

PRESS RELEASE

8 AUGUST 2024

NIKKO ASSET MANAGEMENT CO., LTD.

Nikko Asset Management Once Again Recognised as Signatory to UK Stewardship Code

One of a handful of Asia headquartered firms to qualify as a global entity

Nikko Asset Management (Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. together with all of its subsidiaries, "Nikko AM") has been recognised for the third consecutive year as a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code 2020 (UKSC). Nikko AM first became a signatory in 2022, one of the first firms headquartered in Asia to do so, making this a prestigious recognition that underscores our firm's extensive stewardship activities and sustainability outcomes.

Signatory status is assessed annually by the UK's Financial Reporting Council, subject to reporting by each firm about its "stewardship policies, processes, activities and outcomes for a 12-month reporting period." For Nikko AM, signatory status applies to the global group, which is key because it demonstrates its investment management teams in the UK, as well as Japan, Singapore, the US and New Zealand all meet what is considered by many to be a world-class standard of stewardship activities and outcomes.

As of the latest list published on 22 July 2024, the FRC recognises 287 signatories representing GBP50.1 trillion in assets under management, including 196 asset managers. For asset managers and asset owners, the UKSC consists of adherence to 12 principles, split into the fields of "purpose and governance", "investment approach", "engagement" and "exercising rights and responsibilities." Nikko AM's submission, titled "Global Stewardship Report" is structured around how the firm addresses these principles in its investment management and other operations, including strategy, governance, serving clients and more.

Nikko AM President Stefanie Drews remarked, "In the face of societal and environmental challenges, stewardship has become an imperative for the asset management industry. Our journey at Nikko AM, from pioneering green bond funds to championing women in leadership, demonstrates our commitment to sustainable investment. As we continue to deepen our engagement on pertinent sustainability issues, we are confident that our progress bodes well for a future where returns and responsibility go hand in hand."

Nikko AM's most recent report covers the 12 months of 1 January to 31 December 2023. Highlights include strategy and team structures around environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, accompanied by case studies from global offices, such as the Japan Equity team's engagement with investee companies to untie cross shareholdings, the Singapore-based Asian Equity team's efforts with a palm oil producer in Indonesia to raise sustainability standards, and the Edinburgh-based Global Equity team's involvement in keeping clear of conflict minerals.

To access Nikko AM's latest report, please visit the FRC's website.

https://media.frc.org.uk/documents/Nikko_Global_Stewardship_Report_2024.pdf

About Nikko Asset Management

With US\$240.1 billion* under management, Nikko Asset Management is one of Asia's largest asset managers, providing high-conviction, active fund management across a range of equity, fixed income, multi-asset and alternative strategies. In addition, its complementary range of passive strategies covers more than 20 indices and includes some of Asia's leading exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Headquartered in Asia since 1959, Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries employ personnel representing around 30 nationalities, including approximately 200 investment professionals**. The firm has a presence through subsidiaries or affiliates in a total of 11 countries and regions. More than 400 banks, brokers, financial advisors and life insurance companies around the world distribute the firm's products.

The investment teams benefit from a unique global perspective complemented by the firm's historic Asian DNA, striving to deliver consistent excellence in performance. The firm also prides itself on its progressive, solution-driven approach, which has led to many innovative funds launched for its clients.

For more information about Nikko Asset Management and to access its investment insights, please visit the firm's [homepage](#).

* Consolidated assets under management and sub-advisory of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 31 March 2024.

** Including employees of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 31 March 2024.

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