Tokyo futures rebound from 2-day fall, Europe uncertainty caps gains (Sept 6)

TOKYO, Sept 6 (Reuters) – Key TOCOM rubber futures rose nearly 2 percent on Thursday, rebounding after falling 3.8 percent in the past two sessions, though gains could be capped as investors wait to see if the European Central Bank announces new measures to tackle the euro zone's debt crisis.   FUNDAMENTALS   * The key Tokyo Commodity Exchange rubber contract for February delivery was changing hands 3.7 yen higher at 222.8 yen as of 0040 GMT. It settled down 5.1 yen, or 2.4 percent, on Wednesday amid concerns of a global slowdown. Prices were also supported after the benchmark contract on Wednesday stayed above its Aug. 31 low of 216.4 yen, market sources said.   * The ECB is ready to waive seniority status on government bonds it buys under a new programme which it is set to agree at Thursday's Governing Council meeting, central bank sources told Reuters on Wednesday.   However, it is unlikely that the 17-country bloc's central bank will announce that the bond purchases would be unlimited or set even internal targets for yields or spending beforehand.   MARKET NEWS   * U.S. stocks ended little changed on Wednesday in thin trading, with investors reluctant to make big bets ahead of the crucial ECB meeting.   * The euro held firm in Asia on Thursday, having rallied sharply overnight.   * Brent crude prices fell on Wednesday, while U.S. crude inched up in seesaw trade as investors await central bank action in the face of slowing economic growth.   * Japan's Nikkei share average held steady on Thursday, with investors hugging the sidelines ahead of the ECB.   DATA EVENTS   * The following data is expected on Thursday: (Time in GMT) - 0900 Euro Zone GDP revised Q2 - 1000 Germany Industrial Orders July - 1100 U.K. BOE Bank Rate - 1130 U.S. Challenger layoffs August - 1145 ECB rate decision Sept - 1215 U.S. ADP National Employment August - 1230 U.S. Initial jobless claims - 1400 U.S. ISM N-Mfg PMI August - 1500 U.S. Energy Information Administration oil report (Reporting by Osamu Tsukimori; Editing by Joseph Radford)