weak share price is due to margins and asset turnover that are far below peers; these failures lead to the worst ROE and ROA in the industry
- Management has neglected the alcoholic beverages business and has instead emphasized the real estate business and complacently relied on the real estate business for profit
- Sapporo has failed to achieve targets set in medium-term plans since 2006
- To improve corporate value, Sapporo needs to reevaluate whether it should keep both the real estate business and the alcoholic beverages business under the same holding company

#### Inadequate New Medium-Term Plan

- Real estate is defined as a core business and a growth/investment priority for management, although i) the company has a limited track record and no competitive advantage in real estate investing, ii) there are no synergies between the real estate business and the alcoholic beverages business and iii) previous growth investments have been unsuccessful
- Increasing investment in new real estate projects in the current environment risks destroying corporate value
- The margin targets set for the alcoholic beverages and food and soft drink businesses in the medium-term plan are far below those currently being achieved by peers in those businesses
- The new plan lacks clear milestones and specific action plans; this has led the investment community to doubt the executability of the plan and the achievement of its modest goals
- The plan needs to be reexamined to see if it is the best way to increase corporate value

#### Weak Board Oversight and Qualifications

- The outside directors lack critical experience/expertise in consumer product branding/manufacturing, margin improvement, alcoholic beverages
- The latest additional outside director shows that the Board is going in the wrong direction; Mr. Tanehashi has a partial real estate background and given his history with Sapporo's main lender, has potential conflicts of interest and a lack of independence
- The Board has been unresponsive to 3D's requests and recommendations over the last year
- Based on communications with Board members, it is clear that the Board is not providing adequate oversight of Sapporo's strategy or execution of that strategy

# Appendix 1: Doubts about Real Estate Becoming a Core Business



#### • A core business is one where a company can maximize its competitive advantages and is the best owner

For one's own group, it is essential to strategically execute M&A to reinforce core businesses and streamline non-core businesses. The basic principle is to identify where competitive advantage lies in supporting sustainable growth, and focus management resources on the businesses ('core businesses') where we can become the 'best owner" Group Guidelines 3.2

"Best owner' refers to an entity that is likely to maximize the corporate value of a given business in the medium to long term. Specifically, it refers to a company that is expected to have a higher likelihood than other companies (omitted) to build a competitive advantage and realize the growth strategy of that business by leveraging its organizational capabilities and financial strength"

Practical Guidelines for Business Transformations 1.3.4

• For a business to be recognized as a core business, it must have a relatively high potential for growth due to reasons such as having a competitive advantage, or it must be able generate a return that significantly exceeds the cost of capital. Businesses that do not meet these criteria should be considered for streamlining as non-core businesses.

"The term 'non-core business' refers to a business domain within a corporate group that, while not necessarily having low profitability or growth potential, has relatively low potential for growth because of difficulty allocating sufficient resources from within the corporate group for reasons that may include the group not having much competitive advantages in this field. Alternatively, the business domain is unlikely to generate a return that sufficiently exceeds the cost of capital. As an optimal growth strategy, such businesses should be viewed as candidates for spin-offs or sale to another company's core business ('best owner')"

Group Guidelines 3.2

## (Reference) Returns Need to Exceed Cost of Capital (ROIC) for Corporate Value to be Created

- Capital procured by companies incurs a cost of capital = a return on the investment in the company expected by the provider of the capital
- Corporate value is created when companies use the capital they procure and consistently generate returns in excess of the cost of capital
- Accordingly, the wellspring of corporate value is "ROIC cost of capital," and it is important to maximize this when companies develop and execute management plans

— "In other words, corporate value increases when investments are made that create value (ROIC > WACC), and corporate value decreases when investments are made that destroy value (ROIC < WACC), even if there is growth."<sup>1</sup>

- When the Board of Directors plans and executes a business strategy, it is important to understand and be aware of the company's cost of capital, as pointed out in the Corporate Governance Code.
  - "When formulating and disclosing business strategies and management plans, companies should disclose their basic capital policies and earnings targets based on a precise understanding of its cost of capital. Companies should also disclose targets related to earnings capabilities and capital efficiency. Companies should clearly explain to shareholders, using easy-to-understand language and ideas, how they specifically intend to achieve these targets, such as through changes in business portfolios, and the allocation of management resources in capital investment, R&D and human capital."<sup>2</sup>

