

Tokyo rubber futures slip as U.S. budget talks stall (Dec. 21)

TOKYO, Dec 21 (Reuters) – Key TOCOM rubber futures slipped on Friday, with worries over U.S. budget talks showing no signs of progress while Republican leaders pushed ahead with a plan that is unlikely to be agreed by President Barack Obama.

FUNDAMENTALS

* The key Tokyo Commodity Exchange rubber contract for June delivery [0#2JRU](#), which started trading on Friday, was quoted at 284.8 yen per kg at 0036 GMT.

* The more-active May contract, the previous benchmark, was down 0.8 yen, or 0.3 percent, at 282 yen, after falling as low as 281.6 yen.

* Republicans in the U.S. Congress pushed ahead on Thursday with a “fiscal cliff” plan that stands no chance of becoming law as time runs short to reach a deal with President Barack Obama to avert a Washington-induced economic recession.

MARKET NEWS

* The yen struggled near multi-month lows against the greenback and euro on Friday, on track to clinch the title of worst major performing currency of 2012 as the last full trading week of the year draws to a close.

* Japan’s benchmark Nikkei average opened up 1.06 percent at 10,145.58 on Friday, while the broader Topix gained 0.98 percent to 846.86.

* U.S. crude stayed above \$90 a barrel on Friday after five days of gains, though prices pulled back a touch on caution over U.S. budget talks as Republicans in the U.S. Congress pushed ahead with a plan that stands no chance of becoming law.

DATA EVENTS* The following data is expected on Wednesday: (Time in GMT)1330 U.S. Durable goods orders Weekly1930 U.S. CFTC commitment of traders data Weekly2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle on Feed Dec2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle Placed on Fd Nov2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle Marketed Nov2000 U.S. Cold Pork Belly Stocks Nov2000 U.S. Cold Storage-Beef Stocks Nov2000 U.S. Cold Storage- FCOJ Stock NovN/A Japan releases monthly economic report for Dec0930 UK current account and final GDP reading for Q31330 U.S. Personal income/spending for November1330 U.S. Durable goods for November1530 U.S. ECRI weekly (Reporting by Aaron Sheldrick; Editing by Ed Davies)