



## PRESS RELEASE

## Japan joins the International Coffee Organization

**London, 23 July 2015** — The Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), Mr Robério Oliveira Silva, announced today that Japan has completed membership procedures for the ICO under the International Coffee Agreement 2007.

Japan becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> importing Member of the ICO and joins the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United States of America in that category.

Mr Silva said, “Japan has one of the most vibrant and respected coffee industries in the world. We have been in talks for some time about the possibility of them joining the ICO and today I am delighted to welcome Japan as our newest Member.”

Japan is the fourth largest coffee consumer in the world, after the USA, Brazil and Germany, with a total consumption of 7.5 million bags in calendar year 2014. This equates to a per capita consumption of 3.5 kilograms of coffee per annum. Over the last four years, coffee consumption in Japan has continued to show strong growth of around 2.2% per annum.

The International Coffee Agreement 2007, the seventh since 1962, was agreed by the 77 Members of the International Coffee Council in London on 28 September 2007. It was formally adopted by the Council through Resolution 431 and entered into force definitively on 2 February 2011. The ICO’s Member States represent 95% of world coffee production and now, with the accession of Japan, 83% of world consumption.

**About the ICO:** *The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is an intergovernmental organization created under the auspices of the United Nations to serve the international coffee community. Established in 1963, the ICO is unique in bringing producing and consuming countries together to exchange views on coffee matters and market conditions. Among the services provided by the ICO are: up-to-date information and statistics; innovative projects to benefit the world coffee economy; coffee market reports and economic studies; consultations on coffee sector finance; as well as conferences and seminars.*

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