

Tokyo futures fall to one-month low (April 5)

TOKYO, April 5 (Reuters) – Key TOCOM rubber futures fell to a one-month low early on Thursday after a poor Spanish debt auction and fading hopes of further U.S. monetary stimulus knocked shares, with some investors anticipating a further decline after the Chinese market reopens. **FUNDAMENTALS** * The key Tokyo Commodity Exchange rubber contract for September delivery was changing hands down 3.7 yen, or 1 percent, at 323.8 yen per kg as of 0030GMT. The benchmark contract fell as low as 322.1 yen, the lowest since March 7. * The Shanghai market will reopen at 0100GMT after a three-day holiday. * Ford Motor Co has raised its forecast for total 2012 U.S. auto sales after the industry’s solid first quarter, Ford President for the Americas Mark Fields said on Wednesday. **MARKET NEWS** * Japan’s benchmark Nikkei average opened down 0.84 percent at 9,737.50 on Thursday. * U.S. crude futures rose on Thursday after falling a second straight session, dropping more than 2 percent. **DATA EVENTS** * The following data is expected on Thursday: - 0330 China HSBC services PMI Mar - 1000 Germany Industrial output mm Feb 2012 - 1100 Britain BOE Bank Rate Apr 2012 - 1230 U.S. Jobless claims Weekly - 1430 U.S. EIA natural gas stocks Weekly (Reporting by Yuko Inoue; Editing by Sugita Katyal)