



News Release (August 22, 2023)

Toyo Seikan Group forms capital and business alliance with Whosecacao
- Taking on the challenge of building a supply chain for cacao raw materials, from procurement to the distribution of high-quality products -

Toyo Seikan Group Holdings, Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “Toyo Seikan Group”) has concluded a capital and business alliance agreement with Whosecacao, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “Whosecacao”), which produces, develops, imports, and wholesales cacao beans. Based on specialty cacao—a high-quality raw material for cacao produced by Whosecacao—we aim to build an integrated supply chain stretching from the procurement of raw materials, through the creation of products that take advantage of specialty cacao’s flavor, to distribution that exploits Toyo Seikan Group’s packaging and container-related technologies and its expertise in beverage and food product development.



Whosecacao’s Specialty Cacao

Collaboration with "Future Foods Labo."

Since July 2022, Toyo Seikan Co., Ltd., a consolidated subsidiary of Toyo Seikan Group has been offering a service called “Future Foods Labo.” which provides total production support from the development of recipes for food and beverages to the commercialization of products. In addition to the development of small-lot products, “Future Foods Labo.” provides a variety of food solutions, including food processing, cooking and mixing, filling, sealing and sterilization, evaluation and analysis, and application development.

Comments from Mr. Akira Fukumura, CEO of Whosecacao

Toyo Seikan Group is extremely interested in our unique specialty cacao raw materials. We have already engaged in R&D with “Future Foods Labo.”, and have participated in a number of enthusiastic discussions and prototype analyses. We produce and process cacao and chocolate using our specialty cacao beans so that customers can enjoy unique flavors that are different from traditional sweets. Since Toyo Seikan Group has environmental control technology for all types of packaging, including metal, plastic, glass, and paper, we maintain cooperation with them and intend to accelerate the construction of a new premium supply chain for cacao to provide customers with a better specialty cacao taste experience through our involvement in all processes, from raw material production at cacao farms to product distribution.

Comments from Ichio Otsuka, President and Representative Director of Toyo Seikan Group

While the aroma and flavor of Whosecacao's specialty cacao is very deep, I feel that the company's technology, which incorporates expertise from the fermentation stage onward, has even greater potential. For more than 100 years, Toyo Seikan Group has delivered food and beverages to the world through containers made of various materials and in various forms. It possesses know-how that is unique among packaging and container manufacturers regarding food safety and food processing. We believe that we can uncover the potential of new foods, not only by appropriately delivering wonderful ingredients, but also by discovering together the optimal delivery methods, beginning with ingredient development. We will continue to make the most of the technologies and capabilities of both companies, and we will work together to help solve social issues.

Toyo Seikan Group Open Innovation Project "OPEN UP! PROJECT"

In 2019, Toyo Seikan Group started the "OPEN UP! PROJECT", an open innovation initiative that aims to bring forth an equitable and sustainable future through applying hard-won packaging technology and knowhow developed over the past 100 years towards solutions to pressing social issues. We will continue to tackle such social issues together with Whosecacao.

About Whosecacao, Inc.

Whosecacao, Inc. is a cacao raw material development company that produces fragrant specialty cacao beans in cooperation with farms, purchases beans from farms on a fair trade basis, and develops related products. Whosecacao uses the best in fermentation, roasting, and processing technologies to create commercial products for manufacturers, craftsmen, and people who enjoy the aroma of cacao, enriching the cacao industry by supporting both producers and consumers.

About Toyo Seikan Group Holdings, Ltd.

Toyo Seikan Group Holdings, Ltd. is a world-class comprehensive packaging manufacturer, delivering a variety of packaging containers using materials such as metal, plastic, paper, and glass. In the Long-Term Management Vision 2050, "The Future, Wrapped for All," we set the goal to go beyond our traditional field of packaging, aiming to become a corporate group that creates new value that changes society. Founded in 1917, Toyo Seikan Group Holdings, Ltd. conducts business on a global scale, with 45 group companies in Japan and 49 overseas, and currently employs a multinational workforce of 20,000 people. For more information, please visit <https://www.tskg-hd.com/en>

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