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Aeon Co., Ltd.

For the establishment of a non-disposable lifestyle

## **Stopping All Distribution of Free-of-Charge Disposable Plastic Bags as of April 1**

As of April 1, Aeon will stop the distribution of free-of-charge disposable plastic bags across its business categories and Group companies with a view to establishing a non-disposable lifestyle in cooperation with customers.

In addition to Aeon's general merchandise stores (GMS) and supermarkets (SM), which started this initiative in 2007, "My Basket" supermarkets located in urban areas and "WELCIA" drugstores will also stop the distribution of free-of-charge disposable plastic bags on April 1. Moreover, at some of the "MINISTOP" convenience stores directly operated by Aeon, distribution of such bags has been suspended since June 2019 and this initiative is now being implemented more widely to stop distribution across all of the convenience stores as early as possible.

Also on April 1, the distribution of all disposable bags, both plastic and paper, will be stopped at all directly operated stores within GMS "Aeon"

At these stores, disposable bags made from a combination of biomass materials will be available for purchase by customers in need of shopping bags. Aeon will also promote the replacement of the materials used to make these bags with FSC-certified paper and other environment-friendly materials.

Aeon has been donating the proceeds of sales of disposable bags\* to local municipalities and others for use in their environmental conservation activities. Aeon has been continuing this donation since 2007 and the amount donated totaled approximately 7million yen as of the end of fiscal 2018.

In order to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags, Aeon began the Bring your own shopping bag campaign in 1991 and has since worked toward the goal in cooperation with customers. Subsequently, in 2007, the free-of-charge disposable plastic bags initiative was started and, in 2013, gaining customers' understanding and support, the number of GMS "Aeon" food stores where the free-of-charge disposable plastic bags initiative was implemented increased across the country, while the initiative was also launched sequentially at the "Maxvalu". At the same time, low- environmental-impact disposable bags made from biomass materials have become available at these stores for customers to purchase.

Moreover, Aeon has made proposals for a non-disposable lifestyle, including providing non-disposable "My Bags" made from recycled plastic and "My Baskets," which customers can use to carry their shopping under a deposit system.

Because lots of customers have cooperated with us for the initiative by bringing their own shopping bags and refusing the offer of disposable bags, the rate of customers who refused the offer of disposable bags at the stores that had stopped the distribution of free-of-charge disposable plastic bags exceeded 80% as of fiscal 2018.

Aeon will continue to cooperate with customers for the establishment of a lifestyle that contributes to the creation of a sustainable society.

\* Proceeds of sales of disposable bags: Calculated by deducting the procurement cost from the sale price (excluding tax) of the bag