

The following is an English version of the official Japanese announcement, which has been given to the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the media in Tokyo, Japan.



April 28, 2026

For Immediate Release

SPARX Group Co., Ltd.
President and Group CEO Shuhei Abe
(Code: 8739, TSE Prime Market)

SPARX Asset Management Recognized at the “R&I Fund Award 2026”

TOKYO—April 28, 2026—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; Prime:8739) has announced that the following funds managed by its subsidiary SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd. (President & CEO: Shuhei Abe), have been named winners of the “R&I Fund Award 2026,” presented by Rating and Investment Information, Inc..

R&I Fund Award 2026

Investment Trusts / Asia Equity Multi-country Fund Category

The First Prize

SPARX Japan Asia Focus Strategy (“Japan-Asia Gensentoshi”)



R&I Fund Award 2026

Investment Trusts 10-Year / Japanese Equity Core Fund Category

The Second Prize

SPARX New Global Blue Chip Japanese Equity Fund (“Gensentoshi”)

R&I Fund Award 2026

Investment Trusts 10-Year / Japanese Mid and Small Caps Equity Fund Category

The Second Prize

SPARX Premium Japanese Micro-cap Equity Fund (“Kachihakkutsu”)

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R&I Fund Award 2026

Investment Trusts 10-Year / Japanese Mid and Small Caps Equity Fund Category

The Second Prize

SPARX M&S JAPAN FUND ("Hanasaku Chukogata")

Tetsuya Hirano, Head of Investment and Research, commented;

We are honored that multiple funds managed by our firm have been recognized at the "R&I Fund Award 2026." We believe that receiving awards across funds targeting different market capitalization segments - large-cap, mid- and small-cap, and micro-cap - demonstrates the effectiveness of our investment philosophy and disciplined investment process.

Since our founding, SPARX Asset Management has adhered to a consistent investment philosophy: "Macro is the Aggregate of Micro." Based on the belief that broader economic trends are ultimately shaped by the accumulation of individual corporate decisions, we place strong emphasis on bottom-up research, engaging deeply with each company we invest in. As a result, we conduct over 3,400 research activities annually (CY2025), reflecting our commitment to rigorous, on-the-ground research. We believe this approach is the foundation for identifying intrinsic value and generating sustainable long-term excess returns.

Amid heightened uncertainty in the investment environment, driven by geopolitical risks, interest rate trends, and rapid technological advancements, we believe it is precisely in such times that a disciplined investment approach is most critical. By maintaining a long-term perspective and focusing on the fundamental value of companies, rather than being swayed by short-term market fluctuations, we aim to deliver stable and sustainable investment performance.

SPARX Asset Management will continue to uphold its commitment to bottom-up research and fundamentals-driven investing, and remain dedicated to supporting our clients' long-term asset building.

The R&I Fund Award is presented to provide reference information based on the past data R&I believes to be reliable (however, its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed by R&I) and is not intended to recommend the purchase, sale or holding of particular products or guarantee their future performance. The Award is not the Credit Rating Business, but one of the Other Lines of Business (businesses excluding Credit Rating Business and also excluding the Ancillary Businesses) as set forth in Article 299, paragraph (1), item (xxviii) of the Cabinet Office Ordinance on Financial Instruments Business, etc. With respect to such business, relevant laws and regulations require measures to be implemented so that activities pertaining to such business would not unreasonably affect the Credit Rating Activities. Intellectual property rights including copyright and all other rights in this Award are the sole property of R&I, and any unauthorized copying, reproduction and so forth are prohibited.

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