#### Corporate value is created<sup>3</sup> when profit on invested capital (=ROIC) exceeds the return expected by the provider of the capital (= cost of capital) for the first time



Note: 1 Written Opinion of Third Business Restructuring Study Group sponsored by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; 2 Corporate Governance Code Principle 5-2; 3 Calculation of corporate value assumes constant values for invested capital and ROIC (all profit allocated to dividends, 0% growth)

#### Unable to clearly explain cost of capital and competitive advantages, essential factors for defining real estate as a core business

#### Cost of Capital

• Only "Returns exceed cost of capital" written. No specific estimate (xx%) of cost of capital, and no comment that ROIC in real estate business exceeds cost of capital.



#### **Competitive Advantages**

 Only a very abstract explanation of competitive advantages, and no description of actual competitiveness in real estate market



#### Explanation in Medium-term Management Plan (2023-2026)

 Only approach to portfolio management and outcomes are discussed, no explanation of why each business is positioned in each domain



#### Management Team's Explanation

 Like the management plan, the company only talked about its approach to portfolio management and outcomes, and did not offer any explanation of why real estate was defined as a core business

"To explain again why real estate is a core business, our definition of 'core' is a business that contributes to earnings and corporate value, [omitted] and since Sapporo is a brand company, it is also a business that contributes to brand value. It is on this basis that we position real estate as a core business."

Director Shofu at 2022 results briefing

"Each business in the Sapporo Group is **positioned in one of four quadrants, based on market environment, unique strengths, sustainability, profitability, synergies and resource allocation**. 'Divestment' in the lower left quadrant contains portions of alcoholic beverages and portions of food & soft drinks businesses. We will quickly divest these. 'Restructuring' in the upper left quadrant contains Domestic Food & Soft Drinks and Restaurants. 'Growth' in the upper right quadrant has Overseas Alcoholic Beverages and Overseas Beverages. 'Strengthen profitability' in the lower right has Domestic Alcoholic Beverages and Real Estate."

Director Shofu at briefing for new medium-term management plan

Non-core businesses can be detrimental to corporate value, and should be rapidly divested in principle

"Continuing to hold onto non-core businesses like this, even though they incur a cost to maintain and do not contribute to growth, can be difficult to sell if opportunities are missed and they turn unprofitable. It is therefore important to move quickly to make decisions that will leverage the potential of the business, while finding a way to secure growth funds and concentrating resources on departments that can leverage advantages for the company."

Group Guidelines 3.2

"If it becomes structurally impossible in a certain business to maintain and grow profits in excess of the cost of capital, then that means the business has become unsustainable as a part of the company. Even if its income statement shows a profit, it is better to decide to divest the business before it deteriorates if the return on capital (i.e., ROIC) is lower than the cost of capital (hurdle rate) and recovery seems unlikely (or if it is unlikely to sustain an advantage over the hurdle rate)." Practical Guidelines for Business Transformations 2.1.3

If real estate business continues to be managed alongside the core alcoholic beverages business, the Board of Directors has a responsibility to explain to
investors how synergies will be generated in excess of the cost of maintaining the business

"For companies with multiple businesses, the Board of Directors should discuss and fulfill its responsibility to explain to investors, from a comparative perspective, how these businesses fit in a single business model, and whether the benefits of having these businesses, such as creating synergies, outweigh the costs associated with having multiple businesses, such as increased management complexity and associated management costs, and the dilution to management's focus."

Reply

#### **Explanation in FY22 Results Briefing Materials**

- The company explained that one synergy between the real estate business and core businesses is when customers experience the Yebisu Garden Place, which leads them to Yebisu Beer.
- However, the company did not explain the need to have the real estate business, or its impact on earnings. In the Q&A session, an analyst asked management to quantify these synergies and explain why the company has a real estate business.

