

Tokyo rubber futures fall 1 pct as yen steadies (Feb. 19)

TOKYO, Feb 19 (Reuters) – Key TOCOM rubber futures fell 1 percent on Tuesday, approaching a two-week low and reversing gains from a day earlier after the yen steadied against the dollar.

FUNDAMENTALS* The key Tokyo Commodity Exchange rubber contract for July delivery `<0#2JRU:>` was trading 3.9 yen lower at 320.3 yen as of 0046 GMT. It settled up 2.8 yen a day earlier on the back of a weaker yen and the strength in the Nikkei stock market. The benchmark contract fell as low as 320.4 yen, edging towards a two-week low of 320.0 hit on Friday.* Tokyo futures, which set the tone for tyre grade prices in Southeast Asia, had rallied to their highest in 10 months around 337 yen this month, supported by a weaker Japanese currency.

MARKET NEWS* U.S. markets were closed on Monday for a national holiday.* The yen stood little changed on Tuesday from a day earlier, holding near a 33-month low against the dollar.* Brent crude oil consolidated below \$118 per barrel on Monday, underpinned by expectations of improving global growth and continuing tensions in the Middle East.* Japan's Nikkei share average edged downwards at Tuesday's open as investors awaited the appointment of a new Bank of Japan governor and eyed risks in the euro zone.

DATA EVENTS* The following data is expected on Tuesday: (Time in GMT)- 1000 Germany ZEW economic sentiment- 1500 U.S. NAHB housing market index (Reporting by Osamu Tsukimori; Editing by Ed Davies)