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

January 31, 2018

Company: SPARX Group Co., Ltd.
(JASDAQ Standard Code: 8739)

Morningstar Awards "Fund of the Year 2017" SPARX Wins Best Fund of the Year in the Domestic Stock/Alternative Fund Division

Winning its first award on its 20th anniversary of managing funds with long and short positions,

SPARX has won the Best Fund Award for four consecutive years.

Tokyo (January 31, 2018) – SPARX Group today announced that its subsidiary SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd., has won the Best Fund Award in the alternatives category of the Morningstar Awards' "Fund of the Year 2017." The winning fund is the Investment Trust: SPARX JAPANESE EQUITY LONG SHORT EQUITY FUND, nicknamed "Best Alpha." SPARX has won the Best Fund Award of Morningstar, albeit in distinct categories, for four consecutive years.

"Best Alpha" is an investment trust that aims to generate stable returns, while buying (longing) growth expected stocks and selling (shorting) over estimated stocks mainly on credit to reduce the influence of stock markets. SPARX, having started managing long/short portfolios for Japanese stocks nearly 20 years ago, is one of the oldest management firms that invest in Japanese alternatives.

Encouraged further by this prize, SPARX remains dedicated to improve our investment capabilities, product offerings and client service activities, such that more and more investors come to recognize SPARX as a leading Japanese and Asian Equity investment manager.

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Reference:

Best Fund of the Year 2017
Alternative Fund Division
(total: 126 funds)

SPARX JAPANESE EQUITY LONG SHORT FUND ("Best Alpha")

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

References to any specific securities do not constitute an offer to buy or sell securities. Those awarded funds based upon the past performance cannot guarantee their future performance. Data or statements are obtained from sources Morningstar Japan K.K believed to be reliable but are not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness.

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Taking every factor into consideration, Morningstar Japan K.K. has selected funds for Morningstar Award “Fund of the Year 2017” in each divisions from open-end mutual fund based upon its unique quantitative and qualitative analysis. Awarded funds in the Alternative Fund Division have been selected from 126 funds at the end of December 2017.

No further entry