

September 27, 2019

Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in UniFa –Contributing to Resolving the Lengthy Daycare Waiting List Problem Caused by a Shortage of Nursery Care Workers by Introducing IoT and AI to Daycare Operations–

The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited (the “Company”; President and Representative Director: Seiji Inagaki) is pleased to announce that it has impact-invested¹ JPY 300 million as one aspect of its ESG investments in UniFa Co., Ltd. (“UniFa”; President and CEO: Yasuyuki Toki), a Japanese startup aiming to reduce the burdens of nursery care operations and enhance the quality of child nursing care by utilizing IoT² and AI³.



- Startup developing and providing solutions utilizing IoT and AI toward realizing smart nursery care centers that are comfortable workplaces for nursery care workers
- Promote an increase in the number of nursery care workers by building environments comfortable for them to work in by resolving a wide array of problems in nursery care operations by providing services like checks of sleeping children, photo sales flows, correspondence books and attendance records.

Social Impact

Resolving the lengthy nursery care waiting list problem

Prompt solutions to the shortage of nursery care workers by improving the nursery care working environments and resolve the problem of lengthy waiting lists for nursery care



The Company will provide capital support to UniFa’s initiatives as it expects this investment will realize a high level of returns as well as help to resolve the lengthy daycare waiting list problem (social impact). The Company will also continuously monitor progress.

Moreover, for nursery care facilities setting up in the Company’s buildings nationwide, Dai-ichi Life will support introduction of UniFa’s services, while aiming for improvement in the Quality of Life (QOL)⁴ of community residents by working together with UniFa to resolve the lengthy daycare waiting list problem to create communities comfortable to live and work in and to further promote women’s role in society.

¹ Impact investment is an investment method where Dai-ichi Life makes investment decisions with the intent to gain investment returns and generate social impacts (e.g., structural change in society).

² IOT: An acronym of Internet of Things, which refers to all objects being connected via the internet and is a system enabling the mutual exchange of information.

³ AI: An acronym of artificial intelligence, it refers to artificial intelligence technologies where computers engage in intellectual activities in place of humans to deduce language comprehension, solve problems and more.

⁴ The Company regards improvement in the QOL as the realization of each individual’s desired lifestyle or living pattern, and aims to contribute to improving the QOL of all people.

The Company will continue to enhance investment returns through increasingly sophisticated and diverse investment methods. As a responsible institutional investor that should contribute toward realizing a sustainable society, the Company is also actively engaged in ESG investment.

UniFa’s President and CEO Yasuyuki Toki made the following remarks:



Under our company’s concept of smart nursery care, we would use the IoT and AI to automate nursery care center documentation currently being undertaken manually and build an environment enabling works to concentrate on working directly with children as should be the case for nursery care workers. As a result of doing that, nursery care workers would feel they are doing the job they want to do and have a sense of worth doing it, which should lower the rate of people leaving the profession, contribute to resolving the issue of lengthy waiting lists to receive nursery care and, we believe, further support women’s presence in the workforce.

For a company such as ours, which is aiming to solve social issues like this, we are thoroughly delighted to receive investment from Dai-Ichi Life, which has built up a record of having made many ESG investments.

Company Outline

Trade name	UniFa Co., Ltd.
Head Office	10F Marunouchi A-T Building, 2-16-3 Marunouchi, Naka-ku, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture
President and CEO	Yasuyuki Toki (President and CEO)
Established	May 2013
Business Description	Provides total solutions to support nursery care front lines by utilizing IoT and AI to realize smart nursery care

Dai-ichi Life’s Impact Investment History

Headlines (Release Date)	URL
Dai-ichi Life to Engage in Impact Investment (Oct. 23, 2017) –First Impact Investment in Gojo & Company, Inc. which provides support for micro-finance business–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_012.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Invest in Spiber Inc. (Oct. 23, 2017) –Second Impact Investment through Support for Development of New-Generation Bio-Materials–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2017_044.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Invest in CureApp, Inc. (Feb. 26, 2018) –Third Impact Investment through Support for Treatment Applications–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_018.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in CROWD CREDIT, Inc. (Apr. 5, 2018) –Energize Business Activities in Developing Countries to Alleviate the Global Supply-Demand Gap for Funds–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_002.pdf

Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in SUSMED, Inc. (Jun. 4, 2018) –Promote the Widespread Adoption of Non-Drug Therapies through Insomnia Therapy Apps–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_008.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in MELTIN MMI (Oct. 17, 2018) –Mitigating Accidents Caused by Work in Hazardous Environments Using MELTIN’s Avatar Robots–	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_004.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in MOLCURE Inc. (Nov. 27, 2018) –Shortening Pharmaceutical Development with the World's First Antibody Discovery Platform Utilizing AI –	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_007.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in QD Laser, Inc. (Dec. 12, 2018) –World’s First Eyewear that Employs State-of-the-Art Laser Technology Improves Quality of Life for Low-Vision Patients	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_010.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in Challenergy Inc. (February 28, 2019) –Helping to reduce CO2 emissions using the world’s first wind turbine capable of generating electricity even in typhoons—	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_012.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in Venture Fund managed by Energy & Environment Investment, Inc. (March 20, 2019) –Japan's Only Independent Venture Capital Focused on the Energy and Resource Related Sectors—	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_015.pdf
Impact Investment in CureApp and NeuroTrack (July 5, 2019) - Extending healthy life expectancy and improve quality of life through synergies between investments and life insurance -	https://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2019/pdf/index_008.pdf