

**Participants receive Silver Medal and Fighting Spirit Award
in the 57th National Skills Competition Carpentry Category**

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (President and Representative Director: Akira Ichikawa; Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry) announced that the following three graduates from the company's in-house educational institute, Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques (hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry School), participated in the 57th National Skills Competition held in Aichi Prefecture and won the Silver Medal and Fighting Spirit Award in the carpentry category. The winners were housing engineering workers who construct Sumitomo Forestry Home houses at Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering (hereinafter Home Engineering) and a carpenter from a partner construction company. This is the 19th consecutive year the company garnered awards.

Carpentry Category

Silver Medal Mitsuya Soma Home Engineering Saitama Section, North Kanto Office
Utsonomiya Center
(hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry School student of class 31)

Fighting Spirit Award Ryota Hasegawa Home Engineering Kyushu Section, Fukuoka
Center (hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry School student of class 31)

Fighting Spirit Award Kyosuke Akutsu Totii Construction*
(hereinafter Sumitomo Forestry School student of class 31)

* The Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques has been accepting trainees from the affiliate construction company since 2015.

At the National Skills Competition, young craftsmen test their skills to be the best in Japan. The competition also aims to give the next generation of young craftsmen concrete goals to strive toward, to widely promote the importance and necessity of craftsmanship by providing young people with a chance to see some of the most advanced craftsmanship at the competition site, and to foster a respect for craftsmanship.

This year the competition was held over a four-day period from November 15–18 in Aichi Prefecture. Around 1,200 participants under the age of 23 represented their respective prefectures in 42 categories. The event attracted a record high of 90 participants in the individual carpentry category skills competition held in the Aichi Sky Expo, in which eight students of the Sumitomo Forestry School took part.

The eight participants were selected from among employees who had completed the necessary carpenter training at the Sumitomo Forestry School. The Sumitomo Forestry School is an in-house educational institute founded with the purpose of fostering craftsmen to build high-quality Sumitomo Forestry Home houses. Since its foundation in 1988, a total of about 1,300 students completed the carpenter training and have been employed as carpenters at Home Engineering. “Fostering craftsmen with a balance of heart, skills, and body” is the training philosophy on which the school provides a distinctive one-year curriculum necessary for a construction craftsman, balancing fundamental knowledge and practical skills. The school's mission is to foster the next generation of Japanese wood house craftsmen with the ability to build not only wooden houses using Sumitomo Forestry's proprietary methods, but to build structures using traditional Japanese wooden post-and-beam construction methods. For those who wish to enter the school, we offer tours of the Sumitomo Forestry School to give an opportunity to see the appeal of the carpentry occupations by experiencing firsthand our training system and philosophy as well as the life of the current students. In future, Sumitomo Forestry Group will continue to build safe and reliable homes using superior techniques.

■ Reference ■
Scenes from the Competition



Mitsuya Soma (Saitama Office)



Ryota Hasegawa (Kyushu Office)



Kyosuke Akutsu (Totii Construction)



Award Ceremony

- Overview of Sumitomo Forestry Home Engineering Co., Ltd.
 1. Established April 1, 1985
 2. President Toshiharu Takahashi
 3. Capital 75 million yen (wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.)
 4. Sales 82 billion yen (fiscal year ended March 2019)
 5. Head office 1-24-1 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
 6. Offices Ten offices and six departments nationwide (October 1, 2019)
 7. Number of employees 1,019 (As of April 1, 2019)
 8. Website <http://www.sumirin-he.co.jp/>

- Overview of the Sumitomo Forestry School of Professional Building Techniques
 1. Established April 1, 1988
 2. Institute Director Susumu Higuchi
 3. Location 1144 Shikawatashi, Yotsukaido, Chiba, Japan
This vocational training school, which is certified by the Chiba Prefectural Government, is operated by Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Forestry Home Tech Co., Ltd.
 4. Website <http://sfc.jp/kgs/index.html>