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.