

PRESS RELEASE

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NIKKO ASSET MANAGEMENT CO., LTD.

Nikko AM Wins Three Categories in the AsianInvestor Asset Management Awards 2024

Asset Class Award – Japan Equity Category
Market Award - Japan
Individual Award – Rising Star, Natalia Rajewska

Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. (Nikko AM) was chosen as the winner in three categories of AsianInvestor's Asset Management Awards 2024. The collection of an Asset Class Award, recognising investment management capability, a Market Award for achievements as a fund house, and an Individual Award demonstrate the firm's well-rounded set of cross-functional expertise. The awards are bestowed by AsianInvestor, one of the region's leading industry publications about the asset management industry. All awards are based on the period 1 January to 31 December 2023.

On 28 March, Nikko AM received the Asset Class Award in the Japan Equity category, for the Japan Dividend Equity Strategy^{1,2}. AsianInvestor decides Asset Class Awards based on quantitative factors including performance, AUM growth and Sharpe Ratio, as well as qualitatively how the portfolio was managed during the period.

Japan Dividend Equity Strategy Portfolio Manager Toshinori Kobayashi commented, "I am honoured that AsianInvestor has selected us. As a global firm headquartered in Japan built on Asian DNA, Japan equity is our flagship asset class. Encouraged by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, many Japanese companies are carrying out governance reforms. This award lets us stand out for our active approach based on bottom-up research, a concentrated portfolio and strong downside protection, while generating attractive and sustainable dividend returns."

Nikko AM followed this by taking home the Market Award for Japan on 2 April. Market Awards recognise a fund house in an individual geographic market based on business growth, attaining and retaining new clients (with a focus on institutional investors), and innovation for clients. During the period, Nikko AM entered into a strategic partnership with Osmosis Investment Management, a UK-based sustainable investment manager specialising in a resource efficient strategy. The partnership quickly led to a mandate with a major Japanese pension fund. Nikko AM won a number of Japanese public and private pension mandates for other strategies, and held various events for Japanese institutional investors. Meanwhile, Nikko AM President Stefanie Drews spoke at asset management industry events in New York, Singapore and Monaco to advocate for investing in Japan. Domestically, the firm also launched innovative and unique products compatible with Japanese government's new NISA savings scheme for retail investors.

Drews remarked, "We are delighted that AsianInvestor has chosen us for the prestigious the Market Award for Japan. I am so proud of our Japan institutional business, as well as the product, client service and all our other colleagues who helped meet clients' evolving needs for innovative investment solutions as we grow the business."

¹ The strategy is not available as a UCITS fund.

² TOPIX Total Return Index is used as a reference benchmark.

On 5 April, AsianInvestor announced that Nikko AM Global Head of Sustainable Investment Natalia Rajewska won the Individual Award as the “Rising Star”. Individual Awards are selected exclusively by third parties in the industry. Rising Stars are defined as those who achieved exceptional performance, while having no more than 10 years of work experience. During the award period, Rajewska has developed Nikko AM’s inaugural Global Sustainable Investment Team, bringing together existing members and expanding capabilities by adding seasoned ESG professionals across regions. Under her leadership, the team is developing solutions in areas such as ESG integration, stewardship, data analytics and regulations - unique dedicated expertise among asset managers headquartered in Asia. This includes product development, for example the expansion of the firm’s global green bond capability, but also firm-wide efforts such as enhancing its climate change risk approach.

She also led Nikko AM’s successful efforts to become, and remain, one of the few firms in Asia to be recognised as a global signatory of the UK Stewardship Code, seen as a world-class standard of stewardship. Rajewska also drove efforts to set an interim target as a member of the Net Zero Asset Manager Initiative, and to join Nature Action 100, a group of institutional investors engaging with 100 companies to reverse nature and biodiversity loss by 2030. She also contributes to the advancement of the sustainable investment ecosystem through engaging with the industry, speaking at events and roundtables.

Rajewska commented, “We are at an important juncture in ESG, not just at Nikko AM, but also for the industry. We have an opportunity to make a discernible difference, lead with integrity, partner with like-minded organisations and further enhance our solutions. This award fuels my commitment to push boundaries in the pursuit of tangible impact and is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our firm to be at the forefront of sustainable investment.”

Past performance of the managers or funds is not necessarily indicative of its future performance.

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About Nikko Asset Management

With US\$228.6 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 December 2023.

** Including employees of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 31 December 2023.

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