

Nikko AM establishes *World Cruise* monthly dividend fund

~ *Assets allocated according to the relative weight of each economy* ~

Tokyo, March 3, 2008 – Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. (Nikko AM) (Timothy F. McCarthy, Chairman and CEO) today announced the March 31 launch of an open-ended monthly dividend investment trust focused on global equity and bonds across Japan and both developed and emerging economies, called *World Cruise*. Subscription for the fund will begin March 3 at branches of JA Bank nationwide¹

World Cruise divides the expanding global economy into three distinct areas encompassing Japan and both developed and emerging economies², and allocates assets in accordance with the economic scale of each area. The ratio for asset allocation will be determined by Nikko AM according to the gross domestic product (GDP) of each area, based in reports by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). By allocating assets according to the degree of economic growth in each area, the fund aims to realize long-term asset growth matched to the pace of expansion of the overall global economy.

Asset allocation for *World Cruise* is also divided evenly between equities and bonds, allowing effective asset distribution for both geographic area and asset type. The initial regional asset distribution ratio will be 8% for Japan, 64% for other developed economies and 28% for emerging economies. Individual countries targeted for investment, in addition to Japan, include 22 developed economies and 26 emerging economies, for a total of 49 countries and areas³. Asset allocation will be reviewed twice annually and take place once annually to reflect changes in scale.

The fund aims to offer a stable monthly dividend to serve as a source of income earnings. A bonus capital earnings payment is also planned, to be paid four times annually (in March, June, September and December).

Nikko AM has always emphasized the importance of diversifying investment worldwide. As part of this, Nikko AM suggests an approach where money is managed through three different concepts, or so-called "pockets." The Savings pocket focuses on stability and liquidity, the Asset-building pocket concentrates on long-term growth and the Trading pocket aims to provide investors with high risk, high return opportunities to invest surplus assets. The *World Cruise* fund will be included in the Asset Building Pocket.

Nikko AM will continue to develop products to help investors grow and build their assets.

Start of subscription: March 3 (Monday)

Fund establishment: March 31 (Monday)

Note: Please note that you cannot purchase any products mentioned in this press release if you are not a Japanese resident or if you hold nationality of a country where there are legal restrictions on their ownership. The information referred to in this press release is for Japanese residents only. The information provided is designed for use by Japanese residents only and should not be relied on by residents of any other jurisdiction.

¹ This fund will be managed by JA Bank (an authorized financial institution), which will offer it through both its head office and regional branches. JA Bank will manage this fund based on a commission handling agreement for security backed trust beneficiary certificates established with Norinchukin Bank.

² This fund defines developed economies as those designated by the IMF as developed, excluding Japan. Emerging economies are defined as those outside the developed economy categorization, excluding Japan.

³ Ratios are as of January 2008. The actual ratio may differ according to net asset balance and economic conditions.

-Nikko Global Equity Bond Fund

■Purchase Memo

Product Type	Open-ended securities Investment Trust /Balanced Type) /Automatic Distribution Reinvestment Plan	
Purchase Unit	Please contact your distributor or the fund manager for the investment unit.	
Purchase Price	Initial application period: 1 yen per unit Subsequent application period: NAV as of the business day following that of application	
Purchase Day	Initial application period: From Mar. 3 to Mar. 28, 2008 Subscription also possible after initial application period	
Non-Purchase Day	Applications will not be accepted on holidays for the New York Stock Exchange, and banks in New York. For more information, please contact your distributor.	
Trust Period	Until Dec. 25, 2018 (date of trust subscription: Mar. 31, 2008)	
Closing Date	The 25th day of each month (or the following business day if the 25th day falls on a holiday)	
Dividend Distribution	<p>On every closing date after Jun.2008, the fund manager will determine the dividend distribution amount, aiming, in principle, to provide steady dividends without interruption. Further, on the closing dates after Jun.2008, of March, June, September and December every year, the fund manager may choose to include in the dividend distribution a certain amount to be decided by the fund manager in consideration of such factors as the level of NAV, etc., in addition to the amount sufficient to provide the steady dividends mentioned above.</p> <p>The fund manager will determine the dividend distribution amount based on the dividend distribution policy; provided however, that the fund manager may from time to time decide to withhold the distribution based on its own judgment.</p>	
Redemption Price	NAV as of the business day immediately following the date of application for redemption, less the exit charge.	
Non-Redemption Date	Applications for redemption will not be accepted on holidays for the New York Stock Exchange, and banks in New York. For more information, please contact your distributor.	
Payment of Redemption Proceeds	In principle, the five business days from the date of application for redemption (or thereafter)	
Outline of Fees, etc.	The following fees and expenses are charged to investors	
	<Fees charged at the time of purchase and application for redemption (cancellation)>	
Purchase Application Fees	The application fee will be determined by each distributor within the maximum rate of 3.15% (3.0% excluding tax) * No application fee will be charged with respect to the units to be acquired by reinvestment of profit distribution for the Dividend Reinvestment Course.	
Redemption (Cancellation) Fees	Not applicable	
Exit Charge	0.2% times the NAV as of the business day immediately following the date of application for redemption (per unit)	
	<Fees and expenses charged indirectly as charges to trust assets (i.e. paid from the fund)>	
Trust Fees	1.1025% p.a. (1.05% excluding tax) times the total net trust asset balance In addition to the above, in cases when securities are lent, the amount calculated as 0.525 (0.5 excluding tax) times the lending fee on the securities lent.	
Other expenses	Other expenses may include brokerage commission with respect to securities included in the portfolio, audit fees, interest on borrowing and advances, etc.	
	* The rate or maximum amounts applicable to other fees and expenses cannot be indicated in advance because the actual amount will vary depending on the state of the assets managed. The total amount of fees charged to the Fund will vary depending on the length of investment period and other factors. Therefore, we cannot give a specific total. For more detail, please refer to the investment trust explanatory document (prospectus distributed in advance of application)	

