

May 2, 2013

Press Release

Nikko Asset Management Asia Ltd.

**Nikko AM wins “Best Japan Fund House” for third year
at Asian Investor’s Investment Performance Awards 2013**

Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd (Nikko AM) is pleased to announce that it has once again been selected as “Best Japan Fund House” in the *Asian Investor Investment Performance Awards*. This is the third consecutive year that Nikko AM has been honoured with such distinction. The award is testament to the efforts of the teams in Japan who have continued to lead the way with innovative and client-focused products.



Nikko AM has been building on its success in Japan with the expansion of its presence across Asia-Pacific. Its distinct competitive advantage lies in the unique multi-local approach it adopts across the region, ensuring that local clients and distributors are provided with local servicing and localised products. With the earlier acquisitions of Tyndall Investment Management in Australia and New Zealand, DBS Asset Management in Singapore and Hwang Investment Management in Malaysia, Nikko AM has widened its investment capabilities and has successfully introduced a number of cross-selling initiatives, creating localised products and bolstering sales growth.

In addition, Nikko AM picked up the award for “Best Retail Product” on the strength of the Nikko Gravity Americas Fund¹ launch. The Fund, which invests in North and South American companies that are expected to benefit from the growing productivity of the US economy, was launched in December 2012 and raised an unprecedented US\$2.3 billion² in its initial launch period. This is the largest amount ever raised from Japanese retail investors in a US equity-oriented fund and the largest retail fund launch in Japan since 2006³.

Hiroki Tsujimura, CIO – Japan at Nikko AM, commented as follows: “In order to offer leading-edge products and superior performance to investors, Nikko AM has strengthened its investment operations both domestically and overseas. We think this award represents a high evaluation for our investment organization, and for the collaborative structure we have built with our fabulous investment partners.”

The Asian Investor gala awards dinner will be held on May 23rd 2013 at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Hong Kong.

¹ This fund is domiciled in Japan and is available for investors in Japan only.

² Based on the exchange rate of US\$1= JPY86.54 at the end of December 2012.

³ According to research by Nikko AM (based on data from The Investment Trusts Association, Japan).

Further details on the awards can be found at the *Asian Investor* website:

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

This award is based on past performance and does not guarantee future investment performance.

About Nikko Asset Management

Established in 1959, the Nikko Asset Management group (Nikko AM) has grown to become the largest regional asset management company headquartered in Asia, with total AUM of US\$154 billion* and one of the largest distributor networks across the Asia-Pacific region, comprising over 300 banks, brokers, IFAs 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 outstanding performance, product innovation and market leadership across the Asia-Pacific region, winning a number of prestigious awards, including “Asia-Based Asset Manager of the Year” in 2012 and “Best Japan Onshore Fund Manager” in 2012 and 2011, both from *AsianInvestor*.

Nikko AM also offers specialist third-party expertise – currently from 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’s head office is in Tokyo and the firm has an extensive footprint across the Asia-Pacific region that includes offices in Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland. Offices in New York and London with full service teams provide support to investors in the US, Europe and the Middle East.

Nikko AM’s strong Asian presence is cemented with stakes in several joint venture companies. Rongtong Fund Management is one of the largest Sino-foreign joint venture fund management firms in China, while Hwang Investment Management Berhad and Asian Islamic Investment Management Sdn. Bhd. are leading investment management firms in Malaysia. Recent additions Ambit Investment Advisory Private Limited in Mumbai and Ambit Mauritius Investment Management Private Limited provide Indian equity expertise to Nikko AM’s global clients.

Nikko AM is an independently managed asset management company, majority owned by Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings and with DBS Bank as the second largest shareholder.

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

* Consolidated assets under management and advice of Nikko AM and its subsidiaries as at 31 December 2012. “Largest” based on AUM sourced from Asia, including Australia and New Zealand, using third party published AUM figures as of June 30, 2012. “Regional” excludes firms with more than 75% of AUM sourced from a single country.