

May 11, 2015

Press Release

Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd.

Nikko Asset Management wins Japan's Fund House of the Year

AsianInvestor has named Nikko Asset Management Japan's Fund House of the Year based on the company's ability to generate positive returns for its investors amid Japan's ultra-low monetary policy and corporate Japan's focus on deploying the vast amount of assets on its balance sheet.



"As the government encouraged companies to more efficiently manage their capital, we correctly read the market trend toward rewarding companies who have large amounts of cash to invest," said Hiroki Tsujimura, CIO Japan at the Tokyo-based firm. "I am proud that we've been honored with this award for five years in a row, we captured the structural changes of the Japanese economy and market, which has allowed us to generate consistent alpha for our clients."

AsianInvestor also recognized Nikko Asset Management's success in growing assets to a record high for the company, as well as introducing innovative new products such as passively managed equity funds and ETFs. The firm's assets under management (AUM) grew by more than nine percent to a record high of 18.64 trillion yen by the end of 2014. Its ETF assets also jumped 13 percent to 2.1 trillion yen last year.

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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

Nikko Asset Management is a leader in the Asian financial services industry, with 18.64 trillion yen in assets under management as of December 31, 2014. Established in 1959, the firm has representation across 26 locations in 12 countries and enjoys one of the largest distributor networks in the region, serving both retail and institutional clients. More than 300 banks, brokers, financial advisors and life insurance companies distribute the company's products.

Nikko Asset Management manages a wide range of equity and fixed income strategies in both active and passive formats, leveraging the talents of over 290 investment professionals. In 2014 alone, Nikko Asset Management won awards for excellence in asset management from Lipper, Mercer, AsianInvestor, R&I, among others.

The company's management team is highly diverse and experienced, and is committed to running the company according to international best practices. Nikko Asset Management's independence from the limitations imposed on many captive asset management companies allows it to focus on the interests of clients. At the same time, the company enjoys a stable base of shareholders, with majority ownership held by Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings and a strategic stake by DBS Bank.

For more information, please visit <http://en.nikkoam.com/>

* Consolidated assets under management and sub-advisory of Nikko AM and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014.

** Represents the 26 locations of Nikko Asset Management and its overseas subsidiaries and affiliates (including minority joint ventures) across 12 countries.