■ Risk Information

This fund, including the mother fund, invests primarily in securities that experience price movements, such as equities (securities denominated in a foreign currency are also exposed to foreign exchange risk), and NAV will fluctuate as a result. The price of equities in emerging countries, which are also to be targeted for investment, tend towards volatility as compared to equities in advanced countries. Consequently, price fluctuations for these stocks may have significant impact on NAV. Therefore, it is possible for the NAV to fall below the amount of the initially invested principal.

Also, please be advised that this fund is exposed to risks including price fluctuation risk, liquidity risk, credit risk, foreign currency risk and country risk.

■ Other matters to consider

- These materials were produced for the sole purpose of providing information the services, etc. offered by Nikko Asset Management.
- Unlike bank deposits or insurance policies, investment trusts are not protected by the Deposit Insurance Corporation or the insurance policy holders protection corporations. Nor are investment trusts protected by investor protection funds when purchased at banks or other registered financial institutions.
- Profits and losses made by the management of investment trusts all belong to the beneficiaries. The distributor will provide you with a prospectus either before or when you submit your application to this Fund, so please make the decision to invest carefully after taking the time to read the contents in detail.

About Nikko Asset Management and “Nikko AM”

Registration Number: Director of the Kanto Local Finance Bureau (Financial instruments firms) No.368
Member Associations: The Investment Trusts Association
Japan Securities Investment Advisers Association

Nikko AM is a leading asset management group headquartered in Japan. Established over 45 years ago, Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. (“Nikko AM Tokyo”) has been offering investors a full array of investment management products and advisory services. Its investment trusts are distributed through a network of approximately 200 partner securities companies and banks. The firm offers investors access to both Nikko AM's funds that invest mainly in Japanese equities, fixed income, and REITs and, through its third-party sub-advisory platform, “World Series” access to a global range of top-performing, independent asset managers over a diverse range of asset classes.

Nikko AM International Inc., our overseas office located in New York, provides a wide range of products, under In-house management such as Global bond, and sub-advisory management, capitalizing on the excellent performance of external asset management firms.

In February 2005, Nikko AM's expertise in asset management was recognized when Nikko AM Tokyo received the Lipper Award for Best Fund Group, based on its outstanding performance in three asset class categories: equity funds, fixed income funds and mixed asset funds. In April 2006, Nikko AM won Asian Investor's Achievement Award in Japan Equity in the five year risk-adjusted performance category and won again in 2007, this time in the ten year risk-adjusted performance category.

Additionally, Nikko Alternative Asset Management, Inc. (“NAAM”), a Nikko AM company, provides alternative investments expertise and solutions to investors. NAAM provides investors access to internally developed products, as well as to external, individual hedge funds and fund of hedge funds, through its “AlphaPlus” line of products. NAAM's alternative investments experience spans over a decade.

Nikko AM has assets totaling ¥12.8 trillion under management, at the end of December, 2007.² It offers approximately 230 public investment trusts, ranging from basic to innovative, to meet the diversified needs of retail and institutional investors. Nikko AM¹ employs over 550 people in Tokyo, New York, London and Singapore.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.nikkoam.com/english/>

Note 1: “Nikko AM” stands for Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. and its group companies.

Note 2: Consolidated Nikko AM Tokyo and its overseas subsidiaries' assets under management (includes advised assets).