

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.

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.

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

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

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



Comprehensive Risk Information on Mutual Funds

- ✓ Investment trusts invest in assets whose prices fluctuate (foreign currency-denominated assets contain exchange rate risk as well), so the NAV will fluctuate accordingly. It is possible that the NAV will fall below your original investment.
- ✓ Different investment trusts invest in different asset classes, markets, and countries, and contain different investment restrictions, so the details of their risks differ accordingly.

■ Outline of Fees, etc.

Investors must bear the following expenses:

<Fee charged directly at the time of purchase and redemption>

Purchase Application Fees: Up to 4.2% (4.0% before tax)

Redemption fee: UP to 1.05% (1.0% before tax)

Amount Retained in Trust Assets: Up to 1.0%

< Fees and expenses charged indirectly through the trust assets (i.e. paid by the Fund)>

Trust Fees: Up to 2.9975% (2.95% before tax)

Some funds charge a performance fee based on investment performance, etc.

Other Expenses: Brokerage commission with respect to securities held in the portfolio, audit fees, interest on borrowing and advances, fees related to securities lending, etc.

- ※ The rate or maximum amounts applicable to other fees and expenses cannot be disclosed in advance because the actual amount will vary depending on the state of the assets managed.
- ※ The total amount of fees above will vary depending on the length of investment period and other factors. Therefore, we cannot give a specific total.
- ※ For more detail, please refer to the investment trust explanatory document (prospectus distributed in advance of purchase).

<Disclaimer>

- Fees, etc. listed are the highest rates among those charged to the investment trusts managed by Nikko Asset Management (as of March 18, 2011).
- The risk information and fees, etc. disclosed above are those typical for a general investment trust. Actual fees will vary for each specific investment trust. For more detail, please refer to the investment trust explanatory document (prospectus distributed in advance of purchase).

■ Other matters to consider

- These materials were prepared for the purpose of providing information on investment trusts offered by Nikko AM.
- Unlike bank deposits or insurance policies, investment trusts are not protected by the Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Insurance Policyholders Protection Corporations. Nor are investment trusts protected by the Investor Protection Funds when purchased at banks or other registered financial institutions.
- Any profit or loss derived from management of investment trusts belongs to all the beneficiaries. When purchasing to investment trusts, the distributor will provide you with an investment trust explanatory document (or prospectus distributed in advance of application) beforehand, so please be sure to verify the details and make your own decision whether or not to invest.

Matters to consider regarding investment advisory and discretionary investment agreements

Investment based on a discretionary investment agreement and advice based on an investment advisory agreement mainly involve securities, such as equities and bonds, whose prices fluctuate (foreign currency securities have an exchange rate fluctuation risk as well), so the net asset value (NAV) of your investment assets will fluctuate and may fall below your principal investment.

Major risks involved in these agreements are:

1) Price fluctuation risk, 2) liquidity risk, 3) credit risk, 4) exchange rate fluctuation risk, 5) country risk, 6) derivative risk, and 7) risks unique to market neutral and long/short strategies

■ Fees and other expenses

● Investment Advisory Fees

An investment advisory fee, which serves as the fee for the investment advisory agreement and the discretionary investment agreement, up to a maximum of 3.15% p.a. (3.0% before tax) will be charged against the balance of investment assets according to the period under management. Depending on the content of the agreement, a contingent fee may be charged in addition to the fixed fee.

● Other fees

As for other fees, brokerage fees for portfolio stocks may be incurred.

In cases where investment trusts are bought based on a discretionary investment agreement, other fees may be incurred, such as a trust fee on the investment trusts, commissions on the amount reserved for trust assets, incorporation and redemption, brokerage fees for portfolio stocks, custodian fees, management fees, audit fees, fund establishment fees, interest rate of borrowings or borrowed stock fees.

<Disclaimer>

* Contingent fees and other fees vary depending on investment strategies and management conditions; therefore it is not possible to specify the amount of those fees and the limit beforehand.

* The risks and fees mentioned above differ depending on individual agreements. We urge you to read the pre-agreement reminder thoroughly before you sign an agreement.

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

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

**As of December 2011