

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

## Commencement of Cooperation with Kumon Institute of Education to Build Houses with Kumon Centers

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; hereafter “Sumitomo Forestry”) announces it has entered into a business alliance with Kumon Institute of Education Co., Ltd (President: Hidenori Ikegami; Head Office: Osaka-shi, Osaka; hereafter “Kumon”) aimed at cooperation in the establishment and operation of Kumon Centers in Sumitomo Forestry Home houses. The alliance was signed on April 1, 2016 and full-scale operation commences today.

Kumon was established in 1958 with the aspiration of “fostering capable people through education and thus contributing to society,” with Kumon Centers established all over Japan. Currently, there are 24,700 Kumon Centers in 49 countries and regions including Japan, with 4.27 million students.

\* Figures for centers and students as of March 2016. Number of students is the total across all subjects.



In order for children to learn safely in familiar environments near where they live, there are also Kumon Centers set up in rooms of private homes. This is Kumon’s way of contributing to local communities by establishing centers at distances where children can safely commute.

Sumitomo Forestry builds about 9,000 detached houses each year, with the total houses built reaching 290,000 units. Sumitomo Forestry has decided to enter into this alliance with Kumon due to the wider scope for proposals to meet the growing demand for dual-use homes with new houses, and due to more opportunities for effective utilization of unused rooms caused by changes to the lifestyles of Sumitomo Forestry’s homeowners, such as when children grow up and move out.

As the first step, Sumitomo Forestry intends to help establish about 20 centers in Tokyo and the three prefectures of Kanagawa, Chiba, and Saitama. Besides proposing for centers to be established in new houses, existing Sumitomo Forestry’s homeowners will also be invited to consider establishing Kumon Centers in their homes, and Sumitomo Forestry Home Tech will make such recommendations during renovations.

These Kumon Centers can either be operated directly by the homeowners as instructors, or rooms can be leased out for use as centers. Unique benefits of this alliance, such as a rental guarantee system for rooms being leased, will be utilized to proactively promote this initiative to customers.

### ■ Benefits of operating Kumon Centers at home

- Able to obtain a stable income working at home.
- Able to set working hours which can be reasonably sustained.
- Able to obtain a stable income by leasing out unused rooms.



Through this alliance, Sumitomo Forestry aims to further satisfy our customers by providing new services in pursuit of new possibilities offered by houses depending on the times.

Happiness Grows from Trees

