

Support for Construction of Temple Schools in Myanmar
Opening Ceremony for Temple School No. 3,
Completed by the Myanmar Temple School Support Team

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. has since December 2013 been involved in the Myanmar Temple School Support Team, a body which Sumitomo Forestry established to support the construction of *terakoya* (community temple schools) in Myanmar. The third school has now been completed, for which an opening ceremony was held on November 12. Ryu Yano, Chairman of Sumitomo Forestry, attended the ceremony along with 20 other representatives from the 13 Japanese companies supporting the project, and all received a warm welcome from the students of the school.

Public schools are tuition-free in Myanmar, and students also do not need to pay for uniforms. However, students are required to pay for stationery and donations, so many children are unable to attend school for economic reasons. Other reasons include a lack of public schools in their neighborhood. Temple schools, which are affiliated with temples and operated by priests, play an important role in the education of these children.

This temple school was built using donations from 19 companies and five individuals looking to contribute towards developing Myanmar's society. It is the third such school, following the first, which was completed in October 2014, and the second in November 2015. Located in the South Dagon Township near Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, the school is presently attended by around 180 eager students in Grades 1 to 5. Before it was rebuilt, there was only a simple school building where classes were not possible on days of heavy rain during the monsoon season.

The opening ceremony was a grand affair, and guests were welcomed by the school's students with flowers and dances. At the opening ceremony, Sumitomo Forestry's Chairman Ryu Yano gave a congratulatory speech on behalf of the companies from the support team attending the ceremony, telling the students to "do your best and study hard at this newly built temple school for the future of Myanmar." Those who attended the ceremony also gave each student a stationery set as present.

In addition to contributing economically through business activities, the Sumitomo Forestry Group will continue to support the Myanmar Temple School Support Project.



Temple school before rebuilding



External view of temple school



Sumitomo Forestry's Chairman Ryu Yano speaking at the opening ceremony



Temple school opening ceremony