#### Question from analyst

"Synergies between the real estate and domestic alcoholic beverages businesses are a major point of interest. Speaking frankly, [omitted] today's disclosures are mostly qualitative expressions, and I would like to see more numbers. [omitted] Without the land, it seems that as long as the Yebisu Garden Place exists, it will help boost the brand and enhance the drinking experience. I would appreciate it if you could give an explanation as to why Sapporo Holdings must own land, management's reasoning for this, and more details about synergies."

Nomura analyst question at 2022 results briefing

Management Team's Explanation

 Management was unable to provide a direct answer about the quantitative aspects of synergies between core businesses and the real estate business.

"I think one big portion of this is how synergies contribute as a core business. Fixating over numbers from synergies between alcoholic beverages and real estate might risk losing sight of the big picture, but we will consider disclosing more data in the future. For the time being, we explained our view of the big picture."

Director Shofu at 2022 results briefing

"Being a local company that owns land is an essential part of our brand story, in my opinion. I think this is a very important point from the perspective of a beer brewery. It is difficult to express this value as a number [omitted], but without land, our brand story would be harder to convey. This is how I understand it."

Operating Officer Nose at 2022 results briefing

#### Sapporo Holdings' Share of Beer Market Continued to Decline After Opening of Landmark Real Estate Properties

#### 1993: Sapporo Factory opens 2016: Ginza Place opens 80%-60-1994: Yebisu Garden Place opens 40-Asahi Kirin 20 – Suntory 19% 18% 12% 11% 0 1980 1990 2000 2010 2018

Source: Materials disclosed by each company; Company's own disclosures

Market share<sup>1</sup>

Note: [1] Calculated based on shipment volumes disclosed by each company, Asahi shows data through 2018 because it stopped disclosing volume in 2018



#### **Operating Margin in Food & Soft Drinks Lowest Among Global Peers**

ents etc.

Source: Securities filings and annual reports of each company

Note: Covers Suntory and 22 companies listed on stock exchanges out of top 40 global beer breweries in terms of production volume (2020); Food and beverage competition includes major domestic beverage companies that fall under SPEEDA's 'soft drinks manufacturers' with sales of more than 30bn, excluding food-focused companies; see p59 for detailed notes on the food and beverages business; [1] Kirin covers domestic beer spirits and alcoholic beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages and integrated beverages and integrated beverages segment from FY18/12-FY20/12 and alcoholic beverages in Japan, Europe, Oceania, and South East Asia segments in FY22/12. [2]Sapporo covers domestic alcoholic beverages, international, and restaurant segments in 2018/12 and alcoholic beverages segment in 2019/12 onwards. Adjusted figures are calculated proportionally to each segment on a sales basis.

#### Slowest Pace of Sales Growth in Real Estate Business in Sector

#### Sales CAGR in FY2010-2019<sup>1</sup>.



#### Weakest Operating Profit Growth in Sector<sup>2</sup>

#### Operating Profit CAGR in FY2010-2019<sup>1</sup>.



#### Source: Bloomberg

Note: Comparisons to other real estate companies which have largest sales ratios in their real estate-related segments, among listed companies belonging to the integrated developer and office/retail facility development and leasing categories on Speeda. [1] FY10-19 used to exclude impact from COVID-19 pandemic. [2] Sapporo Holdings' real estate business does not routinely sell properties, so we decided to refer to operating profits adjusted for gains on property sales to shed light on underlying value.

# In Contrast, Dis-synergies Exist Between Real Estate and Core Businesses (1/3): Real Estate Leasing Income Allows Management to Avoid Dealing with Low Profitability in Core Businesses

#### Real Estate Hid Weak Profitability of Core Businesses

Real Estate Led to Complacency and Management's Dependence



 Employees have come to realize Sapporo's strengths in real estate, not the alcoholic beverages business, and see that management has become complacent with real estate leasing income

Sapporo Holdings' strengths... (from employee discussion website)

"Yebisu Garden Place and other properties in prime urban locations are generating income. The company's nickname is "Sapporo buildings." "A laid-back approach to work is possible."

"Real estate assets are all that is left."

"Real estate companies in the group reliably generate income."

• From the outside, it can be pointed out that management depends on the stability of real estate.

"The time has passed for management to rebuild the beer business and founding businesses, which have sunk to the lowest margins among the four majors. **Can Sapporo rebuild the beer business and its dependence on real estate?** [omitted] Reliable income from **real estate has led to the company's dependency on this income**. Sapporo needs to reform the beer business with a sense of urgency."

