International Coffee Agreement 2007

Communication from Japan

The Executive Director presents his compliments and, for the information of Members, attaches a communication received from Japan and his reply.
26 February 2009

Dr Nestor Osorio
Executive Director
International Coffee Organization
22 Berners Street, London
WIT 3DD
England

Dear Dr Osorio,

Thank you for the letter of 7 January 2009, enquiring Japan’s status of progress for signature of the ICA 2007.

It is with regret that I am informing you that, after serious deliberations, the Government of Japan has decided not to conclude the ICA 2007. The enormous pressures bearing down on the government budget and finance called for a fundamental revamp of our existing commitments to international organizations across the board, resulting in a re-prioritization of the International Coffee Organization within the spectrum of our policy in the field of economic security.

Our decision not to be part of the ICA 2007, however, does not in any way prejudice our view of the value of the work of the ICO. The Government of Japan and the coffee industry in Japan cherish the traditional good relations with the ICO. All Japan Coffee Association wishes to continue to be associated with the ICO as the dedicated member of the Private Sector Consultative Board.

We hope that improvement in global economic conditions and a review of the current budget retrenchment policy will allow us to consider returning to the ICO in the future.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Youichi Suzuki
Director-General
Economic Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Mr Youichi Suzuki
Director-General
Economic Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8919
Japan

Dear Mr Suzuki,

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2009. It is with great regret that I have received the official notification that the Government of Japan has decided not to conclude membership procedures for the ICA 2007 due to budgetary and financial pressures.

I appreciate your Government's recognition of the value of the work of the ICO and hope that you will be able to reconsider this decision sooner rather than later so that the long-standing tradition of Japan's membership of the ICO can be maintained.

I will submit your letter to the 102nd Session of the International Coffee Council.

Yours sincerely,

Néstor Osorio

cc. Embassy of Japan in London
All Japan Coffee Association