

COMMENCEMENT OF INDONESIAN DRILLING PROGRAM

CALGARY, ALBERTA (Marketwire – April 2, 2012) – Niko Resources Ltd. (“Niko”) (TSX: NKO) is pleased to announce commencement of its exploration drilling program in Indonesia and participation in the company’s twenty-first block in the country.

Niko will partner with Zaratex N.V. in the 5908km² Lhokseumawe PSC in western Indonesia. The block is located directly adjacent to the giant Arun field (>3.1BBOE) and associated LNG plant. A 3865km² 3D program was acquired on the block and a number of high impact prospects were subsequently identified. Drilling is to commence in the shallow water portion of the block in April with two wells. The Candralila-1 and Ratnadewi-1 prospects will be drilled back to back and if successful will be monetized relatively quickly by accessing the existing extensive local infrastructure.

Niko's deep water rig, the Diamond Ocean Monarch, is scheduled to arrive in Lhokseumawe in September to drill the Jayarani-1 well. This will be the first well in Niko’s planned program of more than 25 deep water wells in Indonesia.

In addition, in the North Ganai PSC in which Niko is a participant, operator Eni will be using the Transocean Seven Seas to drill the Lebah-1 well in the second half of 2012. The Lebah prospect will test the extension of the Jangkrik and Jangkrik-NE discovery trend (>400MMBOE of reserves to date). Eni has already filed a POD for the development of these discoveries and first production is expected in 2015.

TRINIDAD

In Trinidad, drilling in both the offshore Block 2ab Shadow prospect and the onshore Central Range Tigre prospect are to commence in June. Shadow is targeting up to 150 million barrels of oil and 1 TCF of gas. Tigre is targeting oil with over 100 million barrels of exploration potential.

INDIA

In India, the D6 block Integrated Development Plan for commercialization of approximately 3 TCF of additional discovered gas will be submitted to the government by October, 2012. It is expected to add approximately 1 BCF/day of additional new production.

Although domestic gas pricing has remained a major impediment to capital investment in India, Niko looks forward to the positive statements the government has recently made as to a resolution of this issue.

April 2, 2012

For further information, please contact:

Niko Resources Ltd. (403) 262-1020, Edward S. Sampson, Chairman of the Board, President & CEO or Murray Hesje, VP Finance & CFO or visit the Company's website at www.nikoresources.com.

Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking statements. Specifically, this press release contains forward-looking statements relating to management’s approach to operations, estimates of future sales, production and deliveries, business plans for drilling and development, estimated

amounts and timing of capital expenditures, anticipated operating costs, royalty rates, cash flows, transportation plans and capacity, anticipated access to infrastructure or other expectations, beliefs, plans, goals, objectives, assumptions and statements about future events or performance. The reader is cautioned that the assumptions used in the preparation of such information, although considered reasonable by Niko at the time of preparation, may prove to be incorrect. Actual results achieved during the forecast period will vary from the information provided herein as a result of numerous known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market and business conditions; industry capacity; competitive action by other companies; fluctuations in oil and gas prices; the results of exploration and development drilling and related activities; the uncertainty of estimates and projections relating to productions, costs and expenses; uncertainties as to the availability and cost of financing; fluctuations in currency exchange rates; the imprecision in reserve estimates; risks associated with oil and gas operations, such as operational risks in exploring for, developing and producing crude oil and natural gas; risks and uncertainties involving geology of oil and gas deposits; the weather in the Company's area of operations; the ability of suppliers to meet commitments; changes in environmental and other regulations; actions by governmental authorities including changes in laws and increases in taxes; decisions or approvals of administrative tribunals; risks in conducting foreign operations (for example, political and fiscal instability or the possibility of civil unrest or military action in countries such as India and Bangladesh); the effect of acts of, or actions against international terrorism; and other factors, many of which are beyond the control of Niko. There is no representation by Niko that the actual results achieved during the forecast period will be the same in whole or in part as those forecast.