

PRESS RELEASE

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NIKKO ASSET MANAGEMENT CO., LTD.

Nikko AM commits to Women's Empowerment Principles

Creates new Diversity Advocate role, to further bolster diversity and inclusion

Nikko Asset Management ("Nikko AM") today announces that it has signed a statement of support for the [Women's Empowerment Principles](#) (WEPs). Produced and disseminated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Global Compact, the Principles present seven steps that business and other sectors can take to advance and empower women.

As one aspect of its efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive workforce, Nikko AM's support for WEPs aims to deepen employee understanding of and respect for diversity and thereby nurture innovative approaches to meet its clients' needs. Nikko AM aims to foster employee commitment to the following WEPs principles, and report progress:

- [Principle 1: Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality](#)
- [Principle 2: Treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination](#)
- [Principle 3: Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers](#)
- [Principle 4: Promote education, training and professional development for women](#)
- [Principle 5: Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women](#)
- [Principle 6: Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy](#)
- [Principle 7: Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality](#)

Junichi Sayato, Executive Deputy President of Nikko AM, said, "We signed because nurturing a diverse workforce is essential to our business, to effectively serve our clients. Diversity is indeed one of our Firm's core values, as identified by employees through a bottom up assessment and fully supported by management. The empowerment of women is a core aspect of this commitment, and we look forward to working with WEPs to realize it."

At the same time, Nikko AM has appointed Global Head of Product & Marketing Stefanie Drews to the newly created role of Diversity Advocate, with oversight for ensuring inclusion and transparency in all aspects of diversity in its workforce. Stefanie represents twenty years of financial services experience spanning London and Tokyo, and as a woman in an industry known for a lack of diversity particularly at senior levels, understands the challenges faced.

Stefanie said, "Operating across nine countries, Nikko AM employees represent thirty nationalities and it is this diversity that allows us to pursue our mission to provide sustainable progressive solutions to our clients. I look forward to facilitating and contributing to this important effort."

– ENDS –

About Nikko Asset Management

With US\$211.5 billion (23.83 trillion yen)* 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 largest exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Headquartered in Asia since 1959, the firm represents nearly 200** investment professionals and over 30 nationalities across 9 countries. More than 300 banks, brokers, financial advisors and life insurance companies around the world distribute the company'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 December 2017.

** As of 31 December 2017, including employees of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries.

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