

December 3, 2008



Sumitomo Forestry to Commence Reforestation Project
in the Republic of Indonesia's Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park
– Transforming denuded land into lush, green forestland –

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. (Sumitomo Forestry; president: Ryu Yano; head office: Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) has decided to implement a new reforestation project on denuded land measuring about 1,000 hectares in area in the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in Indonesia's East Java as part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. The project will be conducted in cooperation with Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry and will span up to 20 years starting from November 2008.

Sumitomo Forestry intends to apply for United Nations' certification of this reforestation project as a CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) reforestation project, of which there is only one in the world at present.

Outline of the Reforestation Project

The Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East Java—the site of this reforestation project—is operated under the jurisdiction of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry. The park lies at an altitude of 1,700 to 2,500 meters and is centered on Mt. Bromo, which the Tengger tribe who live in this area have regarded as a Hindu holy site since olden times. The park is also one of the country's leading tourist destinations. The forest in the park is being degraded more and more, however, due to repeated forest fires and other causes, and most of the forestland has now become grassland. Although reforestation has been performed many times in the past to regenerate the forest, it is hard for the situation to improve due to the repeated occurrence of forest fires and the sulfurous acid gas spewed by Mt. Bromo, an active volcano.

Sumitomo Forestry has a fine record in forest regeneration projects. It initiated the Tropical Forest Regeneration Project in Sebulu, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, in 1991. The project which spanned 13 years restored logged areas and land cleared by the

slash-and-burn method to a state close to that of their original ecosystem. At the completion of the project in March 2004, a total of 738,000 trees had been planted on 503 hectares, an area equivalent to around 107 times that of Tokyo Dome.

Sumitomo Forestry traces its origins back to the Forestry Department set up after the Sumitomo family started mining operations at Ehime Prefecture's Besshi Copper Mine in 1691. With the development of the copper mine operations, the forests in the area were degraded and destroyed by reckless deforestation and damage from the sulfurous acid gas and other smoke emitted by the mine. Concerned about that damage, Teigo Iba, who was the general manager of the Besshi Copper Mine at that time and who later became the second general director of Sumitomo, established a major reforestation plan. He believed that to leave Mt. Besshi in a degraded state was a violation of the basic laws of Nature and that the copper mine needed somehow to compensate for the reckless deforestation, restore the entire mountain to a lush, green state, and return it to Mother Nature. The mine was persistent in reforestation work that exceeded 1 million trees a year at its height. Sumitomo Forestry today carries on this proud corporate DNA of restoring forestland to a lush, green state.

Sumitomo Forestry will conduct this new Indonesian reforestation project on a piece of denuded land measuring about 1,000 hectares in the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. Spanning a period of twenty years from November 2008, the project will be conducted in cooperation with Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry. Sumitomo Forestry will apply its past record in reforestation and its various technologies to reforest this land that presents the harsh conditions of an active volcano belt. The aim of this project is to restore the denuded, grassy land to lush forestlands. On the environmental front, it aims to promote CO₂ absorption, prevent sediment runoff, cultivate water sources, and enhance the preservation of biodiversity, while, on the social front, it hopes to contribute to the region's sustainable economic development through the creation of jobs and the improvement of the value of the park's ecotourism resources. Sumitomo Forestry plans to apply to the United Nations for certification of this reforestation project as a CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) reforestation project. This status is considered hard to obtain; however, Sumitomo Forestry aims to acquire it next year.

Supplementary Materials: Project Site and Tree-Planting Ceremony

■ The Mt. Bromo area



■ Planned site of the reforestation project



■ Tree-planting ceremony at the start of the reforestation project



Left: M. S. Kaban, Indonesian Minister of Forestry
Right: Hideki Nose, Executive Manager of the Forestry and
Environmental Headquarters and Senior Managing Executive
Officer of Sumitomo Forestry

With 50 students of the area's Gadisari Elementary School

