

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABERDEEN JAPAN EQUITY FUND, INC. ANNOUNCES PAYMENT OF DISTRIBUTION

(Philadelphia, January 11, 2017) –[Aberdeen Japan Equity Fund, Inc. \(NYSE: JEQ\)](#) (the “Fund”), a closed-end equity fund, today announced that it paid on January 11, 2017, a distribution of US\$0.3161 per share to all stockholders of record as of December 30, 2016.

Under U.S. tax rules applicable to the Fund, the amount and character of distributable income for each fiscal year can be finally determined only as of the end of the Fund’s fiscal year. However, under Section 19 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) and related Rules, the Fund may be required to indicate to stockholders the source of certain distributions to shareholders.

The following table sets forth the estimated amounts of the sources of the distribution for purposes of Section 19 of the 1940 Act and the Rules adopted thereunder. The table has been computed based on generally accepted accounting principles. The table includes estimated amounts and percentages for this distribution and for the cumulative distributions paid relating to fiscal year to date (11/01/2016 – 12/31/2016), from the following sources: net investment income; net realized short-term capital gains; net realized long-term capital gains; and return of capital.

	Estimated Amounts of Current Distribution per share (\$)	Estimated Amounts of Current Distribution per share (%)	Estimated Amounts of Fiscal Year to Date Cumulative Distributions per share (\$)	Estimated Amounts of Fiscal Year to Date Cumulative Distributions per share (%)
Net Investment Income	\$0.0890	28%	\$0.0890	28%
Net Realized Short-Term Capital Gains*	-	-	-	-
Net Realized Long-Term Capital Gains	\$0.2271	72%	\$0.2271	72%
Return of Capital	-	-	-	-
Total (per common share)	\$0.3161	100%	\$0.3161	100%

*includes currency gains



The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this notice are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The final determination of the source of all distributions in 2016 will be made after year-end. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the Fund's investment experience during the remainder of the fiscal year and may be subject to change based on tax regulations. The Fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.

Circular 230 disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the U.S. Treasury, we inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

Closed-end funds are traded on the secondary market through one of the stock exchanges. The Fund's investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares may be worth more or less than the original cost. Shares of closed-end funds may trade above (a premium) or below (a discount) the net asset value (NAV) of the fund's portfolio. There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

If you wish to receive this information electronically, please contact InvestorRelations@aberdeen-asset.com

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