

NIKKO ASSET MANAGEMENT CO., LTD.

Nikko Asset Management Measures in Response to Latest Declaration of State of Emergency in Japan

Nikko Asset Management (Nikko AM) is carrying out the following measures to ensure business continuity, following the Japanese government's decision to declare a state of emergency on 23 April regarding Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo prefectures.

Nikko AM had already made the necessary preparations in order to ensure uninterrupted investment management and other services. This included decentralising various functions between our business continuity planning sites and giving all employees the tools to work from home, protected by the same information security they have in the office. Even before the first declaration, many employees had already shifted to working from home, and the transition was seamless.

In response to the declaration, to preserve the operations of financial markets as a key component of societal infrastructure, as well as Nikko AM's role as a fiduciary, we are reaffirming the request to all employees to continue work from home, with the exception of the absolute minimum number of staff whose roles require them to be in the office. Each team has demonstrated they are prepared and capable of providing as usual all the necessary capabilities for investment management, including calculating net asset value. Furthermore, the assets invested that make up the investment trusts are managed separately from other assets at each respective custodial bank, in accordance with all related regulations.

Nikko AM adheres to the state of emergency, and is making every effort to minimise the spread of the coronavirus and its impact on the health and safety of our customers and stakeholders, employees and their families, while preserving the same level of high-quality service.

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About Nikko Asset Management

With US\$284.4 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, the firm employs approximately 200** investment professionals, representing approximately 30 nationalities across 11 countries. More than 400 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 <u>homepage</u>.

* Consolidated assets under management and sub-advisory of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 31 December 2020.

** As of 31 December 2020, including employees of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries.

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