

## Shiseido Declares Total Volume of Palm Oil Used as a Raw Material of Cosmetic Products to Be RSPO-Certified Oil by 2013

Shiseido considers the need to preserve biodiversity (to preserve the bounty of the Earth) during every stage of the product life cycle, from the procurement of cosmetics ingredients to manufacturing, distribution and sales, and strives to utilize sustainable resources.

As a part of its efforts, Shiseido joined the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), an international non-profit organization, in 2010 and recently has made the declaration to the RSPO that the total volume of palm oil used as a raw material of cosmetic products will be RSPO-certified oil by 2013. Certification requires employing the Book&Claim system\* as determined by the RSPO.

At the RSPO General Assembly in March 2012 for ordinary members, the resolution was passed that all RSPO ordinary members be required to submit a time bound plan to produce, trade, process and/or purchase and use 100% certified sustainable palm oil prior to the next General Assembly to be held on November 1, 2012. Details of declarations by respective members are posted on the RSPO website ([http://www.rspo.org/en/acop\\_2011-2012\\_reports](http://www.rspo.org/en/acop_2011-2012_reports)).

\*A system for trading quantities of the output of palm oil and palm kernel oil produced at RSPO-certified plantations as certified credits. The system has the same structure as green electricity, which means that the purchase of certificates is recognized as the purchase of RSPO-certified oil.

### About Palm Oil

Palm oil is obtained from the flesh of the fruit of African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and palm kernel oil is obtained by pressing oil from the kernel, or seed, of the fruit. Currently, the amount of palm oil (including palm kernel oil) produced is the highest level in the world, surpassing soybean oil, and is utilized worldwide as a raw material or ingredient in the production of foods, detergents and other products that are essential in daily life. Palm oil, palm oil-derived fatty acids and associated processed materials are widely distributed for use in cosmetic products.

Among other kinds of vegetable fats and oils, palm oil is more versatile in terms of usage and relatively low in price. Also, in line with population growth and improvements in living standards in Asian nations, demand for palm oil is expanding rapidly in recent years. On the other hand, the impact of the development of large-scale plantations to grow oil palm, a raw material of palm oil, is viewed as a problem with regard to illegal logging in rainforests, the endangerment of wildlife and global warming due to the decrease in forests.

**The RSPO**

The RSPO is an international non-profit organization established in 2004 by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), companies and organizations involved with palm oil production. Members include a range of companies and organizations, including producers, processors, consumer good manufacturers and environmental non-governmental organizations. (The total number of ordinary members of RSPO is 755 as of October 23, 2012.)