

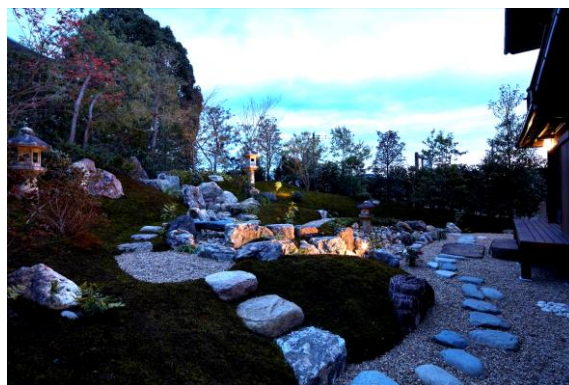
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For Immediate Release

 Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.
 Sumitomo Forestry Hometech Co., Ltd.
 Sumitomo Forestry Landscaping Co., Ltd.

**Historic House Revitalization at World Heritage-listed Temple in Kyoto
 Taking Charge of Building Repair and Landscaping at
 Shorinan of Ninna-ji Head Temple**

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry) announced that its wholly-owned subsidiaries Sumitomo Forestry Hometech Co., Ltd. (hereinafter Hometech) and Sumitomo Forestry Landscaping Co., Ltd. (hereinafter Landscaping) had taken charge of repair and landscaping of Shorinan, a historic house^{*1} in the precincts of Ninna-ji head temple^{*2} (Head priest: Yudo Tatebe; Location: Ukyo-ku, Kyoto, hereinafter Ninna-ji).



Shorinan, a historic house comprising a two-floor wooden building with an area of 159.97 m², was donated in 1937 by the Hisatomi family^{*3}, which was a low-rank government official and temple priest of Ninna-ji. With funding from the Nippon Foundation's Iroha Nihon project^{*4}, Ninna-ji had the repair of Shorinan completed in September 2017 so that it could be used as a lodging facility. The total cost of the project was approximately 157 million yen, with lodgers accepted from April 2018.

Hometech, which repaired the building, is a specialized renovation company of Sumitomo Forestry. It has been involved in many historic house renewal projects using full knowledge of the excellence of wood and the traditional wooden construction method.

This construction work was promoted with the aim of creating a building that would convey the old-fashioned charms of a Japanese-style structure. The rare beam structure for example, all that could be preserved was preserved to recreate the building as a lodging facility reminiscent of when it was first constructed.

When rebuilding the foundations as part of seismic strengthening work, a concrete foundation was constructed without excavating the base due to the area of Ninna-ji being a designated buried cultural property. Action was also taken to make the building wheelchair-accessible, including the removal of previous level differences in the floor.

In addition to repairs of detached houses, Hometech is also expanding its business into the non-housing and commercial architecture fields.

Since 2003, Landscaping, which took charge of beautification and landscaping work, has been in charge of the upkeep and maintenance of the Ninna-ji palace and its gardens. In this project, the gardens were landscaped based on the image of Shorinan melting into the surrounding trees to linger in the area. The planted trees have been trimmed back softly without cutting the tips, to maintain their natural shape so that visiting lodgers can fully enjoy a truly natural landscape extending from the temple garden.

An embankment has been used in the main garden behind the building to alleviate the oppressive feeling of the surrounding building. An artificial hill has been created from a flat surface that could not be excavated due to foundational conditions, with objects such as vegetation, garden lanterns and garden stones arranged there. The planted trees took more than one year to choose, rather than emphasizing the foliage that would meld into the building, were planted like roadside plants.

In 2010, the Sumitomo Forestry Group, by means of tissue culture, successfully proliferated saplings of the Omuro-zakura variety of cherry trees, which are noted as part of the scenic beauty of Ninna-ji. The group is also currently cooperating in the protection and preservation of the proliferated saplings.

Since the foundation of Sumitomo Forestry in 1691, our group has consistently engaged in businesses related to trees and greenery, ranging from forestry management to the manufacture and distribution of timber and building materials, housing, greening and biomass generation. The new initiative brought together the technological power and knowledge of our group, and will contribute greatly to maintaining the Kyoto townscape, and passing on its culture. Going forward, various types of expertise related to peoples' lifestyles will be accumulated to promote the expansion and development of our business.

*1 Hometech refers to wooden houses constructed before 1950 as "historic houses."

*2 The head temple of the Omuro school of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, located in Omuro, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto. Founded by Emperor Uda in 888, now registered on the World Heritage List as a Historic Monument of Ancient Kyoto.

*3 The Hisatomi family are descendants of Hisatomi Totominokami Fumitsura, who initially opened the Omuro 88 Sacred Places in 1829 and was the low-rank government official and temple priest of Ninna-ji.

*4 The aim of this project is to renovate historical buildings such as temples that are generally not open to the public to rediscover and recognize values in Japanese culture through a hands-on program for experiencing lodging as one pair per building so as to increase understanding of Japan and interest in cultural assets. Parts of the usage fees are utilized in the cultural property protection program to contribute to protecting and passing on Japanese culture.

Outline of Shorinan of Ninna-ji Head Temple

Address	Within Ninna-ji, 33 Ouchi Omuro, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto
Area	Total floor area: 159.97 m ²
Structure	Two-floor wooden building
Facilities	Nine rooms, bathroom, changing room, toilet, washroom
Construction work	Replacement of roofing tiles/repair of broken parts, seismic strengthening work, installation of bathroom/changing room/washroom, extension of entrance, maintenance of furnishings such as sliding doors, fixtures and tatami mats, landscaping, site development, installation of tea ceremony arbor door
Total cost	156,734,520 yen (released by Nippon Foundation)

