

USSEC CHAIR & CEO MEET WITH JAPAN'S TOP CRUSHER'S

April 22, 2009 leaders of Japan's Crushing Industry participated in a JOPA (Japan Oilseed Processors Association) and ASA-IM Japan Reception hosted by Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs of the U. S. Embassy, Geoffrey Wiggin at his Residence in Tokyo. Chair Fritz and CEO Escobar were in Tokyo to meet with the Japanese Crushing Industry's top management including President Kazuo Ogome of Nisshin OilliO Group who also serves currently as JOPA President; President Shinji Sasaki of J-Oil Mills who serves as JOPA Vice President as well as representatives from Showa Sangyo and other JOPA members.

Minister-Counselor Wiggin made brief remarks noting soybeans are one of the most important agricultural exports from the U.S, and the large Japan and U. S. soybean trade is built on more than 50 years of friendly relations- hard work, and that this continue for at least another 50 years through information exchange and partnering. JOPA President Ogome said the U.S. is the most reliable and important supplier for Japanese Crushers and although the soybean crush in Japan has declined slightly, the Japanese Industry want to continue to process soybeans from the U.S. USSEC CEO Miguel Escobar expressed his appreciation for our Japanese customers and pledged our continued support through the ASA-IM Japan Office. Chairman Fritz also expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to meet with our customers in Japan in spite the start of planting season at home, and invited the US-JAPAN Partnership or JOPA Team composed of crushers-traders to his farm in Indiana this August.



From left to right: Nisshin OilliO Director H. Ogami, Nisshin OilliO President & JOPA President K.Ogome, USSEC CEO Miguel Escobar, USSEC Chairman Scott Fritz, Minister-Counselor for Ag Affairs Geoffrey Wiggin, JOPA Managing Director Y. Komura, and ASA-IM Country Director LaVerne Brabant.



From left to right: J-Oil Mills President & JOPA Vice President Mr. S. Sasaki, Nisshin Oillio President & JOPA President Mr. K. Ogome, Minister-Counselor for Ag Affairs Geoffrey Wiggin, ASA-IM Japan Country Director LaVerne Brabant, JOPA Managing Director Y. Komura, and USSEC Chairman Scott Fritz.