

Tokyo Futures Down on Stop-Loss Selling, Yen Eyed

Tokyo rubber futures slipped on stop-loss selling as players liquidated contracts to avoid risks and waited for a clear direction from the meeting of Group of 20 nations. The benchmark rubber contract on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange for July delivery dropped 1.1 yen to settle at 331.0 yen (\$3.54) per kg. Last week, a fall in the yen against the U.S. dollar helped the contract rise to 337.8 yen, the highest for any benchmark since late March 2012. "TOCOM prices lacked the momentum to break above 335 and that spurred stop losses. They waited to see how the yen could perform before taking any position," said a Bangkok-based dealer. The yen was steadier on Thursday (Feb 14), staying around 93.58 per dollar, with investors looking ahead to a meeting of Group of 20 nations in the coming days for signals on how long the yen's weak trend might last. Dealers said TOCOM prices were expected to move in a narrow range of 300-350 yen as the market was not very active because Chinese players were still on a week-long Lunar New Year holiday. The front-month March rubber contract on Singapore's SICOM exchange was last traded at 311.0 U.S. cents per kg. Reuters