Nikkei (September 24, 2016)

Sapporo Holdings' earnings structure has continued to depend on the real estate business, which generated JPY12.0 billion of the JPY10.8 billion in operating profit in 2018. Its FY19 management plan calls for restructuring, building a foundation and selective concentration of resources. Steel Partners withdrew, but the sweeping reforms to the earnings structure demanded by Steel Partners have not been enacted, even after a change in presidents. Third Point Management demanded that IHI spin off its real estate business. Like IHI, operating companies with large unrealized gains on real estate tend to lack margin discipline in their core businesses.

Masatoshi Kikuchi's "Attack of the Activists: Influence of Investors Demanding Change"

#### Sapporo Holdings Has Invested in Real Estate Using Marketing Brands in Core Businesses



Sapporo Holdings' News Release (September 12, 2022)

In Contrast, Dis-synergies Exist Between Real Estate and Core Businesses (3/3): Investments Needlessly Entangled Core Businesses to Real Estate Business, Might Reduce Investment Efficiency in Real Estate Business

#### Doubts about Marketing Spend Efficiency Due to Real Estate



Source: Consumer Survey (July 2022; n=20,000)

Note: [1]Of people who consumed beer at least once a week (n=2,250), high ratio of people who answered each factor that influenced their decision. [2] Ratio of people who answered how each factor associates best with each brand

# Appendix 2: Growing Risks in Real Estate Investment



63

# In a Low Interest Rate Environment Amid Global Monetary Easing, Vast Sums Flowed Into Japan's Real Estate Market, Lowering Yields Expected by Investors

- Amid global monetary easing, investors' surplus funds have flowed into the Japanese real estate market.
- Capital flowing into Japanese real estate has reached a record-high level of JPY44 trillion on an asset basis (Figure 1).
- In addition to capital inflows, yields expected by investors (cap rates), according to a survey conducted by Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Research Institute<sup>1</sup> of J-REIT purchases and sales of properties and beneficiary interests in real estate trusts, yields for Class A buildings in Tokyo (average for five central wards of Tokyo, five-minute walk to closest train station, 50,000 square meters of floor space, built within past five years, etc.) have reached their lowest levels in 20 years, being unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic while benefitting from the low interest rate environment (Figure 2).

Figure (1) Real Estate Funds' Assets at Highest Levels<sup>2</sup>





Source: 1 Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Research Institute's J-REIT Real Estate Price Index, NOI Index, Cap Rates (2021 version); Japan Real Estate Institute's Real Estate Investor Survey; 2 Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Research Institute

# However, Decline in Global Interest Rates has Reversed and Started to Increase, Raising Likelihood of Decrease in Real Estate Prices as Yields Expected by Investors in Real Estate Remain High

- The increase in real estate prices to date has been largely driven by the decline in expected yields due to the inflow of capital into the real estate market amid low interest rates. Over the past 20 years, rents and vacancy rates have not changed that much (Figure 1), but the cap rate has declined from 5.9% to 3.8%, contributing strongly to the rise in prices (Figure 2).
- Central banks have moved to raise interest rates to combat accelerating inflation around the world (Figure 2), and interest rates for JGBs have picked up, albeit modestly.
- If interest rates increase further, expected yields on investments in real estate would also increase, strengthening the likelihood that real estate prices will fall. The spread between cap rates and 10-year JGB yields has held steady around 4.0% over the past 10 years (Figure 2).

Figure (2) Yields Rising As Cap Rates Reach New Lows<sup>2</sup>





#### Figure (3) Spread Between Cap Rate and 10-Year JGB Yields Stays Around 4.0%



Note: 1 Actual figures by Sanko Estate; future outlooks are our forecasts based on estimates by Nisseikiso Research Institute for changes in rents and vacancy rates for Class A buildings in central Tokyo; 2 Cap rates from Japan Real Estate Institute's Real Estate Investor Survey, government bond yields based on Bloomberg data

# Figure (1) Rents and Vacancy Rates Worsening for Large Buildings in Three Wards of Tokyo Since Pandemic<sup>1</sup>

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