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For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Support for Construction of Temple Schools in Myanmar
Temple School No. 4 Completed by the Myanmar Temple School
Support Team

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) 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.

Every year since 2013, a temple school has been built using donations, and this is the fourth temple school constructed.

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 fourth temple school was built using donations from 20 companies and six individuals looking to contribute towards developing Myanmar's society. Till now, the first three schools were built in the vicinity of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. This time, however, the school was built in Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, to contribute to the education of children in other areas. The school has approximately 520 students from the first year of elementary school to the fourth year of junior high school as it is located in the urban area near the palace of the Konbaung Dynasty, Myanmar's last kingdom. It is the school with the largest number of students ever built by the Myanmar Temple School Support Team. Before it was rebuilt, the school was low-rise, leaked rainwater, and it was not able to accommodate the increase in students. It has been rebuilt into a three-story school building made of steel-reinforced concrete.

In December 2017, 13 representatives from seven Japanese companies supporting the project visited the place and held a ceremony to commemorate the construction. It was a grand ceremony, where the visitors from Japan including Sumitomo Forestry Group representatives were welcomed with bouquets and dances by students from the school. The visitors also gave each student a stationary set as a gift.

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



Temple school opening ceremony

Students receiving stationary sets as gifts