

New JOFIEA Head Visits ASA-IM Japan

Japan Country Director Brabant welcomed incoming Japan Oil & Fat Importers & Exporters Association Executive Director Kiyozumi FUKAO to the ASA-IM Japan Office in Tokyo recently. JOFIEA is comprised of 16 trading companies of which with 15 trade soybeans including: Cargill Japan, Dah Chong Hong (Japan), Marubeni, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sojitsu, Sumitomo, Taiyo Bussan Kaishi, Toyo Bussan Kaisha, Unicoop Japan, Yuasa Trading, and Vox Trading. Mr. Fukao succeeds outgoing Executive Director Sawanobori who will retire October 22, 2009 after serving for 6 years as the Executive Director of JOFIEA.

Fukao is no stranger to soybeans as he previously served as General Manager of Marubeni and prior to that lived in New York 1978-82 and worked as a trader for Marubeni. After leaving Marubeni Fukao worked for Nikko Oil Mills, an affiliated Marubeni company that merged with Nisshin OilliO in 2004 and just prior to joining JOFIEA worked for the Toyo Sugar Refining Co. which is also a Marubeni affiliate.

Brabant expressed his delight in continuing and exploring ways that the two organizations can work together. The first such opportunity will be this year's 2009 Quality Conference in November. In addition, ASA-IM Japan thanked Mr. Sawanobori for his support and friendship.