

Asset Value Investors Appoints Nicola Takada Wood to lead expansion of AVI's Japanese active engagement strategies

London, 25 September 2024 - Asset Value Investors (AVI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicola Takada Wood as Head of Japan. Nicola joins from Redwheel, where she played a key role in developing its Japanese engagement strategy. With over 20 years of experience, Nicola brings deep expertise across equities, engagement and corporate culture in Japan.

Her diverse background, having a career spanning Japan and the UK, along with her bilingual abilities, will provide a valuable perspective at AVI, furthering the firm's commitment to maximising value for its investors through a thorough understanding of local markets.

Nicola will be a vital part of AVI's six-member Japan investment team, led by Joe Bauernfreund, Chief Investment Officer. Nicola will work closely with Joe and Kaz Sakai, Head of Japan Research, to advance AVI's focus on active engagement with small and mid-cap Japanese companies.

AVI continues to invest in its engagement-focused Japanese equities business, which was launched in 2018, outperforming the MSCI Japan Small Cap Index by 37% since inception (returns net of fees, GBP).

AVI currently manages £240m through the flagship AVI Japan Opportunity Trust Plc ("AJOT") and the recently launched UCITS, AVI Japanese Special Situations Fund ("AJSS"). Nicola will be closely involved with both products.

Joe Bauernfreund, Chief Investment Officer at AVI, commented on the appointment, saying, "This is an exciting time for AVI as the level of active engagement in Japan has continued to grow. Japan is changing and we see a highly attractive landscape, with cheap valuations and the continued march of corporate reform. I look forward to working with Nicola, a seasoned investment professional. Her deep experience in Japanese equities and commitment to engaging with companies to unlock value align perfectly with AVI's investment philosophy."

In April this year, AVI launched the AVI Japanese Special Situations fund to allow investors to access AVI's unique strategy in Japan through a UCITs. The hire of Nicola and the launch of the UCITs confirms AVI's commitment to investing in Japan.

Nicola Takada Wood added, "I am excited to join AVI at such a pivotal time for the firm's expansion in Japan. I look forward to working with Joe and the talented team of individuals to identify and engage with undervalued opportunities in the Japanese market, continuing AVI's tradition of active, value-driven investment."

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Notes to Editors

About Asset Value Investors (AVI)

AVI was established in 1985 to manage the assets of one of the oldest listed investment companies in London. Our distinctive approach of investing in family-controlled holding companies, closed-end funds, and asset back situations is still a unique combination nearly 40 years later. In 2024, AVI launched two UCITs strategies further enabling investors to access AVI's investment strategies.

Today AVI manages over £1.4bn across all its products.