

## New Taipei District Prosecutors Office: 2 Indicted for Forgery & Fraud in Fukushima Food Importation

Investigated by Head Prosecutor Tzong-Fuu Hsieh (謝宗甫), Head Prosecutor Hsien-Jyh Liao(廖先志), Prosecutor Ching-Sheng Tsai(蔡景聖) and Prosecutor Hui-Chen Ou(歐蕙甄) of the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office, the Fukushima food products' importation case was concluded on June 16, 2015. Defendant Zhuo and Defendant Deng, both executive managers in the food importation business, were indicted for fraud and forgery due to their misrepresentation on the importation procedure of Fukushima food products.

Under the current regulations of the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation and the Customs Commodity Code in Taiwan, food import traders are obligated to the application for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s inspection, plus a declaration on the relevant information of the product to the customs authority. Due to the Fukushima nuclear pollution in 2011, the Taiwan authorities concerned have sanctioned the Fukushima-made products from importation since March 2011. However, according to the indictment, Zhuo and Deng had been purchasing the Fukushima-made products including Ebi Senbei(武平作海老仙貝), Kikoman Soy Sauce (龜甲萬醬油) and Eric the Tiger's Milk Cookie(巧虎四連牛奶餅) from 日本出口商開間貿易公司, S. Ishimitsu Co., Ltd. (石光商事株式會社) and Brightnoble Trading Co., Ltd. (崇暉貿易株式會社) since September 2014 and March 2015 respectively. To smuggle the Fukushima food products, Zhuo and Deng falsely claimed that they were importing non-Fukushima products, such as Iwatsuka Osode Rice Cracker (岩冢大振袖豆米果), Yamamori Soy Sauce (山森醬油), Morinaka Mocha Milk Chocolate Stick (森永小枝抹茶牛奶巧克力) and Marukin Dark Soy Sauce (丸金濃口醬油), by forging the related invoices, packing lists and shipping orders. Those false documents were later presented to the FDA and the Keelung customs officers. In addition, Zhuo and Deng had realized that the Fukushima food products they were importing, if tagged with Fukushima as their origins, stood no chance to obtain the import permit by the authorities concerned, and that the Taiwanese people would be declined to purchase food products which were already sanctioned by the FDA in Taiwan. Therefore, they fraudulently concealed the material information regarding the Fukushima products' origin in order to sell those products to dealers in Taiwan.

Aiming for keeping a complete protection on the food sanitation and safety environment for Taiwanese people, our Office conducted this investigation together with the National Policy Agency of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the related

food sanitation authorities. We hope to prevent the Taiwanese people from consuming foods with false or unknown origin, so that the Taiwanese people would enjoy their diet safe and assured. During the investigation, our Office had already requested the Japanese government for investigating the conspiracy of the Japanese export companies on this matter via the mutual legal assistance channel. However, we have not yet received any response from abroad. In accordance with the principle of equal and mutual benefit between Taiwan and Japan, we strongly expect that the Japanese government expedite the mutual legal assistance for this matter in the short future. The New Taipei District Prosecutors Office firmly believes that regardless of the nationality, our law enforcement must share the responsibility for combating crimes together. And only by doing so, can we truly guarantee the food safely in Taiwan.