

Unreserved seat

農水省では初めての外国人公務員として蚕糸・昆虫研究所に採用されたバルター・ソアレス・アルさん(三七)

大の日本好き。ブラジル北部のペルナンブコ州出身、同国立大を卒業後、



国費留学生として来日、名古屋大、三重大を経て八七年から筑波大学院に学び、昨年博士課程を修了。在学中にはコナダニのフェロモンの研究で実績を上げた。この春までの一年間は、科学技術



若手にインパクト

庁の国際流動研究員として農水省蚕糸・昆虫研究所(つくば市)に在籍。引き続き同研究所で研究を進める。

「ブラジルでは、大学

を卒業して研究を進めるのに、英国や米国に行くケースが多いが、ブラジルにも多い日本人がまじ

めなことや、研究の面で同じに扱ってくれる日本の方が、言葉の点では大変だが、いいと思った。回りの人は反対しただけ

ど」

学会で座長を務めるほどに上達した日本語で「ブラジルと日本は仲がいい。両方で農業を見れば、役に立つことも多いはず」と希望を語る。

外国人を研究職の国家公務員に採用できるようにしたのは「基礎研究

ただのり」論の外圧を受け入れる形で法律の改正が行われてから。これまでに科技厅、通産などで数人が採用されている。農産物の輸入自由化などで問題を抱える農水省でも門戸を開いた形だが、

「若手研究者にインパクトを」という研究所の考えにぴったりの積極性を持っている。

奥さんの出身地のブラジルアと人工都市として同じ雰囲気を持っているつくばで六月、初めての子供が誕生する予定だ。

(和)

Walter S. Leal (37 years old) was hired by the National Institute of Sericultural and Entomological Science as the first foreign public servant of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

See an unofficial translation of this article in the next page.

## **Unofficial translation**

Walter S. Leal (age 37) really likes people, nature, and the Japanese culture. He was hired as the first national public employee in the National Institute of Sericultural and Entomological Science (NISES), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan in 1991.

He was born in Pernambuco, Brazil, graduated as an undergraduate student from the Federal University of Pernambuco, and came to Japan as a foreign student funded by Japanese government. After studying at Nagoya University and at Mie University, he identified pheromones of acarid mites as a graduate student at Tsukuba University since 1987, and graduated with a Ph. D. in applied biochemistry in 1990, and studied chemical ecology at NISES as a postdoctoral fellow of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) for the last year.

“Many Brazilian scientists go to the US or the UK for their graduate studies. However, I decided to come to Japan to experience the great diligence and fairness of the Japanese people not only in daily life but also in science. Of course, it was very difficult for me to learn Japanese language”, Walter fluently spoke Japanese, which is able to use in discussions as a chairperson in scientific conferences in Japan. “Brazil and Japan have kept good mutual relationship. The collaboration in the sciences will pave the way to sustainable development in agriculture in both countries.”

Several national public employees including him have been newly hired by MAFF, JST, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry after revising a legislation in Japan. They are expected to contribute to scientific and technological progresses and bring international perspectives for young Japanese scientists.

He will become father this June in the planned city of Tsukuba, which looks like Brasilia, his wife's hometown.