

Information

November 2, 2006

Akebono Brake Conducts Groundbreaking Ceremony in Thailand

TOKYO – Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd. (Akebono) conducted groundbreaking and foundation stone laying ceremonies on November 1 for Akebono Brake (Thailand) Co., Ltd., a subsidiary established on August 11 in Thailand’s Chonburi Province.

The groundbreaking and foundation stone laying ceremonies took place at 8:49am and 9:39am respectively, as the number 9 represents an auspicious number in Thailand. President Hisataka Nobumoto and Local Representative Koji Kobayashi (currently an Executive Officer for Akebono) were on hand from the Akebono Group. Approximately 40 people attended the large-scale ceremony, including Chairman Chavalit Yodmani and Senior Vice President Viboon Kromadit of Amata Corporation PCL, and Manager Ronachai Khumpibal of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT).

President Nobumoto greeted and thanked the attendees, commenting, “I am extremely pleased that Akebono now is able to construct a manufacturing facility in Thailand, a country that continues to enjoy spectacular growth. Our wish is to contribute to Thailand’s automotive industry by making this facility the number one brake products factory in Asia.”

The groundbreaking ceremony signaled the start of factory construction in Amata Nakorn in Chonburi Province, Thailand’s largest industrial estate. Production is expected to begin in July 2007, and initially disc brake pads will be produced for Japanese auto manufacturers with a presence in Thailand. A total investment of approximately 2.0 billion yen is planned, and Akebono is aiming for 5.0 billion yen in net sales for 2010.

In addition to expanding Akebono’s business in the Thai market, Akebono Brake Thailand Co., Ltd. will function as a base to strengthen regional business integration in Southeast Asia. The company will also drive business development in Asia, where further market growth is anticipated.

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[Notes on Akebono Brake (Thailand) Co., Ltd.]

Company name	Akebono Brake (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
Representative	Koji Kobayashi (currently Executive Officer [Managing Executive Officer Status], Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd.)
Location	Amata Nakorn Industrial Estate, Chonburi Province (approx. 70km southeast of Bangkok)
Established	August 11, 2006
Main business	Manufacture and sale of disc brakes
Fiscal year end	December 31 of every year
Employees	Approx. 90 (plan for when production starts)
Capital	10 million baht (approx. 30 million yen) at time of establishment. Further Investment is planned in the future.
Shareholder	Akebono Brake Industry Co., Ltd. (100%)
Site area	24,000m ²
Building area	5,700m ² , (factory: 4,300 m ² , office: 1,400 m ²)



Photo Left: Koji Kobayashi, Center: Hisataka Nobumoto