

For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

~Aiming to Promote Employment of People with Disabilities and Community Invigoration~
Sumirin Wood Peace Co., Ltd. Construction of New Office Building

Sumirin Wood Peace Co., Ltd. (President: Akihiro Sawada; Headquarters: Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture), a subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), announced completion of its new office building in Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture on March 2, 2017. The company was established in July 2015 to promote the participation in society of people with disabilities. Sumirin Wood Peace, with eight employees (the president, five people with disabilities, and two leaders), operates businesses including bed log shiitake mushroom cultivation, production and processing of timber and interior products, and printing.

The new office building was designed and supervised by MOCCA (Timber Solutions) Department, which promotes the use of timber in construction and finishing for non-residential structures, in keeping with concepts which leverage the overall strengths of the Sumitomo Forestry Group. Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd. (President: Susumu Higuchi; Headquarters: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo), which builds Sumitomo Forestry Home houses, was responsible for the construction work.



Construction materials used included domestically produced natural cypress wood for cosmetic pillars, while interiors and exteriors used cypress wood from Company-owned forests and oak material made from recycled whiskey barrels, to create spaces with an elegant timber impression.

■ Aim in Establishing the Company

Sumirin Wood Peace intends to apply for approval as a special subsidiary company^{*1} based on the Act on Employment Promotion etc. of Persons with Disabilities, which is promoted by the Japanese government. Sumitomo Forestry has a 2.12%^{*2} actual employment rate based on the Act on Employment Promotion etc. of Persons with Disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations, was ratified by Japan in January 2014, and consequently there is expected to be further expansion in the participation of people with disabilities in society. Meanwhile, the actual employment rate of people with disabilities for private enterprises in Ehime Prefecture is 1.87%^{*3}, which falls below the legally stipulated employment rate of 2.0%. Sumitomo Forestry believes that private enterprises have a responsibility to improve this situation.

Sumitomo Forestry is promoting diversity management, as Respect for Humanity is one of the company's Action Guidelines. As a company founded in Ehime Prefecture, it strives to provide opportunities where people with disabilities can fully express their capabilities and to create business firmly rooted in the region.

^{*1} Under the Act on Employment Promotion etc. of Persons with Disabilities, business operators are required to establish subsidiaries which pay special attention to hiring people with disabilities, and to gain approval by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In order to promote employment of people with disabilities and provide stability, when the parent company establishes such a subsidiary, employed workers who meet certain criteria are considered as being employed by the parent company (or corporate group), whereby they can be included in calculation of the legal employment ratio.

^{*2} Current as of end of March 2016

^{*3} Announced by the Ehime Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on December 13, 2016 (figures current as of June 1, 2016)

Overview of New Office Building

Company name	Sumirin Wood Peace Co., Ltd.
Location	11-5 Isouracho, Niihamashi, Ehime Prefecture
Site area/total floor area	918.69 m ² /268.30 m ²
Design and supervision	Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd. MOCCA (Timber Solutions) Department
Construction	Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd.
Structure	Single-story construction using the wooden post-and-beam construction method
Established	July 1, 2015
Start of construction of new office building	September 5, 2016
End of work	January 14, 2017

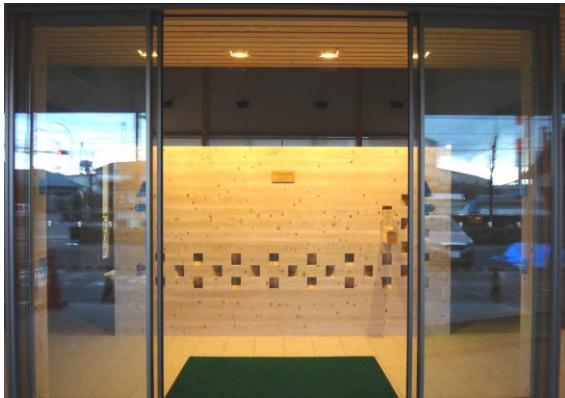
Reference

Sumirin Wood Peace Co., Ltd.—origin of company name

The word “peace” also sounds like the “piece” of a puzzle. Just as a puzzle is completed by placing the right pieces in the right place, the company hopes to allow people to make full use of their abilities by putting them in the right place, and brings peace and happiness to people’s lives.

About the new office building

The building is naturally barrier-free, and realizes a space designed with a timber ambiance, to help people with disabilities to work without stress. The building adopts a relaxed form and contrast, to highlight the elegant timber of exterior features, including a symbolic tree, walls and a wood deck. The interior of the office building also consciously adopts wooden finishes. Natural cypress wood from Company-owned forests was used externally in the colonnade fencing, board fencing, wood deck and benches; and internally in the ceilings, kitchen booth, and office lighting. Oak material made from recycled whiskey barrels was used in the flooring. A visual characteristic of the building is the use of scissor-truss to support the interior open space.



Entrance



Meeting space



Office ceiling
(scissor-truss)



Wood deck space