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Risa Tabata was born in Osaka, Japan where she graduated from Osaka University of Foreign Studies. She joined Nintendo Co., Ltd. in April of 2001 and is currently a Project Leader of Software Group No.3.

She has contributed to several Nintendo titles such as Metroid Prime (Nintendo GameCube), Metroid Prime 2: Dark Echoes (Nintendo GameCube), Metroid Prime 3: Corruption (Wii), Metroid Prime Trilogy (Wii), PictureBook Games: A Pop-Up Adventure (WiiWare), PUNCH-OUT!! (Wii), PictureBook Games: The Royal Bluff (DSiWare), 530 Echo Shooter (WiiWare), Donkey Kong Country Returns (Wii), Snowpack Park (WiiWare), and Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze (Wii U). Tabata is currently working on Chibi-Robo!: Zip Lash for the Nintendo 3DS.