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A E O N C O . , L T D .

Aeon Becomes the First Asian Retailer to Participate in GSSI Committed to Contributing to the Expanded Distribution of Sustainable Seafood

Aeon has become the first Asian retailer to participate in the GSSI (The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) ※¹, an organization committed to promoting the use of sustainable seafood.

The GSSI has members from various countries, including NGOs, individuals and companies engaged in fisheries. Based on the guidelines provided by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and other organizations, the GSSI inspects and accredits a range of seafood certification programs implemented around the world, in order to ensure their reliability and make further improvements.

Based on 「Aeon Sustainable Seafood Procurement Policy」 formulated in 2014 as well as on 「Aeon's Sustainable Procurement Policy」 and 「Goals for 2020」 determined this April, Aeon has been proactively selling marine products to which the GSSI-based certification criteria are applied and MSC※²-and ASC※³-certified seafood. As a new member of the GSSI, Aeon will contribute to the attainment of the organization's goals while dispatching information to ensure the sustainability of fish species unique to Japan and Asia. We will also collaborate with a range of stakeholders, including fishermen, to help expand the distribution of sustainable seafood.

【Aeon's Sustainable Procurement Policy ・ Goals for 2020】

Policies and targets for seafood

<Policy>

Carrying out regular risk assessments from a resource depletion prevention and biodiversity conservation perspective.

Also, in order to mitigate risks, reviewing feasible countermeasures and striving to procure sustainable seafood.

<Goals for 2020>

- ・ Aiming for 100% acquisition of MSC /ASC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification by Aeon's consolidated subsidiaries operating general merchandise stores or supermarkets.
- ・ Providing sustainability-proven private brand products in all major fish species.

※ 1 GSSI: The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) is a global platform and partnership of seafood companies, NGOs, experts, governmental and intergovernmental organizations working towards more sustainable seafood for everyone. GSSI's mission is to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood, as well as, to promote improvement in seafood certification schemes. This is achieved through GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool, underpinned by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other FAO guidelines.

※ 2 M S C (Marine Stewardship Council) : MSC is non-profit organization that manages and promotes the MSC certification program which certifies sustainable fisheries.

※ 3 A S C (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) : The ASC is an independent not for profit organization implementing the world's leading certification and labelling program for responsibly farmed seafood.

【Reference】

[Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy and Goals for 2020]

Target	Aeon Sustainable Procurement Policy	Sustainable Procurement Goals for 2020
Agricultural products	Committed to procuring agricultural products in a sustainable manner that is in harmony with nature, natural ecosystems and society. Also cultivating and providing safe and delicious vegetables, thereby contributing to future food safety and helping people go about their daily lives with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the private brand, aiming for 100% implementation of the GFSI^{*1}-based Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) • Aiming to increase the sales ratio of organic products to 5% of the total agricultural products
Livestock products	Committed to procuring livestock products in a sustainable manner that is in harmony with nature, natural ecosystems and society. Also cultivating and providing safe and delicious beef, thereby contributing to future food safety and helping people go about their daily lives with peace of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the private brand, aiming for 100% implementation of the GFSI-based Food Safety Management System (FSMS) or the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
Seafood	Carrying out regular risk assessments from a resource depletion prevention and biodiversity conservation perspective. Also, in order to mitigate risks, reviewing feasible countermeasures and striving to procure sustainable seafood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming for 100% acquisition of MSC^{*2} /ASC^{*3} Chain of Custody (CoC) certification by Aeon's consolidated subsidiaries operating general merchandise stores or supermarkets • Providing sustainability-proven private brand products in all major fish species
Paper, pulp and timber	Utilizing store materials and product raw materials made of lumber and pulp produced from properly managed forests, and strive to prevent deforestation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming for 100% use of sustainability-certified (by FSC^{*4} or equivalent) materials for the private brand in the major product categories
Palm oil	For palm oil used as a product material, aiming for procurement that gives consideration to the prevention of deforestation and conservation of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiming for 100% use of sustainability-certified (by RSPO^{*5} or equivalent) materials for the private brand

¹ GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) : GFSI is an industry-driven global collaboration to advance food safety powered by the TCGF, which is composed of food manufacturers and global retailers. GFSI also recognizes food safety certification program.

² MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) : MSC is non-profit organization that manages and promotes the MSC certification program which certifies sustainable fisheries.

³ ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) : The ASC is an independent not for profit organization implementing the world's leading certification and labelling program for responsibly farmed seafood.

⁴ FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) :FSC is an independent, not for profit, nongovernmental organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

⁵ RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) : RSPO was formed to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.