

April 27, 2012

Press Release

Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd.

Nikko Asset Management Named **“Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year”**

Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. (Nikko AM) is pleased to announce that *AsianInvestor* has selected Nikko AM as the winner in a number of categories in its most coveted annual Investment Performance Awards 2012: “Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year” and “Best Japan Onshore Fund House”. In addition, Hwang Investment Management Berhad (HwangIM), which is an affiliate of Nikko AM in Malaysia, has won the award for “Best Malaysia Onshore Fund House”.

The awards recognise best-in-class fund managers for outstanding performance, product innovation and market leadership across the Asia region. The judges referred to Nikko AM’s busy year of expansion across Asia as one of the key ingredients to winning this year’s inaugural Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year award.

In particular, the judges pointed to the Nikko AM group’s successful acquisition of Tyndall Investment Management Limited in Australia and Tyndall Investment Management New Zealand Limited, which gave it a stronghold in the Pacific region, as well as the landmark deal to acquire DBS Asset Management (now renamed Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited), one of Singapore’s leading investment management firms. In addition, stakes in Malaysia’s fastest growing and largest independent investment manager, HwangIM, and Asian Islamic Investment Management Sdn. Bhd. added a further six offices in Southeast Asia to the Nikko AM group’s Asian footprint.

The Nikko AM group has now grown to 19 offices across nine different countries and regions and has more than 50% of its employees outside of Japan. Current AUM is US\$158 billion*, making it the largest regional asset management company headquartered in Asia. This Asian expansion, combined with Nikko AM’s leading position in its home market of Japan, made it the first choice to win Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year, as well as Best Japan Onshore Fund House for the second consecutive year.

*Consolidated assets under management and advice of Nikko AM and its subsidiaries as at 31 March 2012.

Blair Pickerell, Nikko AM's Head of Asia, commented: "The key to our success in Asia is through the 'multi-local' approach that we adopt with each new acquisition, ensuring that local managers have the autonomy to manage the business according to the needs of local investors. This is the reason we have been able to grow so quickly into the regional asset manager we are today. We are delighted to win the "Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year" award from *AsianInvestor* in recognition of this."

The *AsianInvestor* gala awards dinner will be held on May 24, 2012, where [Blair Pickerell] will receive the awards on behalf of Nikko AM.

Further details on the awards can be found on the *AsianInvestor* website:

<http://www.asianinvestor.net/News/Category/190,awards.aspx>



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About Nikko Asset Management

Established in 1959, the Nikko Asset Management Group (Nikko AM) has grown to be the largest regional asset management company headquartered in Asia, with total AUM over US\$158 billion* and one of the largest distributor networks across the Asia-Pacific region comprising over 300 banks, brokers and life insurance companies.

Nikko AM manages a wide range of Asian equity and Asian fixed income strategies for retail and institutional investors around the world. The company has been recognised by industry peers for its innovative investment products, winning a number of prestigious awards including the Lipper Best Fund Award 2010 in the Equity Asia Pacific Ex-Japan Category over 3 years, and the Global Investor Award 2010 for Investment Excellence in Japanese Equities.

Nikko AM also offers specialist third-party expertise – currently over 40 fund managers – through the World Series Fund Platform®, operating a “best-in-class” approach across a broad range of asset classes.

Nikko AM’s senior management team has significant experience across Asian as well as global markets. The team combines local knowledge with internationally recognised standards of investment practice, transparency and corporate governance to achieve growth across the business. The company adopts a “multi local” approach – giving local management teams a high degree of autonomy to address local market conditions and client servicing needs.

Nikko AM has a head office in Tokyo and an extensive footprint across the Asia-Pacific region with local offices in Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland. Global offices in New York and London with full service teams provide support to investors in the US, Europe and the Middle East. Nikko AM holds a 40% stake in Rongtong Fund Management, the 7th largest Sino-foreign joint venture fund management group in China. In Malaysia, a 51% stake in Asian Islamic Investment Management Sdn. Bhd. and a 30% stake in Hwang Investment Management Berhad – both leading investment management firms – add to Nikko AM’s regional presence**.

Nikko AM is majority owned by Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings, while DBS Bank is the second largest shareholder.

Nikko AM continues to operate independently.

For more information, please visit www.nikkoam.com/english

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**As of December 2011